

# 2015

Week Twelve



# EFL NEWS

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

# 2015

Week Twelve

January 4, 2016



CAR	38	MOH	28	CHP	24	BCR	31	MVM	13	DTL	17	COW	38	YOR	24	AUR	39	SEB	20
VIR	10	TCT	30	CHI	14	LAK	24	ICC	42	MAR	10	PIC	10	SC	49	SBE	14	GWG	34



# BEAU-TY MOVES!

*Randall Cobb*

Beaufort County wide receiver, *Randall Cobb* falls into the end zone after a foot race with Knights corner *David Amerson*. Cobb caught two TD passes, the first to open the scoring and the second to close out a 31-24 Ravens victory. He and teammate *DeAndre Hopkins* combined for 19 catches and 360 yards on the day. (Story Inside...)

## LATEST EFL NEWS INSIDE

- WHEATON RETURNS TRIUMPH TO WIN COLUMN
- BLUE EAGLES FANS RIOT AGAIN
- CORN KINGS STALK SPARTANS
- CUBS REVENGE
- AND MORE.....

### Also in this issue

- SPATS FEATURE, 'THE YEAR OF THE MONKEY,' 'HALL OF FAME,' & 'FIRING LINE.'
- JIMMY THE GEEK BREAKS DOWN THE EVER-SHIFTING PLAYOFF PICTURE
- THIS WEEK IN EFL HISTORY – WEEK TWELVE OF 2009



Who was slick in Week Twelve?

**"BRYLCREEM" THE EFL'S FIRST SPONSOR**



**Tony Romo**  
QB  
South Carolina  
Regulators

19 of 22, 266 yards, 5 TDs. Torched a top 5 'D' in week 12 rout of York.



**Corey Graham**  
CB  
Iowa City  
Cubs

83Tackles, 1 PD 2 INT. 2 picks held off Monarchs and set up scores.



8-3-1

Beaufort County

31

MVP

RGIII

24



4-8-0

Los Angeles

# EFL GAME OF THE WEEK

TEAM LEADERS				
Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD
RGIII	25	35	417	3
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
Stewart	14	90	6.4	1
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
Cobb	11	202	18.4	2

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
Beaufort County	14	3	0	14	-	31
Los Angeles	0	14	10	0	-	24

TEAM LEADERS				
Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD
Bridgewater	22	36	219	3
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
Bridgewater	6	35	5.8	0
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
Cooks	4	80	20.0	0

**Play of the Game**  
 With 4:17 remaining in a tie game, the Ravens faced 2<sup>nd</sup> & 18 at the Knights' 28 yard line. **RGIII** hit **Randall Cobb** on a short cross that the Raven's WR carried 28 yards for the game-winning TD.

**SUMMARY:** While LA was fighting for its playoff life, Beaufort needed a win to maintain the narrowest of margins in its race with the Cubs for the West Division title. It looked early like it would be all Ravens on this day. **RGIII** caught the Knights in tight man coverage and found **Randall Cobb** deep for a 49-yard TD pass on the game's opening drive then **Brandon Williams** blocked a **Steve Weatherford** punt at the Knights' 12 to set up a 1-yard TD run by **Jonathan Stewart**. LA rebounded with a grueling 19-play, 80-yard drive, narrowing the gap on a 1-yard TD pass from **Teddy Bridgewater** to **Jordan Matthews**. LA tied it on their next series after a stop deep in Ravens territory set up the short field for a 3-yard TD pass to **CJ Spiller**. But Beaufort answered with an 84-yard pass on a short cross to **DeAndre Hopkins** to set up an 18-yard **Cody Parkey** FG. LA opened the 2<sup>nd</sup> half with a 62-yard pass to **Brandon Cooks**, setting up an 8-yard TD pass to **Le'Veon Bell** to give them their first lead, 21-17. Back-to-back turnovers by the Ravens led to a 19-yard **Patrick Murray** FG to extend the LA lead to 7, but a stop at the LA 1 gave the Ravens great field position for the tying TD on an 8-yard pass to Hopkins. Late in the 4<sup>th</sup>, in the face of an LA blitz, **RGIII** found Cobb over the middle for a 28-yard game-winning TD pass.

**QUOTES:** "No question, this is one of the top defences in the league. The Blue Shield is legendary. Fortunately, we have me and Randy to take them on. It wasn't easy, trust me, they fight you all the way." – Ravens QB, **RGIII**, after leading a 570-yard effort by his offence.  
 "People will blame the defence for giving up all those yards, but the defence also kept us in that game. Sure, we missed a few tackles and gave up some big plays. We also forced turnovers and had a chance to win it deep into the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. I'm proud of my guys!" – LA coach, **Jeff Dohrn**.



HAPPY FAN



titter

ANGRY FAN



**ATrench III @bobserver**  
 RGIII is electric. He shocked everyone – including his own team – with that performance.



**GabbyV @ladailynews**  
 How nice it is to see the boys in navy blue trying hard and having fun again!

12-27-2015 Round Table Stadium Temp: 63 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: **Robert Griffin III**

### Scoring Summary

1 13:00	Beaufort County TD Griffin III 49 pass to Cobb (Parkey) (5-67-1:55)	7-0
1 9:41	Beaufort County TD Stewart 1 run (Parkey) (3-12-0:52)	14-0
2 14:52	Los Angeles TD Bridgewater 1 pass to Matthews (Murray,P) (19-80-9:49)	14-7
2 8:05	Los Angeles TD Bridgewater 3 pass to Spiller (Murray,P) (9-54-5:28)	14-14
2 5:39	Beaufort County FG Parkey 18 (5-90-2:18)	17-14
3 12:32	Los Angeles TD Bridgewater 8 pass to Bell (Murray,P) (4-80-2:28)	17-21
3 3:50	Los Angeles FG Murray 19 (4--1-1:38)	17-24
4 11:15	Beaufort County TD Griffin III 8 pass to Hopkins (Parkey) (4-47-2:18)	24-24
4 4:17	Beaufort County TD Griffin III 28 pass to Cobb (Parkey) (7-73-4:16)	31-24

	BCR	LAK
First Downs	25	18
Rushes	24-168	21-76
Passes	35-25-417	36-22-219
Sacked	2-15	3-23
Fumble	3	0
Penalties	8-79	3-25
Turnovers	3	0
Missed Tackles	6	8
Blitzes	31	33
Time	27:47	32:13
Third Down	7-10	7-14
Fourth Down	1-1	1-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	6/3/1	4/3/1
Net Offense	570	272



**EFL**  
ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

# QUICK COUNTS!!

Blue 35, Blue 35, hut, hut hut! Red 23, 3, Red 23, 3, hut, hut, hut! Green 49, hut!



