

WEEK 6



Shooting for the Stars in our 15th Season!

November 14, 2021

GAME WRECKER!



Terry McLaurin
New Jersey Wrecking Balls

Wrecking Balls wide receiver, **Terry McLaurin**, celebrates in the end zone after finishing off a 75-yard catch-and-run with 43 seconds left in the game to upend the Pilots, 23-20. Mere seconds before, Seattle had taken a 20-16 lead and appeared on track to win its first game of 2021. McLaurin's heroics turned the result around. *(Story inside)*

EAST



CENTRAL



WEST



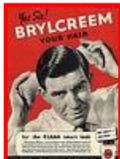
NORTH



COASTAL



SOUTH



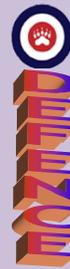
Who was slick
in Week Six?

“Brylcreem” THE
EFL'S FIRST SPONSOR



Clyde
Edwards-Helaire
RB
Twin Cities Triumph

33 car, 210 yds, 2 TDs. Hero in a losing effort, 39 yards shy of record.



Jason Pierre-Paul
OLB
Iowa City
Cubs

12 T, 1 FF, 1 FR(23yds), 1 FG-Bk, 1 XP-Bk Blocked XP & FG saved game.


23

Matt Stafford connected with **Terry McLaurin** for a 75-yard catch-and-run TD with 0:43 left in the 4th to save the day for New Jersey. The Wrecking Balls had jumped out to a 10-0 lead early in the 2nd and led 16-6 on Stafford's dump-off to **J.D. McKissic** for a 22-yard score early in the 4th. However, on the next Seattle possession, **Gardner Minshew II** hit **Hunter Renfrow** for a 39-yard TD to narrow the gap to 16-13. Minshew then took advantage of a **Janoris Jenkins** pick to finish a short drive with a 4-yard TD pass to **Kareem Hunt**, a score that made it 20-16, but the lead lasted just 0:15.

20

11-14-2021 Kingdome Temp:70 Wind:Calm Line:NJ by 1 MVP:Stafford HFA:ON(3)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2021 New Jersey (4-2)	7	3	0	13	23
2021 Seattle (0-6)	0	3	3	14	20

Passing

NJ: Stafford 34/25 321 Yds 3 TDs Int
 SEA: Minshew II 39/28 279 Yds 2 TDs Int

Rushing

NJ: Montgomery 8/29, Gallman Jr. 4/15, McKissic 4/11
 SEA: Akers 20/73, Lamb 1/17, Minshew II 1/11, Hunt 4/6

Receiving

NJ: Allen 7/52 TD, McKissic 7/76 TD, Chark Jr. 5/41, McLaurin 3/95 TD, Hooper 3/57
 SEA: Anderson 9/92, Hunt 6/42 TD, Lamb 5/42, Cole Sr. 3/36, Akers 2/10, Mims 1/8

Defense

NJ: Bradberry Int 14-Tk, Adams 2-Sks 7-Tk, Smith Sk 6-Tk, Cunningham 10-Tk
 SEA: White Sk 5-Tk, Jenkins Int 3-Tk, Murphy-Bunting FF 5-Tk

Injuries

NJ:
 SEA: Jack 1, Brockers 1

Misc

NJ: Boswell 1/1 FG 47 Lg
 SEA: 36:07 TOP, 10 Missed Tk, McPherson 2/2 FG 44 Lg


23

Tre'Davious White intercepted **Teddy Bridgewater** at the Coyote 5-yard line with 0:30 left to preserve his team's 5-point lead and seal the win. The Coyotes established early control on **Ryan Tannehill** TD passes to **Brandin Cooks** and **Jared Cook** in each of the first two quarters, while the Convicts settled for a pair of **Harrison Butker** FGs. Chino vaulted in front 16-14 in the 3rd on **Jakeem Grant's** 62-yard punt return for a TD. Back-to-back Tannehill TD passes, his 3rd and 4th on the day re-established the Coyote lead but a late push by the Convicts came one score and 5 yards short.

28

11-14-2021 Coyote Field Temp:73 Wind:0-10 None Line:CHI by 3 MVP:Tannehill HFA:ON(3)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2021 Chino (4-2)	0	6	10	7	23
2021 Cobb County (4-2)	7	7	7	7	28

Passing

CHI: Bridgewater 31/25 273 Yds TD Int
 CB: Tannehill 31/20 266 Yds 4 TDs Int

Rushing

CHI: Jones II 15/49, Jackson 5/26, Bridgewater 2/15
 CB: Harris 13/65, Peterson 5/15

Receiving

CHI: Gallup 6/89, Jones II 5/24, Patrick 4/53, Byrd 3/14 TD, Hurst 3/38, Jones Jr. 2/37
 CB: Cooks 9/131 2 TDs, Jones 4/69, Cook 3/24 TD, Parker 2/24 TD, Peterson 1/5

Defense

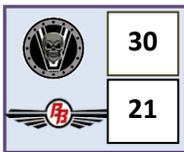
CHI: Johnson Sk 6-Tk, Smith Sk FF 2-Tk, White 10-Tk, Gardner-Johnson Int 5-Tk
 CB: White Int 6-Tk, Joseph Sk FF Tk, Lawrence Sk 3-Tk, Basham 8-Tk, Turner Sk 3-Tk

Injuries

CHI: Prescott 5, McCaffrey 5, Bouye 3, Purcell 3, Carter 1
 CB:

Misc

CHI: Grant 4/100 PR 62 Lg TD, Butker 3/3 FG 43 Lg, Bridgewater 1-F Lost
 CB: Reed 1-FR



A Bomber turnover on downs and a **Shaquill Griffin** interception of **Drew Brees** set up the first two of **Justin Herbert's** 4 TD passes on the day and give Vegas a 14-0 lead. Brees got half back with an 11-yard TD pass to **Chris Godwin** but the Assassins finished off the half with a 2-minute, 67-yard TD drive to regain the two-score edge. After Vegas added a FG to start the 3rd, Brees led Bruxelles back into striking distance with TD passes to **Chase Claypool** and Godwin, but Herbert came back with a 36-yard TD pass to **Mecole Hardman** for an insurance score and their 6th win.

11-14-2021 The Fortress Temp:77 Wind:Calm Line:BRX by 8 MVP:Herbert HFA:ON(3)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2021 Las Vegas (6-0)	7	14	3	6	30
2021 Bruxelles (1-5)	0	7	7	7	21

Passing

LV: Herbert 32/25 284 Yds 4 TDs
 BRX: Brees 30/21 247 Yds 3 TDs 2 Int

Rushing

LV: Cook 16/92, Herbert 5/34
 BRX: Fournette 10/25, Williams 6/21, Mitchell 5/10, Brees 2/3

Receiving

LV: Fitzgerald 7/71, Jeudy 7/98 TD, Graham 4/32, Hardman 4/66 TD, Cook 3/17 2 TDs
 BRX: Godwin 7/109 2 TDs, Claypool 5/76 TD, Williams 3/29, Juszczuk 2/14, Mitchell 2/7

Defense

LV: Griffin Int 4-Tk, Kwiatkoski 9-Tk
 BRX: Fuller 11-Tk, Quinn Sk FF 3-Tk, Slay 10-Tk, Ogbah Sk 5-Tk

Injuries

LV:
 BRX: Wynn 4, Phillips 4

Misc

LV: Lewis 3/92 KR
 BRX: Roberts 4/133 KR



Buffalo kicker, **Jake Elliott** had a rough day, missing all 3 FG attempts and 2 of 3 extra point tries, allowing the Cubs' **Justin Tucker** to eventually put the game away with a 38-yard FG in OT. Elliott missed a 29-yarder in the 3rd then had a 51-yard attempt at the buzzer blocked by **Jason Pierre-Paul** to send the game into OT. The Derailers' got the ball first and drove to the Cubs' 32, where Elliott missed a 50-yarder. The Cubs led 19-7 deep into the 4th before **Lamar Jackson** led his team back to even with a TD run and 20-yard TD to **Robert Woods**, but their kicking woes sunk their comeback.

11-14-2021 Joe Ferguson Stadium Temp:64 Wind:0-10 None Line:BUF by 1 MVP:Wilson

	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
2021 Buffalo (3-3)	7	0	0	12	0	19
2021 Iowa City (3-3)	7	12	0	0	3	22

Passing

BUF: Jackson 43/31 277 Yds TD Int
 ICC: Wilson 30/21 228 Yds 2 TDs Int

Rushing

BUF: Jackson 13/115 2 TDs, Woods 2/16, Davis 6/15, Booker 8/8, Johnson 1/5
 ICC: Carter 12/65, Conner 5/34, McKinnon 7/17, Wilson 4/11

Receiving

BUF: Gage 11/118, Davis 6/23, Woods 6/88 TD, Fant 4/25, Tate 3/25, Booker 1/-2
 ICC: Lockett 8/90 TD, Brown 4/80 TD, Carter 3/17, Beasley 2/20, McKinnon 2/11

Defense

BUF: Sneed Int 6-Tk, Chubb FF 6-Tk
 ICC: Hayward Jr. Int 13-Tk, Pierre-Paul FF 12-Tk, Tomlinson Sk FF 3-Tk

Injuries

BUF: Brown 4, Tartt 4
 ICC:

Misc

BUF: 41:29 TOP, Mercilus 1-FR, Elliott 0/3 FG 1/3 XP
 ICC: 27:59 TOP, Lockett 1-F Lost, Tucker 3/3 FG 38 Lg



Virden struck first when an **Austin Bryant** strip-sack set up a 13-yard TD pass from **Patrick Mahomes** to **John Brown**. The Triumph answered with a 75-yard drive, boosted by a 36-yard run by **Clyde Edwards-Helaire**, that ended in a **Darrel Henderson Jr** 1-yard TD run. Virden took the lead on a 3-yard TD run by **Ezekiel Elliott** then stopped the Triumph on 4th down at their own 27. Virden added a late TD on a 4-play, penalty-assisted 67-yard drive in 0:28 to take a 21-7 halftime lead. Mahomes scrambled for a TD on Virden's 1st series of the 3rd then the 'D' held off a late TC rally for the win.

