

2011



2011

WEEK EIGHT IN REVIEW

November 27, 2011



HEAD OVER HEELS



There has to be an easier way to score a touchdown! **Darren McFadden** hurdles into the end zone for his third major of the game. The Excaliburs and McFadden will take their scores any way they can get them, and they got five of them this week in a big 35-30 win over Death Valley.



*Who was slick
in Week Eight?*

"BRYLCREEM" THE
EFL'S FIRST SPONSOR



Darren McFadden
RB
York
Excaliburs

OFFENSE

26 carries, 122 yards, 3 TDs to spark offensive explosion by York.



James Laurinaitis
ILB
Gwinnett
Gladiators

DEFENSE

12 tackles, 1 sack, 1 stuff & 1 def, making plays all over the field.

LATEST EFL NEWS INSIDE

THE GAMES

- KNIGHTS STAY PERFECT
- 4th STRAIGHT FOR CAM
- TIME EXPIRES ON VIOLATORS
- STARS SCARE EAGLES
- BRADY IS BACK
- BIG BEN SCRAMBLES
- SPARTANS IMPROVISE
- DINOS DUMP REGS

COMMENT

"The Twelfth 'Man,' "Pillow Fight," Manning-bashing," "Surrender," "Mid-term grades,"- and much, much more! – Spats McChad

PREDICTIONS

'Take a look!' – Jimmy the Geek

KNIGHTS SHUT DOWN PATS!



CHARLESWOOD PATRIOTS

0

27

LOS ANGELES KNIGHTS



PATRIOT OF THE GAME

Jason Witten

10 catches, 90 yards

KNIGHT OF THE GAME

Eric Weems

3 PRs, 95 yards, 76 Long, 1 TD

HIGHLIGHT REEL: Josh Freeman completed 12 of 20 for 116 yards, 1 TD.

- Roddy White caught 6 passes for 60 yards and 1 TD.
- Jamaal Charles was held to 59 yards on 22 carries but also scored a TD.
- Stanford Routt made 6 tackles, forced a fumble, and intercepted a pass to lead the LA defence.
- Peyton Manning went 22 of 37 for 176 yards and 1 INT.

GAME SUMMARY: A promising Charleswood drive that had started at their 21 yard line was abruptly cut short when Kevin Williams stripped the ball from Peyton Manning at the Knights' 34 yard line early in the 2nd quarter. The Los Angeles offence was unable to capitalize and was forced to punt after a three-and-out, but the defence held Adrian Peterson to 9 yards on 3 carries on the Pats' next series, setting up a fateful punt that would be the turning point of the game. Eric Weems fielded Jason Baker's 48-yard kick, made Pats' gunner Chris Carter miss, and sprinted through a seam up the middle of the field untouched the rest of the way to cover 76 yards to the house for the opening score. Both offences would struggle to move the ball in the first half, but the Pats would mount a spirited two-minute drill starting at their 17 and moving all the way to the Knights' red zone as time ticked away. Out of timeouts, Manning spiked the ball at the LA 18 with 7 seconds remaining. Instead of sending in the field goal unit, the Pats ambitiously tried one more play, but time expired when Manning checked down for 5 yards to Jason Avant, keeping the goose egg on the board for a 7-0 LA half time lead. After gaining just one first down in the entire first half, the Knights' offence finally put together a sustained drive late in the third quarter, covering 63 yards and culminating in a 22-yard Dan Carpenter field goal to make the score 10-0 Knights. On Charleswood's next possession, Manning was picked off by Stanford Routt deep in Pats' territory, setting up another field goal. After another unsuccessful attempt to move the ball by the Pats, the Knights took away all doubt in the outcome with a 66 yard drive that ended with Josh Freeman's 15th TD pass of the season, a 17-yard hook-up to favourite target, Roddy White.



THE FANS LOVED

Weems' punt return for TD



THE FANS HATED

Shaky offences

FAN RATING

1/2

11-23-2011 Round Table Stadium Temp: 72 Wind: 0-10 None

MVP: Eric Weems

2 10:57	Los Angeles	TD Weems 76 punt return (Carpente,D) (0-0-1:58)	0-7
3 1:22	Los Angeles	FG Carpenter 22 (12-63-6:15)	0-10
4 12:43	Los Angeles	FG Carpenter 33 (4-8-1:24)	0-13
4 4:55	Los Angeles	TD Freeman 17 pass to White (Carpente,D) (8-66-5:07)	0-20
4 1:05	Los Angeles	TD Charles 4 run (Carpente,D) (5-19-2:10)	0-27

	CHP	LAK
First Downs	15	12
Rushes	28-87	28-85
Passes	37-22-176	20-12-116
Sacked	2-18	2-10
Fumble	3	1
Penalties	8-43	6-57
Turnovers	2	0
Time	32:34	27:26
Third Down	4-15	4-12
Fourth Down	1-3	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	1/0/0	4/2/2
Net Offense	245	191

INJURIES

CHARLESWOOD – Melvin Bullitt (13 games)

LOS ANGELES – Justin Blalock (PG-3rd)



QUOTE OF THE GAME

"Our defence won this one for us. Eric gave us the spark, but the fire came from the Shield." – Los Angeles coach, Jeff Dohrn.

NEWTON RULES AGAIN!



**MOHAVE
HELLFIRE**

14

28

**CHINO
CONVICTS**



HELL PLAYER OF THE GAME

Hakeem Nicks

4 for 94 receiving, 53 long, 1 TD

CONVICT OF THE GAME

Cam Newton

212 total yards, 2 TDs

HIGHLIGHT REEL:

Cam Newton completed 11 of 18 for 161 yards, 1 INT, 1 TD and added 51 yards rushing and a 19-yard TD run.

- **Derrick Mason** caught 4 passes for 80 yards, 1 TD, with a long catch of 47 yards.
- **Cortland Finnegan** intercepted Matt Schaub, returning it 41 yards to set up Chino's first touchdown.
- **James Harrison** made 2 tackles, 1 sack, 2 QB pressures and forced a fumble.
- **Matt Schaub** completed 23 of 35 for 246 yards, 1 INT and 1 TD.
- **Terrell Owens** caught 10 passes for 88 yards and 4 first downs.

GAME SUMMARY: **Cam Newton** ran a naked bootleg 19 yards for a TD to break a 14-14 deadlock early in the 4th quarter and lead the Convicts to their 4th straight victory. The Hellfire came blazing out of the gate with **Matt Schaub** hooking up for a 53-yard TD pass to **Hakeem Nicks** on the second play from scrimmage to give them the quick 7-0 lead. The momentum from that first score carried over into Mohave's second possession as, backed up at their 2 yard line on a precision punt by **Shane Lechler**, they drove painstakingly out from the shadow of their goal line into Chino territory and looked about to score again. But **Cortland Finnegan** jumped the route and picked off a pass intended for Nicks, returning it 41 yards to the Mohave 32 yard line. This play not only stemmed the Mohave tide, it led to a Chino score four plays later when Newton found **Derrick Mason** on a short slant from 7 yards out to tie the game at 7 apiece. The Convicts would score again on their next possession, thanks to a 47-yard completion to Mason and an 11-yard bootleg by Newton that helped to set up a 2-yard TD run off left tackle by **Steven Jackson**. Mohave started the second half as they had the first, with guns blazing. Passes of 26 and 22 yards to Nicks and **Terrell Owens** and a 20-yard pass interference penalty on **Alterraun Verner** set up the tying TD, a 1-yard run by **Mike Tolbert**. But, two possessions later, Newton would find Mason for 16 yards and **James Jones** for a 24-yard completion, to key the game-winning TD drive.



THE FANS LOVED

Cam's duel attack threat



THE FANS HATED

Mohave's White Flag

FAN RATING



½

11-26-2011 The Big House Temp: 89 Wind: 0-10 None

MVP: **Cam Newton**

1 14:38	Mohave	TD Schaub 53 pass to Nicks (Bironas) (2-60-0:22)	7-0
1 3:11	Chino	TD Newton 7 pass to Mason (Cundiff) (4-32-2:13)	7-7
2 12:01	Chino	TD Jackson 2 run (Cundiff) (5-66-2:59)	7-14
3 7:53	Mohave	TD Tolbert 1 run (Bironas) (9-78-4:23)	14-14
4 13:31	Chino	TD Newton 19 run (Cundiff) (5-65-2:18)	14-21
4 8:03	Chino	TD Jackson 1 run (Cundiff) (9-51-4:25)	14-28

	MOH	CHI
First Downs	15	19
Rushes	23-56	37-160
Passes	35-23-246	18-11-161
Sacked	1-10	1-10
Fumble	1	1
Penalties	4-21	5-50
Turnovers	1	1
Time	29:38	30:22
Third Down	7-16	6-12
Fourth Down	0-0	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	1/1/0	4/4/0
Net Offense	292	311

INJURIES

GARLAND – Ron Bartell (PG-3rd).

DEATH VALLEY – Braylon Edwards (PG-4th)



QUOTE OF THE GAME

"As far as me making us a playoff team, I just try to turn my ears off to that talk. I am just trying to learn the game right now and the team is helping me with that." – Chino quarterback, **Cam Newton**.

TIME RUNS OUT ON VIRDEN!



**VIRDEN
VIOLATORS**

24

28

**IOWA CITY
CUBS**



VIOULATOR OF THE GAME

Eli Manning

22 of 29 for 259 yds, 1 INT, 1 TD

CUB OF THE GAME

Arian Foster

25 for 164 yards rushing, 2 TDs

HIGHLIGHT REEL:

Mike Wallace caught 4 balls and turned those into 177 yards of offence and 1 TD.

- Sam Bradford completed 13 of 23 passes for 283 yards, 2 TDs and 2 INTs.
- Vince Wilfork made 12 tackles defending the line of scrimmage for the Cubs.
- Violators running backs LeGarrette Blount and LeDainian Tomlinson combined for 147 yards and 1 TD each on 32 carries.
- Dez Bryant led all Virden receivers with 8 catches for 92 yards and 1 TD.
- Ray Maualuga made 4 tackles and an interception that he returned for 71 yards.

