



2009

WEEK
TWELVE

December 20th, 2009



Garland's Dustin Keller fights through tight coverage to break free for a 27-yard TD reception. The score was the turning point of the game as Garland upset the Knights 26-24.

BOLD MOVE PAYS OFF FOR MUSTANGS!

KNIGHTS DO EVERYTHING BUT WIN AS GARLAND RIDES SECOND HALF SURGE TO SCORE UPSET



LOS ANGELES

24

7 - 5



GARLAND

26

7 - 5

GARLAND – The amazing Mustangs continue their run of unexpected success. This week they did it in fine style by making the most of their offensive opportunities against the EFL's second highest rated defense. They also benefited from a couple of key second half mistakes by the Knights and a rare late stand by their defense. But in the final analysis, the game probably turned on a fateful decision made by Coach **Doug Shirley** early in the second half. It was a bold call that could have just as easily signaled the definitive turning point in the other direction. Instead, it re-energized the Mustangs and deflated the Knights just enough to subtly but surely shift the momentum to the side of the home team, with thrilling results for Garland fans.

The game did not start auspiciously for Garland. The Knights got the ball first and on the first play from scrimmage **Jason Campbell** connected deep with **Steve Smith** for 63 yards to bring Los Angeles into the Garland red zone. But the Mustangs somehow held them off, limiting the damage to a 23-yard **Kris Brown** field goal. Then, in the first sign that Garland might not roll over and play dead against LA's "Blue Shield," **Frank Gore** gashed the left side of the Knights line for a 46-yard run on their first play from scrimmage, bringing the ball to the LA 19 yard line and setting up an eventual 26-yard field goal by **Robbie Gould**.

With the initial salvos from both teams canceling each other, the Knights went to work to take control. **Steven Jackson** got the ground game rolling on their next possession with 4 rushes for 45 yards, opening up passing opportunities for Campbell, who took advantage with an 11-yard touchdown pass to Smith to make it 10-3 for LA. Garland managed another field goal in response, but the Knights made it clear they were playing for bigger stakes. On the ensuing drive, Campbell hit **Roddy White** for 14 yards and Smith for 22 yards to stab into Garland territory at the 37 yard line. From there the Knights rolled the dice against the shaky Mustangs' defense by converting twice on 4th down and short to keep the drive alive and penetrate the red zone. Then, facing 4th down and 1 at the Garland 7, with a field goal virtually in hand, the Knights gambled that good things (like bad things) come in threes and went for it. With Garland run-blitzing, Campbell side-stepped the pressure and ran through a huge gap vacated by the linebackers to score from 7 yards out and give LA a 17-6 lead with 2:25 remaining in the first half.

Sensing that every minute counted on offence, **Matt Ryan** went to work executing a perfectly efficient two-minute drill that saw him complete 7 of 7 pass attempts for 62 yards to get within field goal range and add 3 points before the end of the half to narrow the deficit to 8 points, 17-9. It would turn out to be an important 3 points.

Starting the second half with the ball at their 14 yard line after a short return by **Allen Rossum**, the Mustangs came up short, facing 4th down and 2 at their 22 yard line. The Knights automatically sent out their punt return unit but had to hurry back when the Mustangs, incredibly, kept their offense on the field. Believing it was an ill-advised attempt to draw them offside, the

Knights' defense waited motionless as Ryan barked out the count and they appeared a step behind after the snap and quick throw to Wes Welker for 7 yards and a first down. The crowd erupted in approval and the Mustangs moved quickly up the field on five consecutive pass completions, the last one a 27-yard touchdown on an incredible individual effort by H-back **Dustin Keller** to narrow the Knights' lead to 17-16. The crowd at The Corral went wild – their Mustangs were back in the game and more.

The Knights had suddenly lost their swagger. Brown missed on a 43-yard field goal attempt to give the Mustangs good field position for a field goal drive and a 19-17 lead; then **Yamon Figurs** lost a fumble on the ensuing kickoff to set up a 12-yard touchdown pass to **Matt Forte** to widen the Garland advantage to 26-17 with 4:31 remaining. With the Mustangs' defense deploying 6 defensive backs, the Knights turned to **Tatum Bell** and the running game to move the ball into scoring position, where Campbell found White in the end zone from 5 yards out to pull within 2 points, 26-24. Then, after a 3-and-out by Garland, the Knights got one last chance to save the game, starting at their 20 yard line with 1:10 left. Looking to exploit an under-manned defensive line, the Knights tested the ground game with less than one minute left. But the Mustangs' 'D-line' rose to the occasion, containing Bell and **Jamaal Charles** to moderate gains and causing the Knights to run out of time. The upset was complete!

12-18-2009. The Corral.	Temp: 66 Wind: 0-10	None	MVP: Matt Ryan		
2008 Los Angeles (7-5)	10	7	0	7	- 24
2008 Garland (7-5)	3	6	7	10	- 26
1 12:27 Los Angeles	FG Brown 23 (4-68-2:33)			3-0	
1 10:11 Garland	FG Gould 26 (4-56-2:13)			3-3	
1 5:26 Los Angeles	TD Campbell 11 pass to Smith (Brown,K) (8-81-4:42)			10-3	
2 14:16 Garland	FG Gould 26 (7-36-2:45)			10-6	
2 2:25 Los Angeles	TD Campbell 7 run (Brown,K) (14-73-6:58)			17-6	
2 0:12 Garland	FG Gould 32 (7-57-2:05)			17-9	
3 9:10 Garland	TD Ryan 27 pass to Keller (Gould) (11-86-5:50)			17-16	
4 6:59 Garland	FG Gould 43 (11-41-5:51)			17-19	
4 4:31 Garland	TD Ryan 12 pass to Forte (Gould) (4-30-2:23)			17-26	
4 1:56 Los Angeles	TD Campbell 5 pass to White (Brown,K) (15-80-2:35)			24-26	

	LAK	GDM
First Downs	28	16
Rushes	37-206	11-77
Passes	35-22-261	44-30-283
Sacked	0-0	1-3
Fumble	2	0
Penalties	7-43	4-25
Turnovers	1	0
Time	33:03	26:57
Third Down	3-12	2-11
Fourth Down	4-4	2-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/3/1	3/1/2
Net Offense	467	357

KEY PERFORMANCES: GDM – **Matt Ryan** completed 30 of 44 for 283 yards and 2 TDs; **Wes Welker** caught 7 passes for 81 yards; **Frank Gore** rushed for 55 yards on 6 carries; **Dustin Keller** caught 4 passes for 54 yards and 1 TD. LAK – **Jason Campbell** went 22 of 35 for 261 yards and 2 TDs; **Steven Jackson** rushed for 100 yards on 17 carries; **Steve Smith** caught 8 passes for 147 yards and 1 TD; **Roddy White** caught 8 passes for 72 yards and 1 TD.



