



2009

WEEK THIRTEEN

January 3rd, 2010



“NEVER SURRENDER” SPARTANS KNOCK OFF BEARS IN OVERTIME

*MANNING LAST SECOND HEROICS TIE
GAME AT END OF REGULATION*



4 - 9

PICKERING

24

OT



5 - 8

KUTZTOWN

21

Pickering's Eli Manning, the General, directs a stunning Spartans overtime comeback win over Kutztown, 24-21.

KUTZTOWN – The Golden Bears' Golden Boy didn't show and his team may end up missing the playoffs because of it. Kutztown's playoff hopes are hanging by a thread after being hung out to dry by the Pickering Spartans in a game that came within 2 minutes and a **John Kasay** field goal of becoming the first tie in EFL history. Listed as "probable" before the game, **Tony Romo** was held back at the eleventh hour and **JaMarcus Russell** made his third consecutive start for the gold and red. Romo, recovering from a broken pinky on his throwing hand, did not throw all week in practice. A healthy Russell was considered to be a better option than a wounded Romo but fans will never know for sure if that would have born out in reality on the field. Many are wondering today what might have been if the captain of the Kutztown offence had had a crack at a rickety Pickering secondary that looked ready to surrender more than the 213 yards it did to the Bear's rookie signal-caller.

Things could not have started off better for Kutztown, despite no Romo. On their first possession they drove 62 yards, with Russell going 5 of 6 for 54 yards on the drive and finishing it off with an 11-yard TD pass to **Chris Cooley**. The rookie looked poised behind center and not at all bothered by the threatening presence of recently returned **Kyle Vanden Bosch**. Pickering responded with a drive to the Kutztown red zone but **John Kasay** had a rare miss on a 36-yard field goal attempt. After a Kutztown punt, the Spartans took over deep in their own end at the 9 yard line. Disaster soon struck when **Vincent Jackson** fielded a hitch pass from **Eli Manning** and made a turn to run up field. Unfortunately, he turned into **Lito Sheppard**, who punched the ball out. **Fred Smoot** picked it up at the 30 yard line and sprinted into the end zone for a touchdown and a 14-0 lead for the Golden Bears. The Spartans would continue to struggle offensively and be hampered by poor field position. They punted from their own 9 yard line to give the Golden Bears excellent field position with less than 4 minutes remaining in the first half. Riding the running of **LeSean McCoy** and **LeRon McClain** and a couple of key pass completions by Russell, the Golden Bears slogged the ball to the Pickering 1 yard line where McClain ran it past an over-pursuing Spartans 'D' to make it 21-0 for Kutztown at half time.

As much as the first half belonged to Kutztown, the second half belonged to Pickering. The Spartans' offence finally got on track following a critical conversion of 4th & 2 at the Golden Bears' 43 yard line on a 6-yard run by **Chris Johnson**. On the next play, back-up **Chester Taylor** burst through to the second level for a 21-yard run, then three plays later caught a short pass in the flat to score from 5 yards out to put Pickering on the board. The Kutztown offence did not respond well, with Russell misfiring to a wide open Cooley to start a punt exchange between the teams. As the game moved into the 4th quarter, the Kutztown offence appeared to get back in synch. After starting at their own 5 yard line, a 17-yard completion to **Patrick Crayton** on 3rd & 6 brought the ball to the Pickering 34 yard line. But the Bears' momentum was abruptly squelched when McCoy fumbled at the Spartans' 31 yard line and Pickering's **Jermaine Phillips** recovered. The Spartans did not take immediate advantage of the turnover as Manning

threw a pick two plays later, but the Bears' offence did not look efficient again after the McCoy fumble. Two holding penalties and a stout run defense scuttled Kutztown's next drive, opening the door for a furious Pickering comeback.

Manning found **Tony Scheffler** wide open on a long slant pattern for a 45-yard TD pass to pull within a touchdown with 6 minutes remaining. After forcing another Kutztown punt, the Spartans tried a bold 4th down and 13 conversion at the Golden Bears' 45 yard line. When that came up short, the Bears had a chance to put the game away if they could just hang on to the ball. But two critical penalties scuttled their drive, giving the ball back to Pickering at their own 36 yard line with 1:39 left. Eli, emulating his brother's flair for the dramatic, scrappily moved the ball up the field as time ticked away. Finally, with only 18 second left, Manning went for the throat, connecting from 26 yards on a deep slant to **Michael Jenkins** for the tying touchdown.

Heading into their second overtime in as many games, the Spartans held off the befuddled Kutztown offence twice before finally getting their own attack in gear with 8 minutes left. Chewing up yardage and the clock, Pickering methodically moved up the field, surviving a **David Baas** holding penalty and illegal motion by **Chris Johnson** on consecutive plays to get to the Kutztown 10 yard line. A delay of game penalty pushed the ball back to the 15 where Kasay, who had missed his first field goal attempt from 36 yards, connected without a doubt from 32 yards to avoid the tie and win the game with just 1:42 remaining. "We never surrender," a combative Manning said after the game. "We may be out, but we plan on taking some teams down with us."

01-03-2010 Lincoln Financial. Temp: 48 Wind: Calm None MVP: **Eli Manning**

2008 Pickering (4-9) 0 0 7 14 3 -24
2008 Kutztown (5-8) 7 14 0 0 0 -21

1 8:41 Kutztown TD Russell 11 pass to Cooley (Kaeding) (10-62-6:19) 0-7
2 14:46 Kutztown TD Smoot 37 yd fumble recovery (Kaeding) (0-0-0:00) 0-14
2 0:02 Kutztown TD McClain 1 run (Kaeding) (11-59-3:59) 0-21
3 9:28 Pickering TD Manning 5 pass to Taylor (Kasay) (9-66-5:32) 7-21
4 6:02 Pickering TD Manning 45 pass to Scheffler (Kasay) (5-59-1:08) 14-21
4 0:18 Pickering TD Manning 26 pass to Jenkins (Kasay) (8-64-1:21) 21-21
5 1:42 Pickering FG Kasay 32 (13-57-6:36) 24-21

	PIC	KUT
First Downs	24	20
Rushes	38-165	33-118
Passes	41-26-308	34-19-213
Sacked	0-0	0-0
Fumble	1	1
Penalties	10-70	9-75
Turnovers	2	1
Time	37:48	35:34
Third Down	10-20	7-16
Fourth Down	2-5	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/0	2/2/0
Net Offense	473	331

KEY PERFORMANCES: PIC – **Eli Manning** completed 26 of 41 for 308 yards, 3 TDs and 1 INT; **Chris Johnson** rushed for 113 yards on 26 carries; **Vincent Jackson** caught 10 passes for 126 yards, **Chester Taylor** had 82 totals yards and caught a TD pass, **Tony Scheffler** caught 3 passes for 64 yards and 1 TD. KUT – **JaMarcus Russell** completed 19 of 34 passes for 213 yards and 1 TD; **LeSean McCoy** ran 9 times for 64 yards; **LeRon McClain** rushed for 46 yards and 1 TD on 18 carries; **Chris Cooley** caught 6 passes for 65 yards and 1 TD; **Greg Jennings** caught 6 passes for 82 yards; **Ray Lewis** made 11 tackles and 1 run stuff.



