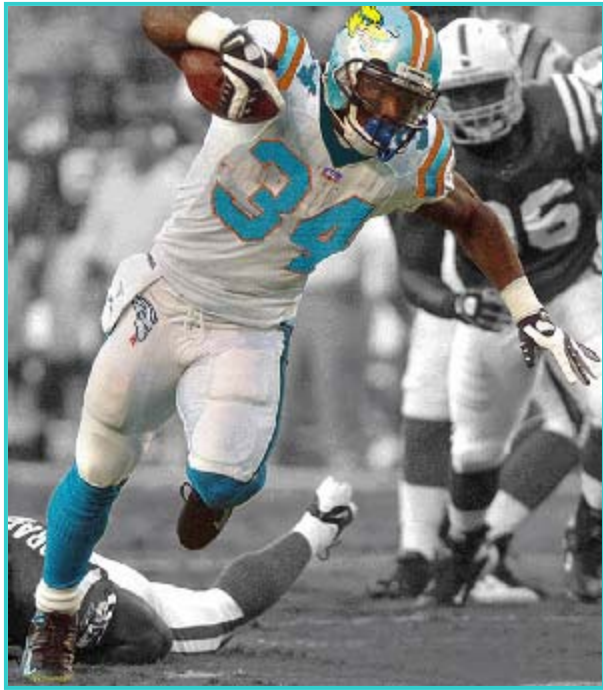




2009

WEEK EIGHT

November 22nd, 2009



Florida's DeAngelo Williams stood out again this week. Here he is rushing into the end zone in first quarter action against Charleswood. The Dragons won 26-24.

WILLIAMS UNSTOPPABLE AS DRAGONS REMAIN PERFECT

FLORIDA RISES TO 8-0 AS DeANGELO WILLIAMS RUSHES FOR 194 YARDS / "FIREWALL" SHUTS DOWN PETERSON



FLORIDA

26

8 - 0



CHARLESWOOD

24

6 - 2

CHARLESWOOD – It was hyped as the Game of the Year and it did not disappoint – unless you happen to be a Charleswood supporter. It was not only a match up between two of the league’s best teams, it was a match up between two of the league’s most explosive running backs. On Florida’s side: **DeAngelo Williams** – league leading rusher and top scorer. On Charleswood’s side: **Adrian Peterson** – breathing down Williams’ neck in the running race at #2. In the end, their individual performances reflected the performance of their respective teams. For Charleswood, looking for revenge after dropping the 2008 Conference Championship to Florida on a last second field goal, the game was a lost opportunity and an emotional roller coaster ride. For Florida, the game was a statement to the league that they can win anytime, anywhere. Tom who?

As usually happens, Florida jumped out to the early lead, piling up 17 unanswered points despite Charleswood’s best efforts to stop them. Breaking tackles and running through keying linebackers, **DeAngelo Williams** racked up 120 yards in 11 carries on Florida’s first three possessions. Highlights included an 11-yard touchdown run to make the score 10-0, and a 46-yard burst up the middle to set up **Jonathan Stewart’s** 2-yard touchdown run to increase their lead to 17-0. The Pats were reeling on defense but got a lift from their offence on the next series – **Peyton Manning** completed 4 of 5 for 40 yards and **Jerious Norwood** carried 3 times for 17 yards and a touchdown on the ensuing drive to put the Pats on the board. Three minutes later they were right back in the game after a 65-yard punt return for a touchdown by **Bernard Berrian** narrowed the Florida lead to 17-14.

Florida came right back with **Aaron Rodgers** throwing for 53 yards on a 68-yard drive to the Charleswood 8 yard line. But, in one of the few occasions the Pats brought pressure to bear on Rodgers, the young QB missed an open **Billy Bajema** on third down and short and the Dragons settled for a field goal to lead 20-14 at half time.

The Pats got that field goal back on the opening drive of the second half when **Stephen Gostkowski** converted from 32 yards out to pull to within 3 points. The Dragons replied with a drive to the Charleswood 31 yard line where they faced 4th down and 2. Eschewing the field goal attempt, Coach Heaton kept his offence on the field. But instead of handing the ball off to Williams as everyone expected, Rodgers went to the air and misfired. The Pats took over and went on the attack. Manning hit on 5 of 6 passes, accounting for all 69 yards of a drive that ended when he found **Tony Gonzalez** for a 3-yard touchdown pass. After

a rocky start, the Pats found themselves in the lead, 24-20 and in the driver's seat as the fourth quarter began.

Showing the poise of a championship-caliber team, the Dragons did not panic. Instead, they returned to their strength and calmly and methodically moved the ball on the ground to mid field, where untimely penalties forced them to the air. It looked like the Pats defense would finally shut the Dragons down when **John Abraham** sacked Rodgers on 2nd down and 20, bringing up 3rd down and 29 at the Florida 38. Instead, it set up the emotional turning point of the game. The Pats' **Quentin Jammer** was flagged for pass interference on a deep ball to **Brandon Marshall** – a 38-yard foul that led to a 22-yard field goal by **Jason Elam**.

Clinging to a one-point lead the Pats gave the ball back when Berrian was stuffed for a 5-yard loss by **Terrell Suggs** on a third down end-around. **Craig Hentrich** shanked the punt trying to land it inside the 20 yard line and Florida took over at their 31. The Pats had another chance to close out the game when the Dragons faced 4th down and 3 at their 49. But Williams struck again, breaking out around right tackle for a 5-yard gain and new life. Four plays later, with no timeouts left and 28 seconds on the clock, Florida elected to try the field goal on third down. Elam hit it perfectly from 45 yards out to keep his team a perfect 8-0.

11-21-2009 Patriot Place. Temp: 75 Wind: MVP: **DeAngelo Williams**

2008 Florida (8-0) 10 10 0 6 - 26
2008 Charleswood (6-2) 0 14 10 0 - 24

1 9:11 Florida FG Elam 29 (10-48-5:49) 3-0
1 3:26 Florida TD Williams 11 run (Elam,J) (7-51-4:22) 10-0
2 12:24 Florida TD Stewart 2 run (Elam,J) (3-62-1:43) 17-0
2 7:54 Charleswood TD Norwood 3 run (Gostkowski) (8-57-4:30) 17-7
2 4:26 Charleswood TD Berrian 65 punt return (Gostkowski) (0-0-0:00) 17-14
2 0:46 Florida FG Elam 25 (10-68-3:40) 20-14
3 9:07 Charleswood FG Gostkowski 32 (10-48-5:53) 20-17
3 0:53 Charleswood TD Manning 3 pass to Gonzalez (Gostkowski) (7-69-3:23) 20-24
4 6:39 Florida FG Elam 22 (16-75-9:14) 23-24
4 0:28 Florida FG Elam 45 (9-41-1:54) 26-24