14

KUTZTOWN



21

MARKHAM

NORTH STARS HANG ON TO WIN 4TH

GAME POINTS: After a slow start in the passing game helped spot the Bears two field goals, **Donovan McNabb** got on track mid-way through the second quarter with a 4-yard TD pass to **Bobby Engram**. His hot hand continued in the 2nd half, converting 3 consecutive third downs through the air, the last an 11-yard TD pass to **Devery Henderson**, to make it 14-6. After **Darren Sproles** made it 21-6 on a 6-yard run 5 minutes later, a missed field goal by Markham's **Ryan Longwell** put Kutztown in good field position and **JaMarcus Russell** took advantage; capping a 59 yard drive with a 17-yard TD pass to **Chris Cooley** to make it 21-14. Trying to run out the clock, Markham survived a McNabb fumble at his own 1 yard line to punt away with 2 minutes left. Then **Omar Gaither** sacked Russell and forced a fumble to thwart the Bear's late push to tie the game.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Donovan McNabb** completed 16 of 25 for 154 yards, 2 TDs and 1 INT; **Darren Sproles** rushed for 40 yards and 1 TD on 11 carries; **Omar Gaither** had 3 sacks and forced 2 fumbles. **JaMarcus Russell** went 16 of 33 for 197 yards and 1 TD; **Tony Gonzalez** caught 7 for 81 yards.

12-18-2009 The Dawg Pound.	Temp: 47 Wind: 0-5	None	MVP: Sproles		
2008 Kutztown (5-7)	3	3	0	8	- 14
2008 Markham (4-8)	0	7	14	0	- 21
1 2:56 Kutztown	FG Kaeding 50 (6-21-2:21)			3-0	
2 12:02 Kutztown	FG Kaeding 26 (9-62-4:31)			6-0	
2 4:29 Markham	TD McNabb 4 pass to Engram (Longwell) (13-59-7:30)			6-7	
3 5:29 Markham	TD McNabb 11 pass to Henderson (Longwell) (11-67-6:48)			6-14	
3 0:34 Markham	TD Sproles 6 run (Longwell) (8-41-3:45)			6-21	
4 3:07 Kutztown	TD Russell 17 pass to Cooley (2 - McClain) (7-59-4:26)			14-21	

	KUT	MAR
First Downs	16	16
Rushes	23-67	34-93
Passes	33-16-197	25-16-154
Sacked	3-12	2-12
Fumble	4	2
Penalties	2-15	3-19
Turnovers	2	1
Time	27:03	32:57
Third Down	7-14	6-15
Fourth Down	0-0	2-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/1	3/3/0
Net Offense	252	235



10

COWTOWN



23

CHARLESWOOD

MANNING TO "GONZO" COMBO LEADS PATS

GAME POINTS: Peyton Manning connected 8 times with Tony Gonzalez, all for first downs and 1 for a TD, to clinch the East Division with a win over the struggling Corn Kings. After a tight and hard fought first half ended in a 10-10 draw, the Pats finally got the upper hand late in the third quarter when Manning found Gonzalez open for a 24-yard pass play to the Cowtown 12 that set up a 7-yard TD pass two plays later to Gonzalez for a 17-10 lead. The Pats extended that lead to 20-10 after Mike Scifres was stuffed for a 2-yard loss on a fake punt at Cowtown's 35 yard line, setting up a 49-yard Stephen Gostkowski field goal. The Pats defense controlled the line of scrimmage, stymieing the Corn King running game in the second half.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Peyton Manning completed 19 of 27 for 235 yards and 2 TDs; Tony Gonzalez caught 8 passes for 111 yards and 1 TD; Adrian Peterson rushed for 94 yards on 25 carries. Chad Pennington went 13 of 26 for 135 yards and 1 TD; Greg Camarillo caught 5 passes for 74 yards.

12-15-2009 Patriot Place. Temp: 75 Wind: MVP: Peyton Manning				
2008 Cowtown (5-7)	0 10 0 0	- 10	First Downs	COW 9 CHP 20
2008 Charleswood (10-2)	7 3 7 6	- 23	Rushes	26-57 31-104
1 10:32 Charleswood	TD Manning 8 pass to Witten (Gostkowski) (8-58-4:28)	0-7	Passes	26-13-135 27-19-253
2 14:53 Cowtown	TD Pennington 6 pass to Walter (Hanson,J) (12-61-6:29)	7-7	Sacked	0-0 1-4
2 9:20 Cowtown	FG Hanson 50 (5-36-2:54)	10-7	Fumble	1 4
2 2:17 Charleswood	FG Gostkowski 34 (11-54-6:57)	10-10	Penalties	5-29 5-40
3 0:25 Charleswood	TD Manning 7 pass to Gonzalez (Gostkowski) (11-69-6:11)	10-17	Turnovers	1 2
4 12:11 Charleswood	FG Gostkowski 49 (3-3-1:14)	10-20	Challenges	1-2 0-1
4 2:00 Charleswood	FG Gostkowski 24 (3-1-2:03)	10-23	Time	25:03 34:57
			Third Down	4-13 3-11
			Fourth Down	0-3 2-2
			Red Att/Td/Fg	1/1/0 4/2/1
			Net Offense	192 353

HALF A GAME IS ENOUGH FOR DURHAM

GAME POINTS: The Thunder Lizards rallied for 21 unanswered points in the second half to prevail over Mohave, 21-9. The Hellfire defense dominated Durham in the first half, holding them to just 4 first downs, but their offence failed to take full advantage, managing only 3 field Rob Bironas field goals. The T-Lizards came to life in the third after a 23-yard punt return by Kevin Faulk shortened the field for their first TD drive, ending on a 16-yard pass from Philip Rivers to Calvin Johnson. Faulk returned a punt 17 yards on the next Mohave series to set up the go-ahead TD on a 5-yard pass from Rivers to Michael Bush. Durham put the game away in the fourth after a 32-yard pass to Johnson spurred an 80-yard TD drive that ended with a 1-yard Michael Turner plunge for '6.'

KEY PERFORMANCES: Philip Rivers went 16 of 28 for 187 yards and 2 TDs; Calvin Johnson caught 6 passes for 95 yards and 1 TD; Kurt Warner went 22 of 36 for 219 yards; Steve Slaton rushed for 75 yards on 18 carries.