IOWA CITY



FLORIDA

17

37

'MARSHALL PLAN' FLAYS CUBS

GAME POINTS: **Aaron Rodgers** lofted a high rainbow toward the corner of the end zone that was snagged by **Brandon Marshall** for a 20-yard TD pass that broke a 7-7 deadlock at the start of the 2nd quarter. The Dragons would remain in the lead throughout the rest of the contest, gradually pulling out of sight of any potential Cubs comeback and clinching the South Division title in the process. Marshall's 200 receiving yards led a deadly passing attack that formed a rare air centerpiece for the Dragons' offence as the Cubs' 'D' focused on containing the run. **DeAngelo Williams** added another 2 rushing touchdowns to push his league-leading total to 23 for the season.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Aaron Rodgers** completed 15 of 20 passes for 297 yards and 1 TD; **Brandon Marshall** made 8 catches for 200 yards and 1 TD; **DeAngelo Williams** ran for 71 yards and 2 TDs on 13 carries. **Trent Edwards** went 10 of 18 for 108 yards and 1 INT; **Patrick Willis** had 7 tackles and 4 stuffs.

01-03-2010 Dragonmount. Temp: 83 Wind: Calm None MVP: **Brandon Marshall**

2008 Iowa City (6-7) 7 3 0 7 -17
2008 Florida (12-1) 7 14 6 10 -37

1 6:35 Florida TD Williams 13 run (Elam,J) (10-88-5:28) 0-7
1 1:19 Iowa City TD Jacobs 12 run (Rackers) (12-71-5:16) 7-7
2 14:02 Florida TD Rodgers 20 pass to Marshall (Elam,J) (4-68-2:17) 7-14
2 8:12 Iowa City FG Rackers 39 (8-43-5:50) 10-14
2 1:58 Florida TD Williams 1 run (Elam,J) (2-51-0:41) 10-21
3 9:29 Florida FG Elam 41 (8-55-5:31) 10-24
3 5:20 Florida FG Elam 37 (5-10-3:35) 10-27
4 12:44 Florida TD Stewart 10 run (Elam,J) (5-54-2:55) 10-34
4 6:57 Iowa City TD Jacobs 1 run (Rackers) (15-65-5:47) 17-34
4 1:55 Florida FG Elam 40 (9-50-5:02) 17-37

	ICC	FLD
First Downs	19	20
Rushes	43-195	33-117
Passes	18-10-108	20-15-297
Sacked	0-0	0-0
Fumble	0	1
Penalties	5-35	4-26
Turnovers	1	0
Time	28:51	31:09
Third Down	4-13	4-9
Fourth Down	3-4	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/2/0	6/4/2
Net Offense	303	414



CHINO

17



GWINNETT

23

CASSEL STRIKES EARLY TO CARRY GLADS

GAME POINTS: Matt Cassel caught the Chino secondary napping early, hitting **Braylon Edwards** underneath the zone on a short slant for a 20-yard TD pass and striking long to **Reggie Wayne** for 30 yards to set up an 11-yard TD pass to **Dallas Clark**, giving the Glads a 14-0 lead early in the 2nd quarter. Gwinnett would pad that lead to 20-0 by half time by picking off **Jay Cutler** and stopping the Convicts on a risky 4th down conversion attempt in Chino territory to set up two easy **Josh Brown** field goals. Cutler rallied the Convicts with 2 TD passes in the second half but a 52-yard kickoff return by **Leon Washington** shortened the field for Brown's 3rd field goal to make it a two-score game with 8 minutes left. The Glads' 'D' stood up the rest of the way to hang on for the win.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Matt Cassel completed 17 of 25 passes for 175 yards and 2 TDs; **Reggie Wayne** caught 5 passes for 57 yards; **James Laurinaitis** had 7 tackles, 2 stuffs and 1 FF. **Jay Cutler** went 23 of 41 for 206 yards, 2 TDs and 1 INT; **Hines Ward** caught 6 balls for 74 yards and 1 TD.

01-03-2010 Gwinnett Coliseum. Temp: 48 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: Cassel			CHI	GWG
2008 Chino (8-5)	0 0 7 10	- 17	First Downs	11
2008 Gwinnett (8-5)	7 13 0 3	- 23	Rushes	24-87
1 7:31 Gwinnett	TD Cassel 20 pass to Edwards (Brown,J) (14-68-7:29)	0-7	Passes	41-23-206
2 11:34 Gwinnett	TD Cassel 11 pass to Clark (Brown,J) (5-53-3:04)	0-14	Sacked	0-0
2 2:22 Gwinnett	FG Brown 20 (5-20-1:55)	0-17	Fumble	2
2 0:24 Gwinnett	FG Brown 45 (3-5-0:36)	0-20	Penalties	9-75
3 11:46 Chino	TD Cutler 39 pass to Ward (Reed,J) (5-67-3:14)	7-20	Turnovers	1
4 9:48 Chino	TD Cutler 7 pass to Moss (Reed,J) (3-12-0:48)	14-20	Time	27:30
4 8:35 Gwinnett	FG Brown 42 (3-5-1:13)	14-23	Third Down	7-17
4 1:49 Chino	FG Reed 50 (7-37-1:41)	17-23	Fourth Down	0-4
			Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/0
			Net Offense	293
				252