11-14-2021 Wilhalla Stadium Temp:70 Wind:Calm Line:TCT by 4 MVP:Mahomes HFA:

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2021 Virden (3-3)	7	14	7	0	28
2021 Twin Cities (2-4)	0	7	0	13	20

Passing

VV: Mahomes 23/14 189 Yds 2 TDs
TCT: Trubisky 7/6 55 Yds

Rushing

VV: Elliott 23/70 TD, Mahomes 5/44 TD, Freeman 4/8
TCT: Edwards-Helaire 33/210 2 TDs, Henderson Jr. 17/64 TD, Trubisky 1/10, Gordon III 2/6

Receiving

VV: Elliott 4/38 TD, Hamler 3/49, Chase 3/53, Hockenson 2/18, Brown 1/13 TD
TCT: White 3/6, Moore 2/41, Edwards-Helaire 1/8

Defense

VV: Trevathan 14-Tk, Bryant Sk FF 3-Tk
TCT: Barmore Sk 6-Tk, Sweat Sk 4-Tk, Wagner 9-Tk

Injuries

VV: Ximines 7, Johnson 7, Atkins 7, Bryant 7, Barr 6, Hooker 6, Osemele 6
TCT: Brown 7, Golladay 5, Gordon III 1

Misc

VV: Trevathan 1-FR
TCT: Trubisky 1-F Lost



DeShaun Watson capped a 9-play, 75-yard drive with a 6-yard hitch to **Amari Cooper** for a TD to give the Pats a 17-10 lead late in the 2nd. That score would hold up as the Crusaders managed just one FG the rest of the way. The Crusaders started well, scoring on the game's opening drive on a 9-yard TD pass from **Mac Jones** to **Laviska Shenault**. The Pegs' 'D' played stoutly throughout, keeping the powerful Pats' attack from running away. However, clock mismanagement at the end of the 1st half and many 3rd & longs kept the offence down and allowed the Pats to escape with the win.

11-14-2021 Patriot Place Temp:75 Wind:Calm Line:CHP by 10 MVP:Watson HFA:ON

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2021 Peg City (0-6)	7	3	3	0	13
2021 Charleswood (5-1)	7	10	0	5	22

Passing

PCC: Jones 42/25 324 Yds TD
CHP: Watson 28/18 254 Yds 2 TDs

Rushing

PCC: Jones 4/34, Bell 7/17, Hubbard 4/15
CHP: Dobbins 7/48, Kamara 13/41, Watson 2/16, Hill 2/3

Receiving

PCC: Bell 7/46, Higbee 6/99, Shenault Jr. 5/23 TD, Aiyuk 4/98, Sutton 1/14
CHP: Cooper 5/51 TD, Kamara 4/61, Kelce 4/49 TD, Smith-Schuster 2/40, Metcalf 2/36

Defense

PCC: Owusu-Koramoah Sk 7-Tk
CHP: Richardson Sk 4-Tk, Lawson Sk 4-Tk

Injuries

PCC: Barkley 8, Godchaux 8, Cohen 7, Jones 6, Bush 5, Thompson 5, Bullard 3
CHP: Stanley 5, Trufant 3

Misc

PCC: Koo 2/2 FG 37 Lg
CHP: Lutz 2/2 FG 28 Lg



Heavy rain and a slippery ball created nervous moments for both teams but hurt the Cadillac most. **Kyler Murray** turned the ball over 4 times, 2 lost fumbles and 2 interceptions, to give the game away to a Durham offence that struggled in the rain. After staking claim to a 7-3 halftime lead on a 40-yard TD pass to **Chris Conley**, the Caddies gave it all up and more in the 3rd. A 66-yard catch-and-run to **Cooper Kupp** set up a 9-yard TD pass from **Josh Allen** to **Tyler Boyd** and a 5-yard TD scramble by Allen made it 19-7 Durham. **Fred Warner** sealed the win late with a 15-yard FR TD.

11-14-2021 Jurassic Park Temp:77 Wind:Calm Heavy Rain Line:DTL by 14 MVP:Allen HFA:ON

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2021 Erieau (1-5)	0	7	0	7	14
2021 Durham (5-1)	0	3	16	17	36

Passing

ERI: Murray 35/21 236 Yds 2 TDs 2 Int
 DTL: Allen 36/22 277 Yds 2 TDs

Rushing

ERI: Harris 10/57, Ruggs III 1/18, Murray 14/12, Vaughn 2/8, Hines 1/4
 DTL: Gibson 3/10, Evans 4/8, Edmonds 3/7, Allen 3/4 TD

Receiving

ERI: Waddle 7/76, Higgins 5/48 TD, Andrews 3/32, Hines 2/16, Henry 2/21, Conley 1/40 TD
 DTL: Boyd 6/69 TD, Samuel 6/44, Edmonds 4/52 TD, Kupp 3/82, Gibson 2/15, Waller 1/15

Defense

ERI: Hewitt Sk FF 5-Tk, Van Noy Sk FF 2-Tk
 DTL: Young 2-Sks FF 5-Tk, Burns Sk 2-FF 6-Tk, McCourty Int 5-Tk, Hendrickson Sk 3-Tk

Injuries

ERI: Poole 2, Smith 1
 DTL: Penny 5

Misc

ERI: Murray 4-F 2 Lost, 1/4 4th Dwn, 35:17 TOP
 DTL: Mathieu 1-FR, Warner 1-FR TD



The Glads jumped out to a 13-0 lead on an opening drive TD pass to **Jarvis Landry** and a 6-yard TD run by **James Robinson** off a **Ryan Fitzpatrick** interception. The Corn Kings then went on a tear, scoring 4 TDs on 3 TD passes, 2 to **Mike Evans**, and an 8-yard scramble by Fitz. Trailing 28-20 in the 4th, the Glads blocked a **Johnny Hekker** punt, setting up a **Giovanni Bernard** TD run and a chance to tie. But the pass from **Big Ben** was out of reach of an open **Diontae Johnson**, leaving it 28-26. The Glads had one more chance with the ball but **TJ Watt** ended it with a strip-sack of Big Ben.

11-14-2021 Tillman Field Temp:65 Wind:5-15 None Line:COW by 8 MVP:Fitzpatrick HFA:ON(

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2021 Georgia (1-4-1)	13	0	0	13	26
2021 Cowtown (4-2)	7	14	0	7	28

Passing

GEO: Roethlisberger 24/16 152 Yds 2 TDs
 COW: Fitzpatrick 24/20 214 Yds 3 TDs Int

Rushing

GEO: Robinson 17/63 TD, Bernard 2/12 TD, Jacobs 3/6
 COW: Murray 11/62, Gurley II 9/39, Fitzpatrick 5/21 TD, Gore 7/15, Harris 1/3

Receiving

GEO: Bernard 3/13, Landry 3/26 TD, Johnson 3/30 TD, Fells 2/20, Robinson 2/22
 COW: Bourne 4/39, Alie-Cox 4/36, Evans 3/61 2 TDs, Gurley II 2/10, Murray 2/16

Defense

GEO: Collins 10-Tk, Joseph Int 4-Tk, Collier Sk 3-Tk, Moreland 8-Tk
 COW: Watt Sk 2-FF 7-Tk

Injuries

GEO: Ingram III 4
 COW: Saubert 5, Garoppolo 2

Misc

GEO: Bass 2/3 XPA
 COW: Slye 4/4 XPA



A high snap fallen on by the punter deep in Sebastian territory, a failed 4th down gamble by the Fish in Sebastian territory and a fumble return for a TD accelerated a five-TD blitzkrieg by the Pink Panthers that gave them a 35-17 lead at half time. **Kenyan Drake's** 2nd TD run on the opening drive of the 3rd and a 44-yard **Zane Gonzalez** FG expanded their lead to 45-17 late in the 3rd. That's when the Fish charged back with 3 straight TDs, including a 79-yard TD pass to **Jalen Reagor**, to pull within 7. Oshawa made it a 2-score game with a late FG and held off a final charge for the win.

11-14-2021 GM Megadome Temp:72 Wind:Calm Line:SS by 5 MVP:Ryan HFA:ON(4)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2021 Sebastian (3-2-1)	7	10	7	14	38
2021 Oshawa (1-4-1)	14	21	10	3	48

Passing

SS: Cousins 36/24 411 Yds 3 TDs

OSH: Ryan 27/19 191 Yds 3 TDs

Rushing

SS: Taylor 16/94 2 TDs, Chubb 11/27, Cousins 1/3

OSH: Drake 18/101 2 TDs, Singletary 4/12, Ryan 2/8, Rountree III 1/8

Receiving

SS: Reagor 6/129 TD, Hilton 6/111 TD, Marshall Jr. 3/95, Taylor 3/15 TD, Ebron 2/24

OSH: Adams 9/98 2 TDs, Schultz 2/38, Goedert 2/17, Gesicki 2/21, Reynolds 2/9

Defense

SS: Gholston Sk FF 5-Tk, Perryman FF 9-Tk

OSH: Autry Sk FF 4-Tk, Johnson Sk FF 4-Tk, Peterson 8-Tk

Injuries

SS: Massie 2, Clowney 1

OSH: Edelman 5, Williams 4, Kendricks 3

Misc

SS: 5/8 4th Dwn, Chub 1-F Lost, Cousins 2-F 2 Lost

OSH: Peterson 1-FR TD, Onyemata 1-FR, Johnson 1-FR



Tyreek Hill caught 8 passes from **Baker Mayfield**, for 160 yards and 2 TDs, to earn game MVP. The Blue Eagles started fast, with **Joe Burrow** connecting on a long slant to **Jamison Crowder** for a 55-yard TD on the opening drive. **Mason Crosby** added a FG and, after the first of Hill's 2 TDs narrowed the Irish deficit to 3, Burrow struck again with a 6-yard TD pass to **Miles Gaskin**. Hill's second TD catch drew the Irish closer then his 40-yard catch set up the go-ahead TD with 0:05 left in the half. The Irish 'D' pitched a shutout in the 2nd half and the offence added 13 points for the win.

11-14-2021 Mgr McClancy Mem Sta Temp:62 Wind:5-15 None Line:EE by 8 MVP:Hill H

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2021 Scarborough (1-4-1)	10	7	0	0	17
2021 East Elmhurst (4-2)	7	14	7	6	34

Passing

SBE: Burrow 31/18 180 Yds 2 TDs

EE: Mayfield 23/15 240 Yds 3 TDs

Rushing

SBE: Gaskin 9/35, Carson 5/22, Burrow 3/11

EE: Jones 24/127 TD, Michel 13/74, Mayfield 2/3

Receiving

SBE: Crowder 6/120 TD, Gaskin 4/13 TD, Robinson II 3/14, Edwards 2/12, Uzomah 1/3

EE: Hill 8/166 2 TDs, Thielen 4/45 TD, Everett 3/29

Defense

SBE: Anzalone 8-Tk

EE:

Injuries

SBE: Jackson 5, Collins 4, Bosa 4, Martin 2

EE:

Misc

SBE: Crosby 1/1 FG 55 Lg

EE: 36:27 TOP, Blankenship 2/2 FG 24 Lg



27

Justin Jefferson hauled in a short hitch from **Aaron Rodgers** and sprinted 75 yards for a TD on the first play of the 2nd half to give Budapest a 24-7 lead. The long-range strike would prove the difference. York saw the game gradually slip out of its grasp starting in the 1st half. A **Derrick Henry** fumble at the North Stars' 11 set up an 89-yard TD drive going the other way for a 7-0 Budapest lead. A 34-yard TD pass to **Stefon Diggs** made it 14-0 before Henry got York on the board with a 38-yard TD run. **Jason Myers** added a 58-yard FG. York scored twice late in the 4th, but it was too little too late.