	FLD	CHP
First Downs	25	16
Rushes	41-234	20-65
Passes	28-17-160	29-18-193
Sacked	1-9	0-0
Fumble	1	1
Penalties	6-45	3-48
Turnovers	0	2
Time	35:41	24:19
Third Down	6-12	4-9
Fourth Down	1-2	1-3
Red Att/Td/Fg	5/2/3	3/2/1
Net Offense	385	258

KEY PERFORMANCES: FLD – **DeAngelo Williams** rushed for 194 yards and 1 TD on 30 carries; **Aaron Rodgers** completed 17 of 28 for 160 yards; **LaRon Landry** had 3 deflections and 1 Forced Fumble; Terrell Suggs had 2 deflections and 3 run stuffs. CHP – **Peyton Manning** went 17 of 28 for 179 yards, 1 TD and 1 INT; **Adrian Peterson** had 15 carries for 55 yards; **Tony Gonzalez** had 8 catches for 92 yards and 1 TD; **Stewart Bradley** made 15 tackles.



16

GARLAND



31

MOHAVE

WARNER ON FIRE IN FOURTH – STOPS SKID

GAME POINTS: Kurt Warner threw 3 touchdown passes, 2 of them in a 21-point fourth quarter burst, to lead the Hellfire over the Gladiators and stop a 5-game Mohave losing streak. It did not start well for the Hellfire. The Gladiators took advantage of a botched 4th down conversion attempt by Mohave in their own territory to strike first with a 4-yard TD pass from **Matt Cassel** to **Leon Washington**. After the Hellfire tied it up, the Glads ground out two field goals to lead 13-7 at half time. The second half belonged to Mohave as the defense stiffened and the offense caught fire. Warner completed 7 of 9 pass attempts for 180 yards and 2 TDs over a 15:26 span to finish off the game and the Glads.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Kurt Warner went 27 of 38 for 364 yards and 3 TDs; **Donald Driver** caught 10 passes for 176 yards and 1 TD; **Steve Slaton** rushed for 50 yards and 1 TD on 16 carries. **Matt Cassel** completed 12 of 23 passes for 131 yards and 1 TD; **Reggie Wayne** caught 5 passes for 84 yards.

11-21-2009 The Fiery Depths. Temp: 110 Wind: Calm None MVP: **Warner**

2008 Gwinnett (4-4) 7 6 0 3 - 16
2008 Mohave (3-5) 0 7 3 21 - 31

1 4:55 Gwinnett TD Cassel 4 pass to Washington (Brown,J) (12-45-6:55) 7-0
2 13:30 Mohave TD Warner 9 pass to Owens (Bironas) (11-80-6:25) 7-7
2 9:49 Gwinnett FG Brown 43 (8-52-3:41) 10-7
2 3:25 Gwinnett FG Brown 43 (9-26-5:25) 13-7
3 3:43 Mohave FG Bironas 24 (15-68-9:16) 13-10
4 13:38 Mohave TD Warner 9 pass to Daniels (Bironas) (6-67-3:15) 13-17
4 7:23 Mohave TD Slaton 4 run (Bironas) (3-54-2:13) 13-24
4 4:25 Gwinnett FG Brown 48 (8-53-2:58) 16-24
4 2:31 Mohave TD Warner 58 pass to Driver (Bironas) (4-80-1:50) 16-31

	GWG	MOH
First Downs	16	23
Rushes	27-63	25-77
Passes	35-17-185	38-27-364
Sacked	1-5	1-2
Fumble	2	1
Penalties	3-30	4-25
Turnovers	2	0
Time	28:30	31:30
Third Down	7-15	7-12
Fourth Down	1-2	1-3
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/0	4/3/1
Net Offense	243	439



28

KUTZTOWN



14

RINGGOLD

'FANTASTIC FOUR' SAVES KUTZTOWN

GAME POINTS: Tony Romo threw four touchdown passes to Greg Jennings to account for all 28 points of offence and the Kutztown secondary held up against a barrage of 50 Ben Roethlisberger pass attempts to give the Golden Bears their fourth victory of the year. After a scoreless first quarter, Romo opened the fireworks with a 5-yard TD pass to finish a drive that started 12 plays earlier after Ringgold failed to convert on 4th and 2 at the Kutztown 35. Kutztown would score the eventual game winner with 17 seconds left in the first half. With 7 Hawk blitzers gunning for Romo, Jennings was wide open and took a medium out pass 41 yards for the score.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Greg Jennings caught 7 passes for 121 yards and 4 TDs; Tony Romo went 19 of 32 for 223 yards and 4 TDs; LeSean McCoy rushed for 51 yards on 8 carries. Ben Roethlisberger completed 28 of 50 pass attempts for 319 yards and 2 TDs; Eddie Royal caught 11 passes for 108 yards and 1 TD; DeMarcus Ware had 1 sack, 1 stuff and 3 forced fumbles.

11-21-2009 The Hawk's Nest. Temp: 58 Wind: 0-10 Rain MVP: Jennings			KUT	RCH				
2008 Kutztown (4-4)	0	21	0	7	-28	First Downs	19	19
2008 Ringgold (2-6)	0	7	7	0	-14	Rushes	30-104	13-44
2 14:56 Kutztown	TD Romo 5 pass to Jennings (Kaeding) (12-65-6:38)	7-0	Passes	32-19-223	50-28-319	Sacked	1-5	0-0
2 9:52 Ringgold	TD Roethlisberger 23 pass to Royal (Suisham) (11-64-4:23)	7-7	Fumble	3	3	Penalties	5-52	8-52
2 1:41 Kutztown	TD Romo 15 pass to Jennings (Kaeding) (8-54-3:10)	14-7	Turnovers	1	3	Time	33:35	26:25
2 0:17 Kutztown	TD Romo 41 pass to Jennings (Kaeding) (3-53-0:29)	21-7	Third Down	3-13	5-14	Fourth Down	0-0	2-4
3 13:37 Ringgold	TD Roethlisberger 41 pass to Johnson (Suisham) (4-67-1:23)	21-14	Red Att/Td/Fg	4/3/0	0/0/0	Net Offense	322	363
4 12:31 Kutztown	TD Romo 20 pass to Jennings (Kaeding) (3-36-1:30)	28-14						

BREES BLOWS AWAY GARLAND

GAME POINTS: Drew Brees threw 5 touchdown passes to out-duel Garland star Matt Ryan and steal a game on the road at The Corral. Clinton Portis converted a 4th down and 3 at the Garland 43 yard line to keep Virden's opening drive alive. Brees finished it off with the first of his five TD passes – a 9-yard slant to Marvin Harrison to open the scoring. Garland tied it up on a nifty 40-yard TD pass from Ryan to Wes Welker, but that would be as close as the Mustangs would get. The Violators had their way with the Garland defense on a star-crossed day for the home team, scoring on their first six possessions of the game and moving the ball effectively both on the ground and through the air.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Drew Brees went 22 of 28 for 274 yards and 5 TDs; Clinton Portis rushed for 111 yards on 23 carries; Marvin Harrison caught 9 passes for 94 yards and 3 TDs. Matt Ryan went 25 of 34 for 278 yards, 3 TDs and 1 INT; Wes Welker caught 10 passes for 142 yards and 1 TD.