BLUE SHIELD IMPERVIOUS AS L.A. DOMINATES

GAME POINTS: The L.A. Knights defense turned in one of the most dominating team performances in history, holding the Crimson Hawks to a pitiful 6 first downs and 80 yards of net offence. The lone Ringgold score was set up by **Corey Webster's** 88-yard interception return to the Knights' 2 yard line where, following a penalty, **Maurice Jones-Drew** ran it in from 7 yards for a brief 7-0 Ringgold lead. L.A. charged back with the first of three long TD drives as **Jason Campbell** connected with **Roddy White** for a 14-yard TD pass on 3rd down and 1 to even the score. The Knights relied on **Selvin Young** and **Cedric Benson** to control the ball with the running game and set up the pass for Campbell, who added a second TD pass, a 10-yarder to **Arnaz Battle**, to give L.A. some breathing room, 21-7 in the 3rd quarter.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Jason Campbell completed 19 of 24 for 195 yards, 2 TDs and 1 INT; **Selvin Young** ran for 143 yards on 18 carries; **Steve Smith** had 10 catches for 107 yards. **Ben Roethlisberger** went 6 of 17 for 50 yards. **Maurice Jones-Drew** ran for 17 yards and 1 TD on 9 carries.



RINGGOLD

7



LOS ANGELES

24

01-03-2010 Round Table Stadium. Temp: 50 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: Jason Campbell			RCH	LAK
2008 Ringgold (3-10)	7 0 0 0	- 7	First Downs	6
2008 Los Angeles (8-5)	7 7 7 3	- 24	Rushes	17-37
1 9:36 Ringgold	TD Jones-Drew 7 run (Suisham) (2-2-0:16)	7-0	Passes	17-6-50
1 0:57 Los Angeles	TD Campbell 14 pass to White (Brown,K) (13-84-8:39)	7-7	Sacked	1-7
2 0:34 Los Angeles	TD Campbell 1 run (Brown,K) (14-79-8:13)	7-14	Fumble	0
3 4:30 Los Angeles	TD Campbell 10 pass to Battle (Brown,K) (14-97-7:54)	7-21	Penalties	4-35
4 2:29 Los Angeles	FG Brown 30 (6-74-5:03)	7-24	Turnovers	0
			Time	16:19
			Third Down	2-11
			Fourth Down	0-2
			Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/0
			Net Offense	80
				439



24

GARLAND



7

WINNEMUCCA

MUSTANGS OUTPACE OUTLAWS

GAME POINTS: After a sloppy first half that ended in a 7-7 tie, the Mustangs grabbed the lead for good early in the 3rd quarter after tight end **John Carlson** broke free on a short hitch and rambled for 35 yards to the Winnemucca 25 yard line. From there, **Matt Ryan** connected twice with **Matt Forte**, first for 16 yards and then for 9 yards and a TD to put Garland ahead 14-7. **Jonathan Vilma** intercepted **David Garrard** to set up a 35-yard field goal by **Robbie Gould** to make it 17-7 Mustangs before the close of the 3rd quarter. The Mustangs controlled the ball through the air with **Wes Welker** making 12 catches while the Outlaws recorded just one first down in the 2nd half, giving the ball to Garland in good field position and wearing out their defense.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Matt Ryan** completed 30 of 46 passes for 326 yards, 2 TDs and 1 INT; **Wes Welker** caught 12 passes for 132 yards and 1 TD; **Matt Forte** had 6 catches for 67 yards and 1 TD. **David Garrard** went 14 of 28 for 180 yards and 2 INTs; **Laveranues Coles** caught 6 passes for 110 yards; **Pisa Tinoisamoa** had 9 tackles, 1 sack, 2 stuffs and 2 forced fumbles.

01-03-2010 Hole in the Wall. Temp: 17 Wind: 0-5 Light Snow MVP: **Welker**

2008 Garland (8-5) 0 7 10 7 -24
2008 Winnemucca (1-12) 0 7 0 0 -7

2 2:47 Winnemucca TD Jones 3 run (Graham,S) (2-66-0:58) 0-7
2 0:38 Garland TD Ryan 6 pass to Welker (Gould) (10-64-2:07) 7-7
3 9:23 Garland TD Ryan 9 pass to Forte (Gould) (7-65-3:00) 14-7
3 4:29 Garland FG Gould 35 (3-5-0:49) 17-7
4 13:29 Garland TD Forte 1 run (Gould) (9-37-4:15) 24-7

	GDM	WMO
First Downs	23	9
Rushes	28-62	21-46
Passes	46-30-326	28-14-180
Sacked	4-20	0-0
Fumble	2	1
Penalties	4-33	4-35
Turnovers	2	3
Time	36:45	23:15
Third Down	9-18	1-12
Fourth Down	2-5	0-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	5/3/1	1/1/0
Net Offense	368	226

T-LIZARDS DISMANTLE PATS

GAME POINTS: With the score tied at 7 apiece in the 1st quarter, the Pats went for it on 4th down and 1 at their 29 yard line. **Adrian Peterson** was stuffed for a loss, setting up a short, 4-play TD drive for Durham that ended on a 13-yard sweep by **Kevin Faulk** and a 14-7 lead. Lost fumbles by Peterson and **Marques Colston** on Charleswood's next two possessions set up two easy Mason Crosby field goals and the T-Lizards had a 20-7 lead at half time. The Durham offence shredded the Pats' defense to score a touchdown to start the 2nd half on an 18-yard pass from **Philip Rivers** to **Dwayne Bowe**. The desperate Pats replied by attempting 4th down and inches at their own 43, but **Ovie Mughelli** was stuffed for a loss to set up the final Durham TD and complete the rout.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Philip Rivers** completed 14 of 20 passes for 209 yards and 2 TDs; **Michael Turner** ran for 68 yards and 1 TD on 17 carries; **Calvin Johnson** caught 5 passes for 83 yards and 1 TD. **Peyton Manning** went 14 of 23 for 154 yards; **Adrian Peterson** ran for 111 yards & 1 TD on 25 carries.