21

DURHAM



9

MOHAVE

12-18-2009 The Fiery Depths. Temp: 85 Wind: Calm None MVP: Rivers				
2008 Durham (10-2)	0 0 14 7	- 21	First Downs	DTL 19 MOH 18
2008 Mohave (5-7)	6 3 0 0	- 9	Rushes	23-111 32-108
1 9:58 Mohave	FG Bironas 43 (9-44-5:02)	0-3	Passes	28-16-187 36-22-219
1 5:23 Mohave	FG Bironas 20 (6-56-2:45)	0-6	Sacked	1-8 2-12
2 0:02 Mohave	FG Bironas 18 (13-80-4:43)	0-9	Fumble	1 0
3 7:04 Durham	TD Rivers 16 pass to Johnson (Crosby) (6-51-1:26)	7-9	Penalties	6-45 5-40
3 0:57 Durham	TD Rivers 5 pass to Bush (Crosby) (7-59-4:11)	14-9	Turnovers	0 0
4 6:27 Durham	TD Turner 1 run (Crosby) (11-80-6:13)	21-9	Time	25:01 34:59
			Third Down	4-9 8-18
			Fourth Down	1-1 3-3
			Red Att/Td/Fg	3/3/0 2/0/2
			Net Offense	290 315

VINNY'S VIOLATORS SCORE "V" IN O.T.



VIRDEN

30

OT



PICKERING

27

GAME POINTS: Adam Vinatieri kicked a 37-yard field goal in overtime to vault the Violators over the Spartans 30-27 at Thermopylae Stadium. Pickering erased a 10-point Virden lead, tying the game at 13 on a 12-yard pass from **Eli Manning** to **Michael Jenkins** as time expired in the first half. A 53-yard kickoff return by **Josh Wilson** to start the 2nd half led to a 14-yard TD pass from **Drew Brees** to a double-covered **Devin Hester**. But Manning came right back at them through the air, going 6 for 6 on a drive that ended with another TD connection to Jenkins. A blocked punt recovered for a TD by **Andre Carter** gave Virden a 27-20 advantage, but Manning forced overtime with his third TD pass of the game, a 22-yard long slant to **Brandon Jones** to make it 27-27. Virden won the toss in OT and moved with the help of 20 yards of penalties into field goal range.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Eli Manning** completed 27 of 35 for 312 yards and 3 TDs; **Vincent Jackson** caught 10 for 103 yards; **Chris Johnson** had 26 carries for 89 yards; **Michael Jenkins** caught 2 TDs. **Drew Brees** went 18 of 27 for 225 yards, 2 TDs; **Devin Hester** caught 6 passes for 71 yards and 2 TDs.

12-16-2009 Thermopylae Stadium Temp: 52 Wind: 5-15 None MVP: Josh Wilson					VV	PIC			
2008 Virden (4-8)	10	3	7	7	3	-30	First Downs	16	21
2008 Pickering (3-9)	3	10	7	7	0	-27	Rushes	26-78	31-101
1 12:19 Pickering	FG Kasay	47	(4-50-2:41)			0-3	Passes	27-18-225	35-27-312
1 9:17 Virden	FG Vinatieri	54	(4-21-2:57)			3-3	Sacked	1-9	1-14
1 5:51 Virden	TD Brees	4	pass to Hester (Vinatieri) (4-46-1:36)			10-3	Fumble	3	1
2 11:40 Virden	FG Vinatieri	18	(10-69-5:37)			13-3	Penalties	6-40	8-65
2 8:43 Pickering	FG Kasay	51	(5-26-2:53)			13-6	Turnovers	1	0
2 0:00 Pickering	TD Manning	12	pass to Jenkins (Kasay) (10-52-2:05)			13-13	Time	31:08	34:44
3 9:37 Virden	TD Brees	14	pass to Hester (Vinatieri) (10-47-5:23)			20-13	Third Down	7-13	7-16
3 3:20 Pickering	TD Manning	18	pass to Jenkins (Kasay) (10-78-6:17)			20-20	Fourth Down	0-0	2-3
4 8:54 Virden	TD Pickett	blk	punt ret -6 (Vinatieri) (0-0-0:00)			27-20	Red Att/Td/Fg	3/2/1	3/3/0
4 1:33 Pickering	TD Manning	22	pass to Jones (Kasay) (15-72-7:21)			27-27	Net Offense	294	399
5 9:13 Virden	FG Vinatieri	37	(9-49-5:47)			30-27			

HAWKS TAKE IT OUT ON OUTLAWS

GAME POINTS: Maurice Jones-Drew broke out of a frustrating season-long slump with a 4-touchdown performance in a convincing win over visiting Winnemucca. The Hawks got started early when **Kerry Rhodes** intercepted **David Garrard** on the Outlaws' first series and returned it 42 yards to the 5 yard line. From there, **Ben Roethlisberger** completed it in the end zone to Jones-Drew for a quick 7-0 lead. On their next possession, the Hawks converted on 3rd & 16 with a 28-yard pass to **Eddie Royal**, eventually setting up the first of 3 touchdown runs by Jones-Drew on a 13-yard pitch around left end. It was over when, with Ringgold leading 24-6 in the 3rd, **Kawika Mitchell** intercepted Garrard in the end zone. From that point, the Hawks glided to an easy win.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Maurice Jones-Drew** rushed for 107 yards and 3 TDs and had 1 TD catch. **Big Ben** went 20 of 25 for 250 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT. **David Garrard** completed 13 of 27 passes for 122 yards and 2 INTs.



WINNEMUCCA

6



RINGGOLD

31

12-19-2009. The Hawk's Nest. Temp: 42 Wind: 10-20 MVP: Jones-Drew					WMO	RCH			
2008 Winnemucca (1-11)	0	6	0	0	-6	First Downs	18	22	
2008 Ringgold (3-9)	14	7	3	7	-31	Rushes	22-98	31-157	
1 13:46 Ringgold	TD Roethlisberger	5	pass to Jones-Drew (Suisham) (1-5-0:0)			0-7	Passes	38-20-188	25-20-250
1 5:36 Ringgold	TD Jones-Drew	13	run (Suisham) (12-65-6:27)			0-14	Sacked	3-21	3-21
2 7:00 Ringgold	TD Jones-Drew	21	run (Suisham) (6-84-3:24)			0-21	Fumble	0	2
2 1:51 Winnemucca	FG Graham	37	(11-47-5:09)			3-21	Penalties	7-63	12-100
2 0:23 Winnemucca	FG Graham	44	(5-25-0:44)			6-21	Turnovers	2	1
3 8:05 Ringgold	FG Suisham	33	(14-64-6:55)			6-24	Time	25:39	34:21
4 2:34 Ringgold	TD Jones-Drew	9	run (Suisham) (7-52-5:36)			6-31	Third Down	3-12	10-14
							Fourth Down	1-2	0-0
							Red Att/Td/Fg	3/0/1	4/3/1
							Net Offense	265	386