38

VIRDEN



28

GARLAND

11-21-2009 The Corral. Temp: 69 Wind: Calm None MVP: Brees			VV	GDM				
2008 Virden (3-5)	7	17	7	7	-38	First Downs	24	21
2008 Garland (4-4)	7	7	7	7	-28	Rushes	35-160	15-55
1 7:49 Virden	TD Brees 9 pass to Harrison (Vinatieri) (12-50-5:46)	7-0	Passes	28-22-274	34-25-278	Sacked	1-3	0-0
1 4:18 Garland	TD Ryan 40 pass to Welker (Gould) (6-68-3:31)	7-7	Fumble	2	0	Penalties	6-38	6-42
2 14:12 Virden	TD Brees 8 pass to Harrison (Vinatieri) (11-85-5:06)	14-7	Turnovers	0	1	Time	35:29	24:31
2 4:46 Virden	TD Brees 5 pass to Addai (Vinatieri) (12-52-6:59)	21-7	Third Down	11-15	5-7	Fourth Down	1-1	0-2
2 0:42 Garland	TD Ryan 8 pass to Clayton (Gould) (10-71-4:01)	21-14	Red Att/Td/Fg	5/5/0	3/3/0	Net Offense	431	333
2 0:02 Virden	FG Vinatieri 55 (3-28-0:40)	24-14						
3 10:28 Virden	TD Brees 13 pass to Rice (Vinatieri) (12-71-4:32)	31-14						
3 4:48 Garland	TD Gore 4 run (Gould) (10-72-5:40)	31-21						
4 14:12 Virden	TD Brees 4 pass to Harrison (Vinatieri) (9-83-5:36)	38-21						
4 4:11 Garland	TD Ryan 11 pass to Keller (Gould) (10-62-4:32)	38-28						



DURHAM



IOWA CITY

17

13

DINOS CURB CUBS

GAME POINTS: Leading 10-7 in the second quarter, Cubs punter **Adam Podlesh** dumped a punt onto the Durham 2 yard line to back the Lizards against the wall. Two play later, facing 3rd down and 11 at their 1 yard line, **Philip Rivers** found **Calvin Johnson** for 13 yards and a first down. That sparked a drive that would take the T-Lizards the entire length of the field, finally scoring on an 11-yard pass to **Dwayne Bowe** for a 14-10 Durham lead at half time. The teams traded field goals in the third quarter before **Trent Edwards** went down to injury, bringing back-up **Brodie Croyle** into the game in the fourth quarter. Following a big stand by their 'D,' the Cubs took over at the Durham 49 trailing 17-13. Croyle immediately went for the jugular but got bitten by safety **Ellis Hobbs**, who picked him off to end the Cubs' last threat.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Philip Rivers** went 15 of 28 for 192 yards and 2 TDs; **Michael Turner** had 26 carries for 125 yards; **Calvin Johnson** caught 4 passes for 58 yards. **Trent Edwards** completed 7 of 13 passes for 76 yards; **Brandon Jacobs** rushed for 147 yards and 1 TD on 20 carries.

11-21-2009 Joe Ferguson Stadium. Temp: 46 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: Hobbs					DTL	ICC		
2008 Durham (6-2)	7	7	3	0	-17	First Downs	19	12
2008 Iowa City (3-5)	3	7	3	0	-13	Rushes	38-150	27-184
						Passes	28-15-192	18-8-83
1 9:29 Iowa City	FG	Rackers	48	(9-18-4:17)	0-3	Sacked	2-20	2-11
1 4:08 Durham	TD	Rivers	7	pass to Davis (Crosby) (8-72-5:18)	7-3	Fumble	0	1
2 13:25 Iowa City	TD	Jacobs	9	run (Rackers) (11-80-5:43)	7-10	Penalties	7-49	5-50
2 0:57 Durham	TD	Rivers	11	pass to Bowe (Crosby) (13-98-4:17)	14-10	Turnovers	0	1
3 7:07 Iowa City	FG	Rackers	21	(9-87-4:35)	14-13	Time	35:24	24:36
3 2:00 Durham	FG	Crosby	41	(7-38-5:03)	17-13	Third Down	7-16	0-11
						Fourth Down	1-2	1-2
						Red Att/Td/Fg	5/2/0	2/1/1
						Net Offense	322	256

CONVICTS CONTROL CORN KINGS

GAME POINTS: **Jay Cutler** found **Hines Ward** open deep near the sideline for a 37-yard TD pass to put the Convicts ahead 14-0 late in the second quarter. **Santana Moss** got the Corn Kings back in the game soon after with a 60-yard punt return for a TD. Cowtown squandered a chance to tie it when **Chad Pennington** elected to scramble for one yard on 1st and goal at the 2 yard line with 12 seconds left in the first half and no timeouts. Mistakes and untimely penalties on offense and defense vexed Cowtown all day at 'The Big House.' The Chino defense went into "lockdown" mode in the second half, intercepting Cowtown quarterbacks twice and holding the visitors to just 2 first downs.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Jay Cutler** went 31 of 42 for 277 yards, 2 TDs and 1 INT; **Hines Ward** caught 10 passes for 110 yards and 1 TD; L.T. rushed for 37 yards on 11 carries. **Chad Pennington** completed 15 of 25 for 137 yards and 1 INT; **Zach Miller** caught 9 passes for 84 yards.