GAME SUMMARY: The Violators fumbled three times in their first two possessions but managed to recover each one and go on to open the scoring on a 5-yard TD run by **LeGarrette Blount**. The Cubs responded promptly with a big play to wide receiver, **Mike Wallace**, a long bomb from **Sam Bradford** good for 56 yards and a TD to even the score. But the Violators would take control of the first half early in the 2nd quarter when **Ray Maualuga** picked off Bradford as the Cubs tried to breach the Virden red zone. The Violators' linebacker returned it 71 yards to the Cubs' 16 yards line, where **Eli Manning** converted a key 3rd down with a 15-yard pass to **Julio Jones** then found **Dez Bryant** open in the end zone from 1 yard out to give Virden a 14-7 lead. A 1-yard TD plunge by **LaDainian Tomlinson** at the end of a grinding 75-yard drive padded the Virden lead heading into half time. When **Kareem Jackson** picked off Bradford to open the second half, it appeared that the Cubs were in for a long day; but a clutch interception by **DeAngelo Hall** to stop a Virden drive at the Cubs' 34 turned the game around. After six straight running plays brought the Cubs across mid-field, a 10-yard pass to **Larry Fitzgerald** and a 21-yard scoring strike to **Kellen Winslow** brought Iowa City within 7 points. The Cubs got the ball back after a sack by **Corey Liutget** helped shut down Virden's counter-strike. They completed bomb to Wallace for 53 yards, followed shortly by a 10-yard TD run by **Arian Foster** to tie the game. Virden regained the lead on a **Lawrence Tynes** field goal but Foster spearheaded the winning TD drive with 55 yards on 6 carries and scoring from 20 yards out. Manning drove Virden 69 yards in just over 3 minutes but inadvertently allowed the clock to expire at the Cubs' 1 yard line with 2 timeouts still remaining!



THE FANS LOVED

Offence from both teams

THE FANS HATED

Virden's clock management



FAN RATING



11-25-2011 Joe Ferguson Stadium Temp: 53 Wind: 0-5 None

MVP: Arian Foster

1 6:48	Virden	TD Blount 5 run (Tynes) (7-41-4:04)	7-0
1 5:36	Iowa City	TD Bradford 56 pass to Wallace (Rackers) (5-80-1:05)	7-7
2 12:11	Virden	TD Manning 1 pass to Bryant (Tynes) (4-16-1:12)	14-7
2 3:10	Virden	TD Tomlinson 1 run (Tynes) (11-75-6:40)	21-7
3 4:55	Iowa City	TD Bradford 21 pass to Winslow (Rackers) (8-66-4:53)	21-14
4 14:43	Iowa City	TD Foster 10 run (Rackers) (6-74-2:45)	21-21
4 8:21	Virden	FG Tynes 32 (10-61-6:10)	24-21
4 3:20	Iowa City	TD Foster 20 run (Rackers) (10-78-4:55)	24-28

VV	ICC
First Downs	25 21
Rushes	37-160 31-195
Passes	29-22-259 23-13-283
Sacked	2-11 1-6
Fumble	4 0
Penalties	8-50 4-26
Turnovers	1 2
Time	35:33 24:27
Third Down	7-12 5-10
Fourth Down	0-1 1-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	5/3/1 3/2/0
Net Offense	408 472



INJURIES

VIRDEN – Paul Posluszny (2 games); James Starks (12 games)

IOWA CITY – Davin Joseph (2 games)

QUOTE OF THE GAME

"Owen was open. I thought he had a chance to bring it across. It didn't happen and the ref didn't see my signal – even though he was close enough to spit at." – Virden quarterback, Eli Manning.

BLUE EAGLES SQUEAK BY STUBBORN STARS!



**SCARBOROUGH
BLUE EAGLES**

16

14

**MARKHAM NORTH
STARS**



BLUE EAGLE OF THE GAME

Aaron Rodgers

25 of 41, 183 yds, 1 rushing TD

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
SCARBOROUGH (5-3)	7	3	0	6	-	16
MARKHAM (3-5)	0	7	7	0	-	14

NORTH STAR OF THE GAME

Jahvid Best

5 catches, 83 yards, 1 TD

HIGHLIGHT REEL:

Ray Rice rushed for 43 yards in 10 carries and added 26 yards on 4 catches for 69 total yards.

- Heath Miller had 5 receptions for 46 yards and 4 first downs.
- LaMarr Woodley logged 2 sacks and 2 QB pressures while Antonio Cromartie had a 52-yard interception return to lead the defence.
- Mark Sanchez completed 13 of 28 passes for 196 yards, 1 TD and 1 INT. He was also sacked four times.
- Joseph Addai rushed for 46 yards and 1 TD on 14 carries.
- North Stars' defensive end, Trent Cole made 7 tackles, stuffed a run, and pressured Rodgers once to star for the Markham defence.

GAME SUMMARY: A 61-yard punt return by DeSean Jackson to the Markham 22 yard line set up what would turn out to be the game-winning field goal when Sebastien Janikowski shaved the inside of the right upright from 32 yards away to put Scarborough in front 16-14 with 9:36 remaining in the 4th quarter. The score allowed the Blue Eagles to escape the rabid Dawg Pound with a victory and keep pace with their rivals, Gwinnett, at 5-3. Although a severe mis-match on paper and heavily favoured by most analysts, the Blue Eagles came into Markham favoured by a mere point on the official Vegas line due to the "intangibles" of playing at Markham's raucous home field. The crowd and the home team delivered on those "intangibles" by gutting out a performance that saw them twice fall behind and twice answer to tie or take the lead. After finally collapsing at the end of an 84-yard drive to fall behind 7-0 on a 3-yard bootleg to the pylon by Aaron Rodgers in the first quarter, Markham got an assist from an 11-yard pass interference penalty against Bart Scott and a 21-yard pass to Brandon LaFell to reach the Scarborough one-yard line, where Joseph Addai carried it across for the tying score. A 52-yard interception return by Antonio Cromartie set up Scarborough's go-ahead field goal to give them the 10-7 lead at half time. Forced to punt on their opening possession of the 2nd half, the North Stars caught a break when Justin Tuck was flagged 15 yards for roughing the punter, Donnie Jones. With new life, Markham took advantage when Jahvid Best turned a medium hitch into a 47-yard TD reception to give them a 14-10 lead. Six minutes later, David Akers fatefully missed a 37-yard field goal attempt to keep the Markham tally at 14, allowing Scarborough to recover with two 4th quarter kicks.



THE FANS LOVED

Dramatic, hard-nosed football

THE FANS HATED

22 penalties for 191 yards



FAN RATING



11-26-2011 The Dawg Pound Temp: 70 Wind: 0-10 None

MVP: Aaron Rodgers

1 0:17	Scarborough	TD Rodgers 3 run (Janikowski) (14-84-8:01)	7-0
2 10:47	Markham	TD Addai 1 run (Akers) (8-41-3:41)	7-7
2 0:32	Scarborough	FG Janikowski 25 (7-16-1:30)	10-7
3 8:49	Markham	TD Sanchez 47 pass to Best (Akers) (11-92-5:57)	10-14
4 12:43	Scarborough	FG Janikowski 43 (9-48-4:29)	13-14
4 9:36	Scarborough	FG Janikowski 32 (4-8-0:57)	16-14

	SBE	MAR
First Downs	14	15
Rushes	18-81	28-69
Passes	41-25-183	28-13-196
Sacked	0-0	4-26
Fumble	2	0
Penalties	11-111	11-80
Turnovers	1	1
Time	29:27	30:33
Third Down	5-15	3-15
Fourth Down	1-1	1-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/1	2/1/0
Net Offense	264	239



INJURIES

CHARLESWOOD – Chris Harris (PG-2nd); Jon Beason (PG-3rd)

DURHAM – Carlos Rogers (4 games)

QUOTE OF THE GAME

"This place is insane. It's a real dirty party pit. That inflatable woman in the stands is gruesome. I love it!" – Scarborough owner, Chris Dickinson.

YORK OFFENCE REBORN IN DEATH VALLEY!



**YORK
EXCALIBURS**

35

30

**DEATH VALLEY
UNDERTAKERS**



EXCALIBUR OF THE GAME

Darren McFadden
26 carries, 122 yards, 3 TDs.

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total	UNDERTAKER OF THE GAME
YORK (3-5)	0	14	14	7	-	35	Drew Brees
DEATH VALLEY (5-3)	7	3	7	13	-	30	17 of 26, 284 yds, 1 INT, 3 TDs

HIGHLIGHT REEL: Tom Brady had his best performance of the year so far, completing 18 of 23 for 218 yards and 2 TDs.

- Brandon Jacobs supported his running mate with 97 yards rushing on 20 carries.
- Michael Jenkins led all York receivers with 6 catches for 79 yards and 1 TD.
- Braylon Edwards was Brees' favourite target, snaring 5 balls for 127 yards and 1 TD.
- Undertaker return specialist, Brandon Tate returned a kick-off 98 yards for a major in the 3rd quarter.
- Jerod Mayo made 14 tackles as the workhorse tracking down McFadden and Jacobs.

GAME SUMMARY: After spelling Death Valley a 1st quarter TD pass on a 23-yard slant from **Drew Brees** to **Mario Manningham**, York kicked into high gear for the first time in 2011, erasing that deficit and more with back-to-back TD drives in the 2nd quarter. The Yorkies mixed up the plays, keeping the Undertakers' off balance, tying the score on a 1-yard dive by **Darren McFadden** and grabbing the lead on a 5-yard crossing pattern to **Deon Butler** from **Tom Brady**. The Undertakers got a big play from **Randall Cobb**, who returned the kick-off 71 yards to the York 28, setting up a 29-yard **John Kasay** field goal before half time. Death Valley's offence attacked early in the 2nd half with passes of 29 yards to Manningham and 19 yards to **Braylon Edwards** jetting them inside the Excalibur red zone; but **Brian Urlacher** stepped up with a giant interception, thwarting the scoring chance. York moved the ball without much difficulty through the air as the Undertakers focused on trying to stop the run and soon they were at the opponent's 8 yard line. The next play, McFadden burst through a hole opened by **Steve Hutchinson** for the major and a 21-10 lead. The Undertakers got that one back right away on **Brandon Tate's** 98-yard kick-off return for a TD to make the score 21-17. Undeterred, York came right back, riding the legs of **Brandon Jacobs'** 46-yard run to set McFadden's 3rd TD of the day on a 6-yard pitch to the right. The TD rally continued like a tennis match: Brees hit Edwards for a 50-yard TD pass, York countered with a 12-yard TD pass to **Michael Jenkins** and Death Valley answered with a 7-yard TD pass to **Aaron Hernandez** to conclude the shootout in York's favour.