**SWORDFISH**

0-12-0

0

3

7

10

0

**20**

OT

Andy Dalton

28 of 45, 283 yards, 2 TDs



**GLADIATORS**

7-5-0

7

10

3

14

0

**34**

Ben Roethlisberger

24 of 36, 249 yards, 3 TDs

**LeSean McCoy** got the Glads out of their own end and **Big Ben** got them into the end zone with a 17-yard TD pass to **Reggie Wayne** on the game's opening drive. The Fish D dialed up a goal line stand that forced Gwinnett to settle for a 20-yard FG, but their offence was unable to crack the Glads' D in the 1<sup>st</sup> half. A 36-yard FG by **Shane Suisham** in the 3<sup>rd</sup> made it 20-3 Gwinnett before the Fish found the end zone on a 43-yard TD pass from **Andy Dalton** to **Odell Beckham Jr.**, but a 4<sup>th</sup> & goal 1-yard TD run by McCoy early in the 4<sup>th</sup> gave Gwinnett a 27-10 lead that the Fish could not make-up.



**CANNIBALS**

5-7-0

7

14

3

14

0

**38**

OT

Eddie Lacy

28 Carries, 182 yards, 4 TDs



**VIOLATORS**

0-12-0

0

0

7

3

0

**10**

Derek Carr

13 of 21, 164 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT

**Doug Baldwin** caught a 26-yard pass from **Marcus Mariota** and **Eddie Lacy** carried the ball 7 times for 42 yards, including a 9-yard TD, to put the Cannibals in front on the game's opening drive. They would stay in front all game. Lacy carried the load, scoring 4 TDs on a day when a **Rashad Johnson** interception of **Derek Carr** at the Virden 15 and 4 turnovers on downs by the Violators provided short field opportunities for the high-powered Carthage offence. Mariota increased his consecutive TD pass streak to 12 with a 21-yard hook-up with **Emmanuel Sanders** in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.



**T-LIZARDS**

11-1-0

7

3

0

7

0

**17**

OT

Reggie Bush

57 yards rush, 102 RAC, 1 TD rec



**NORTH STARS**

3-9-0

0

0

3

7

0

**10**

Eli Manning

9 of 19, 92 yards

**Drew Brees** capped a 68-yard drive with a 6-yard TD pass to **Josh Gordon** to open the scoring in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. Phil Dawson added a 38-yard FG on Durham's next possession to make it 10-0. The Lizards looked ready to pad their lead when LB **D'Qwell Jackson** picked off Brees at the Markham 3 to thwart the opportunity. **Josh Brown** salvaged an 11-play 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter drive with a 38-yard FG and **Alex Smith** came in to finish off a 59-yard drive with a 1-yard TD run to tie the game. But screen passes of 27 and 13 yards to **Reggie Bush**, the second for a TD, earned a tough win for the Dinos.

Blue 35, Blue 35, hut, hut hut! Red 23, 3, Red 23, 3, hut, hut, hut! Green 49, hut!



**HELLFIRE**  
2-10-0

0	7	7	14	0	<b>28</b>
OT					

**Julio Jones**  
13 Catches, 173 yards, 3 TDs



**TRIUMPH**  
9-3-0

10	10	7	3	0	<b>30</b>
OT					

**Antonio Brown**  
12 Catches, 235 yards, 2 TDs

**Jay Cutler** connected with **Antonio Brown** for an 80-yard TD pass to open the scoring then three Mohave turnovers led to a pair of FGs and a 2<sup>nd</sup> TD pass to Brown to give the home team a 20-0 lead. **Andrew Luck** got some back with a 40-yard TD pass to **Julio Jones** then **Tevin Coleman** broke an 80-yard TD run in the 3<sup>rd</sup> to make it 20-14. Cutler scrambled for an 18-yard TD to make it 27-14 but 2 more TD passes from Luck to Jones gave Mohave the lead with 1:50 left. But a 78-yard kick return by **Markus Wheaton** set up **Stephen Gostkowski** for the 33-yd game-winning FG as time expired.



**MONARCHS**  
4-8-0

7	0	0	6	0	<b>13</b>
OT					

**Ryan Tannehill**  
21 of 36, 220 yards, 1 TD, 2 INTs



**CUBS**  
8-3-1

7	14	21	0	0	<b>42</b>
OT					

**Russell Wilson**  
15 of 24, 190 yards, 2 TDs

The Monarchs D stopped the Cubs' opening drive but **Alec Ogletree** stripped the ball from **Joique Bell** on the Monarch's 1<sup>st</sup> play from scrimmage to set up an 11-yard TD pass from **Russell Wilson** to **Coby Fleener** to make it 7-0. The Monarchs evened it with a 12-yard TD pass from **Ryan Tannehill** to **Larry Donnell** to close out the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter but it was all Cubs after that. **Darren Sproles** and **Jeremy Hill** both ran for TDs to make it 21-7 at the half. A 67-yard punt return TD by Sproles and a **Corey Graham** interception to set up a TD sparked a 21-point 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter that put the game out of reach.