GLADIATORS VANQUISH CUBS



26

GWINNETT



10

IOWA CITY

GAME POINTS: Terrence McGee intercepted Trent Edwards in the 2nd quarter and returned it to the Iowa 25 yard line, setting up a 10-yard TD pass from Matt Cassel to Dallas Clark to give Gwinnett a 10-0 lead. After bottling up the Cubs' offence on their next series, Leon Washington returned a punt 13 yards to the Cubs' 39 yard line. From there, Cassel finished a short drive, kept alive by a successful 4th down conversion by Thomas Jones, by squeezing a pass over the middle to Clark for his second TD reception of the game. The Cubs struggled desperately on offence as the Gladiators shut down their passing attack with 3 interceptions and a forced fumble after a catch. DeMeco Ryans scored the only TD for Iowa City, returning a fumble forced by Mario Williams.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Matt Cassel completed 16 of 23 for 165 yards and 2 TDs; Dallas Clark caught 7 passes for 55 yards and 2 TDs; Leon Washington ran for 65 yards on 11 carries and averaged 13.5 yards on 6 punt returns; Terrence McGee had 2 interceptions and 1 forced fumble. Trent Edwards went 9 of 22 for 83 yards and 3 INTs; Mario Williams had 7 tackles, 3 sacks, 2 Hurries and 2 FFs.

12-16-2009 Joe Ferguson Stadium. Temp: 36 Wind: Calm None MVP: Leon Washington			GWG	ICC
2008 Gwinnett (7-5)	3 14 6 3	- 26	First Downs	17
2008 Iowa City (6-6)	0 0 7 3	- 10	Rushes	42-120
1 8:42 Gwinnett	FG Brown 19 (9-32-4:26)	3-0	Passes	23-16-165
2 10:25 Gwinnett	TD Cassel 10 pass to Clark (Brown,J) (4-25-2:08)	10-0	Sacked	3-18
2 2:21 Gwinnett	TD Cassel 3 pass to Clark (Brown,J) (10-39-6:16)	17-0	Fumble	3
3 10:36 Iowa City	TD Ryans 22 yd fumble recovery (Rackers) (0-0-0:00)	17-7	Penalties	7-99
3 5:14 Gwinnett	FG Brown 45 (10-44-5:22)	20-7	Turnovers	2
3 0:53 Gwinnett	FG Brown 38 (5-48-2:52)	23-7	Time	40:05
4 4:38 Iowa City	FG Rackers 45 (8-50-2:57)	23-10	Third Down	6-19
4 1:43 Gwinnett	FG Brown 25 (3-0-0:25)	26-10	Fourth Down	1-1
			Red Att/Td/Fg	4/2/2
			Net Offense	267

CONVICTS FOIL DRAGONS' PERFECT SEASON

GAME POINTS: Chino handed Florida their first loss of the year while passing the LA Knights by one game in the West Division title race. An interception by Haloti Ngata followed by a 27-yard end-around by Joshua Cribbs set a 16-yard TD pass from Jay Cutler to Anquan Boldin to give Chino a 20-10 lead in the fourth quarter. Chino made it 22-10 when James Harrison sacked Aaron Rodgers in the end zone for a safety. But Florida stormed right back after a Michael Griffin interception and 59-yard return, and a successful onside kick, set up back-to-back TD runs by DeAngelo Williams in a four-minute span to make it 24-22 for Florida. With 56 seconds left, a squib kick gave Chino good field position near mid-field. They moved it 22 yards before Jeff Reed booted a dramatic 47-yard field goal with 2 seconds left for the win.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Aaron Rodgers went 23 of 32 for 250 yards and 1 INT; DeAngelo Williams rushed for 93 yards and 3 TDs on 22 carries; Jay Cutler went 13 of 24 for 144 yards, 2 TDs and 2 INTs.



24

FLORIDA



25

CHINO

12-19-2009. The Big House. Temp: 87 Wind: 5-15 None MVP: Cribbs			FLD	CHI
2008 Florida (11-1)	0 7 3 14	- 24	First Downs	24
2008 Chino (8-4)	3 7 3 12	- 25	Rushes	29-131
1 4:37 Chino	FG Reed 36 (4-29-1:27)	0-3	Passes	32-23-250
2 13:28 Florida	TD Williams 3 run (Elam,J) (13-77-6:04)	7-3	Sacked	2-8
2 0:40 Chino	TD Cutler 8 pass to Tomlinson (Reed,J) (7-56-3:11)	7-10	Fumble	3
3 11:26 Florida	FG Elam 36 (6-48-3:34)	10-10	Penalties	8-53
3 6:34 Chino	FG Reed 27 (8-46-4:47)	10-13	Turnovers	2
4 10:29 Chino	TD Cutler 16 pass to Boldin (Reed,J) (6-53-2:57)	10-20	Time	34:05
4 6:13 Chino	Safety Harrison	10-22	Third Down	4-9
4 5:43 Florida	TD Williams 2 run (Elam,J) (1-2-0:07)	17-22	Fourth Down	1-1
4 1:03 Florida	TD Williams 14 run (Elam,J) (10-56-4:40)	24-22	Red Att/Td/Fg	5/3/1
4 0:09 Chino	FG Reed 47 (4-22-0:54)	24-25	Net Offense	373



AROUND THE EFL With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – Flying under the radar of the Tiger Woods multiple-mistress scandal is a potentially more serious problem for the public reputation of the world’s greatest golfer. While the world at large gapes at the magnitude of Tiger’s infidelity in his marriage, the seed of another scandal is taking root in an unlikely place. Canadian doctor, Anthony Galea is under investigation by the FBI for providing performance-enhancing drugs to several prominent athletes. He reportedly paid a house call to Tiger following his knee surgery in 2008. If it were to emerge that Woods, like Barry Bonds, attained his broader, more sculpted physique as a result of anything other than a good diet, rest, and vigorous exercise, his whole legacy as a golfer will be called into question.

With his marriage falling apart in a very embarrassing and public way, Woods still has his accomplishments on the golf course as a well-earned source of pride and accomplishment. Fair-minded people should be able to differentiate between the golf prodigy’s immature handling of his personal life and his mature mastery of one of the most elusive and challenging games in the world – unless, of course, that mastery came with unnatural assistance. Cheating on your wife is a personal failing; cheating at golf is a very public one. Without jumping to conclusions, it is safe to say that the mere question of Tiger’s fidelity to his chosen sport comes at a very unfortunate time for him.