THE FANS LOVED

Big rushing plays, big passing plays

THE FANS HATED

Not-so-Fearsome Foursome



FAN RATING



11-25-2011 The Graveyard Temp: 51 Wind: 15-25 None

MVP: **Darren McFadden**

1	5:54	Death Valley	TD Brees 23 pass to Manningham (Kasay) (6-77-3:44)	0-7
2	7:55	York	TD McFadden 1 run (Gano) (10-61-5:46)	7-7
2	1:42	York	TD Brady 5 pass to Butler (Gano) (11-74-3:48)	14-7
2	0:00	Death Valley	FG Kasay 29 (6-17-1:34)	14-10
3	4:22	York	TD McFadden 8 run (Gano) (9-74-4:55)	21-10
3	4:17	Death Valley	TD Tate 98 kick return (Kasay) (0-0-4:55)	21-17
3	1:17	York	TD McFadden 6 run (Gano) (5-67-2:55)	28-17
4	13:53	Death Valley	TD Brees 50 pass to Edwards (2 - failed) (7-75-2:16)	28-23
4	6:54	York	TD Brady 12 pass to Jenkins (Gano) (10-70-6:52)	35-23
4	4:23	Death Valley	TD Brees 7 pass to Hernandez (Kasay) (5-55-2:24)	35-30

	YOR	DVU
First Downs	28	17
Rushes	47-222	14-44
Passes	23-18-218	26-17-284
Sacked	1-8	0-0
Fumble	0	1
Penalties	3-22	5-23
Turnovers	0	1
Time	38:57	21:03
Third Down	7-12	2-8
Fourth Down	2-2	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	5/5/0	3/1/1
Net Offense	432	328

INJURIES

YORK – None

DEATH VALLEY – Brett Keisel (8 games)



QUOTE OF THE GAME

"We clicked in every facet of the offence today. This was what we envisioned coming into the season and this is what we hope to continue the rest of the way." — York coach Jay Hammond.

BIG BEN SCRAMBLES FOR HIS 1ST WIN!



**GWINNETT
GLADIATORS**

27

26

**COWTOWN
CORN KINGS**



GLADIATOR OF THE GAME

LeSean McCoy
17 carries, 120 yards

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
GWINNETT (5-3)	3	6	6	12	-	27
COWTOWN (6-2)	7	0	13	6	-	26

CORN KING OF THE GAME

Maurice Jones-Drew
22 carries, 97 yards, 1 TD

HIGHLIGHT REEL:

Ben Roethlisberger completed 16 of 33 for just 135 yards, but threw 3 TD passes and scrambled for 56 yards.

- **Reggie Wayne** was held to short gains but caught 7 passes for 50 yards and 2 TDs to lead Gwinnett receivers.
- **Jim Laurinaitis** made 12 tackles, logged a sack, deflected a pass and stuffed a run.
- **Joe Flacco** completed 15 of 31 for 149 yards and 2 TDs, but was also intercepted once and sacked 4 times.
- **Zach Miller** caught 5 passes for 61 yards and 1 TD.
- **Derrick Johnson** held with fort defensively with 10 tackles, 1 deflection, 1 stuffed run, 1 forced fumble and an interception.

GAME SUMMARY: It was a game where the lead switched hands six times and a modest 583 yards of offence between the two combatants was turned into a total of 53 points. Both quarterbacks looked awkward at times, but brilliant at others. In the end, it will be remembered for a crazy 4th down scramble by **Ben Roethlisberger** in the final two minutes. Trailing 26-21 in the 2nd half of the fourth quarter, it looked briefly as if the Corn Kings were going to successfully run out the clock, or be in a position to hem the Gladiators deep in their own end. But an aggressive move by **Leodis McKelvin** paid off in an interception that gave Gwinnett the ball at the Corn Kings' 44 yard line with 2:02 remaining. Needing a touchdown, Big Ben went to work, but was nearly picked off on consecutive pass attempts. Facing 4th down and 7 at the 41, Roethlisberger faded back to pass and saw green jerseys blanketing his receivers. With the middle of the field open, he decided to run for the first and found much more. With corners and safeties trying to take him down, Roethlisberger dragged the Corn King secondary all the way to the 5 yard line. Two plays later, he found **Reggie Wayne** open in the end zone for a TD and, after the failed two-point conversion, a 27-26 lead. The Corn Kings got the ball back at their own 31 with all of their timeouts, needing just a field goal to win. A 19-yard pass to **Kevin Walter** was nullified by a holding penalty then, to a chorus of boos, the offence went four-and-out to end the threat and give the Glads the narrow win.



THE FANS LOVED

Desperate heroics from Big Ben

THE FANS HATED

Late holding call on Levitre



FAN RATING



11-23-2011 Tillman Field Temp: 50 Wind: 0-10 MVP: **Ben Roethlisberger**

1 11:00	Cowtown	TD Jones-Drew 2 run (Mare) (1-2-0:05)	0-7
1 6:49	Gwinnett	FG Brown 40 (8-55-4:00)	3-7
2 2:31	Gwinnett	FG Brown 43 (9-25-4:07)	6-7
2 0:00	Gwinnett	FG Brown 37 (4-26-0:26)	9-7
3 14:41	Cowtown	TD Flacco 10 pass to Moss (Mare) (1-10-0:06)	9-14
3 10:12	Cowtown	FG Mare 42 (5-34-2:44)	9-17
3 5:39	Gwinnett	TD Roethlisberger 9 pass to Wayne (2 - failed) (9-51-4:28)	15-17
3 3:47	Cowtown	FG Mare 33 (6-17-1:41)	15-20
4 14:52	Gwinnett	TD Roethlisberger 7 pass to Burleson (2 - failed) (9-61-3)	21-20
4 10:11	Cowtown	TD Flacco 1 pass to Miller (2 - failed) (9-47-4:34)	21-26
4 0:54	Gwinnett	TD Roethlisberger 4 pass to Wayne (2 - failed) (6-44-1:12)	27-26

	GWG	COW
First Downs	20	18
Rushes	36-198	26-124
Passes	33-16-135	31-15-149
Sacked	0-0	4-23
Fumble	2	1
Penalties	6-44	6-41
Turnovers	2	1
Challenges	0-0	1-1
Time	32:06	27:54
Third Down	3-16	1-12
Fourth Down	2-2	0-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/3/0	4/3/1
Net Offense	333	250



INJURIES

GWINNETT – None

COWTOWN – Earnest Graham (5 games)

QUOTE OF THE GAME

"Ben worked through some things on the fly, he made the most of the few opportunities in the passing game. LeSean was great, but the guy who I am very happy to see back is Kris (Dielman)." – Gwinnett coach, **Dave Birdsall**.

SPARTANS SLEEP MARCH TO SHUTOUT WIN!



**PICKERING
SPARTANS**

13

0

**GARLAND
MUSTANGS**



SPARTAN OF THE GAME

Anquan Boldin

2 catches, 65 yards, 1 TD

Team

1 2 3 4 OT Total

PICKERING (7-1)

0 3 7 3 - 13

GARLAND (1-7)

0 0 0 0 - 0

MUSTANG OF THE GAME

Matt Ryan

34 of 50 for 315 yards, 1 INT

HIGHLIGHT REEL:

Joe Webb took over for an injured Matt Cassell and completed 5 of 8 for 75 yards, 1 TD and 1 INT.

- **Chris Johnson** rushed for 101 yards on 20 carries and added 1 reception for 6 yards.
- **Rashad Jennings** gained 66 yards on 11 carries.
- Defensive end, **Ray Edwards** made 4 tackles, all for losses – 2 sacks and 2 run stuffs to lead the Spartans' defence.
- **Eddie Royal** caught 11 passes for 98 yards while **Wes Welker** caught 9 for 104 yards.
- **Matt Forte** led the Garland ground game with 9 yards on 5 carries and added 4 receptions for 49 yards.

GAME SUMMARY: An injury to **Matt Cassel** on Pickering's opening series forced rookie **Joe Webb** into the game, prompting thoughts of an upset at The Corral. A 1st quarter interception by rookie corner, **Patrick Peterson** at the Garland 42 yard line set the stage for a 13-play drive that moved the ball all the way to the Pickering one yard line where, facing 4th and goal, the Mustangs decided to go for it. A short pass to **Wes Welker** went astray and the Spartans took over, moving the ball methodically to the Garland 42 where a **Will Smith** sack put an end to the Spartans' threat. Garland's ensuing drive stalled at their 31 yard line forcing a punt that gave Pickering field position at their 24 yard line. A nine-play, 62-yard march consisting entirely of running plays to **Chris Johnson** and **Rashad Jennings** brought the ball to the Garland 14 where, with time running down, **Josh Scobee** broke the scoreless tie with a 32-yard field goal before half time. Garland missed a chance to tie the game in the 2nd half when **Robbie Gould's** 52-yard field goal attempt sailed wide right. Four punts and no first downs later, Pickering finally broke through with an electrifying play that, under the circumstances, had a back-breaking effect on the Mustangs. Fading back for his 8th and final pass attempt, Webb flared the ball into the flat, where **Anquan Boldin** snatched it and burst forward for a 58-yard TD reception that gave Pickering a 10-0 lead. Subsequent attempts at a comeback by **Matt Ryan** and Mustangs were thwarted in turn by a **David Harris** interception, a turnover on downs at mid-field that led to Pickering's final field goal, and the expiration of the clock with Garland threatening at Pickering's 22 yard line. When the gun sounded there were few around to hear it, or witness the bland and gentlemanly post-game handshake.



THE FANS LOVED

Anquan Boldin's highlight reel TD

THE FANS HATED

The Mustangs' offence....again!