**PATRIOTS**  
11-1-0

7	10	7	0	0	<b>24</b>
OT					

**Lamar Miller**  
23 Carries, 134 yards, 2 TDs



**CONVICTS**  
6-6-0

0	7	0	7	0	<b>14</b>
OT					

**DeMarco Murray**  
26 Carries, 140 yards, 2 TDs

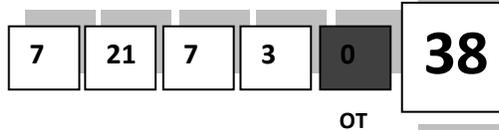
**Lamar Miller** capped the opening drive with a 1-yard TD run to give the Pats an early lead. **Ryan Succop** finished off a 76-yard drive with a 34-yard FG to make it 10-0 Pats before **DeMarco Murray** got the Convicts' offence in gear with 7 carries for 47 yards, including a 9-yard TD run. **Peyton Manning** found **Dez Bryant** for a 14-yard aerial score to close the 1<sup>st</sup> half. The Pats scored on a 5-yard TD run by Miller to open the 3<sup>rd</sup> then denied Chino a red zone opportunity with a 4<sup>th</sup> down stand inside their 5. Murray scored his 2<sup>nd</sup> TD of the day but the Pats held on to the ball for the final 8 minutes.

Blue 35, Blue 35, hut, hut hut! Red 23, 3, Red 23, 3, hut, hut, hut! Green 49, hut!



### CORN KINGS

6-6-0



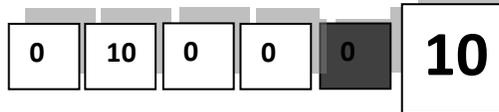
Joe Flacco

17 of 24, 291 yards, 5 TDs, 1 INT



### SPARTANS

6-6-0



Philip Rivers

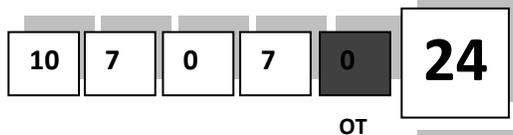
9 of 18, 104 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT

Cowtown moved 95 yards on their first possession to get on the board first with a 17-yard TD pass from **Joe Flacco** to **Larry Fitzgerald**. The two hooked up for a second TD on their next series before Pickering banged off 10 quick points with a FG followed by an onside kick and a 25-yard TD pass from **Philip Rivers** to **Demaryius Thomas** to make it 14-10. That would be as close as the Spartans would get. Flacco would connect with **Mike Evans** for a pair of long TD passes while 39-yard interception return by **Rodney McLeod** and 2 sacks from **Marcell Dareus** led the defensive shutdown.



### EXCALIBURS

6-6-0



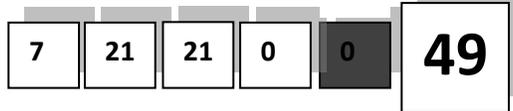
Marshawn Lynch

17 Carries, 97 yards, 3 TDs



### REGULATORS

6-6-0



Tony Romo

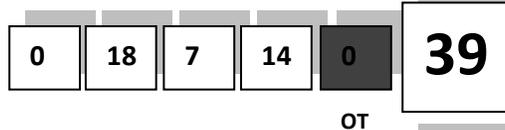
19 of 22, 266 yards, 5 TDs

A 55-yard bomb to **Kelvin Benjamin** set up an 8-yard **Marshawn Lynch** TD run to give York a 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 10-7 lead. The teams traded TDs to start the 2<sup>nd</sup> before the Regs exploded for 35 consecutive points. Passes of 37 and 34 yards to **AJ Green** set up a 22-yard TD pass to **Greg Jennings** to make it 21-17 then safety, **TJ Ward** forced a fumble that set up another Jennings TD catch to make it 28-17 at half time. **Tony Romo** threw his 5<sup>th</sup> TD pass of the day on the opening drive of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half and **Luke Kuechly** forced a fumble and picked off **Tom Brady** to finish the rout with 2 more TDs.



### MUSTANGS

11-1-0



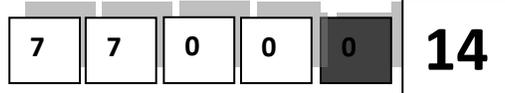
Matt Ryan

37 of 56, 418 yards, 4 TDs



### BLUE EAGLES

6-6-0



TJ Yeldon

13 Carries, 116 yards, 1 TD

**TJ Yeldon** busted a 50-yard TD run on Scarborough's first possession and Aaron Rodgers hit **Pierre Garcon** for an 11-yard TD pass on their second possession to give the Eagles a 14-3 lead. They were driving for another in Mustangs territory when **Josh Norman** forced a Rodgers fumble and Aurora drove back for a TD on a 2-yard run by **Arian Foster**. A second Rodgers fumble set up the short field for another Aurora TD before half time – the first of four TD passes from **Matt Ryan** to **Anquan Boldin** on the day. Once ahead, the Mustangs defence shut down the Eagles in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half.