21

11-14-2021 Camelot Temp:58 Wind:Calm Light Rain Line:BUD by 4 MVP:Rodgers HFA:ON(3)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2021 Budapest (6-0)	7	10	7	3	27
2021 York (4-2)	0	7	0	14	21

Passing

BUD: Rodgers 27/18 287 Yds 3 TDs

YOR: Brady 40/24 312 Yds TD Int

Rushing

BUD: Johnson 17/63, Patterson 4/15, Patterson 5/9, Felton 2/3, Rodgers 3/1

YOR: Henry 23/141 TD, Brady 1/9 TD

Receiving

BUD: Diggs 4/64 TD, Jefferson 4/123 TD, Thompson 4/53, Johnson 2/13, Hollister 2/8

YOR: Amendola 7/61, Davis 6/86, Williams 4/107 TD, Williams 3/20, Henry 2/19

Defense

BUD: David FF 7-Tk, Dean 9-Tk

YOR: Jewell 10-Tk

Injuries

BUD:

YOR: Henderson 7, Holcomb 1

Misc

BUD: Winovich 1-FR, Myers 2/2 FG 58 Lg

YOR: Henry 1-F Lost



31

A pick-six by **Karl Joseph** off **Derek Carr** to open the 2nd half gave the Spartans a sudden 17-14 lead, tilting the game in their favour after earlier struggles. **Jonathan Jones** intercepted **Philip Rivers** in the 1st to set up a Carr-to-**DeAndre Hopkins** TD pass that put Brooklin up 14-10 at half time. The Spartans added another TD in the 3rd on a 1-yard TD pass to **Patrick Ricard**, making it 24-14. The Hawks swooped back within 3 on a 7-yard TD pass to **Carlos Hyde**, but an 11-yard TD run by **D'Andre Swift** made it 31-21. Brooklin kicked a late FG but could not get the ball back in time.



24

11-14-2021 Hawkeye Park Temp:54 Wind:0-5 None Line:BRH by 4 MVP:Rivers HFA:ON(3)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2021 Pickering (3-3)	7	3	14	7	31
2021 Brooklin (2-4)	7	7	0	10	24

Passing

PIC: Rivers 24/17 204 Yds 2 TDs Int

BRH: Carr 39/26 248 Yds 2 TDs Int

Rushing

PIC: Sanders 14/88, Swift 1/11 TD, Rivers 3/6

BRH: Hyde 13/55 TD, Scott 7/44, Carr 4/26, Smith 4/17

Receiving

PIC: Shepard 5/61 TD, Ridley 4/61, Brown 3/41, Sanders 2/37, Mooney 1/7, Swift 1/-3

BRH: Hopkins 8/74 TD, Engram 5/41, Tate 4/40, Gronkowski 3/28, Scott 2/18, Cobb 2/25

Defense

PIC: Joseph Int(TD) 3-Tk, Schobert 10-Tk, Hyde 8-Tk

BRH: Ferrell 2-Sks 5-Tk, Jones Int 6-Tk

Injuries

PIC: Dennard 6, Incognito 5

BRH: McKinney 7, Lewan 2, Ekeler 2, Vander Esch 1

Misc

PIC: Zuerlein 1/1 FG 52 Lg

BRH: Bullock 1/2 FG 24 Lg



STATS



WEEK SIX

STANDINGS & STATS

EFL 2021 - Week 6 Standings

East	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Cobb County	4	2	0	.667	W1	158	26.3	100	16.7	9.7	3 1 0	1 1 0	4 1 0
New Jersey	4	2	0	.667	W4	129	21.5	158	26.3	-4.8	1 2 0	1 1 0	3 2 0
Buffalo	3	3	0	.500	L1	132	22.0	118	19.7	2.3	2 0 0	2 0 0	3 2 0
Bruxelles	1	5	0	.167	L3	133	22.2	181	30.2	-8.0	1 3 0	0 2 0	1 4 0
Central	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood	5	1	0	.833	W3	139	23.2	141	23.5	-0.3	3 0 0	3 0 0	4 1 0
Virden	3	3	0	.500	W2	157	26.2	137	22.8	3.3	1 2 0	2 1 0	3 2 0
Twin Cities	2	4	0	.333	L2	115	19.2	118	19.7	-0.5	1 2 0	1 2 0	1 4 0
Peg City	0	6	0	.000	L6	86	14.3	168	28.0	-13.7	0 2 0	0 3 0	0 5 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Las Vegas	6	0	0	1.000	W6	169	28.2	77	12.8	15.3	3 0 0	2 0 0	5 0 0
Chino	4	2	0	.667	L1	168	28.0	128	21.3	6.7	2 1 0	2 0 0	4 1 0
Iowa City	3	3	0	.500	W1	157	26.2	152	25.3	0.8	2 1 0	0 2 0	2 3 0
Seattle	0	6	0	.000	L6	89	14.8	164	27.3	-12.5	0 3 0	0 2 0	0 5 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham	5	1	0	.833	W1	212	35.3	104	17.3	18.0	4 0 0	1 1 0	4 1 0
Cowtown	4	2	0	.667	W2	148	24.7	129	21.5	3.2	3 0 0	1 1 0	4 1 0
Sebastian	3	2	1	.583	L1	217	36.2	220	36.7	-0.5	1 1 0	1 0 1	2 2 1
Scarborough	1	4	1	.250	L1	118	19.7	188	31.3	-11.7	1 1 1	0 1 1	1 3 1
Coastal	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Budapest	6	0	0	1.000	W6	185	30.8	87	14.5	16.3	3 0 0	3 0 0	5 0 0
York	4	2	0	.667	L1	150	25.0	148	24.7	0.3	3 1 0	2 1 0	3 2 0
Pickering	3	3	0	.500	W3	108	18.0	131	21.8	-3.8	0 2 0	1 2 0	2 3 0
Brooklin	2	4	0	.333	L1	138	23.0	163	27.2	-4.2	1 2 0	0 3 0	2 3 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
East Elmhurst	4	2	0	.667	W1	129	21.5	108	18.0	3.5	1 1 0	2 0 0	3 2 0
Oshawa	1	4	1	.250	W1	144	24.0	185	30.8	-6.8	1 2 1	0 1 1	1 3 1
Georgia	1	4	1	.250	L2	157	26.2	183	30.5	-4.3	0 3 0	0 1 1	0 4 1
Erieau	1	5	0	.167	L5	87	14.5	137	22.8	-8.3	0 3 0	1 1 0	1 4 0

EFL 2021 - Week 6 Passing Leaders

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Rodgers,A	BUD	194	146	75.3	1919	2	1.0	75	17	8.8	130.9
2	Cousins	SS	205	145	70.7	1983	5	2.4	76	19	9.3	122.1
3	Bridgewater	CHI	105	81	77.1	937	1	1.0	44	6	5.7	118.6
4	Mahomes	VV	204	134	65.7	1899	1	0.5	72	15	7.4	118.1
5	Watson,D	CHP	192	128	66.7	1623	1	0.5	47	15	7.8	116.7
6	Wilson,R	ICC	164	120	73.2	1330	5	3.0	54	15	9.1	114.6
7	Prescott	CHI	88	65	73.9	754	0	0.0	75	4	4.5	114.5
8	Herbert	LV	196	143	73.0	1570	3	1.5	65	13	6.6	112.0
9	Allen,J	DTL	221	148	67.0	1740	3	1.4	75	16	7.2	109.2
10	Tannehill	CB	153	96	62.7	1312	4	2.6	55	11	7.2	103.2
11	Trubisky	TCT	133	85	63.9	901	1	0.8	40	9	6.8	103.0
12	Mayfield	EE	160	109	68.1	1273	3	1.9	48	9	5.6	102.9
13	Brady	YOR	181	122	67.4	1572	6	3.3	84	12	6.6	102.7
14	Stafford	NJ	215	146	67.9	1739	5	2.3	75	11	5.1	99.7
15	Roethlisbe	GEO	207	135	65.2	1399	3	1.4	60	13	6.3	99.5
16	Jackson,L	BUF	200	137	68.5	1327	2	1.0	60	9	4.5	97.6
17	Burrow	SBE	173	104	60.1	1078	1	0.6	55	10	5.8	95.0
18	Fitzpatric	COW	141	100	70.9	1086	6	4.3	52	8	5.7	94.5
19	Brees	BRX	154	94	61.0	1122	4	2.6	75	10	6.5	94.1
20	Carr,D	BRH	199	120	60.3	1387	4	2.0	54	11	5.5	91.4
21	Ryan,M	OSH	215	140	65.1	1287	5	2.3	28	12	5.6	90.2
22	Minshew II	SEA	102	65	63.7	680	4	3.9	62	5	4.9	83.0
23	Rivers,P	PIC	166	96	57.8	1079	3	1.8	36	6	3.6	81.9
24	Jones,M	PCC	202	118	58.4	1389	5	2.5	58	7	3.5	80.7
25	Murray,K	ERI	177	107	60.5	977	3	1.7	47	3	1.7	74.0

EFL 2021 - Week 6 Kick Return Leaders

EFL 2021 - Week 6 Punt Return Leaders

		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1	Roberts,A	BRX	12	426	35.5	46	0	1	Grant,J	CHI	10	3	172	17.2	62	1
2	Agnew	SEA	14	454	32.4	68	0	2	Taylor,T	CHP	13	2	154	11.8	27	0
3	Harris,D	COW	9	263	29.2	76	0	3	Peppers	ERI	9	3	102	11.3	22	0
4	Johnson,D	SBE	8	233	29.1	41	0	4	Harris,D	COW	12	3	123	10.3	18	0
5	Patterson	BUD	10	265	26.5	39	0	5	Hill,K	SBE	11	1	108	9.8	25	0
6	Rodgers,I	CHP	9	228	25.3	34	0	6	Cooper,P	VV	8	8	78	9.8	41	0
7	Carter,D	BUF	10	240	24.0	48	0	7	Proche	DTL	20	4	180	9.0	20	0
8	Duvernay	TCT	8	192	24.0	49	0	8	Roberts,A	BRX	9	0	74	8.2	15	0
9	Waddle	ERI	8	187	23.4	31	0	9	Peoples-Jo	SS	11	4	76	6.9	16	0
10	Atwell	OSH	14	294	21.0	38	0	10	Spencer,D	NJ	10	2	61	6.1	11	0
11	Abdullah	CHI	8	165	20.6	36	0	11	Raymond	CB	8	1	42	5.3	17	0
12	Adderley	VV	3	89	29.7	33	0	12	Hardman	LV	8	9	42	5.3	13	0
13	Barner	PIC	4	118	29.5	39	0	13	Erickson	BUF	5	4	79	15.8	24	0
14	Scott,B	BRH	6	157	26.2	32	0	14	Lamb	SEA	5	3	74	14.8	38	0
15	Homer	YOR	7	183	26.1	36	0	15	Moore	EE	7	5	73	10.4	17	0
16	Johnson,D	CB	3	78	26.0	28	0	16	Atwell	OSH	3	0	31	10.3	17	0
17	Hubbard	PCC	1	26	26.0	26	0	17	Renfrow	SEA	4	4	38	9.5	20	0
18	Powell	EE	2	52	26.0	31	0	18	Tate,G	BRH	3	5	28	9.3	19	0
19	Lewis,D	LV	5	126	25.2	43	0	19	Rodgers,Am	BUD	7	8	64	9.1	20	0
20	Hill	DTL	6	149	24.8	38	0	20	Johnson,D	GEO	3	4	26	8.7	12	0
21	Webster,N	NJ	6	141	23.5	30	0	21	Barner	PIC	6	5	48	8.0	14	0
22	Davis,A	PCC	2	47	23.5	28	0	22	Cole Sr.	SEA	2	0	15	7.5	13	0
23	Carter	ICC	5	110	22.0	30	0	23	Kirk	ICC	4	2	25	6.3	10	0
24	James,R	GEO	3	66	22.0	35	0	24	Carter,D	BUF	1	2	6	6.0	6	0
25	Wallace	GEO	2	44	22.0	38	0	25	Fuller V	GEO	1	1	4	4.0	4	0