COWTOWN



CHINO

7

24

11-21-2009 The Big House. Temp: 90 Wind: 10-20 MVP: Cutler					COW	CHI		
2008 Cowtown (3-5)	0	7	0	0	-7	First Downs	9	22
2008 Chino (6-2)	7	7	0	10	-24	Rushes	13-27	35-90
						Passes	34-21-180	42-31-277
1 1:27 Chino	TD	Cutler	12	pass to Moss (Reed,J) (16-63-7:55)	0-7	Sacked	1-7	1-6
2 4:18 Chino	TD	Cutler	37	pass to Ward (Reed,J) (8-63-3:47)	0-14	Fumble	1	2
2 1:32 Cowtown	TD	Moss	60	punt return (Hanson,J) (0-0-0:00)	7-14	Penalties	8-60	6-47
4 12:25 Chino	TD	Moreno	3	run (Reed,J) (17-88-6:02)	7-21	Turnovers	2	1
4 7:59 Chino	FG	Reed	33	(5-14-2:18)	7-24	Challenges	0-0	0-2
						Time	20:25	39:35
						Third Down	1-12	5-18
						Fourth Down	1-1	3-4
						Red Att/Td/Fg	1/0/0	3/2/1
						Net Offense	200	361



24

LOS ANGELES



7

PICKERING

KNIGHTS TRAMPLE SPARTANS

GAME POINTS: Steve Smith fought through a double team to snare a slant pass from Jason Campbell and take it in for a 16-yard touchdown in the first quarter to put LA up 10-0. On their next possession, Steven Jackson rushed 7 times for 36 yards of an 80-yard drive to set up a 4-yard TD pass to Madison Hedgecock, making it 17-0. Pickering drew some blood and faint hope on a 26-yard TD pass from Eli Manning to Isaac Bruce, after Todd Heap fumbled, to close within 10 points at the half. But the Knights' defense was too much for a Pickering offense without running back Chris Johnson. The Spartans managed just one first down in the second half.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Jason Campbell completed 20 of 29 passes for 227 yards and 2 TDs; Steven Jackson rushed for 134 yards and 1 TD on 28 carries; Steve Smith caught 7 passes for 88 yards and 1 TD; Bradie James made 10 tackles and 1 run stuff. Eli Manning went 9 of 17 for 96 yards and 1 TD; Chester Taylor gained 20 yards on 11 carries and added 54 yards on 5 catches.

11-21-2009 Thermopylae Stadium. Temp: 52 Wind: 5-15 None MVP: Steven Jackson			LAK	PIC				
2008 Los Angeles (6-2)	10	7	0	7	-24	First Downs	25	6
2008 Pickering (3-5)	0	7	0	0	-7	Rushes	39-178	17-36
1 10:13 Los Angeles	FG	Brown	34	(9-51-4:47)	3-0	Passes	29-20-227	19-11-107
1 1:21 Los Angeles	TD	Campbell	16	pass to Smith (Brown,K) (8-65-4:55)	10-0	Sacked	0-0	2-15
2 6:51 Los Angeles	TD	Campbell	4	pass to Hedgecock (Brown,K) (12-80-6:47)	17-0	Fumble	1	2
2 2:48 Pickering	TD	Manning	26	pass to Bruce (Kasay) (1-26-0:10)	17-7	Penalties	6-45	7-45
4 2:45 Los Angeles	TD	Jackson	3	run (Brown,K) (16-79-12:08)	24-7	Turnovers	1	0
						Time	39:36	20:24
						Third Down	3-11	3-11
						Fourth Down	3-3	0-0
						Red Att/Td/Fg	4/3/1	0/0/0
						Net Offense	405	128

OUTLAWS McNABBED IN MARKHAM!

GAME POINTS: Donovan McNabb completed a 42-yard pass to deep threat Devery Henderson and followed that up with an 18-yard toss to Darren Sproles, setting up Michael Pittman's 1-yard touchdown run and giving Markham a 10-0 lead in the first quarter. The Outlaws rallied to move the ball 76 yards on their next possession and score on David Garrard's 7-yard pass to Percy Harvin. But that would be all the Bandits could muster until late in the game as Markham wrested control of the ball and the pace of play in the second half. A 7-yard TD pass from McNabb to Bobby Wade in the third quarter, as a pair of blitzers closed in, put the game out of reach for Winnemucca.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Donovan McNabb completed 16 of 19 passes for 253 yards and 2 TDs; Jamal Lewis carried 19 times for 77 yards; Michael Pittman carried 16 times for 61 yards and 1 TD; Chad Johnson caught 5 passes for 86 yards. David Garrard went 19 of 29, 1 TD and 1 INT; Percy Harvin caught



14

WINNEMUCCA



27

MARKHAM

11-21-2009 The Dawg Pound. Temp: 60 Wind: Calm None MVP: McNabb			WMO	MAR				
2008 Winnemucca (1-7)	0	7	0	7	-14	First Downs	16	23
2008 Markham (2-6)	10	10	7	0	-27	Rushes	18-64	40-148
1 8:02 Markham	FG	Longwell	35	(11-68-6:58)	0-3	Passes	29-19-179	19-16-253
1 4:35 Markham	TD	Pittman	1	run (Longwell) (3-61-1:33)	0-10	Sacked	1-4	2-15
2 11:21 Winnemucca	TD	Garrard	7	pass to Harvin (Graham,S) (15-76-8:14)	7-10	Fumble	1	1
2 7:26 Markham	TD	McNabb	19	pass to Wade (Longwell) (8-68-3:55)	7-17	Penalties	4-30	2-25
2 0:20 Markham	FG	Longwell	30	(11-52-4:09)	7-20	Turnovers	1	0
3 1:02 Markham	TD	McNabb	7	pass to Wade (Longwell) (16-90-10:08)	7-27	Time	25:27	34:33
4 3:21 Winnemucca	TD	Jones	1	run (Graham,S) (13-80-6:52)	14-27	Third Down	7-11	7-11
						Fourth Down	1-2	0-0
						Red Att/Td/Fg	2/2/0	8/3/2
						Net Offense	239	386



AROUND THE EFL With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – My resolution to save the environment and my pocket book by taking the subway to work lasted two days. Yesterday a transit rider was knifed to death by another transit rider after an argument brought on by a pushing match while boarding the train. It's back to taxis for me! How can I contribute to preserving the environment and my budget by reducing my consumption of goods and services if I am dead?

CONTROVERSY IN CHARLESWOOD

The Game of the Week played out as advertised with Florida needing a last second field goal from Jason Elam to beat the Patriots and preserve their perfect record. It was a great game to watch as both teams showed the best and worst aspects of their games. Too bad the refs ruined it. After letting the teams play for three quarters without decisive intervention, the zebras let their presence be felt in a major way early in the fourth quarter. With Florida trailing 24-20 after blowing an early 17-point lead, the Dragons faced 3rd and 29 at their 38 yard line with 9:54 remaining in the game. **Aaron Rodgers** threw deep to **Brandon Marshall** and the Pats secondary was waiting for it with seven defensive backs playing deep. It was a race for the ball between Marshall and **Quentin Jammer** that neither player won. However, in the congested traffic Jammer jostled Marshall before the ball arrived. To everyone in the stadium it looked like incidental contact – to everyone except for **Ed Hochuli**, of course. This referee, who loves to be part of the outcome of games, saw his opportunity to strike and threw a flag for pass interference on Jammer. The result was a 38-yard gain for Florida, a boon they turned into 3 points. That score narrowed the Pats' lead to 1 point and eventually set up the game-winning score by allowing the Florida offense to play for a field goal on their final drive.