DRAGONS’ PERFECT SEASON A CASUALTY OF WILD WEEK TWELVE

The Chino Convicts did what no other EFL team has been able to do since the start of last season – they beat the Florida Dragons. Not once, but twice. For the second straight year the Convicts have spoiled Florida’s quest for a perfect season – last year it happened in Week 11; this year in Week 12. It looks like the Convicts have the Dragons’ number at The Big House. Don’t ask *me* why, ask the supposed “Football Gods.” Looking at the stats, Chino had no real business winning this game. But a few whacky breaks, a couple of key plays by the offense and the defense, and a clutch field goal from 47 yards by **Jeff Reed** were enough to give Chino one more point than Florida by the end of the game.

The Dragons did not fall easily. After **James Harrison** sacked **Aaron Rodgers** in the end zone for a safety and a 22-10 Chino lead with 6 minutes left in the game, Florida parlayed a **Michael Griffin** pick and a successful onside kick into two quick touchdowns to take the lead, 24-22 with one minute remaining. This “in-your-face” attack to steal back the lead was followed, curiously, by a meekly conservative decision to squib the kickoff and avoid the big return by the ever-dangerous **Joshua Cribbs**. This call successfully prevented Cribbs from returning the kick for a touchdown, but it dangerously shortened the field for Chino. Starting at his own 48 yard line, **Jay Cutler** moved his team a moderate 22 yards into Reed’s field goal range and the veteran made good on a difficult, but definitely make-able, 47-yard field goal to hand Florida their first loss of the season. Was Chino pre-destined to win? Scroll down to ‘Football God Watch’ for the answer.

MUSTANGS CONTINUE TO WRITE CINDERELLA SCRIPT

Another team that came up short on the stats sheet but long on the score this week was Garland. The Mustangs turned the game around (and perhaps made their season) on one play – a 7-yard pass. Everyone with a television has seen it. Facing 4th down and 2 at their 22 yard line early in the third quarter, **Matt Ryan** connected with **Wes Welker** on a short slant as the world’s top corner, **Nnamdi Asomugha**, hung off his shoulder. The crowd recognized a big balls move when they saw it and rewarded their Mustangs with lusty and prolonged cheering. When **Dustin Keller’s** fantastic 27-yard catch-and-run for a touchdown followed shortly afterwards, Garland’s mascot, ‘Mustang Sally,’ a sprightly firecracker of a gal weighing no more 90 lbs and sporting red pigtailed, fired off her pop guns and, as she is inclined to do a little too often these days, jumped on Matt Ryan’s back and rode him around the home bench area while rousing the crowd with her ten

gallon hat and ear-splitting “yippee cay-yay, whoop whoop whoop!” She was gently, but immediately, pulled off Ryan as her excitement visibly grew and she tried to plant a big wet one on his mouth.

Coach **Doug Shirley** would not admit it, but the call to go for it on 4th down was as much an indictment of his “*Thoroughdeads*” defense as it was a vote of confidence for Matt Ryan and the offence. Los Angeles had no trouble moving the ball despite the loss, racking up 28 first downs and 467 net yards of offence for the day. If my adopted team is going to finish what they have started with this amazing Cinderella run, their defense is going to have to come alive at least half as much as their offence.

OVERTIME WIN KEEPS VIRDEN’S SLIM PLAYOFF HOPES ALIVE

The Violators and Spartans needed overtime to decide which team would escape with a win. It was the league’s first overtime contest of the season and only the 8th overtime game in league history. Interestingly, Pickering, in only two seasons, has participated in 3 of those overtime games. It was an anti-climactic and embarrassing overtime period after an exciting and well-played four quarters. Virden won the toss and stumbled their way toward Pickering territory. Twice **Clinton Portis** was stuffed for 3-yard losses, the second time he nearly fumbled the game away but Justin Smiley covered up. **Drew Brees** kept the chains moving by dodging the pass rush just long enough to find his open receivers. After he found Portis for 17 yards on a hitch route, discipline broke down in the Spartan’s ranks as aggressiveness turned to anxiety and violence. First, **Aubrayo Franklin** jumped offside. Then, **Ray Edwards**, gunning for Portis, tackled him, picked him up, carried him off the field and threw him into the notorious ‘300’ section of Thermopylae Stadium. This section is home to the “300 Spartans,” Pickering’s most hardcore fan group. They dress in full Greek Hoplite gear with plastic shields and spears and consume approximately one-third of all the beer sold in the stadium during an average game. They swallowed up Portis into their ranks like a half pint of pilsner and molested him for about five minutes before Security and Police could extract him, soaked in beer and mustard, from the scrum. This earned Edwards a 15-yard personal foul and likely a hefty fine from the league. The penalty brought Virden into **Adam Vinatieri**’s field goal range and he made no mistake from 37 yards out.

THE BEST OF THE REST

The Gladiators shut down the Cubs at Joe Ferguson Stadium. **Terrence McGee** made 2 picks and forced a fumble to lead a dominating defensive performance by the ‘*Tortoise*.’ Yes, another EFL defense has been “named” by the fans for having a good game. The ‘*Tortoise*’ takes its name from the ancient Roman heavy infantry formation of the same name. It was used to protect Legionnaires against ground assault and missiles. Sounds like the perfect defense to me.

Ringgold whopped Winnemucca, 31-6 at The Hawk’s Nest. The hero of the game was **Maurice Jones-Drew**, the player who Yours Truly called out last week in this very column. He rushed for over 100 yards for the first time this season and scored all four of Ringgold’s touchdowns. Could it be that Jones-Drew, or people close to him, read these sage words every week and take heed to make improvements? Or is it more likely that Winny’s run defense is barely capable of stopping a goldfish riding a rusty tricycle with a flat tire?

Adrian Peterson put in another dominating performance in Charleswood’s 23-10 victory over Cowtown. How does a runner who averages 3.8 yards a carry on 25 attempts and doesn’t score a touchdown dominate a game? It was not what Peterson actually did as much as what the Corn Kings thought he *could* do. Cowtown’s defense focused on Peterson so much that **Peyton Manning** had no trouble picking apart the Corn Kings’ secondary, finding **Tony Gonzalez** and **Jason Witten** for a combined 12 receptions and 2 touchdowns.

OH <Burp!> CAN-A-DA!