**WEEK TWELVE**

## STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood (y)	11	1	0	0.917	333	27.8	215	17.9	9.8	5 1 0	4 0 0	7 1 0
Twin Cities	9	3	0	0.75	355	29.6	247	20.6	9	4 2 0	4 1 0	7 1 0
Carthage	5	7	0	0.417	356	29.7	313	26.1	3.6	2 4 0	3 2 0	3 5 0
Mohave	2	10	0	0.167	227	18.9	356	29.7	-10.8	1 5 0	1 4 0	1 7 0
Virден	0	12	0	0	141	11.8	349	29.1	-17.3	0 7 0	0 5 0	0 8 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Beaufort County	8	3	1	0.708	323	26.9	268	22.3	4.6	4 1 0	4 0 1	6 1 1
Iowa City	8	3	1	0.708	351	29.3	231	19.3	10	5 0 1	3 1 1	6 1 1
Chino	6	6	0	0.5	272	22.7	272	22.7	0	2 4 0	2 2 0	4 4 0
Los Angeles	4	8	0	0.333	219	18.3	315	26.3	-8	1 6 0	1 4 0	2 6 0
Mission Viejo	4	8	0	0.333	256	21.3	326	27.2	-5.8	1 4 0	1 4 0	3 5 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham (z)	11	1	0	0.917	341	28.4	176	14.7	13.8	6 0 0	5 0 0	7 1 0
Cowtown	6	6	0	0.5	276	23	300	25	-2	3 3 0	2 3 0	4 4 0
Pickering	6	6	0	0.5	308	25.7	301	25.1	0.6	2 4 0	1 4 0	3 5 0
York	6	6	0	0.5	295	24.6	297	24.8	-0.2	4 2 0	2 2 0	4 4 0
Markham	3	9	0	0.25	207	17.3	230	19.2	-1.9	3 4 0	2 3 0	3 5 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Aurora (y)	11	1	0	0.917	379	31.6	252	21	10.6	4 1 0	5 0 0	8 0 0
Gwinnett	7	5	0	0.583	336	28	278	23.2	4.8	4 2 0	3 2 0	4 4 0
Scarborough	6	6	0	0.5	256	21.3	326	27.2	-5.8	4 3 0	2 3 0	3 5 0
South Carolina	6	6	0	0.5	295	24.6	305	25.4	-0.8	4 2 0	2 2 0	4 4 0
Sebastian	0	12	0	0	264	22	433	36.1	-14.1	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 8 0

(z)-clinched division

(y)-clinched wild card

## PASSING

Rk	Player	Team	Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Cutler	TCT	343	239	69.7	2907	8	2.3	80	25	7.3	110
2	Brees	DTL	427	296	69.3	3301	5	1.2	65	28	6.6	109
3	Romo	SC	400	272	68	2931	5	1.3	56	28	7	107.4
4	Roethlisberger	GWG	408	264	64.7	3258	5	1.2	72	27	6.6	106.2
5	Manning,P	CHP	378	261	69	2992	7	1.9	71	24	6.3	106.1
6	Hill,S	BCR	229	160	69.9	1738	4	1.7	56	14	6.1	105
7	Mariota	CAR	365	218	59.7	3027	8	2.2	66	28	7.7	102.8
8	Wilson,R	ICC	300	187	62.3	2333	3	1	56	18	6	102.3
9	Newton,C	CHI	291	189	64.9	2546	7	2.4	69	17	5.8	102.1
10	Rivers,P	PIC	276	162	58.7	2311	6	2.2	74	19	6.9	99.8
11	Ryan,M	AUR	482	304	63.1	3735	8	1.7	62	24	5	96.6
12	Bridgewater	LAK	289	185	64	2046	6	2.1	62	17	5.9	95.9
13	Flacco	COW	428	260	60.7	2881	8	1.9	66	29	6.8	95.6
14	Manning,E	MAR	219	141	64.4	1566	3	1.4	65	9	4.1	93.5
15	Brady,T	YOR	383	245	64	2521	5	1.3	87	16	4.2	91.3
16	Rodgers,A	SBE	442	262	59.3	3110	8	1.8	63	19	4.3	87.6
17	Tannehill	MVM	386	247	64	2478	8	2.1	52	15	3.9	86.5
18	Dalton	SS	426	255	59.9	2937	16	3.8	81	21	4.9	81.5
19	Luck	MOH	464	264	56.9	3073	12	2.6	99	16	3.4	77.8

## RUSHING

Rk	Player	Team	Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	McCoy,L	GWG	271	1412	5.2	40	10
2	Murray,D	CHI	292	1263	4.3	40	10
3	Forte	PIC	237	1247	5.3	36	12
4	Lacy	CAR	231	1208	5.2	31	9
5	Bell,L	LAK	302	1147	3.8	25	5
6	Gore	SC	207	1084	5.2	50	4
7	Lynch,M	YOR	242	1082	4.5	33	12
8	Miller,L	CHP	180	1002	5.6	23	7
9	Morris,A	COW	193	944	4.9	47	2
10	Gordon,M	TCT	161	924	5.7	44	9
11	Anderson,C	SS	192	909	4.7	24	5
12	Foster,A	AUR	145	871	6	34	9
13	Stewart	BCR	170	846	5	73	4
14	Ingram,M	VV	194	829	4.3	36	5
15	Hill,J	ICC	130	785	6	30	6
16	Charles,J	VV	157	752	4.8	54	2
17	Bell,J	MVM	146	717	4.9	60	6
18	Ivory	MVM	142	709	5	70	9
19	Yeldon	SBE	128	662	5.2	50	2
20	Coleman,T	MOH	154	657	4.3	80	5

## RECEIVING

Rk	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Brown,A	TCT	92	1234	13.4	80	14
2	Jones,J	MOH	77	1223	15.9	99	6
3	Johnson,A	CHP	76	771	10.1	20	2
4	Cobb	BCR	76	974	12.8	56	8
5	Maclin	GWG	75	1306	17.4	61	13
6	Hopkins,D	BCR	73	906	12.4	84	9
7	Fitzgerald	COW	68	761	11.2	61	13
8	Boldin	AUR	67	1102	16.4	40	6
9	Kelce,T	CAR	65	695	10.7	41	7
10	Bryant,D	CHP	64	1029	16.1	71	14
11	Graham,J	MOH	64	635	9.9	36	4
12	Landry,J	GWG	62	666	10.7	31	6
13	Decker	DTL	62	626	10.1	28	6
14	Allen,K	SC	60	696	11.6	42	6
15	Evans,M	COW	57	850	14.9	66	6
16	Green,A	SC	56	835	14.9	54	7
17	Jones,J	YOR	55	567	10.3	50	3
18	Stills	SS	55	647	11.8	44	6
19	Gronkowski	BCR	54	506	9.4	54	4
20	Garcon	SBE	53	537	10.1	21	5