7

CHARLESWOOD



34

DURHAM

01-03-2010 Jurassic Park. Temp: 70 Wind: Calm None MVP: **Rivers**

2008 Charleswood (10-3) 7 0 0 0 -7
2008 Durham (11-2) 7 13 14 0 -34

1 7:51 Charleswood TD Peterson 2 run (Gostkowski) (11-73-7:09) 7-0
1 2:56 Durham TD Turner 1 run (Crosby) (9-68-4:55) 7-7
2 8:30 Durham TD Faulk 13 run (Crosby) (4-28-2:19) 7-14
2 2:00 Durham FG Crosby 30 (4-34-2:53) 7-17
2 1:14 Durham FG Crosby 46 (4-5-0:22) 7-20
3 9:41 Durham TD Rivers 18 pass to Bowe (Crosby) (8-83-5:19) 7-27
3 1:37 Durham TD Rivers 15 pass to Johnson (Crosby) (7-42-4:05) 7-34

	CHP	DTL
First Downs	17	20
Rushes	29-123	32-143
Passes	23-14-153	20-14-209
Sacked	0-0	0-0
Fumble	2	0
Penalties	5-40	4-31
Turnovers	2	0
Time	26:29	33:31
Third Down	5-9	7-11
Fourth Down	1-4	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	1/1/0	8/4/1
Net Offense	276	352



10

MOHAVE



38

COWTOWN

GRAHAM IGNITES COWTOWN, DOUSES MOHAVE

GAME POINTS: Earnest Graham broke a 67-yard TD run on Cowtown's opening drive to set the tone for an unusual fireworks display by the Corn Kings' offense. After falling behind 17-3 the Hellfire fought back with a 47-yard kickoff return by Andre' Davis to set up their only TD, an 11-yard pass from Kurt Warner to Owen Daniels. But when Quintin Mikell fell down during a Cowtown two-minute drill, Kevin Walter turned a medium pass from Chad Pennington into a 59-yard big gainer to set up a 13-yard TD pass to Marion Barber to make the score 24-10 for Cowtown. The Corn Kings wrapped up their 21-point 2nd quarter explosion with a quick stop of Mohave followed by 4 straight completions, the last one a 34-yard TD pass from Pennington to Walter with 13 seconds left to give Cowtown a 31-10 half time lead. The Mohave offence disappeared in the 2nd half and the Corn Kings added a 4th quarter TD to complete the pounding.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Chad Pennington went 17 of 27 for 243 yards and 2 TDs; Earnest Graham ran for 144 yards and 2 TDs on 19 carries; Kevin Walter caught 4 passes for 109 yards and 1 TD. Kurt Warner went 13 of 23 for 148 yards and 1 TD; Brian Westbrook ran for 66 yards on 7 carries.

01-03-2010 Tillman Field. Temp: 40 Wind: 0-5 MVP: Earnest Graham			MOH	COW	
2008 Mohave (5-8)	3 7 0 0	- 10	First Downs	11	25
2008 Cowtown (6-7)	10 21 0 7	- 38	Rushes	17-94	39-225
			Passes	25-13-148	30-19-267
1 11:36 Cowtown	TD Graham 67 run (Hanson,J) (7-80-3:24)	0-7	Sacked	3-21	0-0
1 4:03 Cowtown	FG Hanson 27 (11-55-5:47)	0-10	Fumble	1	1
1 0:21 Mohave	FG Bironas 34 (7-54-3:39)	3-10	Penalties	5-36	5-42
2 8:29 Cowtown	TD Barber 5 run (Hanson,J) (14-77-6:49)	3-17	Turnovers	0	0
2 3:20 Mohave	TD Warner 11 pass to Daniels (Bironas) (8-51-5:09)	10-17	Time	22:06	37:54
2 1:36 Cowtown	TD Pennington 13 pass to Barber (Hanson,J) (5-81-1:44)	10-24	Third Down	1-10	7-15
2 0:13 Cowtown	TD Pennington 34 pass to Walter (Hanson,J) (4-62-0:52)	10-31	Fourth Down	0-1	1-1
4 12:07 Cowtown	TD Graham 1 run (Hanson,J) (13-80-8:00)	10-38	Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/1	4/3/1
			Net Offense	221	492

STARS RALLY TO WIN

GAME POINTS: The North Stars erased a 14-point deficit with an exhausting 80-yard TD drive to end the first half and a highlight reel 104-yard kickoff return by Darren Sproles to start the second half. After Drew Brees caught Markham in short zone coverage with a 35-yard TD pass to Marvin Harrison to make it 14-0 in the 2nd quarter, it looked like it would be a long day for Markham. But after Sproles tied it up, the Stars converted three 3rd downs during a 3rd quarter drive to take the lead on a 27-yard Ryan Longwell field goal. Adam Vinatieri's 44-yard field goal tied it, but the North Stars got a lift on their next drive from Jamal Lewis, with 35 yards, and survived an Andre Hall fumble to maneuver into field goal range for Longwell to kick the game-winner from 35 yards away.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Donovan McNabb went 14 of 23 for 130 yards, 1 TD and 2 INTs; Jamal Lewis gained 97 yards on 25 carries; Takeo Spikes deflected 4 passes. Drew Brees went 29 of 45 for 310 yards, 2 TDs and 2 INTs; Marvin Harrison caught 10 passes for 128 yards and 1 TD. Devin Hester caught 10 passes for 104 yards and 1 TD.



20

MARKHAM



17

VIRDEN

01-03-2010 TERRORDOME. Temp: 71 Wind: Calm None MVP: Sproles			MAR	VV	
2008 Markham (5-8)	0 7 10 3	- 20	First Downs	17	22
2008 Virden (4-9)	7 7 0 3	- 17	Rushes	34-128	18-58
			Passes	23-14-130	45-29-310
1 9:16 Virden	TD Brees 6 pass to Hester (Vinatieri) (11-78-5:44)	0-7	Sacked	0-0	1-7
2 9:20 Virden	TD Brees 35 pass to Harrison (Vinatieri) (12-90-6:14)	0-14	Fumble	2	3
2 0:15 Markham	TD McNabb 11 pass to Johnson (Longwell) (20-80-9:01)	7-14	Penalties	2-10	4-31
3 14:45 Markham	TD Sproles 104 kick return (Longwell) (0-0-0:15)	14-14	Turnovers	2	2
3 4:31 Markham	FG Longwell 27 (14-60-9:04)	17-14	Time	31:27	28:33
4 10:18 Virden	FG Vinatieri 44 (12-55-5:14)	17-17	Third Down	10-14	8-12
4 1:34 Markham	FG Longwell 35 (9-56-4:43)	20-17	Fourth Down	2-2	2-2
			Red Att/Td/Fg	3/1/2	1/1/0
			Net Offense	258	361



AROUND THE EFL With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – I hate it when Corporations stand too front-and-center in sports. Racing is the worst – every automotive product under the sun blazoned on every square inch of usable surface area no matter where you look. But at least it makes sense to advertise automotive products at a car race. Isn't that what the races are all about, anyway – proving which car maker has the edge?