FAN RATING



½

11-25-2011 The Corral Temp: 81 Wind: 0-5 None

MVP: **Anquan Boldin**

2 0:11 Pickering FG Scobee 32 (10-62-2:58)

3-0

3 0:34 Pickering TD Webb 58 pass to Boldin (Scobee) (1-58-0:20)

10-0

4 3:05 Pickering FG Scobee 46 (6-22-3:45)

13-0

	PIC	GDM
First Downs	14	17
Rushes	42-170	12-18
Passes	9-6-85	50-34-315
Sacked	1-5	2-13
Fumble	0	3
Penalties	0-0	10-75
Turnovers	1	1
Time	29:51	30:09
Third Down	5-11	3-12
Fourth Down	0-0	1-3
Red Att/Td/Fg	1/0/1	1/0/0
Net Offense	250	320



INJURIES

PICKERING – Matt Cassel (1 game-QUESTIONABLE)

GARLAND – Emmanuel Sanders (4 games)

QUOTE OF THE GAME

"Losing Matt early forced us to change our game plan entirely and we had to be careful because Joe is the only quarterback left on the roster! But it turned out to be not bad at all." – *Spartans coach, Gus Konstantakos.*

DINOS STOMP ON REGS!



DURHAM THUNDER LIZARDS

41

17

SOUTH CAROLINA REGULATORS



LIZARD OF THE GAME

Dwayne Bowe

8 catches, 136 yards, 2 TDs

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
DURHAM (5-3)	3	21	7	10	-	41
SOUTH CAROLINA (1-7)	3	7	7	0	-	17

REGULATOR OF THE GAME

Felix Jones

18 carries, 105 yards, 1 TD

HIGHLIGHT REEL:

Philip Rivers completed 14 of 21 for 231 yards, 1 TD and 1 INT.

- **Tim Tebow** was a perfect 1 for 1 for 26 yards and 1 TD, and carried twice for 10 yards and another TD.
- **Vernon Davis** caught 3 passes for 65 yards and **Calvin Johnson** caught 2 for 41 yards, neither finding the end zone.
- **Jason Campbell** turned in a solid game in defeat, completing 21 of 29 for 171 yards.
- **Chris Colley** had 7 catches for 50 yards to lead the Regulators' receivers.
- Defensive tackle, **Amobi Okoye** had 2 sacks for the South Carolina defence.

GAME SUMMARY: With all of their regular safeties out, and the corners dropping like flies on the field, any chance that the Regulators would find a way to compete in this game was basically eliminated by the end of the first half. On a positive note for the home team, they gave it their best shot; but as huge holes in their battered secondary became gaping ones, they quickly fell behind as Durham used veteran **Philip Rivers** to move the chains and brought in rookie **Tim Tebow** to finish. First, a 34-yard pass from Rivers to **Dwayne Bowe** set up a 10-yard TD on a bootleg by Tebow to give the Thunder Lizards the lead 10-3. Second, a fumble by **Felix Jones** on a well-read screen pass was recovered by Durham at the South Carolina 26 yard line, setting up a 26-yard long hitch from Tebow to Bowe that saw the Durham star covered loosely by **Javier Arenas**. Trying to atone for his pass coverage, Arenas pulled off a nice 33-yard return on the ensuing kick-off, giving the Regulators good field position at their 40 yard line. Jones got the call and reeled off runs of 6 and 15 yards before **Jason Campbell** alternated passes with runs to bring the ball to the Durham half-yard line. Jones broke into the end zone off right tackle to put South Carolina right back in the game. However, a 19-yard return by **Brandon Banks** on a squib kick gave Durham possession near mid-field, and it took them just 7 plays from scrimmage to move the ball 54 yards and find the end zone on a 12-yard draw by **Michael Bush**. At half time, the score was 24-10 for Durham. An epic 16-play, 81-yard Regulator drive that chewed up nearly 10 minutes, opened the 2nd half and ended in a **Shane Vereen** 9-yard TD run to bring the Regs back within 7; but the Lizards quickly regained the two-score advantage, using a vacant secondary to their advantage when they needed it to maintain a safe distance from the quietly dangerous Regulator offence to win easily.



THE FANS LOVED

Tim Tebow's cameos

THE FANS HATED

Watching line-backers play safety



FAN RATING



11-23-2011 Williams-Brice Stad. Temp: 83 Wind: 10-20 None

MVP: **Dwayne Bowe**

1 10:39	South Carolina	FG Kaeding 31 (8-51-4:07)	0-3
1 7:47	Durham	FG Vinatieri 24 (9-69-2:42)	3-3
2 9:30	Durham	TD Tebow 10 run (Vinatieri) (9-66-4:39)	10-3
2 8:23	Durham	TD Tebow 26 pass to Bowe (Vinatieri) (1-26-0:10)	17-3
2 3:00	South Carolina	TD Jones 1 run (Kaeding) (8-60-5:17)	17-10
2 0:35	Durham	TD Bush 12 run (Vinatieri) (7-54-2:18)	24-10
3 3:23	South Carolina	TD Vereen 9 run (Kaeding) (16-81-9:56)	24-17
3 0:20	Durham	TD Rivers 11 pass to Bowe (Vinatieri) (5-64-2:59)	31-17
4 2:05	Durham	FG Vinatieri 27 (15-77-9:58)	34-17
4 1:26	Durham	TD Landry 42 yd fumble recovery (Vinatieri) (0-0-0:34)	41-17

	DTL	SC
First Downs	19	18
Rushes	26-108	26-118
Passes	22-15-257	31-22-176
Sacked	2-11	2-15
Fumble	0	2
Penalties	1-5	5-40
Turnovers	1	2
Time	26:20	33:40
Third Down	9-11	8-13
Fourth Down	0-0	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	5/3/2	3/2/1
Net Offense	354	279



INJURIES

DURHAM – None

SOUTH CAROLINA – Chris Cook (9 games); Sam Shields (3 games); Tracy Porter (1 game-QUESTIONABLE)

QUOTE OF THE GAME

"Damn it all! Are we a football team or some kind of MASH unit? – *Regulator coach, Hal Corson*, commenting on the rash of injuries that has hit his team.

EFL STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood	5	3	0	0.625	153	19.1	167	20.9	-1.8	2 1 0	3 0 0	4 1 0
York	3	5	0	0.375	138	17.3	170	21.3	-4	1 4 0	1 2 0	2 3 0
Virden	2	6	0	0.25	111	13.9	161	20.1	-6.3	2 2 0	2 1 0	2 3 0
Mohave	1	7	0	0.125	120	15	196	24.5	-9.5	2 2 0	1 2 0	1 4 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Los Angeles	8	0	0	1	226	28.3	96	12	16.3	5 0 0	3 0 0	5 0 0
Death Valley	5	3	0	0.625	212	26.5	211	26.4	0.1	2 3 0	2 1 0	3 2 0
Chino	4	4	0	0.5	159	19.9	117	14.6	5.3	3 2 0	0 3 0	1 4 0
Iowa City	3	5	0	0.375	177	22.1	192	24	-1.9	2 2 0	1 2 0	3 2 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Pickering	7	1	0	0.875	214	26.8	137	17.1	9.6	3 0 0	2 1 0	4 1 0
Cowtown	6	2	0	0.75	229	28.6	122	15.3	13.4	3 1 0	2 1 0	3 2 0
Durham	5	3	0	0.625	190	23.8	149	18.6	5.1	3 0 0	1 2 0	3 2 0
Markham	3	5	0	0.375	116	14.5	150	18.8	-4.3	2 2 0	1 2 0	1 4 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Scarborough	5	3	0	0.625	161	20.1	153	19.1	1	2 2 0	3 0 0	4 1 0
Gwinnett	5	3	0	0.625	195	24.4	169	21.1	3.3	1 3 0	2 1 0	4 1 0
Garland	1	7	0	0.125	78	9.8	187	23.4	-13.6	0 4 0	1 2 0	1 4 0
South Carolina	1	7	0	0.125	114	14.3	216	27	-12.8	0 3 0	0 3 0	0 5 0

PASSING

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Brees	DVU	246	165	67.1	1888	5	2	81	17	6.9	104.5
2	Young, V	GWG	88	55	62.5	647	1	1.1	48	6	6.8	102.8
3	Newton	CHI	104	70	67.3	727	1	1	51	6	5.8	102.5
4	Flacco	COW	258	167	64.7	1976	5	1.9	64	17	6.6	101.8
5	Freeman	LAK	244	159	65.2	1672	3	1.2	65	15	6.1	100.3
6	Roethlisberger	GWG	121	70	57.9	906	3	2.5	78	7	5.8	90.4
7	Cassel	PIC	137	70	51.1	1126	3	2.2	78	8	5.8	89.2
8	Campbell, J	SC	225	145	64.4	1500	4	1.8	52	6	2.7	85
9	Rodgers	SBE	213	134	62.9	1281	1	0.5	41	3	1.4	82.3
10	Schaub	MOH	252	159	63.1	1676	5	2	53	6	2.4	82
11	Rivers, P	DTL	235	147	62.6	1791	9	3.8	62	7	3	79.9
12	Brady, T	YOR	252	145	57.5	1495	3	1.2	88	6	2.4	77.7
13	Bradford	ICC	222	125	56.3	1719	9	4.1	56	8	3.6	76.4
14	Manning, P	CHP	268	173	64.6	1696	9	3.4	54	6	2.2	75.7
15	Ryan, M	GDM	288	173	60.1	1645	7	2.4	61	3	1	69.3
16	Sanchez	MAR	163	87	53.4	1000	6	3.7	55	3	1.8	62.9
17	Manning, E	VV	254	151	59.4	1937	19	7.5	91	8	3.1	62.7
18	Cutler	CHI	105	66	62.9	536	6	5.7	73	0	0	51.9
19	Tebow	DTL	7	3	42.9	31	0	0	26	3	42.9	95.8

RUSHING

			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	Foster, A	ICC	178	987	5.5	72	7	11	Rice, R	SBE	136	432	3.2	38	1
2	Peterson, A	CHP	148	748	5.1	74	6	12	Jacobs, B	YOR	90	431	4.8	59	7
3	Johnson, C	PIC	172	716	4.2	58	7	13	Mendenhall	DVU	135	427	3.2	21	3
4	Charles	LAK	131	667	5.1	19	5	14	Jones, F	SC	88	387	4.4	29	4
5	Jones-Drew	COW	133	595	4.5	29	2	15	McFadden, D	YOR	80	367	4.6	39	4
6	McCoy, L	GWG	105	557	5.3	40	3	16	Tolbert	MOH	100	362	3.6	31	4
7	Ivory	MOH	107	552	5.2	44	1	17	Jackson, B	COW	59	347	5.9	42	2
8	Jackson, S	CHI	149	515	3.5	47	2	18	Tomlinson	VV	101	319	3.2	17	1
9	Bradshaw	GWG	109	470	4.3	20	2	19	Jennings, R	PIC	44	316	7.2	37	2
10	Turner, M	DTL	112	469	4.2	78	2	20	Forte	GDM	63	299	4.7	59	1