## KICKING

Rk	Player	Team	FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts
1	Folk	AUR	28	21	75	5	1	50	107
2	Parkey	BCR	25	23	92	10	2	54	103
3	Gostkowski	TCT	23	20	87	8	0	48	101
4	Dawson	DTL	24	21	87.5	5	0	49	101
5	Zuerlein	ICC	25	20	80	7	0	49	97
6	Succop	CHP	20	18	90	5	1	51	93
7	Brown,J	MAR	29	25	86.2	9	3	56	93
8	Suisham	GWG	18	16	88.9	6	0	47	86
9	Novak	COW	22	18	81.8	8	3	53	84
10	Scobee	PIC	18	16	88.9	6	2	53	84
11	Bailey,D	CHI	21	18	85.7	12	5	53	82
12	Hauschka	CAR	16	11	68.8	7	2	51	78
13	Murray,P	LAK	18	17	94.4	11	5	53	75
14	Tucker,J	SC	13	12	92.3	6	0	47	73
15	Vinatieri	SS	15	15	100	8	2	53	72
16	Walsh	YOR	18	12	66.7	4	1	54	71
17	Nugent	SBE	13	13	100	3	0	43	70
18	Janikowski	MOH	15	13	86.7	6	3	57	65
19	Carpenter	MVM	11	9	81.8	5	1	55	58
20	Crosby	VV	15	14	93.3	8	1	52	55



BEIJING RED DRAGONS



PYINGYANG SUN



SEOUL CALM



TAIPEI SHARKS

# CHRISTMAS BREAK

## STANDINGS - WEEK 3

ASIA	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Pyongyang	2	2	0	0.5	70	17.5	79	19.8	-2.3	2 1 0	2 2 0	2 2 0
Seoul	2	2	0	0.5	87	21.8	72	18	3.8	1 1 0	2 2 0	2 2 0
Beijing	2	2	0	0.5	75	18.8	84	21	-2.3	1 0 0	2 2 0	2 2 0
Taipei	2	2	0	0.5	70	17.5	67	16.8	0.8	2 0 0	2 2 0	2 2 0



### SHARKS

2-2-0

3	3	3	13	0	22
---	---	---	----	---	----

Matt Souza

20 of 34, 227 yards, 2 TDs



### SUN

2-2-0

7	7	0	10	0	24
---	---	---	----	---	----

David Soto

14 of 16, 147 yards, 2 TDs

The Sharks controlled the early play but managed just one FG for the effort. The Sun scored late in the 1<sup>st</sup> when **David Soto** capped a 76-yard drive with a 9-yard TD pass to **Darnell Stevens**. They answered a second Taipei FG with a second TD on a 4-yard pass to **Duane Willis** to make it 14-6 at half time. **Fred Bradley** kicked his 3<sup>rd</sup> FG of the day to open the 2<sup>nd</sup> half for Taipei then **Matt Souza** put the Sharks on top with an 8-yard TD pass to **Erik Jeter** for a 15-14 lead. A 104-yard kick return TD by Stevens and a Sharks' fumble on the ensuing kick return led to the game-winning FG for the Sun.



### RED DRAGONS

2-2-0

7	0	14	0	0	21
---	---	----	---	---	----

Quincey Jordan

7 Tackles, 3 Sacks, 1 FF



### CALM

2-2-0

0	3	3	3	0	9
---	---	---	---	---	---

Barry Carroll

23 of 44, 185 yards, 2 INTs

Beijing QB, **Wilford Calloway** found TE, **Edmundo Melvin** for a 14-yard TD pass to open the scoring. **Garth Chacon** booted a 49-yard FG in the 2<sup>nd</sup> to put Seoul on the board. The Red Dragons struck suddenly in the 3<sup>rd</sup> when Calloway dropped a 51-yard bomb to **Barry Steen** to set up a 7-yard TD run by **Isaiah Broderick** then a Seoul 3-and-out set up Beijing at mid-field for a drive that ended with **Benton Tennant** carrying it in from 3 yards to make it 21-6. With Calm QB, **Barry Carroll** trying to mount a rally, Beijing end **Quincey Jordan** logged 3 sacks and a FF to help secure the win.



# AROUND THE



With Spats McChad



NEW YORK – Another year is in the books. Humanity marches, or stumbles, onward, one year closer to whatever ultimate fate awaits it.

2015 was the Year of the Goat, according to the Chinese Zodiac, and **Aaron Rodgers** would certainly be able to relate to that. The Scarborough quarterback replaced the vilified **Chris Dickinson** as the Scarborough People's Choice for 'Biggest Disappointment in 2015,' narrowly beating out the Toronto mayoral election victory of **John Tory** over beloved **Rob Ford** in a year-end *The Scarberian* reader's poll. Scarborough can be a funny place, but sports fans on the eastern edge of Toronto are realistic, not easily impressed, and possess a strict bottom line when it comes to their teams – win or suffer wrath. How severe the wrath depends on how badly their teams lose. In the case of Blue Eagles fans, many of them have moved past Dickinson, writing him off as a well-intentioned idiot blithely paving the road-to-hell, and have turned their sights on the guy driving the Blue Eagles bus at breakneck speed down that road. But more on that later in this column....

2016 is the Year of the Monkey, according to the same Chinese Zodiac that named an entire year after Aaron Rodgers. In Chinese Zodiacal terms the Monkey is witty, intelligent, inventive, irrepressibly curious, uninhibited and playful. It can also be tricky, opportunistic and untrustworthy. In other words, the Monkey is a little shit disturber who, if he were human, we might want to punch repeatedly in the mouth. Who might that turn out to be this year?