I know what apologists are saying – the Pats had a chance to control their destiny after the penalty and subsequent field goal. The call didn't win the game for Florida. If the Pats went for a high percentage play on third down and 7 at their 49 yard line with 2:27 remaining instead of running a risky end-around they may still have the ball today....blah, blah, blah, blah. What they fail to address is the psychological effect of such a monumental call on the players. Football is an intense game. Emotion plays a big role in the player's performance. A call like that *changes everything!*

MID-TERM REPORT CARDS

All around the league beat writers are preparing mid-term Report Cards for their teams. This annual ritual provides a forum for sports journalists with little or no inside knowledge of the intricacies of the game to "grade" the professionals. It is an exercise they take very seriously, even if the coaches and players they are grading do not – or even know about it. Unlike your child's report card, the content of these report cards has no impact on the future performance of the players. Let's face it – such exercises are for the fans, not the players. So, for the enjoyment of the fans, here is Professor Spats' mid-term EFL Report Card:

CHARLESWOOD: [A-] The Pats are moving the ball and scoring points with **Peyton Manning** and **Adrian Peterson** leading the way. The secondary is tops in the league but the run defense is questionable and it helped cost them the game against Florida. Turnovers are more of a concern than expected.

CHINO: [A] The Convicts are finding ways to win from week to week despite a mediocre offense. The defense is taking the ball away and stopping their opponents. The loss of Boldin poses future challenges.

COWTOWN: [C] The Corn Kings are currently playing like the top dog in a pack of mediocre-to-bad teams, but they should instead be playing like a team near the back of a pack of good-to-excellent teams. **Chad Pennington** is making too many mistakes, the secondary is playing soft, and the running game is not what it used to be. They earn this low grade based on unfulfilled potential.

DURHAM: [B+] The Lizards are moving the ball more efficiently than anybody but are struggling to

score touchdowns. They have trouble converting third down and are squeaking by opponents, winning because of a +10 turnover ratio. A surprisingly good pass defense is making up for an atrocious run defense.

FLORIDA: [A+] Excellence in all phases of the game puts Florida on top of the league. The league's highest rated pass defense and third highest run defense has opponents stymied. The running game is out of control. *Aaron Rodgers* is doing his part as well. Oh yes...and a +13 turnover ratio helps.

GARLAND: [B] An A+ for the offence and a D for the defense translates into a B when viewed in the context of their 4-4 record. Few expected the Mustangs to win 4 games all year, let alone 4 by the half way mark. *Matt Ryan* has my vote for League Offensive MVP at this stage of the season.

GWINNETT: [C] The team many thought would pose the biggest challenge to Florida in the South Division is fighting to keep pace with Garland. The running game has imploded after some early success, putting pressure on *Matt Cassel*, and the defense is playing well below potential. Everything is out of synch.

IOWA CITY: [C-] Losing to Winnemucca should have earned them an F. But victories over Los Angeles and Cowtown, and playing Durham close, have given them an upgrade. The main problem is at quarterback, where nobody has stood up. The defense is holding its ground but is not taking the ball away.

KUTZTOWN: [B-] The Golden Bears are beating the weaker teams and losing to the stronger teams. Where does that put them? – smack in the middle of the league. Even there they are playing over their heads. Mediocre play at all levels except for rookie *LeSean McCoy* makes one wonder how they've won 4 games.

LOS ANGELES: [A] The most efficient defense in the league is getting unexpected support from *Jason Campbell* and the offence. *Jamaal Charles* is proving to be a real find. Their only two losses were close contests that could have gone either way. All this, and only 9 takeaways on defense.

MARKHAM: [C-] Markham's season highlight came in Week One. Since then they have fought through adversity to fall short against all comers except woeful Winnemucca. *Donovan McNabb* is getting protection but cannot find his receivers. The feeble pass rush is putting pressure on the feeble secondary.

MOHAVE: [C-] A five-game losing streak may have killed their season. *Kurt Warner* has started all 8 games but has only played in 6 of them. *Steve Slaton* is being run into the ground. The defense was a disaster until they ran into Gwinnett. So how have they won 3 games? Warner and a +4 turnover ratio.

PICKERING: [C-] The offence is living off *Chris Johnson* and *Vincent Jackson*. *Eli Manning* has had a hot hand as often as a cold one, but they have been moving the ball well overall. The defense has been atrocious but they've been banged up. Somehow they have won 3 games, which speaks well of their coaching.

RINGGOLD: [D+] Either the league's biggest disappointment or predictably bad, depending who you ask. The defense has been heroic under the circumstances, tied at 4th overall in efficiency. The problems stem from poor offense and stunningly bad ball security. A -12 turnover ratio is all you really need to know.

VIRDEN: [B] Awarding such a mark to a 3-5 team demonstrates how low expectations were at the start of the year. Drew Brees has worked magic with few props. The defense has played tough each week despite a dearth of talent and the least efficient secondary in the league. It's all about turnovers at +5.

WINNEMUCCA: [D] The win on the road over Iowa City and a couple of close losses allows the Outlaws to avoid a failing grade. One of the league's highest injury rates is mitigated by their starters being not much better than their back-ups. The offensive line has held up well in the face of constant pressure.

NEW LINE OF GEAR "BLEETING" THE COMPETITION

There is a new "kid" on the block in the sports apparel market. An Italian designer from South Tyrol who designs sports gear for the Italian soccer club A.C. Milan has launched a new line for the North American market called 'Goat.' As the "Personal Foul Committee" turns its attention to the role that popular brands such as 'Nike,' 'Reebok' and 'Adidas' played in the economy of the defunct NFL, some teams are taking a proactive stance and switching sponsorships before they are connected to any, as yet, undiscovered scandals. The Florida Dragons were the first to make the switch – ditching 'Reebok' for 'Goat' prior to this week's game against the Patriots. (If you look closely you can see *DeAngelo Williams* sporting the 'Goat' logo on the cover photo of this week's edition of EFL 2009). Chino is reportedly ready to move away from 'Nike' to 'Goat' as soon as the manufacturer can get them the gear. Many other teams are re-evaluating their contracts with traditional suppliers and looking at 'Goat' as an alternative. 'Goat' is catching on in more than the professional sports world. It is also nudging aside popular lines such as 'Lululemon' for a share of the upscale sports fashion market.