RECEIVING

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	White, R	LAK	61	636	10.4	33	7	11	Welker	GDM	35	353	10.1	26	0
2	Witten	CHP	45	458	10.2	22	4	12	Wallace, M	ICC	35	916	26.2	56	5
3	Moss, S	COW	44	730	16.6	64	9	13	Jennings, G	SC	35	470	13.4	41	4
4	Edwards, B	DVU	42	570	13.6	81	3	14	McCoy, L	GWG	34	338	9.9	48	1
5	Bowe	DTL	42	588	14	49	6	15	Owens, T	MOH	34	294	8.6	22	1
6	Watson, B	MOH	41	442	10.8	52	4	16	Cooley	SC	34	267	7.9	34	0
7	Wayne	GWG	41	631	15.4	47	8	17	Royal, E	GDM	34	307	9	18	0
8	Bryant, D	VV	39	595	15.3	51	4	18	Gonzalez	LAK	33	317	9.6	29	4
9	Colston	CHP	39	392	10.1	38	0	19	Fitzgerald	ICC	33	343	10.4	35	1
10	Thomas, M	VV	36	564	15.7	91	2	20	Keller	GDM	30	338	11.3	48	2

TACKLES

1	Lewis, R	DVU	80	8	Willis, P	ICC	61	15	Urlacher	YOR	55
2	Henders, EJ	SC	79	9	Timmons	YOR	61	16	Dansby	GDM	53
3	Barber, R	PIC	76	10	Cole, T	MAR	57	17	Dorsey	SC	52
4	Mayo	DVU	72	11	Laurinaitis	GWG	56	18	Williams, D	GWG	50
5	Beason	CHP	65	12	Johnson, D	COW	56	19	Ruud	CHI	49
6	Posluszny	VV	63	13	Jones, D	MOH	55	20	Spikes, T	MAR	48
7	Whitner	ICC	61	14	Atogwe	PIC	55	21	James, B	LAK	47

KICKING

			FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts
1	Brown, J	GWG	24	22	91.7	8	1	53	81
2	Carpenter, D	LAK	19	17	89.5	4	1	55	76
3	Mare	COW	18	16	88.9	4	0	49	73
4	Cundiff	CHI	19	18	94.7	6	1	55	67
5	Scobee	PIC	15	13	86.7	3	0	48	64
6	Vinatieri	DTL	17	14	82.4	4	0	43	62
7	Kasay	DVU	15	13	86.7	7	2	52	62
8	Rackers	ICC	21	15	71.4	7	4	55	61
9	Janikowski	SBE	19	14	73.7	7	3	55	59
10	Akers	MAR	14	13	92.9	2	0	46	50
11	Bironas	MOH	13	12	92.3	2	0	48	48
12	Gould	GDM	16	12	75	4	1	53	42
13	Tynes	VV	16	9	56.3	2	2	58	39
14	Gano	YOR	8	6	75	2	1	50	34
15	Kaeding	SC	10	7	70	2	0	44	28
16	Gostkowski	CHP	7	5	71.4	2	0	45	25
17	Rayner	CHP	4	4	100	0	0	30	20
18	Buehler	SC	1	0	0	0	0	0	4

INTERCEPTIONS

		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			
1	Williams, T	COW	3	45	15	30	1	11	Bullitt	CHP	2	99	49.5	76	1
2	Godfrey	COW	3	45	15	38	1	12	Atogwe	PIC	2	60	30	60	1
3	Rodgers-Crom	DTL	3	91	30.3	37	1	13	Maualuga	VV	2	84	42	71	0
4	Tillman	MAR	3	70	23.3	43	0	14	Haden	PIC	2	66	33	52	1
5	Winfield	MAR	3	58	19.3	34	1	15	Peppers	CHI	2	0	0	0	0
6	Cason	PIC	3	26	8.7	26	0	16	Talib	CHI	2	72	36	55	1
7	Polamalu	GWG	3	27	9	14	0	17	Moore, W	DVU	2	0	0	0	0
8	McCourty	DTL	2	14	7	14	0	18	Clements	DVU	2	2	1	2	0
9	Florence	YOR	2	20	10	20	0	19	Matthews, C	DVU	2	122	61	77	1
10	Thomas, T	COW	2	37	18.5	37	1	20	Moore, R	DVU	2	19	9.5	19	0

SACKS

1	Matthews, C	DVU	7	8	Tuck	SBE	5	15	Hampton	GWG	4
2	Woodley	SBE	7	9	Cole, T	MAR	5	16	Mathis, R	GWG	4
3	Edwards, R	PIC	6	10	Umenyiora	LAK	4	17	Williams,D	GWG	4
4	Ware, D	DVU	6	11	Vanden Bos	PIC	4	18	Kelly, T	YOR	3
5	Abraham	CHP	5	12	Suh	SBE	4	19	Dunlap	VV	3
6	Allen, J	DTL	5	13	Suggs	SBE	4	20	Sheard	PIC	3
7	Houston, L	DTL	5	14	Harrison, J	CHI	4	21	Liuget	ICC	3



AROUND THE EFL



With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – It's been a busy week, my friends, analyzing charts, scouring scouting reports, watching video, and reviewing media reports from across the continent; all this effort so that I, Professor McChad, can deliver to you an accurate, non-biased, trustworthy and easy-to-understand mid-term evaluation of the EFL Student Body. It has been even more challenging due to a recurrence of my medical issue – a nearly debilitating bout of Healthy Urban Lung Disease (HULD) which has burdened me with a severe cough and restless sweaty nights. My ailment has prompted Millicent to set up her kitchen like a production line for churning out homemade chicken soup. It tastes great but, as I watch her fill dozens of mason jars with this healing broth, I wonder who else must be sick in the building. If she expects me to finish it all up "like a good boy" (I wish she'd stop saying that!) she has another thing coming.

Anyway, there is a lot of ground to cover and only so much time and space. Before we look at the Report Cards, let's take a quick tour of Week Eight in the EFL:

TIM TEBOW AND THE DINOS

Some of the smarmier media outlets are now referring to Durham as '*Tim Tebow and the Dinos.*' Durham is no longer *Philip Rivers'* team and that might be a good thing for the fragile psyche of the Thunder Lizards' full-time quarterback. Like a cross between an opening act and a stage hand, Rivers now does the heavy-lifting, with little fanfare, and Tebow steps on the field to grab the accolades. This week, in a 41-17 drubbing of the critically wounded Regulators, Tebow took the stage and performed his classic bootleg to great applause, then followed up with his rendition of a rare, and daring, long pass; both acts were good for Durham touchdowns and brought favourable reviews from most critics. However, Anti-Tebowites (and there are many) are calling for an asterisk to be placed next to that play as it came against a decimated South Carolina secondary that featured line-backers in deep coverage. "Hey, they're professional football players!" Tebow responded, seemingly unmoved by the criticism.

THE TWELFTH WHAT?

The "Twelfth Man" in Markham is no man. It is a "she" of the species *Valde Pinguis Humanus*, and it came to the Dawg Pound to be a force in Week 8. After several weeks of relatively low-key belching and farting and only one "mess" that had to be cleaned up by staff during the game, the **Fat Lady** returned in full corpulence to lend her crushing weight behind the Markham effort against a team many still believe to be the best in the EFL.

The showdown between **Darrin Jones** and his second cousin twice removed, "Jonesy," wearing the head coach's hat in Scarborough, was a mismatch on paper of grand proportions. The Stars' best overall player, **Trent Cole**, would be riding the pine with the Blue Eagles. The **Fat Lady** sensed that her help was needed, so she woke up in Row 54 the morning of game day and immediately began her preparations. After undergoing a medically-supervised enema administered by a City of Markham waterworks crew, the 'Pigskins' (the Fat Lady's game day helpers) began the difficult task of 'delivering the beans' – a precision process that involves funnelling the contents of four cases of deep-brown baked beans into the Fat Lady's digestive tract as quickly as possible while enabling her to breathe frequently enough to maintain consciousness. By 11:00 am this task had been accomplished and the slowly building internal gasses were already beginning to create expansion. By 1:00 pm, the Fat Lady would be at "game size" and primed for explosiveness.

After a brief break and the 30-minute job of working the Fat Lady into her **Mark Sanchez** jersey, she began 'receiving the pepperoni,' great lengths of it, in an unbroken link that stretched the length of a first down and more. When she could take no more (a purely symbolic gesture indicating her preference for something else, as her pepperoni limit has never been empirically measured), she cleansed her palate with 2 litres of 'Diet Coke' and immediately commenced the 'reaping of the corn' ritual, a power-snack consisting of two garbage bags full of jalapeno nachos with zesty sour cream dip. By 12:30 she was ready for action and started right in with a standard verbal haranguing of the visiting team as they warmed up. Not too many people can get away with calling **Ahtyba Rubin**, "skinny," but the Fat Lady revelled in calling him that, as well as "weakling," "dork," and "poindexter" to visible effect on the Blue Eagles big defensive tackle.

During the game, the Fat Lady's catcalls were being mimicked by the crowd. Her berating of **Aaron Rodgers**

was so loud, persistent and viscerally frightening, that the Network picked up a sound bite from the field microphone that announcer, **Dan Fouts** could not avoid commenting on, attributing it to Rodgers calling a timeout. "I can't say I blame Rodgers for calling timeout there, Ian. I think I might have done the same." Fouts was referring to the loudest part of two-minute rant at the Blue Eagles quarterback that ended with, "I WANT TO EAT YOUR BAAAALLLZZZZ!"

Everyone agreed that the Fat Lady was in top form for this game, much like her beloved North Stars, who took a 14-10 lead on their opening possession of the second half to stun the football world. By then, however, people were beginning to notice something different about this particular performance by Markham's biggest fan. While TV viewers remained oblivious, stadium security officials were frantically trying to locate the source of an apparent gas leak on the stadium grounds. They found it in the Fat Lady's section, where the 'Pigskins' and a few of her better-prepared neighbours had donned gas masks in order to endure the toxic fumes emanating from the Fat Lady's back end. This foul stench was much more potent than the usual stink wafting up from her hindquarters, but she appeared unconscious of it. The beer was dulling her senses while building up the pressure.