The ‘Fat Lady’ sang the National Anthem in Markham before the North Stars’ game against the Golden Bears. The performance made Roseanne Barr’s infamous rendition of the “Star Spangled Banner” sound almost operatic by comparison. She belched up a hot dog at the line “*home and native land*,” replacing the “home” with “*blecchhh*” and a flying chunk of half-chewed wiener. Well-timed flatulence punctuated “*stand on guard for thee*” and she left behind a mess on the field that would have made a Clydesdale proud. The stress of recent legal troubles and a restricted diet while she recuperates from her burst calves has caused the Fat Lady to lose some weight – enough to allow her to be wheeled onto the field by the Junkyard Dogs, a local semi-pro rugby team. The whole scene was another disgrace for the North Stars and the City of Markham. Without getting into how the ‘Fat Lady’ managed to get a gig singing the National Anthem at ‘The Dawg Pound’ after all of the trouble she has made for everybody, I must say that, for once, the people of Markham have reacted to this act with something approaching normalcy. It would appear that you can gorge on junk food, belch and fart in people’s faces, scream at the top your lungs, defecate in your chair, mop your saggy breasts in public, throw food around, bite people, and remain some kind of folk hero. But ruin the National Anthem and suddenly you become Public Enemy no. 1. The ‘Fat Lady’ was booed vigorously after

ten minutes of shredding the American and Canadian National Anthems. While the Junkyard Dogs rolled her off the field at a glacial pace, the crowd pelted garbage at the 'Fat Lady,' who ate the edible bits but tossed aside the rest. The clean-up afterwards delayed the game by half an hour.

FOOTBALL GOD WATCH

The power of 'Kuk' and 'Garmustanga' combined to work a miracle in Garland this week. 'Lala,' the Football God of the Los Angeles Knights, was overmatched despite receiving a pre-game sacrifice of Knights' practice squad wide receiver, **Chris Henry**; temporarily boosting the offensive power of **Jason Campbell** and **Steve Smith**. There was nothing the Knights could do against *Kuk*. They took the loss well and can expect a blessing from *Kuk* in some future contest; perhaps in Week 14 against Chino.

The Dragons had to know they were destined to lose at some point. *Kuk* does not like perfection in any team since only the Football Gods are perfect and among the Gods, *Kuk* himself is the most perfect. He certainly doesn't want any human to challenge him in this regard. However, why are the Convicts blessed with the honour of knocking Florida from its lofty perch every year? The answer lies in the legend of the 'Ring of Fire.' 'Hermes,' the Football God who protects the Convicts, snuck into the smoky den of 'Flambalaya,' the Dragon's God, and stole the sacred 'Ring of Fire.' As a result, the Convicts have mastery over Florida whenever they meet as long as each player on the Chino roster consumes 15 'thermo-nuclear' chicken wings exactly one hour prior to the start of the game. This is not as easy as it sounds. It is a painful ritual both during the consumption and later during the expulsion. Clearly, all the Chino players choked down their share last week for the sake of a win.

NEW YORK GRIPES

My biggest gripe is how fast the year has passed. Last year at this time I was in a curiously content and contemplative state. I even gave money to a panhandler and later despised myself for it. This year I feel like the holidays are a sudden and abrupt intrusion on my routine – while I welcome the break I resent the mandatory shopping nightmare. *Merry Christmas anyway! -SPATS*

SPATS.



IF SPATS LIKES IT....IT'S GOOD!!

PLAY OF THE WEEK

SITUATION

Los Angeles 17, Garland 9, 3rd Quarter, 13:31 mark, Mustangs in possession, 4th down & 2 at own 22 yard line. Basic Pro set vs. 3-4-4 Basic package, tight MAN coverage, BASIC defense, KEY – Gore.

RESULT

Matt Ryan checks down to Wes Welker, tightly covered by Nnamdi Asomugha, who falls forward for 7 yards and a first down.

ANALYSIS

A crazy gamble that paid off due to perfect execution. It turned out to be the emotional turning point of the game that underdog Garland went on to win.

WEEK TWELVE LEADERS

PASSING

Manning, E. (PIC) 35-27-312
 Ryan, M. (GDM) 44-30-283
 Campbell (LAK) 35-22-261
 Manning, P. (CHP) 27-19-253
 Rodgers (FLD) 32-23-250

RUSHING

Jacobs (ICC) 17-112
 Jones-Drew (RCH) 23-107
 Jackson, S. (LAK) 17-100
 Peterson, A. (CHP) 25-94
 Williams, D. (FLD) 22-93

RECEIVING

Smith, S. (LAK) 8-147
 Gonzalez, T. (CHP) 8-111
 Royal, E. (RCH) 6-110
 Jackson, V. (PCI) 10-103
 Johnson, Ca. (DTL) 6-95

LEADER BOARD

STANDINGS

PACIFIC-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood (z)	10	2	0	0.833	306	25.5	154	12.8	12.7	6 1 0	2 1 0	6 1 0
Kutztown	5	7	0	0.417	223	18.6	261	21.8	-3.2	2 3 0	2 1 0	3 4 0
Mohave	5	7	0	0.417	242	20.2	255	21.3	-1.1	4 2 0	2 1 0	3 4 0
Virden	4	8	0	0.333	217	18.1	305	25.4	-7.3	1 5 0	0 3 0	2 5 0

West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Chino	8	4	0	0.667	265	22.1	184	15.3	6.8	4 2 0	2 1 0	5 2 0
Los Angeles	7	5	0	0.583	261	21.8	182	15.2	6.6	4 1 0	2 1 0	5 2 0
Iowa City	6	6	0	0.500	222	18.5	243	20.3	-1.8	3 4 0	1 2 0	3 4 0
Winnemucca	1	11	0	0.083	154	12.8	330	27.5	-14.7	0 6 0	1 2 0	1 6 0

CAN-AM CONFERENCE

North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham (z)	10	2	0	0.833	258	21.5	173	14.4	7.1	5 1 0	3 0 0	5 2 0
Cowtown	5	7	0	0.417	241	20.1	249	20.8	-0.7	3 2 0	1 2 0	3 4 0
Markham	4	8	0	0.333	182	15.2	255	21.3	-6.1	3 4 0	1 2 0	2 5 0
Pickering	3	9	0	0.250	219	18.3	324	27	-8.8	1 5 0	1 2 0	2 5 0