But what, pray tell, does Chik-Fil-A or Papa John's have to do with football? Do we really have to name Bowl Games after these companies? If the Peach Bowl and the Birmingham Bowl are in such desperate need of a sponsor then maybe they shouldn't exist – from a football perspective, that is. I know, I know – there is probably some All-American explanation for why it is good to prostitute our “amateur” athletes to corporate interests. Sorry, but I just can't take something called the PapaJohns.com Bowl seriously.

CHAMPIONSHIP REMATCH A REHASH

The game that many had marked on their calendars as a “must see” at the beginning of the season turned out to be another lop-sided affair that highlighted the divergent paths of last year's two Conference Champions. The EFL Champion Florida Dragons looked like champions while last year's PAC Champion Iowa City Cubs looked like chumps...*again!* So much for *'Revenge of the Bumpkin'* ending the way it was supposed to end. I know I am coming across as a Cub-hater, and no doubt the inarticulate hate mail from God's armpit in broccoli heaven will flow in heavily and furiously two months from now after this issue makes its way via the Pony Express to Hicksville, USA; but I cannot respect the ‘play-to-lose-respectably’ game plan the Cubs love to throw out there when they have no real answer for their opponent. And I care about the Cubs...*I really do!*

After hanging in for one quarter, the Cubs began to lose the handle on the game when **Brandon Marshall** was allowed to run free in the secondary while the defense kept one eye on **DeAngelo Williams**. To be fair to the Cubs, Marshall is a beast of a receiver who has been kept from leading the league in receptions more by the Florida's run first/pass later philosophy than by any opposing defense. Against a strong run defense like Iowa's, Coach **Jim Heaton** finally let Marshall out of his cage this week and was rewarded with 200 receiving yards, including three catches for over 30 yards. So what did the Cubs do about it? Predictably, they turned to the running game to control the clock and keep the Florida offence off the field. The only problem being that the Iowa City running game is not fast enough to keep pace with a Florida offence that is permitting a physical freak to run amok on the football field. Equally predictably, they fell behind quickly despite “slowing” the game down.

The Cubs finally took their shot downfield on their first play from scrimmage in the second half. **Trent Edwards** threw long and got picked off by **Darrelle Revis** for his trouble. Iowa turtled after that, waving the white flag by running 17 straight rushing plays before finally completing a 12-yard pass to **Lee Evans** with the score 34-10 for Florida. Let's hope that Iowa City does not make the playoffs this year so the serious rebuilding project in Iowa City can begin.

SOMEONE NEEDS TO GET FIRED.....

....in Ringgold. I know the Knights have one of the best defenses in the league but the 80-yard show by the Crimson Hawks' offence this week was worse than pathetic. The Knights' defensive coordinator hardly switched up the looks all game, sitting mostly in a basic 3-4 or nickel defense and blitzing a mere 4 times. Compare this with last season when the blitz-happy Knights went to town on almost every play and got burned as often as they made plays. This year the “Blue Shield” is dug deep in their trenches and the stay-at-home philosophy is paying off. The Ringgold offensive line could not move the Knights off the ball and their skill players simply did not make any plays (except for the 7-yard run by **Maurice Jones-Drew** that accounted for Ringgold's only touchdown). The second-most mind-blowing thing about this game (after the complete domination by the Knights' defense) is that the L.A. offence managed to score only 24 points despite having

the ball for almost 44 minutes. Under **Jason Campbell** the Knights are challenging Markham for the league's leading "slow strike" offence – taking ages to score. You can literally go to the kitchen at the start of a typical Knights drive, make a sandwich, brew some coffee, peel the potatoes for dinner, pre-heat the oven for your Sunday roast, take a piss on your way back to the TV room and show up just in time for the field goal. This keeps their defense fresh, of course, but becomes a liability when trying to come from behind.

NORTH STARS RALLY TO WIN BUT FALL OUT OF PLAYOFF HUNT

Speaking of the league's other "sloffence," it is sadly ironic that the North Stars battled back from a 14-point deficit in Virden and eventually trumped the Violators 20-17, only to find they are eliminated from the playoffs while their vanquished opponent remains alive. Gwinnett and Garland both won this week, eliminating Markham from the wildcard scramble. Meanwhile, the Violators will have to play at least one more meaningful game as Mohave, Kutztown and Iowa City all fell, making it theoretically possible (if extremely unlikely) that Virden could squeak into a wildcard berth at 7-9. All they have to do is win their remaining 3 games, hope that Charleswood beats both Mohave and Kutztown, and cross their fingers that Iowa City loses two of its remaining 3 games. Virden travels to Patriot Place this week, which should thankfully take care of any illusions Virden's fans may still have about their playoff prospects.

PUNT SCHMUNT!

How much attention did coaches around the league pay to Garland's famous 4th down conversion at their own 22 yard line that turned their fortunes around last week against LA? This week we saw a few curious 4th down gambles around the league that caused me to wonder if the "Mustangs Gambit" has made high stakes 4th down conversion attempts suddenly the fashionable thing to do.

One, in particular, stood out as really bold and, because it didn't work, really stupid. The Patriots, on the road in Durham, faced 4th down and 1 at their own 29 yard line with 10:49 remaining in the *second quarter*, tied 7-7. The game at this point is still very much in hand. Yes, the Pats have a great defense and yes, they have **Adrian Peterson** and yes, the Thunder Lizards' run defense is as porous as a picket fence. But is this the right moment to be giving the Durham *offence*, the highest rated in the league, a shot at free points if, by some remote chance, you *don't* make it? As it happened, the T-Lizards played the perfect defense, even shifting to the center of the line, and **Adrian Peterson** ran right into that human wall for a 1-yard loss. Not only did Durham go on to score a touchdown using the shortened field, but the Pats fumbled the ball away twice on their next two possessions to hand Durham 6 more free points.

Gambling on 4th down deep in your own end early in the game is a high stakes gamble. Last week it won a game for Garland. This week, it lost a game for Charleswood.

MORE HIGHS AND LOWS IN WEEK 13

Mohave continued their fall into Hell with another disheartening performance. This week they made both the Corn Kings' offence *and* defense look good in the *same game* – a feat yet to be accomplished by any other team this year.