With Markham trying to hang on to their lead in the 4th quarter, the 'Pigskins' brought out a giant orange plastic stadium horn, about 9 feet long with a flared bell about two feet in diameter, then spent some time and effort to lodge it in a place deep inside the Fat Lady's folds beneath her. Members of the crowd paused to watch her with curiosity, their attention drawn by a sudden sharp outburst from Row 54, "HEY, BE CAREFUL WITH THAT, YOU CARELESS, F%#&KERS! IT HURTS!"

After **Sebastien Janikowski's** 43-yard field goal brought the Blue Eagles within a point, a distorted blare of the trumpet rocked the Dawg Pound without warning. It was a strange sound – part bass trumpet, part.....*something else*. Even the Fat Lady looked surprised; then amused, with herself. "OOPS, WAS THAT ME?" she yelled out in mock modesty. After the excitement of **Stefan Logan's** 31-yard kick return, a sudden flurry of notes fluttered staccato-like from the wide bell of the horn, causing some of the players to look up into the stands in bafflement. "OH DEAR! THAT WAS QUITE RUDE! SORRY EVERYONE!" the Fat Lady giggled, her face flush with pride. The smell that immediately followed caused fainting, vomiting and a mad rush to the exits in nearby sections; however, the worst was yet to come.

The Blue Eagles forced a punt and **DeSean Jackson** broke a big return, good for 61 yards to the Markham 22 yard line and putting them in field goal range before they had even run a play from scrimmage. After gaining just 8 yards, the Blue Eagles lined up for the go-ahead field goal. The Fat Lady suddenly started barking orders to her helpers; "GIRLS, I FEEL IT COMING, HELP ME AIM THIS THING!" The 'Pigskins' snapped into action and set themselves up three on each side to hold the trumpet in place. As Janikowski lined up, the Fat Lady could be heard barking, "A FOOT HIGHER, OKAY A LITTLE TO THE RIGHT, TOO FAR, BACK A BIT, OKAY LOWER, OKAY THAT'S IT, HOLD IT THERE!?" As holder, **Dustin Colquitt** barked signals, a low flatulent note began sounding across the field as the Fat Lady gritted her teeth. The sound built up quickly and, as the ball was snapped, it suddenly exploded in an awful blast that caused about half of the crowd to actually lift their eyes from the field to find the source. With that horrendous note from the horn also came a concentrated stream of noxious fecal matter composed of beans, pepperoni and corn chips aimed directly at the spot of Colquitt's hold. Janikowski stepped forward and launched the kick a mere second before a cascade of raw sewage splattered on the field, thoroughly covering him and his holder. Blinded and panicking, Janikowski never saw his kick split the uprights to give his team the lead.

"F%#&!! TOO LATE!" screeched a suddenly deflated Fat Lady. Then, more quietly, "*Okay girls, get this f#\$% en horn out of my ass!*"

PILLOW FIGHT

A first half pillow fight between the Spartans and the Mustangs turned into more of a food fight in the second half. Oh, who am I kidding - a food fight would have been a lot more entertaining. **Matt Cassel** was knocked out of the game on Pickering's first series – the only useful thing the Mustangs defence managed to do all day – and the glimmer of hope for a Garland upset it presented hung in the air until early in the 2nd quarter. Facing 4th and 1 at the Pickering one yard line in a scoreless game, the slightly scatter-brained offensive geniuses on the Garland side line got together and elected to follow the crowd's desire to GO for it. What had sounded like GO on the sideline, however, was actually a resounding chorus of NO, as fans, desperate to see any kind of scoring, demanded the sure thing over what would be, almost certainly, another fourth down failure.

Fixed with an affected Patton-like gaze of determination, **Doug Shirley** sent in the play to **Matt Ryan**. The play, a short slant to **Wes Welker**, would have worked like a charm if Welker had not been trying to position himself in the middle of a throng of line-backers and safeties charging the middle of the line trying to stop the anticipated running play. The pass glanced off a Spartan helmet prompting an unmistakable chorus of demoralizing boos to rain down on the field at The Corral. With **Joe Webb** behind centre it was back to 1920's football for Pickering and the Mustangs responded as they usually do, with their 'Swiss 4-3,' a formation that has one advantage: hedging your bets when you are unsure what the opposition is up to. When you know exactly what the opposition is going to do, however, it is the lesser of several far superior options. It was just

a miserable day for Garland while the sun seemed to shine up the you-know-what's of **Gus Konstantinos'** gleaming band of ersatz warriors. Webb got credit for a 58-yard TD pass when **Anquan Boldin** grabbed a pass behind the line of scrimmage in the flat and charged through the flat-footed Mustangs 'D' for the game's only touchdown in a 13-0 Pickering win. Despite throwing for 300+ yards and out-gaining their opponent by 70 yards overall, the Mustangs managed to come away with a big fat "0" on their side of the score column. 'Air Shirley' took flight once more with turbo engines blazing as Ryan attempted 50 passes; but when a pair of seagulls named Haden and Barber flew into the turbines it was all over for *Flight 0* out of Garland and it crashed into a scoreless wilderness. The running game gained an insignificant 18 yards and, to add insult to injury, the Mustangs were penalized 10 times to zero for the Spartans.

MANNING-BASHING

The Pats got shutout at LA this week, 27-0 in a low-grade blowout I am going to blame on **Peyton Manning**. With the LA offence taking the first half off, Manning responded with a fumble to kill one promising drive; then, backed up at his 17 with less than 2 minutes remaining in the first half, he performed like a master of the '2-minute drill' in moving his team all the way to the Knights' red zone for an almost guaranteed field goal. With 7 seconds left, Coach, **Jay Findlay** thought he would give his savvy vet one shot at the end zone from 18 yards out - an ambitious plan, even for Manning, but doable. But Manning hung on to the ball too long looking for a receiver then checked down to **Jason Avant** for a 5-yard pick-up as time expired. Brutal! Without an offence, LA still managed to score the only points of the first half when **Eric Weems** returned a **Jason Baker** punt 76 yards for a touchdown. When you are 8-0 everything tends to fall into place, even on a bad day. Manning topped his day of failure with a hideous throw straight into the arms of **Stanford Routt** to open the 4th quarter and set up a chip shot field goal felt a lot like the final nail for the Pats, even though it was just 13-0 at that point. But even that field goal turned out to be unnecessary as the Pats posted a goose egg.

SURRENDER

Chino's return to 500 with a 28-14 win over Mohave was a really good game until the last 8 minutes. **Cam Newton** had broken a 14-14 tie with an exciting 19-yard bootleg for the go-ahead TD early in the 4th quarter. The Convicts then took advantage of a 14-yard return by **Josh Cribbs** on a short punt by **Ben Graham** to drive for another TD at the mid-way point of the 4th, giving them a two-touchdown advantage. Obviously the situation did not look good for 1-7 Mohave at that point, but apparently it looked so bad to **Bobby Elder** that he wanted nothing more to do with the competitive part of this contest. When Mohave got the ball back, instead of mounting a rally, **Daniel Thomas** got the call to dive three consecutive times into the Chino line, gaining a total of 8 yards, and the Hellfire punted without fanfare. An interception by **Champ Bailey** on Chino's next possession set Mohave up on their own side of mid-field but that was still not enough to prompt the choleric Mohave coach to attempt a comeback. Instead, Elder tore and crumpled up pages from his playbook and tossed them at his assistants, camera-operators and, of course, the water boy, while Thomas continued to dive in suicidal fashion into the heart of the league's most impenetrable front four. One might wonder if Thomas had done something to warrant this punishment or perhaps Elder was just initiating the rookie into the EFL by forcing him to publicly run the gauntlet. Watching **Haloti Ngata** take his sweet time to lift himself off of a prostrate and terrified Thomas made me think that, whatever the reason, it was a perverse one.

MANNING-BASHING II

Given three minutes to execute a "two-minute drill," **Eli Manning** turned out to be a little too cool under pressure in falling one yard short of an impressive late comeback in Virden's 28-24 loss against the Cubs. Working the ground and air game equally, Eli brought his team from its 17 yard line into Cubs' territory and set them up with a fresh set of downs at the 27 with 42 seconds left and 2 timeouts remaining. After a pair of runs totalling 15 yards at a cost of 20 seconds, the ball was at the 12 yard line with the clock running. After an incomplete pass Virden faced 2nd and 10 at the 12 yard line with 11 seconds left. The next play - a medium hitch to **Owen Daniels**, took too long to develop and when Eli finally got the ball off, he threw it short of the goal line complete to Daniels, who tried to force his way into the end zone instead of going down. When he was finally brought down, at the one yard line, there was slightly more than 1 second remaining on the clock; but by the time Eli got the referee's attention to call timeout, time had expired. Perhaps due to a combination of frustration and embarrassment, Barrate placed the blame squarely on the stadium clock itself, calling it inaccurate. *"There's no way that took 11 seconds! I counted 7 at most. Of course, I'm not watching the clock while I'm watching the play on the field, but somebody has to be watching, right? Oh, let me guess, it was an official from the HOME team, right? No wonder there's no interest in reviewing this properly. I know this is another time zone, but that doesn't mean the seconds are shorter!"*

The clock controversy tended to over-shadow the fact that this was a second late comeback by the Cubs in as many weeks, with this one ending in the 'WIN' column. The Violators controlled the game in the first half and could have put it away in the third quarter after **Kareem Jackson**'s pick of **Sam Bradford**; but Manning surrendered his league-high 19th interception trying to take advantage his own defence's interception, and that seemed to turn the game around for Iowa City. **Arian Foster** and the amazing **Mike Wallace** took over for the Cubs' offence and the score was suddenly tied by early in the 4th quarter. By late in the final frame they were leading by 4 and parrying, ducking and weaving to ward off a stubborn Virden counter-punch.

RUN FOR YOUR JOB!