How is 'Goat' doing this? They credit a marketing campaign that emphasizes simplicity and symbolism. They pay no superstars for endorsements and operate on a miniscule budget for shooting television ads. Instead, they buy air time and show the 'Goat' symbol accompanied by catch phrases such as "Simply Goat," "One Goat," and "It's Goat" that flash on the screen for a few seconds at a time. This "introductory" campaign, as it is referred to by the company, is designed get consumers familiar with the

'Goat' brand and logo. They plan to gradually cut back the "complexity" of these ads and run TV spots where only the 'Goat' logo appears and eventually run nothing but a blank white screen and the sound of a single, quiet bleat. In this way they hope to condition consumers to be always aware of 'Goat' the moment they are undistracted by the bombardment of other messages.

"No other company has targeted the time when the consumer is not actually watching or listening to something. We, at 'Goat' want people to think of 'Goat' when they would otherwise be sleeping or contemplating at home in restful quiet. In this way, we all become united through 'Goat,'" says Emilio Insidio, President or Marketing for Goat International.

The profit potential of 'Goat' is not restricted to the sale of merchandise. The company plans to assert its proprietary interest in the trademark, "Goat" by charging a fee for use of the word by other commercial enterprises. This has the International Association of Goat Herders, the United Goat Society and the North American Goat Breeders in an uproar. They are ready to go to court to protect their ancient and common practice of referring to goats as "goats." Imagine goat herders having to call themselves '*Bovidae Caprinae* herders! As absurd as this sounds, the company asserts that the sale of goat products world-wide stands to benefit from the elevated name recognition created by the 'Goat' marketing campaign and that 'Goat' should be compensated for the accompanying boon to the industry.

NEW YORK GRIPES

Is playing cornerback a lost art, or is the evolution of the passing game changing the way the ball bounces? Two of the league leaders in interceptions, Leon Hall and Asante Samuel, play cornerback. After that, 9 of the next 13 are either safeties (17) or linebackers (13). When comparing the totals of all players with 2 or more interceptions, 30 out of 56 picks were made by safeties or linebackers. Considering most of the cornerback's time is spent defending the pass and the linebackers and safeties spend as much time defending the run as the pass, these numbers are eye-popping. It tells me that linebackers and safeties are better corners than the corners.

SPATS.



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

PLAY OF THE WEEK

SITUATION

Florida 10, Charleswood 0, 2nd Quarter, 13:21 mark, Dragons in possession, 1st down & 10 at Patriot's 48 yard line. PRO set vs. 3-4-4 Basic package, MAN coverage, RUN defense, KEY - DeAngelo Williams.

RESULT

DeAngelo Williams bucks the center of the Pats' line through a hole created by Ryan Kalil and Logan Mankins, follows Billy Bajema into the second level and gallops 46 yards to the Pats' 2 yard line.

ANALYSIS

The run set up Florida's second touchdown and opened up a 17-0 lead giving Florida the cushion they would need to survive Pats' counter-attack.

WEEK EIGHT LEADERS

PASSING

Warner (MOH)	38-27-364
Roethlisberger (RCH)	50-28-319
Ryan, M. (GDM)	34-25-278
Cutler (CHI)	42-31-277
Brees (VV)	28-22-274

RUSHING

Williams, D. (FLD)	30-194
Jacobs, B. (ICC)	20-147
Jackson, S. (LAK)	28-134
Turner, M. (DTL)	26-125
Portis (VV)	23-111

RECEIVING

Driver (MOH)	10-176
Welker (GDM)	10-142
Jennings (KUT)	7-121
Ward, H. (CHI)	10-110
Royal, E. (RCH)	11-108

LEADER BOARD

STANDINGS

PACIFIC-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood	6	2	0	0.750	222	27.8	119	14.9	12.9	3 1 0	2 1 0	4 1 0
Kutztown	4	4	0	0.500	161	20.1	179	22.4	-2.3	2 2 0	2 1 0	2 3 0
Mohave	3	5	0	0.375	156	19.5	191	23.9	-4.4	2 1 0	2 1 0	2 3 0
Virden	3	5	0	0.375	154	19.3	180	22.5	-3.3	1 4 0	0 3 0	2 3 0

West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Chino	6	2	0	0.750	171	21.4	90	11.3	10.1	3 0 0	2 1 0	4 1 0
Los Angeles	6	2	0	0.750	183	22.9	119	14.9	8	3 1 0	2 1 0	4 1 0
Iowa City	3	5	0	0.375	133	16.6	162	20.3	-3.6	1 3 0	1 2 0	1 4 0
Winnemucca	1	7	0	0.125	111	13.9	211	26.4	-12.5	0 5 0	1 2 0	1 4 0

CAN-AM CONFERENCE

North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham	6	2	0	0.750	167	20.9	131	16.4	4.5	3 1 0	3 0 0	3 2 0
Cowtown	3	5	0	0.375	168	21	175	21.9	-0.9	1 2 0	1 2 0	2 3 0
Pickering	3	5	0	0.375	155	19.4	208	26	-6.6	1 3 0	1 2 0	2 3 0
Markham	2	6	0	0.250	122	15.3	178	22.3	-7	2 3 0	1 2 0	1 4 0

South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Florida	8	0	0	1.000	244	30.5	97	12.1	18.4	4 0 0	3 0 0	5 0 0
Garland	4	4	0	0.500	187	23.4	203	25.4	-2	3 2 0	1 2 0	3 2 0
Gwinnett	4	4	0	0.500	149	18.6	164	20.5	-1.9	1 2 0	2 1 0	3 2 0
Ringgold	2	6	0	0.250	127	15.9	203	25.4	-9.5	1 3 0	0 3 0	1 4 0

PASSING

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Ryan, M	GDM	224	151	67.4	1875	7	3.1	52	18	8	106.9
2	Manning, P	CHP	220	154	70	1779	6	2.7	34	14	6.4	104
3	Warner	MOH	196	134	68.4	1483	5	2.6	61	12	6.1	100.4
4	Rivers, P	DTL	222	139	62.6	2017	5	2.3	80	11	5	99.2
5	Campbell, J	LAK	191	127	66.5	1395	4	2.1	47	11	5.8	98.4
6	Brees	VV	221	132	59.7	1633	6	2.7	51	12	5.4	89.4
7	Cassel	GWG	203	126	62.1	1318	4	2	41	9	4.4	87.4
8	Rodgers	FLD	194	127	65.5	1400	5	2.6	46	6	3.1	86.3
9	Manning, E	PIC	213	125	58.7	1736	8	3.8	74	10	4.7	84.9
10	Pennington	COW	268	169	63.1	1804	8	3	37	9	3.4	81.4
11	Cutler	CHI	240	155	64.6	1546	7	2.9	63	7	2.9	80.3
12	Roethlisberger	RCH	220	120	54.5	1369	5	2.3	41	10	4.5	79.1
13	McNabb	MAR	207	123	59.4	1398	7	3.4	67	7	3.4	76.9
14	Romo	KUT	239	139	58.2	1437	7	2.9	41	9	3.8	76
15	Edwards, T	ICC	172	110	64	1111	5	2.9	23	3	1.7	76