EFL 2021 - Week 6 Rushing Leaders

EFL 2021 - Week 6 Receiving Leaders

		Att	Yds	Ave	Lg			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1	Henry,D	YOR	140	696	5.0	48	1	Adams,D	OSH	51	493	9.7	28	7
2	Cook,D	LV	120	603	5.0	49	2	Gallup	CHI	46	681	14.8	75	4
3	Robinson,J	GEO	111	595	5.4	52	3	Allen,K	NJ	40	396	9.9	35	5
4	Gordon III	TCT	100	518	5.2	45	4	Diggs,S	BUD	36	445	12.4	46	4
5	Harris,D	CB	67	476	7.1	35	5	Waller	DTL	33	413	12.5	43	4
6	Jones,A	EE	92	469	5.1	22	6	Hill,T	EE	33	473	14.3	40	4
7	Drake	OSH	88	468	5.3	40	7	Johnson,D	GEO	33	307	9.3	20	5
8	Sanders,M	PIC	94	457	4.9	25	8	Jefferson	BUD	33	547	16.6	75	5
9	Taylor,J	SS	81	457	5.6	32	9	Hopkins,D	BRH	32	394	12.3	28	6
10	Elliott,E	VV	105	449	4.3	28	10	Chase	VV	32	666	20.8	72	5
11	Conner	ICC	60	398	6.6	47	11	Lockett	ICC	32	321	10.0	24	5
12	Chubb,N	SS	82	395	4.8	47	12	McLaurin	NJ	30	482	16.1	75	4
13	Jackson,L	BUF	52	334	6.4	32	13	Anderson,R	SEA	30	281	9.4	16	1
14	Harris	ERI	75	287	3.8	37	14	Hilton	SS	30	511	17.0	38	6
15	Murray,K	ERI	56	281	5.0	19	15	Kelce,T	CHP	30	407	13.6	31	6
16	Carson	SBE	58	268	4.6	13	16	Woods,R	BUF	30	350	11.7	60	4
17	Jones II	CHI	69	260	3.8	17	17	Sanders,E	BUF	29	340	11.7	37	4
18	Edwards-He	TCT	39	257	6.6	36	18	McKissic	NJ	28	239	8.5	29	1
19	Ekeler	BRH	43	246	5.7	21	19	Claypool	BRX	28	502	17.9	75	7
20	Montgomery	NJ	82	243	3.0	18	20	Shenault J	PCC	28	327	11.7	42	3
21	Scott,B	BRH	42	236	5.6	20	21	Amendola	YOR	28	329	11.8	31	2
22	Gurley II	COW	59	235	4.0	20	22	Samuel,C	DTL	28	246	8.8	20	2
23	Wilson,R	ICC	35	231	6.6	20	23	Robinson,J	GEO	27	150	5.6	29	1
24	Akers	SEA	46	230	5.0	52	24	Cooper,A	CHP	27	373	13.8	47	3
25	Davis,M	BUF	55	217	3.9	19	25	Brown,J	VV	26	386	14.8	34	3
26	Johnson,Da	BUD	48	208	4.3	16	26	Cooks	CB	26	369	14.2	24	4
27	Mitchell	BRX	42	196	4.7	18	27	Metcalfe	CHP	26	372	14.3	25	2
28	Peterson,A	CB	45	195	4.3	16	28	Godwin,C	BRX	26	368	14.2	46	4
29	Williams,J	BRX	40	190	4.8	18	29	Graham,J	LV	26	206	7.9	14	0
30	Swift	PIC	36	186	5.2	24	30	Brown,A	ICC	25	441	17.6	54	4



AROUND THE



With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – If you are frustrated that your insightful views on football are going to waste on friends or strangers in a sports bar or on your family dog in your man cave on EFL Sunday. If you are tired of your live comments in the chat bar on EFL Game Center getting pushed out of view within seconds or having to register every time you want to “join the discussion.” If you are fed up with the comments section being too often disabled for controversial mainstream internet articles and you can’t seem to ever get on your local radio talk show, let alone EFL Network on Sirius XM. If you fall into any or all of the above categories and you are looking for an outlet to impart your unsolicited and distinctive football wisdom to the world, you can always join the growing legion of internet amateurs posing as sports writers in blogs or on any number of websites committed to the open publishing model.

Bloggers and fan contributors to websites such as *Bleacher Feature*, *Fan-tasy* and *Fansane Asylum* are the plastic water bottles of the Internet, littering search engine returns with a surplus of inferior content. As a result, professional journalism has become the poor sea turtle with the plastic Starbucks straw stuck up its nose. Google algorithms are seemingly incapable of distinguishing between a **Dominic Scatelli** slide-show of ‘*Top Ten Breakout Players for 2021*’ (that includes too many obscurities like linebacker, **Anthony Nelson** of the Cubs and **Josh Uche** of the Irish) and ‘*The Big Five – Who Will Breakout in 2021*,’ a detailed but digestible projection of how the five rookie quarterbacks chosen in the first round of the EFL draft will fare in the coming year, composed by the highly respected **Lazor Ponk** of *Scouts Ltd.*

Want to know more about drafting or starting players on your fantasy team? There are literally hundreds of sites and thousands of “experts” vying for your attention (and subscription) ready to tell you what you should already know (if you actually follow the sport) but, to distinguish themselves from others and to induce you into thinking that they have special insight and possibly score a coveted “you-heard-it-here-first,” will also suggest something you and most others are unlikely to think of, like picking up and starting **Kadarius Toney** the same week the Corn Kings play the vaunted Thunder Lizards secondary because his yet-to-be-seen open-field moves make him an “x-factor.” Yes, the advice can get that dumb.

Who cares if the half-baked opinions expressed on fan blogs like *Kevin’s Big Ball Blog* and thousands of articles posted without compensation on content farm sites like *Fan Nation* are anything more than stream-of-consciousness musings from half-wits who barely passed Grade 12 English? The fan who truly seeks an evidence-based, bias-free analytical assessment presented in language that is sophisticated, comprehensible, concise and precise cares. That person cannot get back time wasted on speculative nonsense like ‘*Here’s Why Zach Wilson Needs to Start Now!*’ by a *Fansane Asylum* user called **Beercrusher**.

If you think the discriminating reader described above cannot get sucked into the Internet and fell prey to junk food articles such as ‘*10 Reasons Why the Blue Eagles Will Soar in 2021*,’ by **Kurtis Knox**, a slideshow article that appeared as a *Bleacher Feature* “exclusive,” think again. I was lured in to reading far more of that one than I care to admit due to my fascination at the very notion that anybody, anywhere, could find 10 reasons to think the Blue Eagles would soar. Apart from theorizing that **Joe Burrow** would take a great leap forward in his development (Reason #1) and that **Deion Jones** would develop into an All-Pro candidate and leader of the defence (Reason #4), the rest of the points are mere, embarrassing, conjecture. **Miles Gaskin** as an ‘x’-factor? **Bobby Hart** a “pleasant surprise” anchoring the blindside? **Neville Gallimore** solidifying a front four that will shut down the run? Points like that are not based on reality. I stopped clicking at Reason #8, **Damon Arnette** shutting down opponents’ top wide receiver.

On the subject of ‘x-factor,’ bloggers and dilettantes abuse that term again and again. Its widespread overuse, especially in fantasy blogs, renders next-to meaningless true ‘x’-factors like **Lamar Jackson**. Similar to “shut down corner” and “franchise quarterback,” “x-factors” seem to be everywhere in the “Blogiverse.” **J.D. McKissic** (NJ), **Jimmy Graham** (LV), **Boston Scott** (BRH), **Nyheim Hines** (ERI) and rookie **Michael Carter** (ICC) are just a few of the players identified as “x-factors” heading into Week Six by various “fantasy gurus” you’ve never heard of. For the record, none of those players really “x-ed out” this week, although McKissic did make a nice move after catching a dump-off pass from **Matt Stafford** and turned the broken play into a 22-yard touchdown to help the Wrecking Balls avoid embarrassment in Seattle.

The mere act of reaching into this noxious pile of decomposing Internet refuse to provide you with examples is making feel unclean. The horrifying part is the occasional perverse temptation I feel to actually check out articles with titles such as ‘*One Word to Describe Each EFL Team*,’ (*Bleacher Feature*) ‘*Every Team’s Secret Weapon Revealed*,’ (*Fan-tasy*) and ‘*One Question Haunting Every EFL Team in 2021*,’ (*Fan Nation*). I just had to see, out of curiosity, if the word to describe Erieau was “Depressing,” the word I would have chosen. I was surprised to see that the writer, an unknown named **Morton Milton**, had chosen “Painful” instead which,

upon further consideration, is actually more appropriate. “Depressing” he reserved for Peg City, which is entirely fitting. The Cadillac are painful to watch because one can see the potential wasting away, while there is no hope at all for the Crusaders and never was. I guess this just demonstrates that a garbage dumpster like *Bleacher Feature* will yield the occasional intact and edible ham sandwich for a starving person. On that point, like in every dark and dangerous place on Earth there can be found the odd hero who keeps hope for a better future alive. **Schrell Partisian** is one notable regular contributor to *Bleacher Feature* whose work rises above the site’s mean. He should really be writing for one of the networks at this point but likely lacks the contacts that make otherwise insipid professionals like **Peter Prince** of *North America Today* and **Jon Claytown**, senior writer at *ESPN*, occasionally interesting.