Facing criticism from all quarters except his mother (and even she was upset that he missed calling her on her birthday), **Ben Roethlisberger** felt like he was playing for his job as the Gladiators took the field in Week 8 to face the upstart Corn Kings on their home field. An opening interception to **Derrick Johnson** leading to an early Cowtown touchdown was not the way he wanted to start. Throughout the first half he looked nervous and uncertain, completing just 6 passes – the longest for 11 yards. But in the second half he came through in the red zone for a pair touchdown passes that had his team still in it, down 26-21, with 2 minutes left to play. With an assist to **Leodis McKelvin**, whose unexpected interception of **Joe Flacco** in Cowtown territory provided the opportunity, Ben took over at the 44 with 2:02 left. A 3-yard run by **LeSean McCoy** and two incomplete passes set up 4th and 7 at the Cowtown 41 with the game on the line. The Corn Kings deployed six defensive backs and dared Ben to pass. He tried, and saw no white shirts open; but he did see plenty of open space and, to the surprise of the defence, he took off running. He passed the first down marker and kept going, not too quickly, but powerfully; as under-sized Corn King defensive backs bounced off him. Looking at one point like he might go all the way, he suddenly slid at the 5 yard line to avoid a charging **Ryan Kerrigan**. Two plays later he delivered a bulls-eye to **Reggie Wayne** in the end zone for his third TD pass of the day and the game-winner. It was a great finish and, I admit, I felt good for a guy who has, rightly or wrongly, borne more than his share of criticism since he entered the league. But I see why people who follow him every day have less sympathy. In the post-game, Big Ben behaved as if there had never been any reason to doubt his leadership and took a shot at his own coach for benching him: *"I did today what I know I can do for this team. People doubted me, people benched me, people said I should look for another job, but where are those people now? They're afraid to stand up and say anything because they know they're wrong! I never gave up on myself and I never will."* That's good for Ben, but he still has a long way to go to show "people" he is the right leader for a Championship-calibre Gwinnett team that has bigger tests ahead in 2011.

THE LATEST FAD

It was another shootout in Death Valley in Week 8 as York became the third team to hang 30 or more points on the 'Fearsome Foursome' this year in handing them their third loss, 35-30. Apart from a rumour that **Tom Brady** secretly checked into rehab after reaching the low point of his career against Markham in Week 7, the most obvious reason for the sudden rebirth of the Excalibur offence is the return of **Darren McFadden**. Although that makes it sound as if York's running stud was injured, he was, in fact, lost on the bench and in the game plan for the previous 4 weeks while technicians wearing lab coats ran live tests on Brady and the ailing passing game. A junior strength coach in the York gym is credited with having provided the experts with the solution when one such expert overheard him saying to a colleague, "*why don't they just run the f&^%en ball like every other half-decent f\$#%en team?*" Whether it was the tactical use of the expletive that helped get the message across, or the mention of the verb "run" simply twigged long-forgotten knowledge, the heavy dose of ground game, that became the centerpiece of the York strategy against the Undertakers, provided much-needed support for the air attack and led to the best overall offensive performance of the Swords all year.



Professor McChad's

EFL Mid-Term Report

It is that time again. A time for teams and the people who watch them to reflect on where they are. Have they progressed? Have they fallen behind? Are they on target to achieve their goals? Will remedial work be required? How can they improve? Blah, blah, blah...it's like being back in school and I hated school (except for the Frat part). Anyway, school is more fun when you play teacher for a day. I don my professor's hat as I undertake the solemn task of evaluating the EFL teams at the half-way point of the season.

CHARLESWOOD [B-] – This is a team with the weapons to emerge as the PAC candidate in the final but the Pats barely look like a playoff team at the moment. I have given them credit for leading their Division, beating the teams they are supposed to beat, and for earning a clutch win on the road against Gwinnett.; but in their three losses they have looked like a team with a first round exit in their playoff future, turning the ball over 9 times to 1 takeaway in those contests. Several key injuries have played a role, which is a mitigating factor, but they have also not got the most out of their players – Shaun Phillips still does not have a sack and Peyton Manning is sharing space with Sam Bradford near the bottom of the QB rankings. When Ed Reed returns the defence should raise its game. Let's hope Peyton will raise his as well.

CHINO [B] – Third place in the West with a playoff berth in hand would have been an optimistic prognosis at the beginning of the season, so Rob Nazar must be happy with his team right now. The defence is performing as advertized, maybe a touch better, while the offence has vaulted from dead last to 13th in the rankings since Cam Newton took over at QB. The Convicts lose marks for sticking as long as they did with Cutler when he was clearly unable to do the most basic things to lead his team; but they get full credit for having the nerve to switch to the rookie. Now, they are in his hands. As long as he performs, the *Great Wall of Chino* can keep Chino's playoff hopes alive.

COWTOWN [A] – This mark could be higher based on what we thought we knew of the Corn Kings before the season started, but I like to reserve the prestigious A-plus for perfection. What we thought we knew could have been wrong, or what we are seeing is a prolonged wave of serendipitous choices by the coach that have just "clicked" in the moment, or, in other words, *luck*. Much has gone right for Cowtown but the

most important is that they lead the league with 15 takeaways while giving it away just six. Their defensive backs have made 11 interceptions (their line-backers 2 more) making the Corn King secondary a dangerous place. Unexpected bonuses include the top QB-WR scoring threat in the league and a workhorse running back. If this keeps up, Durham could easily find itself out of the playoffs.

DEATH VALLEY [B] – Now appears the “special student,” with that curious mix of ingenuity and imbecility in constant conflict to see which impulse will rule the team. The bottom line suggests that the Undertakers are doing quite well at 5-3 with sole possession of 2nd place in the hot stove West Division. The question I like to ask my potential high-performers, is: “could you have done *better*?” I give Worthley marks for getting offensive production despite a moribund running game, while I dock marks for allowing a defence with 4 All-Pro calibre line-backers to be ranked last in the league. Sure they have 15 takeaways, but they’ve also given up 211 *points!* Only SC is worse.

DURHAM [B] – Compared with projections, the Thunder Lizards are over-performing in most areas, especially on defence; but they are falling behind where we thought they’d be in the most important area: wins-and-losses. There is also the question of the quarterback play. Recent success has not erased the lack of confidence in Philip Rivers, which opened the door to situational appearances by Tim Tebow in the first place. The theory is, keep Rivers out of the red zone and he won’t fumble the ball or throw an interception. While the current arrangement seems to be working, is it sustainable, and, if not, will Rivers’ confidence survive the hit its taking and make him serviceable in the post-season? For now, what looked like a listing ship early in the voyage is righted again and sailing for calmer weather.

GARLAND [D-] – The patient and loyal fans in Garland are beginning to show signs of fatigue and stress as another pointless season reaches the half-way mark in the 2011 EFL race. The Mustangs have averaged less than 10 points per game and that puts them comfortably at the bottom of league. This season looks like a mirror image of 2010, when a mediocre defence played over its head to keep its incompetent offence in games. Their maverick approach in 2011 is to construct game plans that defy the weakness of the offensive line and leave their quarterback exposed to pressure. No wonder Matt Ryan is the most sacked QB in the league and among the least accurate.

GWINNETT [B] – The Glads have had a frustrating start with injuries to key players and this has caused some problems in a couple of close losses outside their Division. The offence is performing despite volatility at the QB position and the defence is still making it tough for opponents to gain ground. They are tied with Scarborough, which is a plus; but while the situation is pretty good in Gwinnett overall, I can’t help holding them to a higher standard. This team should be setting the pace, not following it.

IOWA CITY [B-] – With Arian Foster and Mike Wallace in the line-up, the Cubs’ offence is chewing up real estate; but a penchant for giving the ball away is affecting the conversion into points. The Cubs are being held back by their defence, which is surrendering yards at nearly the same pace their offence is gaining them. With their personnel this should not be happening and, while injuries have played a role, if it continues in the second half they will be a 500 team at best in a Division where a winning record will be needed to advance.

LOS ANGELES [A+] – Being at the top of the West Division is no surprise, but being a perfect 8-0 is one. A hot quarterback to start the season and a defence that has not let up since experiencing some difficulties in Week One are the main reasons no team has celebrated yet after playing the Knights. All Jeff Dohrn can do is hold the line, monitor for change, and see how far this team can take him.

MARKHAM [B+] – Another effort mark for Darrin Jones. This is a really bad team with no business being in the WIN column as often as they have; but after narrowly missing out on a 4-4 record at half season by losing by 2 points to Scarborough, I have to give him and his team some serious credit with a grade normally reserved for a play-off calibre team. If I were marking the pre-season, it would be a different story, but that’s another column.

MOHAVE [C-] – Inconsistent effort by the players, erratic coaching and plain old bad luck have come together to make this version of the Hellfire the worst I have ever seen. So why is the mark not in the ‘D’ range, you might be wondering. I am adjusting for the fact that they play their games in an uninhabitable hell hole and have close relatives of Satan among the team’s ownership group. Helping out the progeny of somebody who might someday be making a very, very, important decision about me doesn’t hurt anyone else and might really help *me*.

PICKERING [A] – This edition of the Spartans is not the same terrifying group of psychotics that ruled with a bronze fist over the North Division in 2010, but it is still good enough for top seed in the Conference after 8 games. The play of the line has enabled the offence to compensate for some spotty play at QB while the defence is holding opponents at bay by taking the ball away and staying relatively healthy. They have not hit the hardest part of their schedule yet, so the rosy picture may change in the second half, but for now, ‘*Sparta!*’ is Grade A.

SCARBOROUGH [C+] – Yes, I realize that the standard set in previous years for this team is impossibly high to meet in a year when competition is more evenly and broadly distributed at the top end, but there has to be *some* accountability for their overall low rankings across the board. What should be a top-three defence is rated 10th; while a respectable offence with one of the league’s most talented quarterbacks is ranked a disgraceful 14th. I don’t know what the answer is (which makes it difficult to mark the paper, *I know*) but I know when the current answer is wrong. I give them a passing grade because the coach is new and they hold the tie-breaker over Gwinnett.

SOUTH CAROLINA [PASS] – Eight games into the season and I have just briefly glimpsed the whole team in action. Major, and frequent, injuries have made evaluating the Regulators a guessing game. Very soon we will see what the better version of this team has in store for playoff hopefuls, but for now, I am marking Hal Corson’s crew, ‘ABSENT DUE TO ILLNESS.’