The Pickering Spartans played their second consecutive overtime game, coming from behind to put another nail in the coffin of Kutztown's playoff hopes, but not completely sealing the lid. Luckily for the Golden Bears, their principal rivals for a wildcard berth all lost as well, keeping them alive for **Tony Romo** to try and resurrect next week. **Eli Manning**, flush with adrenaline after leading a fabulous comeback on the road, was extraordinarily combative after the game, saying that the Spartans "never surrender" and vowing to take more teams out of the race before the end of the season. Of course, the original 300 Spartans never surrendered either and look what happened to them!

Garland handled the Outlaws easily at 'Hole in the Wall.' Cold temperatures and light snow led to a sloppy, but dead even opening half. After first half adjustments, the Outlaws went from dead even with Garland to just dead. The Mustangs, trusting in their Football Messiah, **Matt Ryan**, cut the Winnemucca secondary to tiny ribbons with 30 completions, all of them to the short and mid-part of the field, while David Garrard fired floppy ribbon-like passes on the way to gaining just one first down in the second half.

Matt Cassel wins my vote for most economical quarterback. With only 175 yards of passing, 77 yards of rushing, one 52-yard kick return, a **Bryant McFadden** interception and a 4th down stand by the defense, he manufactured 23 points, enough to sink Chino by 6. In addition to another untimely **Jay Cutler** interception, the Convicts' offence virtually turned the ball four more times by missing on all four of their fourth down conversion attempts. A couple of these were of the daring/dumb variety, the worst of which was a 4th down and 1 gamble at their own 33 yard line with 1:00 remaining in the first half. Cutler misfired to **Anquan Boldin** and the Galdiators marched in for an easy 3 points to close out a 20-0 first half whitewash.

IT'S NEW YEARS AND THAT MEANS RESOLUTION TIME!

As you can tell from my commentary, I have resolved to be meaner in 2010. I felt I was getting a little too soft,

which is death for a journalist. To better enjoy my EFL-watching experience in 2010, I hope that each team also makes a resolution to improve themselves in 2010, and I humbly offer the following suggestions:

CHARLESWOOD – Commission NASA to manufacture a space grade “stick-em” for *Adrian Peterson*.

CHINO – Find a team for *Jay Cutler*

COWTOWN – Hire *Jim Heaton* to find a loophole to dispose of *Chad Pennington’s* contract at no cost.

DURHAM – Be nicer to your linebackers.

FLORIDA – Trade *Justin Tuck* and his big fat contract immediately after the Championship.

GARLAND – Hire a bodyguard for Matt Ryan and draft defense.

GWINNETT – Find some new weapons for *Carson Palmer* in 2010.

IOWA CITY – Draft, trade for, or buy a quarterback ASAP!

KUTZTOWN – Sign *Tony Romo* and a blind side protector at all costs.

LOS ANGELES – Keep looking for a quarterback.

MARKAM – Don’t go out drinking before offering your kicker a bonus.

MOHAVE – Count to ten before calling plays.

PICKERING – Draft four corners.

RINGGOLD – Sorry...I have no idea how to fix things in Ringgold.

VIRDEN – Sign *Drew Brees* or lose for a thousand years.

WINNEMUCCA – Don’t do anything drastic – *Tom Brady’s* almost back.

NEW YORK GRIPES

The terrorists ruined Christmas holidays for many of us! Our security forces made everyone suffer, causing inconvenience and hardship for thousands of traveling families as everyone was subject to ridiculous new search procedures at airports for flights to the US after somebody we should have known was a risk got on a plane in Amsterdam with an incendiary powder. Thank God it didn’t work. But now, apparently, we are *all* a risk to do the same thing! Is it for the sake of political correctness or just a result of plain panic? A bit of both, I think.

SPATS.



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

PLAY OF THE WEEK

SITUATION

Kutztown 21, Pickering 14, 4th Quarter, 00:32 seconds remaining, Spartans in possession, 1st down & 10 at Kutztown’s 26 yard line. 4 WR set vs. 3-2-6 Dime package, normal ZONE coverage, PASS defense.

RESULT

Eli Manning throws a long slant to Michael Jenkins who runs past the zone coverage to catch the ball at the five yard line and run it in for the touchdown that sends the game into overtime.

ANALYSIS

After getting his team into position with short and medium passes, Manning went for the throat at the right time and made the perfect throw.

WEEK THIRTEEN LEADERS

PASSING

Ryan, M. (GDM)	46-30-326
Brees (VV)	45-29-310
Manning, E. (PIC)	41-26-308
Rodgers (FLD)	20-15-297
Pennington (COW)	27-17-243

RUSHING

Graham, E. (COW)	19-144
Young, S. (LAK)	18-143
Johnson, C. (PIC)	26-113
Peterson, A. (CHP)	25-111
Lewis, J. (MAR)	25-97

RECEIVING

Marshall, B. (FLD)	8-200
Welker (GDM)	12-132
Harrison, M. (VV)	10-128
Jackson, V. (PIC)	10-126
Coles, L. (WMO)	6-110

LEADER BOARD

STANDINGS

PACIFIC-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood (z)	10	3	0	0.769	313	24.1	188	14.5	9.6	6 1 0	2 1 0	6 1 0
Kutztown	5	8	0	0.385	244	18.8	285	21.9	-3.2	2 4 0	2 1 0	3 4 0
Mohave	5	8	0	0.385	252	19.4	293	22.5	-3.2	4 2 0	2 1 0	3 4 0
Virden	4	9	0	0.308	234	18	325	25	-7	1 6 0	0 3 0	2 5 0

West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Chino	8	5	0	0.615	282	21.7	207	15.9	5.8	4 2 0	2 1 0	5 2 0
Los Angeles	8	5	0	0.615	285	21.9	189	14.5	7.4	5 1 0	2 1 0	5 2 0
Iowa City	6	7	0	0.462	239	18.4	280	21.5	-3.2	3 4 0	1 2 0	3 4 0
Winnemucca	1	12	0	0.077	161	12.4	354	27.2	-14.8	0 7 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)	11	2	0	0.846	292	22.5	180	13.8	8.6	6 1 0	3 0 0	5 2 0
Cowtown	6	7	0	0.462	279	21.5	259	19.9	1.5	4 2 0	1 2 0	3 4 0
Markham	5	8	0	0.385	202	15.5	272	20.9	-5.4	3 4 0	1 2 0	2 5 0
Pickering	4	9	0	0.308	243	18.7	345	26.5	-7.8	1 5 0	1 2 0	2 5 0