The law of averages seems to dictate that if enough words are inexpertly thrown at a topic occasionally there will be a string of interesting ones that make sense and are worth taking the time to read. But the process of finding the diamonds in the rough of an increasingly dumbed-down web is too laborious to make it a worthwhile effort while avoiding the corrosive effects on the mind of click bait articles like ‘*Ten First Round Rookies Who Won’t Pan Out*,’ (Fansylvania) ‘*The Crusaders – Not As Bad As You Think and Here’s Why*’ (Bleacher Feature), ‘*Every Team’s Most Boneheaded Decision of 2021*’ (Fansane Asylum), – I checked this one out to see how the writer narrowed it down to just one decision in cases of the growing number of teams now following the Swordfish 4th Down Decision Tree – ‘*The Ten Most Underrated Tight Ends*’ (Bleacher Feature), ‘*The Ten Most Overrated Kickers*’ (Fan-tasy), (didn’t know there was such a thing as an “overrated” kicker, let alone 10 of them) and, the stupidest of all the stupid articles I could find in my 30-minute survey, ‘*Why the Convicts Aren’t in a Hurry to Get Dak Back*,’ by an outwardly imbecilic non-entity named **Paul Papadoupopolopoulos** on the *Fan Nation* forum, whose random access memory is probably used up spelling his last name. If the goal was to shock the surfer into clicking on it, the trick did not work against me. Something that crazy needs to be ignored for the greater good of the Internet. Not that there is much hope of saving the Internet from the growing legion of pseudo-writers like Papa-what’s-his-name.

The question of why always lists of ten is more appropriately directed to a psychologist. However, there is a common belief that breaking information down into lists of 10 may help the reader process information on topics unfamiliar to them. Unfortunately, when morons are arranging the lists, the results can actually be harmful to understanding. Occasionally, the lists deviate from the number 10. ‘*Twenty Free Agents Who Won’t Re-Sign with their Current Teams*’ (Bleacher Feature), ‘*Five Teams Whose Seasons Are Already Over*’ (The Masked Blogger), and ‘*Seven Reasons Why Justin Fields Should Take Over in Bruxelles Now!*’ (Fansane Asylum), are examples of deviation from the standard Top Ten. Why seven for the Fields story? I have no clue. Having not thought of *one* reason myself, I didn’t bother to find out what the writer, **Unibomber** thought.

While all this makes for a messy and dangerous surfing experience during the season, the height of internet and *YouTube* insanity comes in the lead-up to the draft. This is when thousands of adults living in their mother’s basements surface on the web to rank hundreds of college athletes they do not know and have never seen close up. *YouTube* in general and the lead-up to the draft in particular are more complex topics that I will leave to another day. There is actually a lot of really good content on *YouTube*. The problem is one has to watch a video in real time to assess if it’s a dud and that often takes minutes, as opposed to seconds for an article.

The main reason I am concerned about the amount of rubbish on the Internet, however, is that the degradation of sports writing has a direct affect on my bottom line. Assuming, for example, that previously intelligent consumers of internet junk are losing IQ points in direct proportion to the average IQ of *Bleacher Feature* writers, the number of readers capable of sticking with and understanding my intellectual, well-informed, and superbly-reasoned columns are bound to diminish. Eventually I will take on the status of a Homer or an Aristotle, whose classic writings are now strictly the purview of scholars, academics and pure intellectuals. How am I going to get invited to fancy parties and awards banquets if only a few sports nerds appreciate my work?

So, in an attempt to adapt to new and dumber times, I give you the following:

THE TOP 12 GAMES OF WEEK 6

New Jersey 23, Seattle 20: The questions in the minds of Pilots fans heading into Week Six were: Who would be their starting quarterback? And would whoever started finish the game? Coming off a complete game start by rookie **Trey Lance** in a close loss to Virden in Week Five, the popular opinion was to roll with the rookie again to see what the Pilots have in the kid. But Seattle coach **Mitch Gangwish** was tight-lipped about the quarterback situation during the week, refusing to announce his starter until Saturday night. The starting nod went to **Gardner Minshew II**, who had apparently looked the sharpest of the three during practice. Local media, however, circulated the view that it was in fact “Gardner’s turn” in a mid-season quarterback competition that has the Seattle locker room confused and divided. If true, the result of Minshew’s full game audition for the permanent starting role will not make Gangwish’s decision any easier. Like Lance, Minshew presided over a 3-point loss where he played well enough to win but ended up losing as a result of a defensive collapse in the 4th quarter. This week’s collapse against New Jersey was of a different kind from the one experienced against the Violators. Whereas the Pilots’ defenders were worn down on the ground over the game’s final 5 minutes by the tag-teaming effort of **Ezekiel Elliott** and **Royce Freeman** in Week Five, this week’s collapse was sudden and catastrophic. A mere 15 seconds after Minshew had checked down to **Kareen Hunt** for a 4-yard touchdown pass to put Seattle up 20-16 with 0:58 left in the 4th quarter, **Matt Stafford** connected with **Terry McLaurin** for a 75-yard scoring play to wipe the smiles off the faces of over 60,000 fans at the Kingdome. The pre-snap coverage buffer given to McLaurin on the play by corner **Janoris Jenkins** certainly kept the New Jersey receiver from attempting to get behind the coverage, but it caused him to settle comfortably into a gap so wide it gave him enough room to slip by Jenkins’ tackle attempt and scoot by a diving **Marhson Lattimore** on his way to the league’s top highlight-reel play of the week. It was the third time in the Wrecking Balls’ now four-game winning streak that **Jeff Cohen**’s crew scored with under a minute left in the 4th quarter to either tie or win the game. Luck seems to have suddenly begun to favour the perennially cursed Wrecking Balls

after an 0-2 start had had pessimistic, beaten down New Jersey fans already talking 2022 draft. The big question in New Jersey is now: Can this streak continue without fortune smiling on the Wrecking Balls? In other words, are they really good enough to take control of the East Division? I think they are. I don't think that talent has ever been the concern on this New Jersey squad. The problems have always resided with the team's overanxious owner inserting himself into the play-calling. It looks like somebody must have spoken to Mr. Cohen, because he has been off to the side, away from coach **Sean McDermott** in the second half of games over the team's four-game win streak. Coincidence? I think not.

Oshawa 48, Sebastian 38: Five weeks of bitterness and frustration came to an explosive end this week at GM Megadome in Oshawa as the Pink Panthers landed the battling Swordfish, 48-38 for the franchise's first win wearing pink. Oshawa forced four Fish fumbles, recovering three of them (including one that was returned 58 yards for a TD by **Patrick Peterson**) to flip the field and give the Pinkies a decisive edge in this no-holds barred shootout. Three turnovers by Sebastian were bad enough, but there were other, "hidden" turnovers that plagued them. A high snap from **Mitch Morse** that punter **JK Scott** covered up for a 9-yard loss at his own 12 set up a quick opening Oshawa touchdown. Then, with the Fish trailing 14-7, still in the 1st quarter, Coach **Russ Lemmon** pulled a rotten lemon out of his bag of crazy tricks and went for it on 4th & 7 from his own 28. It was the silliest fourth down gamble since all the ones he tried last year with **Dwayne Haskins** at quarterback. The Pink Panthers stopped it, thanked their opponent, and went in to score a touchdown three plays later on a 16-yard pass from **Matt Ryan** to **Davante Adams**. By half time the score was 35-17 for Oshawa, turning the 2nd half into a footrace that the Swordfish looked ill-positioned to win after they fell behind further, trailing 45-17 late in the third quarter. That did not stop Sebastian from throwing everything and the kitchen sink at Oshawa in the final 20 minutes to test the nerve of rookie coach, **Scott Dennis**. The game ended frenetically with the Fish peeling off three straight TDs to pull within 7 points. The second of those, a 76-yard touchdown pass to **Jalen Reagor** into the heart of the Oshawa secondary that narrowed the deficit to 15 points with 9:43 left, seemed to rattle the home team. In their nervous caution, the Pink Panthers put their hands team on the field for the ensuing kickoff. For the first time in my memory, the Lemmon "tactical squib kick" worked – better than could ever be intended. The mesmerized Panther kick return unit watched as the bouncing kick cleared their first rank and bounded all the way into the end zone for what looked to be a touchback. But scatter-brained rookie **Tutu Atwell** jogged back, picked the ball up, hesitated, then started to run with it. Without a wedge in front to protect him he was promptly forced out of bounds at the Oshawa 1-yard line. The Pink Panthers went three-and-out and punted from their own 8-yard line, setting up a short field, leading to another Sebastian touchdown with still over 6 minutes remaining in the game. The tension building in the stands at the thought of losing a game their team had once led by 28 points was finally released with an audible sigh of relief more than a cheer at the 1:37 mark, when a 22-yard field goal by **Zane Gonzalez** made it a two-score game again in favour of the home team. The lead would stand as the Swordfish finally ran out of air, turning the ball over on downs at the 0:18 mark. Instead of taking a knee, however, the Pink Panthers curiously ran a draw to **Kenyan Drake** that was blown up for a 3-yard loss on the game's final play. The loose play of the defence in the 4th quarter and the odd little errors like the Atwell kick return and the ultimately inconsequential but still bizarre draw play at the end will not be dwelt on by the media for very long, thanks to the desperately-needed victory. However, coaches around the league will take note of the shaky finish and be aware that the blood does not run as cold in the veins of the coach on the Pink Panther sideline as it once did on the Mustangs'.

Cowtown 28, Georgia 26: At Tillman Field in Cowtown, the Corn Kings slipped by the Gladiators 28-26 in a game that was decided on extra points. Both teams scored 4 touchdowns, but a missed extra point in the 1st quarter by **Tyler Bass** and the subsequent failed 2-point convert attempt on a bid to tie the game in the 4th, wound up being the difference. The Glads started strongly, jumping out to a 13-0 lead on an opening drive TD pass from **Ben Roethlisberger** to **Jarvis Landry** and a 6-yard TD run by **James Robinson** coming off a first-play interception of **Ryan Fitzpatrick** by **Kelvin Joseph**, the corner's second pick in as many games. The Corn Kings groggily picked themselves up off the turf and went to work making up ground. They got on the board before the half on a 21-yard touchdown pass to **Mike Evans** then took a 14-13 lead late in the third on an 8-yard scramble by Fitz. The home team looked like they were pulling away with plenty of room to spare after two more TD passes, one to Evans (his second of the game) and one to **Quintez Cephus**, made it 28-13 early in the 4th quarter. However, a quick touchdown drive by the Glads followed by a blocked punt by **Zaven Collins** at the Cowtown 24-yard line shifted the momentum back to the visitors. They took advantage, finishing off a short drive with a 4-yard touchdown run by **Giovani Bernard**. Georgia was now just a two-point conversion away from tying the game but failed to do so when **Big Ben** missed an open **Diontae Johnson** in the end zone. Georgia did get the ball back with over two minutes remaining but after they had crossed mid-field, a blitzing **TJ Watt** knifed through the line and punched the ball out of Ben's hands. **Ryan Kerrigan** fell on it to preserve the Cowtown victory. Despite their second win in a row and their major upset of Durham the week before, the jury is still out on the Corn Kings' status as a viable playoff contender. The Glads have a gamey but not overly talented defence, yet the Corn Kings' offence appeared scrappy rather than boldly assertive on touchdown drives and shaky otherwise. The Glads are clearly a much more dangerous team on offence with Ben in the saddle than they were last year. They are looking like a true spoiler down the road.