VIRDEN [B-] – Despite some impressive efforts to keep games manageable, and winnable, by limiting yards surrendered and assembling crafty and resourceful offensive drives with few resources, Virden’s -15 turnover ratio is the roundhouse kick to the chops that is keeping this team down at 2-6. They have also been badly bitten by the injury bug, but the difference between them and South Carolina is that a lot of their starters are indistinguishable from the back-ups and they’ve managed to keep their QB healthy – although he, ironically, is the principal reason for the takeaway deficit. Like Darrin Jones, Lance Barrate receives an effort mark in recognition of the burden of his team.

YORK [C-] – Like the student who suddenly understands the problem 10 minutes before the proctor signals time, the York brain trust finally appeared to have had their ‘eureka moment’ in Week 8 against Death Valley. That’s nice for York, but I can’t overlook the fact that it took their coach 7 weeks to realize that one of the most talented running backs in the league just might hold the key to his team’s offence. How much damage has been done to York’s playoff hopes is yet to be determined, but there can be no more losing to the likes of Virden or Markham if the Swords plan to exploit their weaker schedule against their wildcard competition in the West.

BUG THE BOOKIE!

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



JIMMY'S WEEK NINE PICKS

MARKHAM @ CHARLESWOOD (line – PATS by 7)

These teams are in opposite spaces emotionally coming into this game. Markham has to be feeling positive after scoring 50 points in the last two games and winning one of those on the road, and nearly knocking off the Blue Eagles, while Charleswood must be reeling from consecutive losses and being summarily shutout at Los Angeles last week. Darrin Jones, the **AMAZING ABSORBING MAN**, must be careful not to take on too much of the dark aura currently infusing this Patriot team, which, for the seventh straight week, will be missing its veteran leader, Ed Reed. The Pats need a win as much for morale as for the standings, and will not be taking the North Stars lightly. Markham will bring a shrewd game plan and another gritty effort, but being far from the bizarro world of *The Dawg Pound*, without the Fat Lady's greasy voodoo, I think the **AMAZING ABSORBING MAN** takes on too much of Patriots' recent angst and the Pats get their win – comfortably. **PICK: CHARLESWOOD**

MOHAVE @ DURHAM (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 11)

The Thunder Lizards can pick-and-choose how they want to attack a Mohave defence that has not performed up to even modest expectations so far this season. The Hellfire defensive line continues to get pushed around and this is having a ripple effect on the next two levels of the unit, causing breakdowns at critical times. All this equals opportunity for Tim Tebow and his assistant Philip Rivers to add to a gradually improving stat sheet for the Durham offence. On the plus side, the Mohave offence is showing gradual improvement from week-to-week after a rough start. Their offensive line is banged up, which is exciting news to Jared Allen, and dynamic running back Chris Ivory is out; but Matt Schaub has his full complement of receivers at hand to put some points on the board. Durham is in a commanding position to win, but the 11-point spread is a little too thick. **PICK: MOHAVE**

VIRDEN @ PICKERING (line – SPARTANS by 8)

The ‘questionable’ status of Matt Cassel heading into this game makes all the difference in picking a winner against the spread here. Joe Webb is not ready to be a starter in this league. Having established that, it must also be noted that if he were forced to start, the Violators in their current state are probably the best opponent that Spartan coach, Gus Konstantakos, could hope for. Virden’s defence is withered by injuries, with 10 players on the sick list. Not overly strong to begin with, Lance Barrate had been using them well, but there is a limit to expectations now that second and third stringers are seeing the field with regularity. On the other side, the Spartans defence is healthy and ready to intercept Eli Manning. It will happen, at least once, so wait for it. If Cassel goes, the situation will be bleak for Virden; but if Webb goes, the inevitable outcome will take a little longer to decide. **PICK: PICKERING**

YORK @ COWTOWN (line – CORN KINGS by 8)

The emergence of Darren McFadden last week in York’s 35-30 win over Death Valley has significant implications for this game. Last week the Excaliburs used the run to set up the pass – the way it used to happen in the old days – and found they could not be stopped en route to 28 first downs, 432 yards total offence, and a perfect five-

for-five in trips to the red zone. Continuing that game plan is the key to a victory over the Corn Kings, a team that has had early success partly because of premature challenges to their top-grade secondary. Cowtown is coming off a heart-breaking loss to Gwinnett and is aiming to rebound; but having rediscovered the strength of their offence, the Excaliburs no longer look like easy-pickings. Injuries are not a significant factor for either team, although Aaron Kampman continues to be missed, so it will be a straight on head-butting between these two squads. I think York is just at the beginning of a sustained rebound from an awful start. **PICK: YORK**

CHINO @ GWINNETT (line – GLADIATORS by 6)

Cam Newton has balanced the equation for Chino with four straight victories after a 0-4 start under Jay Cutler. This week he faces another crucial stage in the test of his leadership on the road against a Gwinnett team that can finally boast a completely healthy secondary. That means the ball-hawking Asante Samuel is back in action and due caution should be exercised in the passing game. Newton is best to view this as an opportunity to use his legs to achieve what his arm cannot. The Gladiators finally got a win out of Big Ben and he got it with his legs more than his arm. This week he will need to find his arm on a more consistent basis as big running performances are unlikely against the ‘Great Wall of Chino,’ a group that has held opponents to just 2.6 yards per carry on the ground. With Gwinnett forced to pass and Chino forced to run, the difference may end up being who can beat the other’s strength first. I’ll take the passing team in this one with the points. **Pick: GWINNETT**

LOS ANGELES @ SOUTH CAROLINA (line – KNIGHTS by 9)

With Williams-Brice Stadium looking more like a field hospital these days than a sports centre, it is easy to pick the Knights to romp over the 1-7 Regulators. But that would be too easy, especially for this column. With the task of finding all the angles and picking the most relevant, I concede that the most relevant angles point to a South Carolina thrashing at the hands of the league’s only unbeaten team. With Tracy Porter questionable and Sam Shields out, it is quite possible that Javier Arenas and Shareece Wright will line up across from Roddy White and Steve Smith to start the game. Ugh! However, a close examination of the injury list just released from Columbia shows possible relief in the form of Frank Gore (questionable) and Austin Collie (doubtful) for this game. If either or both find a way back on to the field, I believe Jason Campbell has the ability to use them well, and that could mean surprising push-back from this apparent South Division patsy. **Pick: LOS ANGELES**

DEATH VALLEY @ SCARBOROUGH (line – BLUE EAGLES by 2)

Darrelle Revis is out, but won’t be as severely missed as he would be if Death Valley’s star receiver Andre Johnson were no longer languishing on the sidelines with a foot injury. The Undertakers lost Brett Keisel last week, likely for the season, and that is bad news for the league’s lowest ranked defence. Scarborough has been struggling to move the ball most of the year, but Aaron Rodgers will find opportunities to move the chains if his offensive line can hold off the ‘Fearsome Foursome’ – a task less daunting than advertised these days. Darth Vader is apparently struggling to devise effective defensive schemes that don’t involve obliterating the opposing left tackle with a death ray. When Death Valley has the ball it will be on Drew Brees to get the job done and even he will find it tough against a defence like this, built to punish. **PICK: SCARBOROUGH**

IOWA CITY @ GARLAND (line – CUBS by 4)

The Cubs have the two most exciting skill position players in the league to lead both phases of the attack. Arian Foster is just 13 yards short of 1,000 rushing for the season after only 8 games. Mike Wallace is averaging an eye-popping 26.2 yards per reception and has caught more passes of 25+ yards (18) than Garland’s third wide receiver has catches. With Malcolm Jenkins and Patrick Willis back for the Cubs’ defence, the odds of this game turning into a shootout at the Corral drop like a rock. The Cubs are better than their record while the Mustangs have earned theirs. **Pick: IOWA CITY**

EFL FOCUS

A weekly tour of Media from around the EFL. This week we focus on.....

SCARBOROUGH



THE SCARBERIAN



Mike Myers is a reporter for 'The Scarberian,' a journal dedicated to promoting the City of Scarborough in its goal of becoming a world class business and entertainment centre. Any resemblance to the actor, Mike Myers, is suspicious, but purely coincidental.

EAGLES SURVIVE DAWG POUND

SCARBOROUGH - After becoming an EFL fan watching late night public access TV and, being in my hometown Scarborough to promote my new movie "Sexy Me," I decided to take in the rivalry game between Scarborough and Markham with my good buddy Garth Algar. Being a big time movie star I figured we would score premium seats but the Markham owner put us in the press box beside a couple of toothless chilli eating fat bastards who were actually sports reporters and told us that you can put anything in the paper and people will still read it so I'm putting it to the test. These are my words with 1 or 2 from Garth.

Scarborough went up 7-0 on a long drive to end the 1st quarter, schwing..(garth's word) with a key play being a 4th and inches from their own 26. Scarborough's sideline was distracted at this moment by what appeared to be a donkey running around but was in fact international man of mystery Austin Powers nude, slapping the asses of the cheerleaders yelling "oh behave". This caused Aaron Rodgers to do a Qb sneak from the shotgun but fortunately he made the 1st down. Markham had no offense going except for the fat bastards who kept asking to pull their fingers but a Desean Jackson punt return fumble and a french guy named Lafell making a catch, Markham tied the score at 7. At this point I fell asleep on Garth's lap..not(garth's word) and woke up at halftime with Scarborough up 10-7.

Markham took the 2nd half kickoff and appeared stalled on their 32 but a running the kicker penalty on fuck.. I mean, Tuck, continued the drive and a sensational medium hitch to Best for a 47 yd TD and Markham goes up 14-10. At this point I was introduced to the crowd which responded as if I was an axe murderer by throwing axes at me, my 2 fat bastard friends also picked these axes up and started chasing me which was of course 1 step, where they fell through the floor and landed conveniently on 2 fat ladies. With Scarborough looking like a junior high team Markham drives the field to Scarborough's 19 but Akers misses the FG and Scarborough drives the field back to kick a 43yd FG to make the score 14-13.

A big sack by Woodley and Jackson making up for his earlier error, returns the punt 61 yds and Janikowski kicks a 32 yd FG to put Scarborough up 16-14, schyea..(garth's word). Both teams exchange possessions and Markham gets the ball back on their 6 with 1:58 left. 2 quick pass receptions moves the ball to the 34 but 2 big penalties in a row snuffs out any hope and Scarborough wins 16-14. So after giving the finger to the fat bastards me and Garth have decided to go to the locker room and celebrate with the blue eagles, party on..(garth's word).

Mike Myers