2016 is also the year that the EFL will embark on its 10<sup>th</sup> season this September. It is hard to believe that the league is already closing in on that milestone. It seems like so little time has passed since the Patriots announced **Peyton Manning** as the first overall pick in the inaugural EFL draft. Look at Peyton now – still with the Patriots, albeit with one season as a Spartan under his belt. That season was a lost year for both teams – the Spartans' high hopes, born of a frenzied makeshift rebuild at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, were dashed in the first round of the post-season, while the reigning champion but curiously rebuilding Pats, never had any high hopes to lose.

Among the many festivities planned for the EFL's 10<sup>th</sup> season is the opening of the EFL wing of the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, OH. Until now, the Hall of Fame had been only considering scattered leftovers from the defunct NFL, with the last induction coming in 2012 with the admission of former Bears defensive end **Richard Dent**. Since then the Hall has held off permitting any more entries as it carefully vets nominations of players who played during the "dark years" of the early and mid-2000s leading up to the Federal Prosecutor's indictment and the abrupt collapse of the league.

The EFL Committee created a sub-committee in 2012 to prepare a short list of EFL-focused nominations for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the league. It is a modest, some say symbolic, list. But it is an impressive one even with the self-imposed restrictions of one player per charter team. The league released that list over the holidays and voting commences immediately. 12 retired players, one from each of the original EFL franchises, are being put forward for consideration. They are:

**Jonathan Ogden** (T) – **Anchorage Buccaneers**: The former Baltimore Ravens star played 13 professional football seasons, his last two in the EFL as a member of the Buccaneers. He was the Bucs most effective lineman and a calming influence on an otherwise frantic, lunatic-run sideline in a 27-game, two-year EFL career. But he will be remembered most for his 6 All Pro and 11 Pro Bowl awards as a member of the NFL.

**Ed Reed** (S) – **Charleswood Patriots**: The stalwart of the Pats secondary played 13 seasons as a professional, his final 7 in the EFL as a member of the Patriots (2007 -2011) and North Stars (2012-2013). He recorded 27 interceptions over his EFL career and was named 1<sup>st</sup> Team All Pro 3 times, 2007, 2009 and 2011. He won an EFL Title with the North Stars in 2012 and, ironically, ended his career against the team he started with, losing to the Patriots in the 2013 EFL Final.

**LaDainian Tomlinson** (RB) – **Chino Convicts**: The former 1<sup>st</sup> round pick of the San Diego Chargers was well on his way to being a top five all-time NFL rusher when the turf got pulled out from under him with the demise of the NFL. Signed by the Convicts, LT was named 1<sup>st</sup> Team All Pro in the EFL's first season, beating out rushing leader **Frank Gore** due to his league-leading 2,547 total yards from scrimmage and 23 TDs. LT was name MVP of the 2007 EFL Title game. He followed up that season with a rushing title, 2,268 total yards, 22 TDs and another 1<sup>st</sup> Team All Pro award in 2008. His final 4 EFL campaigns were undistinguished, but over the course of 12 professional seasons he was one of the best.

**Jordan Gross** (T) – **Cowtown Corn Kings**: A 1<sup>st</sup> round pick of the Carolina Panthers in 2003, Gross played 12 seasons as a professional, the final 8 in the EFL as a member of the Corn Kings (2007-2013) and Thunder Lizards (2014). He

was named 1<sup>st</sup> Team All Pro in 2009 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All Pro three times (2008, 2011 and 2014). Gross was the most consistent and durable lineman the Corn Kings ever had and a fan favourite despite his demand for a trade to a contender that saw him finish his career in hated Thunder Lizard brown. Gross signed a one-day contract in 2015 to retire as a Corn King.

**Adrian Wilson (S) – Durham Thunder Lizards:** Before **Kam Chancellor** began lowering the boom his predecessor in Lizard-brown set the example of the hard-hitting proto-linebacker at the safety position. Wilson played 13 pro seasons, 7 of those in the EFL with the Thunder Lizards (2007-2012) and the Blue Eagles (2013), making 11 interceptions and averaging 56 tackles a season over that period. He was a hammer at the second level, making a tremendous impact, but his hybrid nature likely deprived him of the recognition he deserved. He never managed to crack the 1<sup>st</sup> Team All Pro Team but placed runner-up 4 times.

**John Henderson (DT) – Florida Dragons:** The former Jacksonville Jaguars star and 1<sup>st</sup> round draft pick played 11 pro seasons, 4 of those in the EFL with the Dragons (2007-2009) and the Garland Mustangs (2010). He was the Dragons' best defender in their relatively mediocre inaugural campaign, making 3<sup>rd</sup> Team All Pro. He was a solid contributor in the Dragons' Championship years and finished his EFL career with 13 sacks, 7 stuffs and 5 forced fumbles.

**Troy Polamalu (S) – Gwinnett Gladiators:** The former 1<sup>st</sup> round pick of the Pittsburgh Steelers had impact years in both leagues over a 13 season pro career, 8 of those in the EFL with the Gladiators (2007-2013) and Spartans (2014). In 2007 he set a record for sacks by a safety with 6. Despite numerous injuries, he averaged 40 tackles per year and made 20 interceptions in his EFL career. He was selected to 1<sup>st</sup> Team All Pro three times and was named "The Ultimate Gladiator" until he was traded to Pickering in 2014 to bolster their playoff run. In 2015 he signed a one-day contract with Gwinnett to retire as a Gladiator.

**Kellen Winslow II (TE) – Iowa City Cubs:** The son of a hall-of-famer was slowed by injuries early in his career but by the time the Cubs picked him up in 2007 he was healthy and quickly made an impact in his first EFL season with 92 catches, 9 TDs and selection to AP's 1<sup>st</sup> Team All Pro. Winslow went on to play 8 seasons in the EFL with the Cubs (2007-2011), Excaliburs (2012) and Patriots (2012-2013). He caught 376 passes, scored 23 TDs, and was named to 3<sup>rd</sup> Team All Pro in 2008.