Iowa City 22, Buffalo 19: When a game is won in overtime it is usually a candidate for game of the week. When a game reaches overtime due to ineptitude on both sides, it gets relegated to no.4. The Cubs remain one of the league's biggest disappointments, even after downing the Derailers, because anyone who watched this game could see that they were for the most part out-played and kept alive by their opponent's penchant for self-destruction. This led Cubs' friendly beat reporter **Spark McGillicuddy** of *The Iowan* to charitably refer to coach **Deron Redding**'s squad as "masters of Judo, using their opponent's strength against them." Correction, Sparky: Using their opponent's *weakness* against them. The principal villain in Buffalo's loss is kicker, **Jake Elliott**, who missed all three of his field-goal attempts and 2 of his 3 extra point attempts. Elliott, while certainly off, was not the only reason his team lost the

game. **Lamar Jackson**, a true x-factor, turned his “x” into a net negative in this game. After straight up play by both teams through the first 20 minutes had the Cubs in front 10-7, Jackson threw an ill-advised check down to a tightly covered **Noah Fant** that was batted in the air by **Donovan Wilson** and picked off by **Casey Hayward Jr**, setting up the Cubs’ second touchdown for a 16-7 lead. Buffalo answered with a steady drive into Cubs’ territory that came to a sudden end when, faced with the first Iowa blitz of the day, Jackson panicked and handed the ball off to right tackle, **Donovan Smith** who was thereupon stripped of the ball by **Jason Pierre-Paul**. He returned it 23 yards to set up a chip shot field goal by **Justin Tucker** at the gun to make it 19-7 Iowa at the half. The Buffalo circus continued in the second half with Elliott missing a 29-yard field goal in the third quarter and Jackson failing to audible out of a short hitch against tight man coverage on 4th down, resulting in a turnover on downs at the Iowa City 23. Despite these gaffes, the Derailers were able to recover thanks to a huge break. With the Cubs facing 3rd & 1 at their own 32, the Derailers’ D set up in a risky goal line formation. The Cubs beat it squarely with a play-action pass to **Tyler Lockett** for a big gain that, for an instant, looked like it could go all the way. Then **Jaycee Horn** caught him from behind and **Bradley Chubb** punched the ball out for a forced fumble and Buffalo recovery. This turnover sparked a two-touchdown Buffalo rebound and a near total collapse by the Cubs. It was saved from being total by Pierre-Paul’s back-to-back kick blocks – the first of an extra point to keep the game tied at 19 and the second of Elliott’s game-winning field goal attempt at the buzzer, to send the game into overtime. Interestingly, the often recklessly aggressive Derailers got conservative at the end of the opening drive of overtime, electing to attempt a 51-yard field goal on 4th & 1. Given their kicker’s woes to that point, this was a time when even I would have kept the offence on the field. But coach **Daryl Brothers** blinked and sent the shaken Elliott out for strike three. The Cubs then cautiously moved into field goal range for the infallible **Justin Tucker**, who lived up to his rep and mercifully put the game to rest with a 38-yard field goal. It’s hard for fans of either team to be happy about this game but for the Cubs’ faithful at least it is a reprieve from falling even further behind Las Vegas and Chino in the West. For the Derailers, if they can stop beating themselves, they will be dangerous.

Cobb County 28, Chino 23: At Coyote Field in Cobb County, the Coyotes got 4 TD passes from **Ryan Tannehill** and a game-clinching interception from **Tre’Davious White** to finish one score up on the Convicts, 28-23. Cobb County *seemed* to the naked eye to be generally in control of this game from beginning to end, yet in the end the Convicts were in position to blow it all up if they could get it in the end zone from the Coyote 18-yard line with 0:30 left and one timeout remaining. Cobb County drove for two touchdowns in their first three possessions, using their standard, but curiously undefended by opponents, array of crossing and slant patterns. **Brandin Cooks** was the primary target, hauling in 3 of 4 targets and coming through with a 23-yard TD reception on a well-executed hitch route. Using the same formula, but mixing in more runs, they got in position on a 16-yard cross to **Julio Jones** and finished it off with a clever hitch to **Jared Cook**, to take a 14-0 lead. Too easy. Then Chino started being Chino, finding a way back in the game by stealth and ambush. The Convict defenders started to catch on to the Coyotes’ game, plugging the throwing lanes and bringing pressure that caused a Tannehill interception late in the 2nd quarter. Meanwhile the **Teddy Bridgewater** Brigade sustained a pair of long drives that ended in field goals to make it 14-6 at half time. **Harrison Butker** added another field goal on the Convicts’ first possession of the 2nd half, then came the ambush. Coyotes’ punter, **Jordan Berry** came on to punt on 4th & 19 and launched a high kick to **Jakeem Grant**. The dangerous returner got a block and was off to the races, speeding 68 yards untouched to the end zone for a touchdown. All of a sudden it was 16-14 for the Convicts. This jolt served to wake up the Coyotes on both sides of the ball. Tannehill oversaw consecutive touchdown drives of 75 and 84 yards to establish what looked to be a moderately comfortable 28-16 lead with 6:53 left in the 4th. However, **Brandon McManus** booted the ball out of bounds on the ensuing kickoff, a miscue that shortened the field enough to offer Convicts’ running back **Ronald Jones II** an opportunity to run the ball while Cobb County sat in a dime package. Jones II carried 3 times for 24 yards, setting up a 5-yard touchdown pass from Bridgewater to **Damiere Byrd** to bring Chino within 5, trailing 28-23. The Coyotes tried to burn off some clock but the Convicts played the run and stopped **Damien Harris** cold, setting up 3rd & 11. Tannehill’s pass attempt was well-defended and the Coyotes were forced to punt. Chino took over at their own 23 with 2:25 left. Four straight completions, including a 31-yard check down to **Michael Gallup**, vaulted Chino into the red zone at the Coyote 18 with 1:15 left. This caused the Coyotes to call timeout as they considered the possibility that their opponent might score. That’s when things started to go against the visitors. Shaq Mason was flagged for holding then Payton Turner came through unblocked to sack Bridgewater to bring up 2nd & 24. Bridgewater made up 14 of those yards himself on a timely scramble but on 3rd & 10, shutdown corner **Tre’Davious White** earned his status, jumping a crossing route to pick the ball and secure the win. This signified an important bounce-back game for Cobb County after two close losses. It was also a sign that the Convicts without their starting quarterback, **Dak Prescott** and star running back, **Christian McCaffrey** still have plenty of fight in them. With both Chino and Iowa City victorious this week, the Assassins won’t be running away with the West Division just yet.

Pickering 31, Brooklin 24: At Hawkeye Park in Brooklin, the Spartans made it three wins in a row by clipping the Hawks 31-24. The ancient Greek gods, notably **Ares**, seem to be content these days as they have not bedeviled Spartans’ coach **Gus Konstantakos** since the full-blown possession in Week Four was lifted by his team’s victory over the Coyotes. Nevertheless, the league has re-imposed restrictions on the Pickering coach. He must again coach from inside “Zeus’ Dungeon,” the specially-built, glassy cell that according to the manufacturer, **Olympia Solutions**, restricts the inward and outward flow of powerful “God energy,” making it harder for an ancient deity to possess a human being or project power out from a possessed human being. Oddly enough, the return of the cell seems to have enlivened Coach Konstantakos. He is much more animated these days than he had been over the past year and three weeks of losing with a team most analysts believed was a good one. Whatever was not gelling last year seems to be

slowly coming together now in the face of challenges. The Hawks posed such a challenge early on, responding to the Spartans' traditional opening drive touchdown with a touchdown of their own, built on a series of runs by **Boston Scott** and **Carlos Hyde**. Then came the traditional **Philip Rivers** unforced interception, a throw behind the receiver that **Jonathan Jones** batted up and picked off himself. That led to a second touchdown drive that was again built on the run, with Hyde carrying 6 times for 24 yards to set up a touchdown pas to **DeAndre Hopkins**. Last year, the Spartans would have quickly collapsed. This time, however, they did not panic. Their focus kept the Hawks from scoring further and led to a 52-yard **Greg Zuerlein** field goal at the half time gun. Things started auspiciously for the Spartans in the 2nd half, with **Karl Joseph** picking off **Derek Carr** and returning it 55 yards for a score. The pick-six leapfrogged them over the Hawks and they never looked back after that. **Patrick Ricard** rumbled into the end zone after receiving a pass in the flat to put them in front 24-14 after three quarters were complete. The spirited Hawks, who don't seem to be aware that they are not as strong as last year, kept coming at them but the Spartans stayed one step in front until the end. Ultimately the game came down to an onside kick attempt by Brooklin with 1:23 left that the Spartans recovered to run out the clock. Pickering is well on track now to be in the post-season mix, although something catastrophic would have to happen to the North Stars to give them a reasonable shot at the Coastal Division. The Hawks continue their early fade in the standings but hope on their sideline and in the stands is not fading in the slightest. It was a lively sellout crowd at Hawkeye Park that cheered loudly until the end.

Charleswood 22, Peg City 13: At Patriot Place in Charleswood, the Patriots rode out a stubborn challenge from the last-place Crusaders and finished the day 22-13 victors. The Pats were awarded no style points in the power rankings for this win, but do deserve off-line credit for not pressing when the boobirds began chirping in the stands after **Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah** sacked **DeShaun Watson** for an 11-yard loss late in the 3rd quarter with the vaunted Pats ahead by a mere 4 points, 17-13. It was as if all of the urgency had vanished from the Pats' offence after Watson had put them in front 17-10 with a slick dart to **Amari Cooper** for a touchdown to cap an efficient 9-play, 75-yard drive late in the 2nd quarter. Defensively, they played reserved, without much elan, and can thank the Pegs' overall mediocrity and clock mismanagement at the end of the first half for being able to hold them to just 13 points. This was reminiscent of the uninspiring effort these pre-ordained Gods of the Pacific put forth against the Triumph in Week Two. Hopefully, they are merely saving themselves for a peak in the final quarter of the season heading into the playoffs. But I feel that something is missing from this team – possibly the "team" part. At the moment they play like a bunch of talented guys getting to know each other in a pick-up game. That will have to change. One thing that must also change, but is unlikely to, are Crusaders' losses. To his credit, **Stephen Katopodis** has his smouldering wreck of a team playing hard, even if they are woefully overmatched against everybody. Don't know how long they can keep fighting and hoping for divine intervention, but for this week I will give them the "style points" I did not give Charleswood in recognition of their gritty defensive effort.