RUSHING

			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	Williams, D	FLD	145	856	5.9	48	14	8	Slaton	MOH	133	439	3.3	80	4
2	Turner, M	DTL	157	683	4.4	85	3	9	Johnson, C	PIC	87	430	4.9	69	3
3	Peterson, A	CHP	142	664	4.7	69	4	10	Charles, J	LAK	61	425	7	34	1
4	Portis	VV	181	637	3.5	36	0	11	Barber, M	COW	107	423	4	14	5
5	Jones, T	GWG	138	602	4.4	69	6	12	Brown, R	ICC	92	397	4.3	53	2
6	Lewis, J	MAR	131	539	4.1	16	1	13	Jackson, S	LAK	89	377	4.2	18	1
7	Jacobs, B	ICC	100	493	4.9	49	6	14	McCoy, L	KUT	63	375	6	52	1
8	Slaton	MOH	133	439	3.3	80	4	15	Harrison, J	MOH	39	358	9.2	31	0

RECEIVING

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	Jennings, G	KUT	52	712	13.7	62	6	8	Coles	WMO	40	450	11.3	49	2
2	Gonzalez, T	CHP	51	557	10.9	34	6	9	Fitzgerald	ICC	40	464	11.6	31	2
3	Johnson, A	RCH	48	660	13.8	41	5	10	Ward, H	CHI	40	471	11.8	37	2
4	White, R	LAK	47	497	10.6	27	4	11	Harrison, M	VV	38	504	13.3	51	7
5	Boldin	CHI	46	521	11.3	63	3	12	Welker	GDM	38	473	12.4	52	5
6	Royal, E	RCH	43	374	8.7	33	2	13	Marshall, B	FLD	37	509	13.8	43	2
7	Evans, L	ICC	41	468	11.4	44	1	14	Hester, D	VV	37	571	15.4	35	2
8	Coles	WMO	40	450	11.3	49	2	15	Houshmandz	FLD	36	348	9.7	19	0



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

OFFENSE



QB – Drew Brees, Virden Violators
28 Att, 22 Comp, 274 yards, 5 TDs, 0 INTs, 147.0 QB Rating.
Won the Battle of Garland against Matt Ryan with 5 TD passes.

DEFENSE



OLB – DeMarcus Ware, Ringgold C. Hawks
3 Tackles, 1 Sack, 1 Stuff, 2 Pressures, 3 Forced Fumbles.
In a losing cause kept the game within reach against Kutztown.

SPECIAL TEAMS



K – Jason Elam, Florida Dragons
4 for 4 FGs, 45 Long, 4 for 4 Extra Points, 16 Pts.
45-yard FG with 28 second left kept Dragons' perfect record.

INJURY REPORT - Week Nine

CHARLESWOOD – A. Thomas (OUT), Burgess (OUT); **CHINO** – Newman (OUT), Boldin (OUT); **COWTOWN** – Schobel (OUT), Durant (PROBABLE), Chatman (OUT); **DURHAM** – None. **FLORIDA** – Freeney (OUT); **GARLAND** – J. Bell (DOUBTFUL); **GWINNETT** – McGee (OUT), D. Smith (OUT), Hardwick (OUT); **IOWA CITY** – Winslow (OUT), A. Curry (OUT), R. Bush (OUT), T. Edwards (OUT); **KUTZTOWN** – T. Porter (OUT), D. Landry (OUT), L. Hill (OUT), F. Jones (OUT), J. Miller (OUT), Okoye (OUT); **LOS ANGELES** – S. Young (OUT); **MARKHAM** – Engram (OUT), Shockey (OUT), Askew (OUT), A. Hall (OUT), Robbins (OUT); **MOHAVE** – C. Bailey (OUT), Wharton (OUT); **PICKERING** – J. Joseph (OUT), M. Jackson (OUT), F. Davis (OUT), Scheffler (OUT), Vanden Bosch (OUT), C. Johnson (OUT); **RINGGOLD** – None. **VIRDEN** – B. Davis (OUT), R. Royal (OUT), S. Rice (OUT); **WINNEMUCCA** – L. Smith (OUT), J. Walker (OUT), J. Griffith (OUT), McAlister (OUT).



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

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JIMMY'S WEEK NINE PICKS

CHARLESWOOD @ CHINO (LINE – CONVICTS BY 4)

The Convicts are missing two key starters, Anquan Boldin and Terrence Newman. Hines Ward will be Jay Cutler's go-to-guy for the second straight week but this time he faces Asante Samuel on the other side of the line. The Convicts' running game will have to be more reliable than it has been to make space for the receivers against the Pats' solid secondary. Coach Nazar will stress ball security for his offense while relying once again on the "Lockdown Crew" to take control of the tempo of the game. The Pats need a forceful performance by Adrian Peterson against a top rated defense – something they have missed from the star running back so far this year. Peyton Manning remains a clutch performer who will be firmly tested.

PICK: CHINO

MOHAVE @ IOWA CITY (LINE – CUBS BY 1)

It is hard to resist the allure of the Hellfire offense after they shredded Gwinnett last week. But they are 1-4 on the road with their only win a close shave over the Violators. It is noteworthy that the Cubs are a curious 1-3 at Joe Ferguson Stadium, so home field is not necessarily a big advantage here. The Iowa City defense is underrated. They have consistently shut down the run but have surrendered slightly more than the league average in passing yards per game. They are improving each week and expect them to rise up and make a stand this week out of necessity. The Cubs are missing Trent Edwards and back-up J.P. Losman is a volatile performer. If Brandon Jacobs does not come to play, this game could be another set back for the Cubs.

PICK: MOHAVE

KUTZTOWN @ WINNEMUCCA (LINE – GOLDEN BEARS BY 2)

With Antoine Winfield taking away the Outlaws' only viable wide-out threat, Laveranues Coles, the key to the game for Winnemucca will be how well they can establish the run against a weak Kutztown defensive line. If Julius Jones and Pierre Thomas can move the ball effectively, they will keep their suspect defense off the field and create much needed opportunities for the passing game. The Golden Bears simply need to hold on to the ball on offense and the rest should take care of itself against the spongy Winnemucca defense.