South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Florida (y)	11	1	0	0.917	343	28.6	155	12.9	15.7	6 0 0	3 0 0	7 0 0
Garland	7	5	0	0.583	288	24	294	24.5	-0.5	5 2 0	1 2 0	4 3 0
Gwinnett	7	5	0	0.583	244	20.3	227	18.9	1.4	2 3 0	2 1 0	4 3 0
Ringgold	3	9	0	0.250	203	16.9	277	23.1	-6.2	2 4 0	0 3 0	1 6 0

y-clinched wildcard

z-clinched division

PASSING

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Ryan, M	GDM	384	257	66.9	3015	8	2.1	69	26	6.8	104.5
2	Manning, P	CHP	323	224	69.3	2647	8	2.5	50	20	6.2	104.3
3	Rivers, P	DTL	333	204	61.3	2888	6	1.8	80	19	5.7	100.8
4	Warner	MOH	324	220	67.9	2489	8	2.5	61	16	4.9	96.8
5	Campbell, J	LAK	288	184	63.9	2035	5	1.7	63	16	5.6	96.1
6	Cassel	GWG	283	177	62.5	1847	4	1.4	41	14	4.9	92
7	Brees	VV	323	197	61	2367	8	2.5	51	16	5	89.6
8	Manning, E	PIC	302	181	59.9	2390	10	3.3	74	16	5.3	88.9
9	Rodgers	FLD	322	214	66.5	2312	7	2.2	46	10	3.1	88.7
10	Roethlisberger	RCH	343	203	59.2	2287	7	2	41	14	4.1	84.3
11	Pennington	COW	368	230	62.5	2503	11	3	41	14	3.8	82.7
12	Cutler	CHI	354	229	64.7	2314	11	3.1	63	12	3.4	81.6
13	Romo	KUT	289	176	60.9	1946	9	3.1	41	11	3.8	80.6
14	Edwards, T	ICC	219	140	63.9	1406	8	3.7	26	6	2.7	76
15	McNabb	MAR	297	176	59.3	1922	13	4.4	67	10	3.4	71.4

RUSHING

		Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1	Williams, D	FLD	210	1120	5.3	48	21	8	Johnson, C	PIC	155	719	4.6	69	3
2	Peterson, A	CHP	246	1090	4.4	69	7	9	Barber, M	COW	179	710	4	40	7
3	Portis	VV	264	957	3.6	36	0	10	Brown, R	ICC	159	704	4.4	53	4
4	Turner, M	DTL	224	935	4.2	85	4	11	Slaton	MOH	192	650	3.4	80	4
5	Jacobs, B	ICC	178	926	5.2	49	10	12	White, L	CHI	141	627	4.4	75	8
6	Jones, T	GWG	212	831	3.9	69	6	13	Gore	GDM	111	548	4.9	46	1
7	Lewis, J	MAR	203	817	4	19	2	14	Jackson, S	LAK	136	541	4	20	1
8	Johnson, C	PIC	155	719	4.6	69	3	15	McCoy, L	KUT	96	496	5.2	52	1

RECEIVING

		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1	Jennings, G	KUT	74	1027	13.9	62	7	8	Houshmandzad	FLD	61	589	9.7	24	0
2	Gonzalez, T	CHP	73	845	11.6	34	9	9	Hester, D	VV	61	891	14.6	40	6
3	Royal, E	RCH	72	699	9.7	33	4	10	Welker	GDM	59	752	12.7	69	10
4	White, R	LAK	71	755	10.6	27	6	11	Ward, H	CHI	58	697	12	37	3
5	Johnson, A	RCH	65	941	14.5	41	5	12	Johnson, C	DTL	57	1036	18.2	80	6
6	Fitzgerald	ICC	62	696	11.2	31	4	13	Harrison, M	VV	54	655	12.1	51	7
7	Marshall, B	FLD	62	841	13.6	43	3	14	Coles	WMO	53	575	10.8	49	3
8	Houshmandz	FLD	61	589	9.7	24	0	15	Boldin	CHI	53	579	10.9	63	4



BRYLCREEM PLAYERS OF THE WEEK *WHO WAS SLICK IN WEEK TWELVE?* Brylcreem continues to be a proud sponsor of the EFL

OFFENSE



RB – M. Jones-Drew, Ringgold C. Hawks
23 Att., 107 yards, Long 21, 3TDs, 3 Rec., 19 yards, 1 TD.
4 touchdowns pulled Hawks out of 4-game tailspin.

DEFENSE



CB – Terrence McGee, Gwinnett Gladiators
2 Tackles, 1 Pass Def, 2 INTs, 1 Forced Fumbles.
Forced 3 turnovers to shut down Cubs in critical win.

SPECIAL TEAMS



K –Jeff Reed, Chino Convicts
3 for 3 Field Goals, Long 47, 2 for 2 Extra Pts, 11 Points.
Kicked game-winning field goal from 47 yards to beat Dragons.

INJURY REPORT - Week Thirteen

CHARLESWOOD – Burgess (OUT); **CHINO** – Newman (QUESTIONABLE); **COWTOWN** – Schobel (QUESTIONABLE), D. Johnson (OUT); **DURHAM** – Jason Jones (OUT); **FLORIDA** – Woodley (PROBABLE); **GARLAND** – M. Williams (OUT), Cushing (QUESTIONABLE); **GWINNETT** – Burleson (OUT); **IOWA CITY** – Hartsock (OUT), T. Branch (OUT); **KUTZTOWN** – Romo (PROBABLE), T. Porter (OUT), D. Landry (OUT), F. Jones (OUT); **LOS ANGELES** – S. Jackson (OUT); **MARKHAM** – Shockey (QUESTIONABLE), Pittman (OUT); **MOHAVE** – Hayden (OUT); **PICKERING** – F. Davis (OUT), J. Joseph (OUT), M. Jackson (OUT); **RINGGOLD** – Barnett (OUT); **VIRDEN** – B. Davis (OUT); **WINNEMUCCA** – J. Griffith (OUT), McAlister (OUT).



BUG THE BOOKIE!

JIMMY THE GEEK GIVES YOU HIS PICKS FOR WEEK

THIRTEEN EFL ACTION

YOUR SOURCE FOR FANTASY AND ON-LINE BETTING SOLUTIONS



PLAYOFF PICTURE AT A GLANCE AFTER 12 GAMES

PACIFIC – ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

IN

ALIVE

OUT

1



2



3



4



CAN – AM CONFERENCE

IN

ALIVE

OUT

1



2



3



4



JIMMY'S WEEK THIRTEEN PICKS

MARKHAM @ VIRDEN (LINE – VIOLATORS BY 2)

I thought I would get this one out of the way first. Entering this contest both teams have a remote chance of making the playoffs, but the one that loses is very likely to be eliminated. If both could somehow lose it would be a mercy to the league since neither team deserves a playoff berth. Despite spirited play, the Violators are bereft of talent and the North Stars are simply too boring and too bad to watch in a Prime Time slot. But barring the league's first tie game, one of these teams has to win and I think one of them will. Both are coming off big wins in Week Twelve and the momentum is uncertain. Both quarterbacks are capable but only one is facing the Violator's secondary – the worst in the league. Donovan McNabb may have lost some of his shine, but he is still a good bet to stick it hard into a soft spot.