Durham 36, Erieau 14: At Jurassic Park in Durham, heavy rain played its way into another game as the Lizards took advantage of 4 Erieau turnovers to come out the other side 36-14 victors and rise to 5-1. Rain has been a feature in three of the Lizards' four home dates so far and this recurrent wet weather is, according to reports from inside the Durham franchise, driving Coach **George Kaldis** mad. This week the rain came down especially hard and seemed to short-circuit the Lizard offence, followed later by coach

Kaldis' temper. However, the rain also greased the hands of **Kyler Murray** to disastrous effect for the hard luck visitors. Murray struggled with accuracy, throwing 2 interceptions and also fumbling 4 times, losing 2, the last leading to a 15-yard fumble recovery TD by **Fred Warner** for an insurance score late in the 4th quarter. This struggle was actually closer than the score indicated, with the Cadillac holding the lead at halftime, 7-3. This fact was the lead item in all of the network halftime intermission broadcasts. The pressure would have been great on the Lizards and their coach coming out of the locker room for the 2nd half. But **Cooper Kupp** got the fans up on their feet with a 66-yard catch-and-run on the first play from scrimmage in the 3rd quarter and **Tyler Boyd** had them dancing the play after with a 9-yard TD grab from **Josh Allen**



Durham coach, **George Kaldis** gives directions to his team using hand gestures after his water-logged headset stopped working against Erieau. Rain has been more abundant than usual at Jurassic Park in 2021 and the Thunder Lizards' coach has had enough.

From there, the Lizards slowly gained more separation, scoring 9 more points in the 3rd quarter before Eriean struck back with a 25-yard touchdown pass to **Tee Higgins** with 6:35 left in the 4th. The game ended on a sour note with both coaches' rain-soaked brains coming loose from their moorings late in the game. Eriean's latest and probably not-for-long coach, **Matt Nagy** decided to try and go down blazing. With his offence taking over at their own 8 and just 0:32 remaining in the game with the Caddies down 29-14, he dialed up three deep passes and all-out bomb, all incomplete. That gave Durham the ball at the Eriean 8 with just 0:11 left. This gesture of defiance seemed to drive Kaldis over the edge. Or perhaps he only wanted to get in out of the rain and was frustrated at the petulance of his opponent. Rather than kneel, or run safe (as the Lizards had done in the previous possession) he ran back-to-back pass plays, the second hitting home on an 8-yard checkdown TD to **Chase Edmunds** with no time on the clock. This made the final score 36-14, a darker black eye than before for the thoroughly demoralized Cadillac. This had the effect of inducing conniptions in both coach **Matt Nagy** and Cadillac owner, **Jamie Rilett**. Nagy stormed off the field, refusing to shake hands with his counterpart while Rilett did the unheard of and ran on to the field, flipping the bird to Kaldis as the Durham coach shouted back angrily, "you should have just knelt!" It was an ugly end to an ugly game and it didn't get any prettier in the post-game press conferences on both sides. Go check them out!

Virden 28, Twin Cities 20: At Wilhalla Stadium in Minneapolis, the Violators got out in front early and hung on to top Twin Cities 28-20, despite two more serious injuries to their defensive line. **Austin Bryant** and **Geno Atkins** were carted off the field, leaving Virden with just four down linemen to finish off the 4th quarter. Not coincidentally, the final frame was the only time the Triumph offence got into a rhythm since an early 75-yard TD drive had tied the game at 7. In a vote of no-confidence in his QB, **Mitch Trubisky** or (as is claimed) a desire to exploit an exhausted Virden D-line, Coach **Guy Williams** ran the ball 54 times to just 7 pass attempts. **Clyde Edwards-Helaire** shouldered most of the burden, carrying 33 times for 210 yards (39 yards shy of the all-time record) and 2 TDs in his first extensive action of the season. **Darrel Henderson Jr** added 64 yards and a TD on 17 carries in his most significant contribution of the year. If the strategy was indeed to break down an already broken Virden D-line, it worked, but it was still strange to watch the Triumph run the ball repeatedly while trying to make up a three-score deficit in the game's final period. Mixing in the occasional pass would not have hurt the strategy and could have led to a breakthrough as there were times the Violators would have bitten hard on play-action, such as when they stuffed Henderson for a 1-yard loss on 4th & 1 at the Virden 37 early in the 4th quarter. This tells me that the strategy was as much about managing Trubisky as it was exploiting a defensive weakness. If true, this begs the question, why maintain the Trubisky Sideshow any longer? The Main Event is waiting, "un-developing" on the sideline. What is he learning from watching Trubisky hand the ball over 54 times? Is the incessant and increasingly angry whining of the fans on local talk radio shows not enough? Is the pestering from the media not taking a sufficient toll on **Guy Williams**' mental health? Is the stubborn-as-a-mule Triumph coach waiting to receive actual death threats from the fan base before he relents? Surely, he has a plan and there is a reason for him to wait. But whatever is at the root of that plan does not involve competing this year.

Las Vegas 30, Bruxelles 21: At 'The Fortress' in Bruxelles, the Assassins made short work of the Bombers, 30-21 to raise their record to 6-0 and drive Bruxelles further down in the East Division basement. In the Bombers' first three possessions, they turned the ball over twice on downs and **Drew Brees** was intercepted, setting up the first two Assassins touchdowns. The Bombers ended up falling behind 24-7 early in the 3rd quarter before Brees counter-attacked with a pair of back-to-back TD passes to pull his team within 3 points. But that Bomber defence just can't get a stop when it needs one. **Justin Herbert** responded immediately to the threat, going 3 of 3 for 66 yards and making it look easy on a 6-play drive that ended with a 36-yard connection to **Mecole Hardman** to make it 30-21, where the score would stay. Bomber aggressiveness, on par with that of Sebastian through 6 weeks, seems to be causing them trouble as they sink further into the pit. Meanwhile, Las Vegas just keeps rolling along.

East Elmhurst 34, Scarborough 17: At Monsignor McClancy Memorial Stadium in East Elmhurst, the Irish strengthened their bid to steal a South Division suddenly abandoned by the team formerly known as the Mustangs by smacking down the Blue Eagles 34-17. The difference between the start of this game and everything from the mid-way point of the 2nd quarter onward was stark. '55' was the magic number for a quick Scarborough start. **Joe Burrow** fired a 55-yard, deep ball to **Jamison Crowder** for a touchdown on the game's opening drive and **Mason Crosby** followed that with a 55-yard field goal on the Blue Eagles' next possession. A 6-yard flare to **Myles Gaskin** made it three scores in three possessions for Scarborough, giving them a 17-7 lead early in the 2nd quarter. Then the Blue Eagle offence called it a day, gaining a mere 6 first downs for the remainder of the game. While the Eagles were grounded the Irish offence under **Baker Mayfield** soared, recording 27 unanswered points to turn this into a laughter. Mayfield finished with 3TD passes and 240 yards while running back **Aaron Jones** added a score to go along with 127 yards on the ground. Break up the Irish!

Budapest 27, York 21: And finally, at Camelot in Avalon, the North Stars continued their early season dominance by subduing York, 27-21 in a game that was not a close as the score suggests. The North Stars turned away a York charge on the opening drive when **Lavonte David** punched the ball of the arms of **Derrick Henry** and **Chase Winovich** recovered at his own 11. It was a punch that seemed to knock the wind out of York for the rest of the game. Riding the wave of momentum generated by the turnover, **Aaron Rodgers** drove his team the distance in 13 plays, finishing it off with a 14-yard TD pass to **Nelson Agholor**. The Swords punted on their next possession and pinned the North Stars back at their own 3-yard line. That was no problem for Rodgers; he drove them the distance, converting 3 third downs along the way, including the 34-yard finishing strike to **Stefon Diggs** for a TD on 3rd & 1. York got on the board with a 38-yard TD run by **Derrick Henry** but the highlight-reel rumble turned out to be a mere flash in the pan. **Justin Jefferson** opened the 2nd half with a 75yard catch-and-run to open up the score to 24-7. **Tom Brady** did his part to make the score respectable for posterity, with a pair of late touchdowns, including a 69-yard bomb to **Mike Williams**. But they were the definition of too little, too late.

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COBB COUNTY @ BUDAPEST (line – NORTH STARS by 9)

INJURIES: Cobb County – None; Budapest – George Kittle (Inactive).

While a couple of teams have slowed them down there appears to be no stopping the North Stars and their potent new offence under a rejuvenated Aaron Rodgers. The Coyotes may be the first team with a legitimate shot, albeit a remote one. Pre-season I might have given a field goal to Cobb County on the road here, but their back-to-back losses before last week's bounce back against Chino make them look a little too human for that kind of tight action against the God of Quarterbacks. Still, it seems as if the Emperors of Dune may be over-reacting to the Stars' unbeaten pedigree and under-estimating the mettle of a Coyote team that ranks right behind Budapest in offensive and defensive efficiency. The Coyotes have options offensively that the Stars, for all that Rodgers is the star of the show, do not. I don't think the dogs can crack the 'win' column here, but expect them to make it close. **PICK: COBB COUNTY**

BRUXELLES @ PICKERING (line – SPARTANS by 4)

INJURIES: Bruxelles – Jordan Phillips (OUT), Isaiah Wynn (OUT); Pickering – Darqueze Dennard (OUT), Richie Incognito (OUT).

The Spartans have won 3 straight and are firmly out of the basement after beating Brooklin last week. A pick-six pushed them over the 30-point hump for the first time this year. While the defence has been holding its own, the offence continues to lag, averaging just 303 yards per game. Enter, the Bombers – a team that surrendered almost 30 points to the Crusaders. The disintegration of its pass rush in the off-season means more blitzes to bring pressure and the undermanned secondary cannot cope. Worse, Drew Brees no longer has to gas to cover up the defects of a defence-in-name-only. One of these struggling outfits – the Spartan offence or the Bruxelles defence – is going to feel better after this game. Bruxelles is in a virtual must-win situation, as a loss would mean having to run the table to get to the 10-win projected minimum to make the playoffs. The Spartans are high but Bruxelles is a cornered rat. **PICK: BRUXELLES**

BROOKLIN @ BUFFALO (line – DERAILERS by 6)

INJURIES: Brooklin – Austin Ekeler (OUT), Taylor Lewan (OUT), Xavier McKinney (OUT), Leighton Vander Esch (OUT); Buffalo – Jayon Brown (OUT), Jaquiski Tartt (OUT).

The Derailers should probably have beaten the Cubs last week but for their field goal kicker – whose name it is forbidden to speak in upstate New York this week. On the other hand, the loss is likely deserved, given bonehead aggression early in the game gave the Cubs an opening to take control and it was only a lucky bounce and the late heroics of Lamar Jackson that let them back in. The Lamar X-factor is in play again this week against a Hawks team that is awakening to the reality that the swagger that carried them through an impressive Cinderella run last year has an arthritic hitch in its swish this year. The supports around Derek Carr are rickety at best and the slightly more efficient defence is not good enough to make up the deficit. The only reliable feature of the Brooklin franchise is its willingness to play for its coach. That should make for an interesting and spirited fight here. **PICK: BROOKLIN**

YORK @ NEW JERSEY (line – Pick'Em)

INJURIES: York – CJ Henderson (OUT), Cole Holcomb (OUT); New Jersey – None.