South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Florida (z)	12	1	0	0.923	380	29.2	172	13.2	16	7 0 0	3 0 0	7 0 0
Garland	8	5	0	0.615	312	24	301	23.2	0.8	5 2 0	1 2 0	4 3 0
Gwinnett	8	5	0	0.615	267	20.5	244	18.8	1.8	3 3 0	2 1 0	4 3 0
Ringgold	3	10	0	0.231	210	16.2	301	23.2	-7	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	430	287	66.7	3341	9	2.1	69	28	6.5	103.1
2	Rivers, P	DTL	353	218	61.8	3097	6	1.7	80	21	5.9	102.9
3	Manning, P	CHP	346	238	68.8	2800	8	2.3	50	20	5.8	102.8
4	Campbell, J	LAK	312	203	65.1	2230	6	1.9	63	18	5.8	97.3
5	Warner	MOH	347	233	67.1	2637	8	2.3	61	17	4.9	96.4
6	Cassel	GWG	308	194	63	2022	4	1.3	41	16	5.2	93.8
7	Rodgers	FLD	342	229	67	2609	7	2	50	11	3.2	91.9
8	Manning, E	PIC	343	207	60.3	2698	11	3.2	74	19	5.5	90.3
9	Brees	VV	368	226	61.4	2677	10	2.7	51	18	4.9	88.6
10	Pennington	COW	395	247	62.5	2746	11	2.8	59	16	4.1	85.1
11	Roethlisberger	RCH	360	209	58.1	2337	7	1.9	41	14	3.9	82.4
12	Cutler	CHI	395	252	63.8	2520	12	3	63	14	3.5	81
13	Romo	KUT	289	176	60.9	1946	9	3.1	41	11	3.8	80.6
14	Edwards, T	ICC	237	150	63.3	1514	9	3.8	26	6	2.5	74.1
15	McNabb	MAR	320	190	59.4	2052	15	4.7	67	11	3.4	70.2

RUSHING

			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	Peterson, A	CHP	271	1201	4.4	69	8	8	Johnson, C	PIC	181	832	4.6	69	3
2	Williams, D	FLD	223	1191	5.3	48	23	9	Barber, M	COW	195	787	4	40	8
3	Portis	VV	280	1009	3.6	36	0	10	Brown, R	ICC	169	760	4.5	53	4
4	Jacobs, B	ICC	196	1008	5.1	49	12	11	White, L	CHI	152	668	4.4	75	8
5	Turner, M	DTL	241	1003	4.2	85	5	12	Slaton	MOH	196	667	3.4	80	4
6	Lewis, J	MAR	228	914	4	19	2	13	McCoy, L	KUT	105	560	5.3	52	1
7	Jones, T	GWG	235	877	3.7	69	6	14	Gore	GDM	116	551	4.8	46	1
8	Johnson, C	PIC	181	832	4.6	69	3	15	Jackson, S	LAK	136	541	4	20	1

RECEIVING

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	Jennings, G	KUT	80	1109	13.9	62	7	8	Johnson, A	RCH	66	949	14.4	41	5
2	Gonzalez, T	CHP	77	900	11.7	34	9	9	Fitzgerald	ICC	66	737	11.2	31	4
3	White, R	LAK	74	791	10.7	27	7	10	Ward, H	CHI	64	771	12	39	4
4	Royal, E	RCH	73	721	9.9	33	4	11	Harrison, M	VV	64	783	12.2	51	8
5	Welker	GDM	71	884	12.5	69	11	12	Smith, S	LAK	63	779	12.4	63	9
6	Hester, D	VV	71	995	14	40	7	13	Johnson, C	DTL	62	1119	18	80	7
7	Marshall, B	FLD	70	1041	14.9	50	4	14	Houshmandzad	FLD	62	593	9.6	24	0
8	Johnson, A	RCH	66	949	14.4	41	5	15	Boldin	CHI	60	632	10.5	63	4



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

OFFENSE



WR – Brandon Marshall, Florida Dragons
8 Rec., 200 yards, 25.0 Avg., Long 50, 1TD.
Dominated the Cubs to lead Florida to Division-clinching win.

DEFENSE



ILB – Patrick Willis, Iowa City Cubs
7 Tackles, 4 Run Stuffs.
Kept Florida's vaunted running attack in check.

SPECIAL TEAMS



KR –Darren Sproles, Markham North Stars
3 Returns, 158 Yards, 52.7 Avg., 104 Long, 1 TD.
Kick return for TD tied game in Markham comeback win.

INJURY REPORT - *Week Fourteen*

CHARLESWOOD – Burgess (OUT), Ringer (PROBABLE); **CHINO** – McNeill (OUT); **COWTOWN** –D. Johnson (PROBABLE), LaBoy (OUT); **DURHAM** – Jason Jones (OUT); **FLORIDA** – None; **GARLAND** – M. Williams (OUT); **GWINNETT** – Burleson (OUT); **IOWA CITY** – T. Branch (OUT); **KUTZTOWN** – T. Porter (OUT), D. Landry (OUT), F. Jones (OUT); **LOS ANGELES** – S. Jackson (OUT), M. Bradley (OUT); **MARKHAM** – Pittman (OUT); **MOHAVE** – Hayden (OUT); **PICKERING** – J. Joseph (OUT), M. Jackson (OUT); **RINGGOLD** – Barnett (OUT); **VIRDEN** – M. Harrison (OUT); **WINNEMUCCA** –J. Griffith (OUT), McAlister (OUT), S. Graham (DOUBTFUL).



BUG THE BOOKIE!

JIMMY THE GEEK GIVES YOU HIS PICKS FOR WEEK

FOURTEEN EFL ACTION

YOUR SOURCE FOR FANTASY AND ON-LINE BETTING SOLUTIONS



PLAYOFF PICTURE AT A GLANCE AFTER 13 GAMES

PACIFIC – ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

IN

ALIVE

OUT

1



2



3



4



CAN – AM CONFERENCE

IN

ALIVE

OUT

1



2



3



4



JIMMY'S WEEK FOURTEEN PICKS

CHARLESWOOD @ VIRDEN (LINE – PATRIOTS BY 6)

Devin Hester is having a great year, but how much is he benefiting from having Marvin Harrison on the other side and Drew Brees as his quarterback? We'll get an idea this week as Harrison is out and Hester goes up against Asante Samuel. I don't expect it will be pretty to watch as unproven Sidney Rice is pressed into action in a starting role on the other side against Sheldon Brown. I hear Brees has hired David Copperfield to help him create an illusion of Harrison to distract the predatory Patriots' pass defense. On the other side, Peyton Manning takes aim at a Virden secondary that is rated last in the league. With Charleswood coming off an embarrassing loss in Durham last week, look for some violating to occur in the **TERRORDOME** this week and none of it being done by the home team.