PICK: MARKHAM

PICKERING @ KUTZTOWN (LINE – GOLDEN BEARS BY 6)

Tony Romo's injury status is creating some confusion. He is listed as "probable" but has not been taking snaps in practice. It makes a big difference whether or not he starts. The JaMarcus Russell Era in Kutztown has not seen a victory in its short reign and if he starts this week it will be a struggle even against a hurting defensive unit like the Spartans. Pickering has the edge offensively and can win a shootout against the inexperienced Russell. Romo would be another story. Kyle Vanden Bosch returns to the line-up to reinforce the beleaguered "Spark'ems" defense, but how much does it matter to a team with nothing to play for but pride? The Spartans have pride and will play hard on principal but, unlike the Bears, without the accompanying adrenaline that comes from knowing they are on the edge of elimination. This game is too important for Kutztown to throw away. I think Romo will take the painkillers and play.

PICK: KUTZTOWN

MOHAVE @ COWTOWN (LINE – CORN KINGS BY 3)

Both of these under-performing teams remain very much in the playoff picture despite trying hard to melt into obscurity. Both have impressive wins under their belts to go with heart-breaking or outright silly losses. Neither can be taken lightly despite sometimes not deserving to be taken seriously. Inconsistent effort by the Hellfire offense has held them back while poor execution by the Corn Kings has put them out of the race for the North Division. This is a game that will be a turning point for both teams, with the loser heading for the back of the stage. Kurt Warner can do some damage against a Corn Kings' secondary that has not made the big "turning point" plays expected of them this year. Cowtown can move the ball on the ground against a relatively soft Mohave defensive front and could find some success in 3-wide receiver sets against a Hellfire secondary missing Kelvin Hayden. Evenly matched in talent, the winning team will be the one that executes better. Unless the Hellfire offensive coordinator takes another day off, Mohave should light it up.

PICK: MOHAVE

CHARLESWOOD @ DURHAM (LINE – THUNDER LIZARDS BY 1)

With their respective Divisions clinched, both teams are playing for the only remaining regular season prize – first seed in the Conference. This could also be a preview of the EFL Championship Game. The league's most efficient offense butts heads with the league's third most stingy defense. The Thunder Lizards should be able to make headway on the ground against Charleswood's defensive line but will it be enough headway to force the Pats' linebackers and safeties into a run-support position and open up room for Calvin Johnson and Dwayne Bowe? Adrian Peterson will continue to be a big factor in the Charleswood attack plan but Peyton Manning may want to test the Thunder Lizards' deep and draw Adrian Wilson out of the box to open up room for Peterson – passing to set up the run. Look for Durham to go conservative and brutalize the Pats' defensive line with a grinding running game while Charleswood does the opposite – at least to start. The game will probably end up being a free-for-all with the more seasoned quarterback making the difference.

PICK: CHARLESWOOD

GARLAND @ WINNEMUCCA (LINE – MUSTANGS BY 4)

The Mustangs have the second most efficient offense in the league thanks to MVP front-runner Matt Ryan. This week the EFL's Golden Boy faces one of the league's more appalling secondaries – made more hideous by the absence of Chris McAlister. The best defender in the Outlaw's secondary will be the notoriously swirling harsh wind in 'Hole in the Wall.' Speaking of the weather; if it is *really bad* it will change the whole complexion of the game. Winnemucca has been relatively efficient stopping the run and Garland has not relied on their ground game for much more than a change of pace to the passing game. If both teams are forced to the ground, the advantage shifts dramatically to Winnemucca since the Mustangs are dead last defending against the run and the Outlaws are surprisingly adept at running the ball. So I guess what I'm trying to say is that the weather will determine the outcome. If the wind howls and the rain falls, the Outlaws will throw a caltrop in the path of the galloping Mustangs. If the skies clear and the sun shines, it will be another Golden Day for the Garland. My forecast: hurricane.

PICK: WINNEMUCCA

RINGGOLD @ LOS ANGELES (LINE – KNIGHTS BY 9)

The Crimson Hawks cling as tenuously as mathematically possible to a playoff berth. They are virtually, but not completely, eliminated – needing Divine Intervention and pack of smokes to stay in the post-season hunt. Los Angeles is in the thick of the hottest Division race (in reality the *only* Division race) left. The team with the most to lose is either going to implode or explode when facing a team with nothing to play for. Ringgold' season was emotionally over when they got their heads handed to them by Pickering back in Week Five. Since then they have shown a few signs of life but against the Knights' defense they are certain to fold like a wet napkin. Los Angeles will keep pace with Chino and beat the spread.

PICK: LOS ANGELES

CHINO @ GWINNETT (LINE – CONVICTS BY 1)

Terrence Newman is questionable and so are the prospects of the Convicts knocking off two top South Division teams in successive weeks. The Gwinnett *'Tortoise,'* finally shut down an opponent, curbing the Cubs on their home field last week and making it look easy in the process. This week they are at home and in a good position to replicate their efforts against a Chino attack that ranks at the top of the bottom half of the league and tends to turn the ball over more than an elite team should. A good defensive effort from the Glads' defense is critical since their offence will have its hands full. Cortland Finnegan is poised to limit Reggie Wayne's usual contribution and Haloti Ngata and Pat Williams are ready to stop Thomas Jones in the running game. Matt Cassel is not going to throw for a ton of yards, so coming from behind is not the preferable situation for Gwinnett. This will be a great game with the home team winning in the dying seconds on a field goal after a Troy Polamalu interception at midfield sets up a short drive in which Reggie Wayne catches a 17-yard pass to get into the edge of Josh Brown's range. But, of course, something else entirely different could happen to bring about the same result.

PICK: GWINNETT

IOWA CITY @ FLORIDA (LINE – DRAGONS BY 12)

The Cubs are not dead. They are just resting. After a spaced-out start to the season, the Cubs came alive and scrambled their way back into contention, only to be slapped down hard by a more determined Gwinnett squad last week. Is Trent Edwards the answer to Jeff Garcia at the quarterback position in Iowa City? Well, he better be, because nobody else currently on the roster comes close. Edwards has potential to be a big time quarterback but last week's showing against Gwinnett showed that his evolution as the Cubs' franchise quarterback still has some growing pains to go through. He faces a definitive test this week. Florida hates to lose and last week they lost. This week they will be seeking to re-establish a psychological edge on the rest of the league with a full bore ass-whopping of whoever happens to be on the opposite side of the field. Regardless of the opponent, Florida feels they can play their own game and dictate the pace of play, something they will be able to do this week against Iowa City only to a point. The 12-point spread is a little too generous for my better judgment. I think the Dragons win, but the Cubs make them work for it.

PICK: IOWA CITY

SHOULD YOU LISTEN TO A THING I SAY??????
HOW I'M DOING AGAINST THE SPREAD

LAST WEEK: 6-2-0

OVERALL: 65-30-1