**Ray Lewis (ILB) – Kutztown Golden Bears:** This legendary Captain of the Ravens defence was already famous when the EFL came on the scene, but four seasons toiling in relative obscurity on the mediocre Golden Bears lowered his profile before he re-emerged in the limelight with the Undertakers in 2011. He was snatched up by the Triumph in the 2012 expansion and retired the next year. Over 6 EFL seasons he averaged 112 tackles a year, forced 16 fumbles, stuffed 40 runs and picked off 9 passes, returning 2 for scores. He was named 1<sup>st</sup> Team All Pro in 2009 and 2011 and was never convicted of anything.



Mohave coach **Bobby Elder** loses it on assistant special teams coach, **Perseus Paxton** after a 78-yard kickoff return by **Markus Wheaton** put the Triumph in field goal range with 1:44 left in the game and Mohave clinging to a 28-27 lead. Paxton inadvertently deployed the "hands team" while his mentor, special teams guru **Chuck Pagano**, went to the washroom.

**Nnamdi Asomugha (CB) – Los Angeles Knights:** The 1<sup>st</sup> pick of the Oakland Raiders in 2003 picked up where he left off in the NFL when the EFL's **Jeff Dohrn** took him under his wing as a key piece of the Blue Shield. In 11 pro seasons – 8 in the EFL with the Knights (2007-2012) and Cubs (2013) – Asomugha was the original **Darrelle Revis**, a defender who most offences simply avoided entirely. As a result, he did not garner much highlight reel play and played somewhat under the radar. He was a 3<sup>rd</sup> Team All Pro in 2009 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All Pro in the Knights Championship run in 2011. He finished with 10 career EFL interceptions and 51 deflections, but struggled in his final 2 years after reportedly having recurring nightmares of playing naked in a Philadelphia Eagles helmet.

**Ronde Barber (CB) – Meadowlands Swamp Dogs:** Barber was already an “old man” when the EFL formed, having played 10 seasons with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, accumulating a number of awards, including 3 1<sup>st</sup> Team Pro Bowl selections. He went on to play 7 seasons in the EFL with the Swamp Dogs and their successor the Ringgold Crimson Hawks (2007-2009), the Spartans (2010-2011), the Commonwealth Colonials (2012) and the Swordfish (2013). His age coupled with the obscurity of playing mostly on bad teams kept him from being recognized to the level that his numbers would seem to demand. In 7 seasons he picked off 15 passes, returning 5 for TDs, made 482 tackles, deflected 50 passes and forced 11 fumbles. Those are HOF numbers!

**Champ Bailey (CB) – Mohave Hellfire:** Like his counterpart in Meadowlands, Bailey was already an accomplished superstar at his position when he arrived as one of **Bobby Elder**'s top signings in the EFL dispersal draft. He played 16 pro seasons, 7 of those in the EFL with the Hellfire (2007-2012) and the Thunder Lizards (2013). In his EFL tenure he intercepted 12 passes, defended 51, made 393 tackles and was named 1<sup>st</sup> Team All Pro in 2007. Bailey finished his career playing opposite a new breed of shutdown corner, Richard Sherman. He tried to hang on for one more year but no EFL team would pick up his hefty salary.

There you have it – a sneak preview of the 2016 pre-season opening of the EFL Wing of the Pro Football Hall of Fame in the EFL's 10<sup>th</sup> year. It will be interesting to see which of the above 12 players actually make it in. I know who I am voting for. Do you?

### **FIRING LINE**

It happens every year, but this year was the first time it happened on television.

In the 4 seasons prior to this one the Hellfire have a total of 16 wins. Of those, 10 have come in the second half of the year and of those, 8 have come in the final 4 weeks of the season. The annual late season Hellfire flare is thought to be the result of a last ditch effort on the part of fringe players and assistant coaches to keep their jobs after sucking for most of the year. Something similar appears to be happening in 2015 as the suddenly feisty Hellfire barbecued the Swordfish in Week 10, hung with Beaufort County until deep into the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter in Week 11, and came one special teams boner away from upsetting the Triumph on the road this past week.

History has shown us that it doesn't matter how well the Hellfire finish in a losing year – **Bobby Elder** has fired his entire staff at the end of every season since 2011. The “purge” is often conducted with a malicious flair that has fostered personal bitterness over the years and a growing network of word-of-mouth warnings to prospective job candidates to stay away from Mohave. When coaches arrive to clean out their offices at the end of the season they find all of their possessions, personal or otherwise, gone and a note posted on the door reading: 'YOU'RE FIRRRRRREEDD!'

When the unfortunate firees seek to retrieve their belongings they are directed to the basement incinerator at the Fiery Depths where a labelled urn is handed over to them containing the ashes of whatever they happened to have left in the office last. An envelope containing severance pay and an insulting note is handed over as well with a warning never to return.

The reason for the apparent impunity with which Elder is able to gratuitously abuse the property and egos of his former hires is a source of speculation, but it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that dealings with the owning group of the Hellfire, Hellfire Consultants Ltd., can be laced with menace when the Bank of West Hades gets involved in a lawsuit. It is better for most to just “let it go” and move on.

At TCF Bank Stadium in Twin Cities this week the Hellfire blazed a comeback trail in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter to overcome a 20-point deficit and take a 28-27 lead on a TD pass from **Andrew Luck** to **Julio Jones** with 1:50 left in the game. The Triumph would get one more shot to drive into position for a field goal, but the Mohave pass rush had been gaining penetration all day and **Jay Cutler** had yet to throw his obligatory interception to that point. The odds looked about 50-50 that the Hellfire would pull



Blue Eagles QB, **Aaron Rodgers**, poses for this snap-chat photo before attempting an escape from Bluff's Stadium dressed in a niqab. Fans rioted after another ugly outing for the Blue Eagles, with two lost fumbles by Rodgers playing a prominent role in a 39-14 loss to Aurora.

off what would certainly be the upset of the week. But the odds shifted dramatically on the ensuing kickoff, when Mohave inexplicably put their hands team on the field and **Sebastian Janikowski** kicked off deep to **Markus Wheaton**.