PICK: CHARLESWOOD

KUTZTOWN @ MOHAVE (LINE – HELLFIRE BY 4)

Tony Romo returns and not a game too soon for Kutztown. Will it be enough to topple the Hellfire in the heat of the Mohave dessert? If I was a betting man (and I am) I would bet that Romo lights a spark under the Golden Bears' offence. What he will do for the defense is another matter. Mohave was humiliated in Cowtown last week and they have plenty of big and talented egos on the offensive side of the ball looking to make up for it. Kurt Warner and Terrell Owens will want to light it up against a Bears' secondary still hampered by an injury to Tracy Porter and an inconsistent pass rush. The real question is whether the Mohave players can overcome a coaching staff that seems tired and disinterested. The Golden Bears haven't given up. I'm not so sure about the Hellfire.

PICK: KUTZTOWN

IOWA CITY @ WINNEMUCCA (LINE – CUBS BY 3)

After watching the Outlaws fall apart offensively in the second half against Garland's previously worst ranked defense, I am not sure I would bet on Winnemucca against a tribe of near-sighted pre-teen pygmy lepers if the pygmies spotted them a touchdown. Come one, one first down in the entire second half? I know it was snowing at 'Hole in the Wall' but that didn't seem to stop Matt Ryan from posting over 300 yards through the air. I think the Cubs are in serious trouble in the big picture, but for this week at least they will look like a powerhouse once more.

PICK: IOWA CITY

LOS ANGELES @ CHINO (LINE – CONVICTS BY 3)

This is a huge game for Chino as the tie-breaker with Los Angeles hangs in the balance. The Knights won the first match-up between these two teams and can clinch the tie-breaker and control their own destiny with a win. The advantage flips to Chino if they win – they will not only gain a game on the Knights but they will move the tie-breaker to areas where they currently hold the advantage. Like their first head-to-head match, this will be another epic defensive struggle except this time the Convicts have the home field advantage. They will need it. The Knights turned the ball over 4 times last time they met to none for Chino and still they managed to pull out a memorable comeback win with Tarvaris Jackson at quarterback. The Knights "Blue Shield" has not been forcing as many turnovers as expected, but they have been so stingy surrendering yards they haven't needed them. Chino's "Lockdown Crew" has slipped lately, surrendering 20 or more points in each of their last five games and are currently ranked sixth overall. If ever they needed to step up and make a statement, this is the time for it. It's hard for me to bet against Chino on their home field but I think the Knights are for real and the Convicts' offence under Jay Cutler makes me nervous.

PICK: LOS ANGELES

DURHAM @ MARKHAM (LINE – THUNDER LIZARDS BY 3)

On paper this is a meaningless game for both teams but in Markham there is no such thing as a meaningless game. The North Stars can be relied on for one thing week in and week out and that one thing is *effort*. They will try to push you to the wall regardless of who you are or what the stakes are. Opponents can thank the fact that the North Stars are just a marginally talented group or nobody would be safe from them. This week, despite all that Markham effort, the Thunder Lizards will be safe. They are picking up steam and are coming off a walloping of a Charleswood team that makes Markham look like a High School team by comparison.

PICK: DURHAM

PICKERING @ COWTOWN (LINE – CORN KINGS BY 8)

The Corn Kings handled the Spartans' defense pretty easily in the first game between these two teams but showed some vulnerability to the Pickering air assault. Last week's game in Kutztown showed what happens when you play only one half against Eli Manning – he comes back and bites you and then brags about it. The Spartans have nothing to play for except the joy of putting their Divisional rival out of the playoff picture and getting a better draft pick for the trade that sent Kris Jenkins to Cowtown for a first rounder. Cowtown of course, needs to win their remaining 3 games to stand a reasonable chance of making the playoffs as a wildcard. The Corn Kings are concerned about Rashean Mathis's durability and are rumoured

to be planning to sit him in case he is needed in the post-season. Linebacker, Derrick Johnson is probable, but if he also sits that means two starters will be missing on the defense. The Spartans, of course, continue to make do without starting corners and can be expected to surrender at least a couple of hundred yards through the air to Chad Pennington. Expect a shootout with the home team pulling away to beat the spread in the final quarter.

PICK: COWTOWN

FLORIDA @ GARLAND (LINE - DRAGONS BY 4)

Some of my colleagues have drunk the Kool Aid when it comes to Matt Ryan and the Garland Gladiators and think Garland can actually pull off an upset here. I took a beating last week by calling several upsets and missing on all of them and I am not about to repeat that insanity with a similar crazy call in this game. This is one of the safer bets you can make if you are in need of some extra money to pay off the VISA card after the holidays. Matt Ryan will do better than most against the class of the EFL but it will not be nearly enough to make up for the free ride the Dragons' offence will have against the non-bucking Mustangs' defense.

PICK: FLORIDA

RINGGOLD @ GWINNETT (LINE - GLADIATORS BY 6)

I find myself curiously attracted to the Crimson Hawks' defense in this game and it is making me think "upset." The Gladiators' offence has been patching together points with string, cardboard and tape for too many games to be a reliable force. The Hawks have playmakers at all levels of the defense and a player like DeMarcus Ware can take over a game against a mediocre offensive line like the one currently wearing black and gold. But just when I think I have myself convinced that the Hawks will swoop down and pluck out Matt Cassel's eyes I remember that Ringgold's offense will also have to take the field and that a defense like 'The Tortoise' has nothing to fear from it. By the time Big Ben figures out how to turn the tortoise upside down he will find himself upside down underneath Robert Mathis.

PICK: GWINNETT

SHOULD YOU LISTEN TO A THING I SAY??????

HOW I'M DOING AGAINST THE SPREAD

LAST WEEK: 3-5-0

OVERALL: 68-35-1