PICK: KUTZTOWN

VIRDEN @ LOS ANGELES (LINE – KNIGHTS BY 8)

Drew Brees is coming off a five-touchdown performance in Week 8 but do not expect such fireworks this week at Round Table Stadium. Jason Baker is resting this week in preparation for his big day in LA. The Violators will have their hands full trying to score against LA's "Blue Shield" and will have to rely on their determined defense to keep them in the game. The Knights can be patient on offense and they expect many opportunities to move the ball and score. Virden will make the most of their chances but they will have few.

PICK: LOS ANGELES

DURHAM @ GWINNETT (LINE – THUNDER LIZARDS BY 2)

Gwinnett has drawn some tough home dates and this week they draw another one. The Thunder Lizards may be winning by the hair of their scales but they are still winning and they match up well against the Gladiators. With Terrence McGee out we can anticipate a big day from Calvin Johnson and Steve Breaston. If Gwinnett deploys extra defensive backs to compensate, then Michael Turner and Larry Johnson will go on a tear. Matt Cassel and Thomas Jones are faltering after early successes and Durham's defense, led by Jared Allen and Karlos Dansby, is not exactly a pick-me-up. The sky is actually falling, for real, in Gwinnett.

PICK: DURHAM

COWTOWN @ FLORIDA (LINE – DRAGONS BY 12)

There is no reason to believe that the Dragons will not absolutely crush the Corn Kings at Dragonmount. No rational reason. Everything looks to be in Florida's favour and if I were betting my mortgage, the home team would be the only reasonable pick. But enough has gone wrong for Cowtown and enough right for Florida that I feel some kind of universal balancing act is about to take place. Perhaps I yearn too much to depart from the straight-jacket of my rationalism, but I feel that counter-intuition is apropos here. In this one instance I caution you: FOLLOW ME AT YOUR OWN RISK.

PICK: COWTOWN

PICKERING @ GARLAND (LINE – MUSTANGS BY 7)

The #2 and #3 rated offences go up against the #15 and #16 rated defenses at The Corral and the scalpers are expecting a windfall at the gate. The Spartans will run wild through the "thin blue line" while the "Spark'ems" will ignite the Mustangs' passing game into a scorching conflagration. The scoreboard may very well overheat. In such a game the defenses actually play the decisive role – the one that finally makes a play could also make the difference in the outcome. In this regard, the "Spark'ems" have been decisively damp while the "Thoroughheads" have shown faint signs of life. At home, the Mustangs will win the race.

PICK: GARLAND

MARKHAM @ RINGGOLD (LINE – HAWKS BY 1)

The simmering menace of the intermittently dysfunctional Ringgold offence can never be discounted in any game. This week, Big Ben and his band of unhappy men have a rare opportunity to show what they can (but rarely) do as they face the second worst pass defense in the league. The Markham offence has no such occasion to shine, facing a stingy flock of Hawks that has shut down better than the likes of Jamal Lewis and Chad Johnson. Donovan McNabb feasted on the Outlaws secondary last week and is probably dull with digestion. He will need to drink some coffee if he is to wake and solve the puzzle of DeMarcus Ware, Shaun Rogers and Corey Webster. Ringgold is at home and ready to take out some pent up frustration.

PICK: RINGGOLD

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

HOW I'M DOING AGAINST THE SPREAD

LAST WEEK: 7-1-0

OVERALL: 42-21-1

EFL FOCUS

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

IOWA CITY



THE POST-GARCIA ERA IS THE WORST OF TIMES

By Sparky McGillicuddy

IOWA CITY - The eternal optimist, I took my seat at Joe Ferguson Stadium on Sunday hopeful that my Cubs had turned the corner on their season. Three hours later I was back in the real world. The Durham Thunder Lizards controlled the time of possession battle and really stepped up big-time defensively on key plays to thwart Iowa City's bid to climb back to .500. Durham's 17-13 win puts them in firm control of their division and delivers a substantial blow to the Cubs' chances of seeing the playoffs. I'll say it - they miss Jeff Garcia!

In a hostile environment, the Thunder Lizards ran the ball at will in the First Half and took a 14-10 lead into the locker room. The Second Half turned into a defensive struggle and Durham was able to hold the Cubs with a conversion on Third Down (0 for 11). Phillip Rivers hit Dwayne Bowe and Vernon Davis on scores and ended the day 15 of 28 for 192 yards. Bullrusher Michael "Pitbull" Turner bashed his way for 125 yards on 26 carries.

For the Cubs, Brandon Jacobs finally got off the shnide and produced 147 yards and a touchdown on 20 carries. The team ran for 184 yards. Trent Edwards continued his year-long struggles and limped off the field with an ankle sprain that will keep him sidelined for the next two games at least. Apparently Trent heard footsteps after delivering a pass and, in his haste to hit the deck, turned his ankle. Some call that Jim "Chris" Everett Syndrome. Unfortunately Trent has done nothing to distinguish himself other than checkdown passes, get hurt, and fear throwing the ball downfield. In other words, he couldn't tie Jim Everett's shoes in terms of talent. Backup QB Brodie Croyle (claimed on waivers just before the season started) went 1 of 5 for 7 yards with an interception. All is well in Iowa City with these three superstar quarterbacks! Reggie Bush tore the meniscus in his right knee and will miss the next three contests. Reggie's really earning that 3,808,000.00 I'll tell ya!

The key series in the game came late in the Second Quarter when Rivers led the Thunder Lizards on a 99-yard drive to make it 14-10 with less than a minute left in the First Half. Facing a 3rd Down and 11 to go from their own 1, Rivers opened up his arsenal and began shredding the Cubs' defense. After converting the First Down on the 3rd and 11, Rivers ran past the Cubs' sideline smirking, pumping his fist and telling the trio of Iowa City QB's, "That's how it's done boys, ha!". Phillip also had a few choice words for some fans near the tunnel as he went to the locker room at Halftime. When a disgruntled fan (dressed in overalls as he was obviously a farmer) yelled a disparaging remark about Rivers' disrespecting Edwards, Losman, and Croyle, Rivers told the man, "Quit (expletive deleted) your cows and goats and maybe you'll rejoin the human race. But looking at your wife I can't blame ya bitchboy!". Phillip then strutted his stuff back to the locker room while exclaiming, "Woooooo!!".

I'll be perfectly honest with you fans...Deron Redding has done a lot for this town and has a successful track record. Super Bowl appearance last year and playoffs in the first two years of existence. The 2009 version of this team (players, calls, decisions) though, well, let's hope Redding screws his head on straight and addresses the problems he's let fester. Worst special teams in the league, very little depth, horrific quarterback situation. I'm not saying the season's a loss, but there's now very little margin for error. That's my two cents, fire me if you wish.

-Sparky McGillicuddy