The Wrecking Balls are a nervous 4-2 after they needed a 75-yard touchdown pass in the final seconds to beat a win-less team last week. They have now won four in a row by a total of 11 points against sketchy competition. Their own coach will confess to being lucky lately but the wins still count and the Balls are alive and kicking in the East as a result. The 4-2 Excaliburs have looked strong in their four wins but get no extra points for the achievement apart from a practically meaningless boost in the power rankings. The "power" experts consider York the more powerful team, but Vegas sees this edge as neutralized by the homefield, where the Balls are

1-2. Expect New Jersey to throw with abandon after a token effort to run the ball and for York to run the ball...a lot. **PICK: YORK**

PEG CITY @ ERIEAU (line – CADILLAC by 4)

INJURIES: Peg City – Taylor Rapp (PROBABLE), Quinn Meinerz (DOUBTFUL), Josh Allen (OUT), Saquon Barkley (OUT), Jonathan Bullard (OUT), Devin Bush (OUT), Tarik Cohen (OUT), Davon Godchaux (OUT), Chandler Jones (OUT), Jalen Thompson (OUT); Erieau – Dre'Mont Jones (QUESTIONABLE), Brian Poole (OUT), Tyson Smith (OUT).

This is probably Peg City's best chance to win a game this year. It shouldn't be. The Cadillac have the more talented roster and a run game that, in theory, should be enough to carry the offence into favourable play-action opportunities. For some reason, however, hand-offs to the running backs don't go down very well in Erieau. The ground game relies mostly on QB, Kyler Murray, who is doing a poor man's imitation of Lamar but without the passing part. The defensive front remains loaded, but back-end help is not proving to be much help this year. However, the Crusaders are the worst of the worst on offence and will struggle to score. The Cadillac offence, to their humiliation, are a nose of the football in front of them in the race for yards. This will not be a fun game to watch. **PICK: ERIEAU**

GEORGIA @ CHARLESWOOD (line – PATRIOTS by 7)

INJURIES: Georgia – Melvin Ingram III (OUT); Charleswood – Ronnie Stanley (OUT), Desmond Trufant (OUT).

The Patriots aren't exactly putting the fear of death into opposing defences so far this year but they done enough to prevail in five out of six games. DeShaun Watson is good, but could be better. Clearly, deciding whether to throw to one of his three wide-open wide receivers or his wide-open tight end is creating stress in the pocket and throwing off his timing slightly. Big Ben faces a similar conundrum, with three top-grade wide receivers to choose from. When he can't decide, he hands the ball off to James Robinson, who has churned out almost 600 yards on the ground, third most in the league. At the pace the Pats have been going, this could be a much closer game than expected. The Glads' secondary is exploitable, however, and it is rarely wise to bet against talent. **PICK: CHARLESWOOD**

OSHAWA @ TWIN CITIES (line – TRIUMPH by 3)

INJURIES: Oshawa – Julian Edelman (OUT), Eric Kendricks (OUT), K'Waun Williams (OUT); Twin Cities – Antonio Brown (OUT), Samuel Cosmi (OUT), Kenny Golladay (OUT), Melvin Gordon II (OUT).

The Pink Panthers finally won in their new home and it was a jubilant return for an offence that once routinely mow down all comers. Breaking the seal on the lid that had kept them contained and win-less through five weeks was a milestone, but more work needs to be done on the defensive side before Oshawa can be declared "back." What should have been a AAA-grade blowout got dicey towards the end when the laidback defence gave up three touchdowns in 8 minutes to let the Fish back in. Finishing should be less of a worry here, however, against a Triumph offence weaning itself off the Mitch Trubisky passing game in preparation for the coming of the "Messiah" which, like the second coming of the real Messiah, is still unannounced. It is hard to divine the Triumph coach's strategy, apart from assuming he wants the rookie to be truly ready. Whether he is or not, it's too early to pick him or the "other guy." **PICK: OSHAWA**

VIRDEN @ EAST ELMHURST (line – IRISH by 7)

INJURIES: Virden – Geno Atkins (OUT), Anthony Barr (OUT), John Brown (OUT), Austin Bryant (OUT), Ja'Marr Chase (OUT), Dee Ford (OUT), Malik Hooker (OUT), Lane Johnson (OUT), Kelechi Osemele (OUT), Danny Shelton (OUT), Solomon Thomas (OUT), Oshane Ximines (OUT); East Elmhurst – None.

The Irish are staking claim to a South Division that has been abandoned by the competition. They consider themselves worthy after a healthy version of the team made mince meat of the Blue Eagles last week. This week, the COVID-free Irish take on what's left of the Violators, who are suffering from a more traditional rash of physical injuries on defence. The inactive list for Virden reads like a casualty report from the Battle of the Somme. Forced to take the field with just four healthy defensive linemen and two linebackers, the possibility of seeing safeties playing with their hands in the dirt is a real possibility. Virden ace, Patrick Mahomes is missing two wide receivers and two starting linemen. He will get into trouble if he tries too hard to be a hero. **PICK: EAST ELMHURST**

IOWA CITY @ SEBASTIAN (line – SWORDFISH by 1)

INJURIES: Iowa City – None; Sebastian – Jadeveon Clowney (OUT), Bobby Massie (OUT).

The Swordfish boast the top offence in the league after six weeks. It is not merely the best, it is the best by far. Let that sink in. An offence led by Kirk Cousins is leading the league in yards and points. The question has to be: How long can it last? The answer is: Probably another week at least. The Cubs' defence is teetering as their stars age and their up-and-comers aren't quite there yet. A third straight 500-yard game is not out of the question for the Sebastian offence. Russell Wilson should be preparing the torpedoes for an all-out assault on an inept Swordfish defence that has compelled its offence to reach league-leading heights in order to win games. Name an important defensive category and you will find the Swordfish are at the bottom of it with the Bombers. It makes for an interesting match-up, as the conservative Cubs will find themselves facing an offensive psychopath with few if any self-imposed restrictions, while they

try to play by the Marquess of Queensbury's Rules. Expect the Cubs to throw no punches and play Judo instead. **PICK: IOWA CITY**

CHINO @ COWTOWN (line – CONVICTS by 1)

INJURIES: Chino – AJ Bouye (OUT), Christian McCaffrey (OUT), Lorenzo Carter (OUT), Dak Prescott (OUT), Mike Purcell (OUT); **Cowtown** – Jimmy Garoppolo (OUT), Eric Saubert (OUT).

The Corn Kings have won two straight and deserve a little more respect at home against a Chino squad missing its starting quarterback and Pro Bowl running back. But the world that wagers is seemingly not convinced that a journeyman starting quarterback, two geriatric running backs and Mike Evans by himself are enough to out-gun the league's best back-up in Teddy Bridgewater. If that is true, they are forgetting to factor in a Corn King defence that is one game versus Sebastian away from being in the running for a top-two ranking in the league. TJ Watt is the leader of a serendipitous defence that boasts complementary pieces rather than brute talent and is currently performing at a high level. With weather often a factor at Tillman Field, expect a slower, Corn Kings pace. **PICK: COWTOWN**

SCARBOROUGH @ SEATTLE (line – BLUE EAGLES by 2)

INJURIES: Scarborough – Nick Bosa (OUT), Landon Collins (OUT), DeSean Jackson (OUT), Zack Martin (OUT); **Seattle** – Michael Brockers (OUT), Myles Jack (OUT).

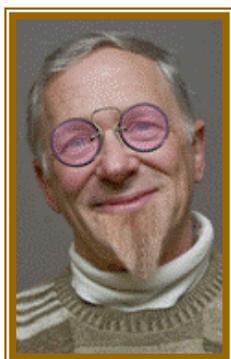
After a sluggish start in which the offence was unable to rise out of pre-season mode, the Pilots are putting together more complete games and have come close to getting a win the last two weeks. Sticking with the same quarterback throughout the game was a good step. The next step will be getting more supportive play from the defence, which suffered an unforgivable breakdown with the game on the line against New Jersey last week and became all jell-o-like in the late-going against Virden the week before. At least the Pilots seem to be improving. The Blue Eagles don't appear to know where they're going, other than up-and-down like a yo-yo. The offence enjoyed a burst of activity against the sub-par Swordfish defence two weeks ago. Last week they fell back into a funk in the second half versus the Irish.

Whether they can keep up with the leisurely pace of the Pilots' offence is an actual question at this point. **PICK: SEATTLE**

DURHAM @ LAS VEGAS (line – ASSASSINS by 5)

INJURIES: Durham – Rashaad Penny (OUT); **Las Vegas** – None.

The good news for Durham is that the chance of rain in Vegas this week is nil. The bad news is that the speed turf at 'the Den' will give the Assassin linebackers plenty of traction to go after Josh Allen and a Lizard attack that has not looked very imposing over the past two weeks, notwithstanding a 36-point haul of mostly "ghost points" against Erieau last week. Until Durham is able to run the ball consistently, their offence will be a touch too one-dimensional to have its way with any half decent defence and the Assassins defence is more than that – it is the top-ranked in the league in efficiency and second in takeaways, behind Durham itself. This is shaping up to be a defensive battle, with the Las Vegas attacking Durham on the ground and the Lizards going airborne against the only, barely discernible weakness in the Las Vegas defence, the back end. That's how it will start anyway. Who knows how it will end! **PICK: DURHAM**



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This Week in EFL History
With Professor
Sterling Smitherman

FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – In Week Six of the 2015 EFL season, the Mustangs rallied for 16 points in the 4th quarter to edge out Pickering 33-31 for Aurora's 25th consecutive victory. The historic win eclipsed the previous record of 24 games set by **Jim Heaton's** 2009 – 2010 Florida Dragons. It was merely an eerie coincidence that the team that snapped the Dragons' unbeaten streak was the Spartans under **Gus Konstantakos**. It looked as if they were about to do the same to the Mustangs for the better part of this game, until **Chris Polk**, who had returned a kickoff for a TD earlier in the game, ripped off a 64-yard kick return to

Spartan 20-yard line that set up the TD that pulled them to within one score. Two **Nick Folk** field goals later, the last coming with 1:27 left, finished off the comeback and made EFL history – *The Streak*.

The league announced it was investigating possible illegal in-game communication between Blue Eagles' QB, **Aaron Rodgers** and the team's owner, **Chris Dickinson**. The controversy erupted after text messages went public showing what appears to be an exchange between Rodgers and Dickinson after Scarborough's 16-10 loss to the lowly North Stars. With 0:23 left and trailing by 6, Rodgers snuck the ball on 4th & 7 for a 1-yard gain, ending the game. It is alleged that Rodgers misunderstood a direction given to him on an illegal headset by the owner. Scarborough coach **Rex Ryan** denied calling the play and Rodgers wouldn't clarify to the media where he got the call for a sneak. It was just another boneheaded blunder in an already frustrating year for the under-achieving Blue Eagles.

By Week 6, **Russell Wilson** of the Cubs had overtaken **Cam Newton** of the Convicts as the top-rated passer in the league, with a 115.0 QBR. **LeSean McCoy** (Gwinnett) led the league in rushing with 734 yards, 2 yards more than **Le'Veon Bell** of the Knights.