The Triumph's seldom-used fourth wide receiver had been merely a serviceable kick returner to that point in the season. But with the entire left side of the Mohave coverage team converging toward a spot on the right side about 10-15 yards from the kick-off line, Wheaton found it fairly easy to cover 78 yards before **Darius Butler** caught up to him at the Mohave 23 yard line. So much for having to drive into field goal range! Cutler found **Antonio Brown** for a 10-yard completion and a critical first down then ran the clock down to 3 seconds before giving way to the special teams unit to set up for a 33-yard field goal attempt.

**Bobby Elder** never bothered to watch as **Stephen Gostkowski** kicked it through the uprights for the game-winning score. He was too busy choking out special teams assistant coach **Perseus Paxton** on the sideline. Paxton, a former assistant trainer for the Austin College Kangaroos, was an "up-and-comer" according to head special teams coach, Chuck Pagano. In his excitement at having the game "in the palm of our *hands*," he had inadvertently sent the hands team on the field while telling Janikowski directly to "kick it high and far." Pagano was in the washroom while all of this was going on, feeling the effects of a **Guy Williams** endorsed 'Birdie Burger' vegetable smoothie called 'Green 'n Lean.' It would be the last play Paxton would ever call as a member of the Hellfire coaching staff and the last smoothie consumed by Pagano in a Hellfire jacket. Elder fired them both on the spot after being dragged off of Paxton by the offensive line. Some media outlets in Mohave have accused Elder of not caring about his team. Judging from this latest outburst and every other tirade on record, if anything, the notoriously irritable coach may care too much.

### **AROUND THE EFL**

The Week Twelve slate looked a lot like the string of slaughter fests in Week Eleven. With playoff races heating up however, it is now impossible to ignore many of the uneven games that proliferated in this week's schedule. Here is my quick take on the lot:

Bluffs Stadium in Scarborough was again the scene of civil unrest as the Aurora Mustangs trampled the Blue Eagles 39-14. A near sellout crowd, buoyed by brisk pre-sales dating back to the pleasant early weeks of the season, turned ugly as the game got away from the home team mid-way through the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. This time, beleaguered owner **Chris Dickinson** did not bear the brunt of the anger. The Eagles jumped out to a 14-0 lead on a 50-yard TD run by **TJ Yeldon** and an 11-yard TD pass to **Pierre Garçon**. Bluffs Stadium was rocking with rare jubilation until **Aaron Rodgers** fumbled while extending the ball for extra yards on a scramble in Mustangs territory, setting in motion a disastrous series of mishaps that resulted in 39 unanswered points for the visitors. When Rodgers fumbled in the identical careless manner on their next possession, leading to another TD before half time, the fans became surly. By the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, with **Matt Ryan** throwing deep to **Anquan Boldin** with 6:58 remaining and a 18-point lead, they became apoplectic with rage, targeting both Rodgers and Ryan and visiting coach **Rich Liotta** with food and beverage missiles. The riot police were deployed while Rodgers, according to a leaked photo of a "snap-chat" pic, escaped the stadium dressed in a colourful niqab.

At the Big House in Chino, the case for ending the Convicts season at 16 games got a little stronger as the Pats rebounded from a Week 11 beat down by the Cubbies to suppress Cam Newton's Posse 24-14. The buzz in Chino is that Newton was rushed back a little early from a hamstring strain in order to avoid throwing **Kirk Cousins** into the fray in such an important game. Newton certainly did not look himself – all his numbers were down and he was hesitant to run out of the pocket, gaining just 11 yards on the ground.

At Round Table Stadium in LA, **Jeff Dohrn** proved again that happiness is an internal process. The LA coach gave an upbeat press conference following his Knights' 31-24 loss to the Ravens that at once eliminated his team from post-season contention and allowed the Ravens to remain a tie-breaker in front on Iowa City at the top of the West Division. "*We had the biggest heart out there today and I am proud of my men for that,*" he thumped at the podium while beaming a big smile. A winless campaign will do that to a man, I guess. Take note, **Lance Barrate** and **Russ Lemmon** – you too will be counting moral victories soon.

Speaking of Lance, he was overcome by the spirit of Christmas and gave out 10,000 free tickets with free hot dog vouchers to the homeless and seniors in a thinly-veiled attempt to fill the stands for the network cameras that have recently begun panning the empty seats at **TERRORDOME** in between plays as the announcers tut-tut about the collapse of football in Virden. As a result, several hundred bored street punks and gangsters ripped up many of those seats, as a 38-10 blowout loss to Carthage failed to hold their interest. I guess now he doesn't have to worry about *empty* seats....

The Thunder Lizards narrowly escaped the Dawg Pound in Markham with a 17-10 victory. In the end, the Heisman Trophy-grade moves of **Reggie Bush** on a couple of perfectly-executed screen passes were required to push Durham over the top. As usual, nobody can explain how the North Stars managed to stay afloat long enough to force last minute heroics from the far superior team. NASA is still studying the game film.

At Tillman Field in Cowtown the Corn Kings leap-frogged three positions in the wildcard race and pushed the Spartans to the bottom of the 6-6 pile with a surprisingly easy 38-10 win. **Joe Flacco** threw 5 touchdown passes as the running of **Todd Gurley** and **Alfred Morris** provided cover for the passing game. Most unexpected was the almost complete shutdown of the Pickering offence by the Corn Kings defenders, who blunted the Spartans "Big Spears" **Matt Forte** and **Demaryius Thomas**.

At the Carolina Slammer in Columbia the revamped Regulators took apart a top-notch defence in a 49-24 shellacking of York. Like a football Scrooge lit up by the fear of a stark football Christmas yet-to-come, **Hal Corson** is like a coach reborn. Either that, or a suddenly hot as hell **Tony Romo**, who threw 5 TD passes in this game, is making him look good.

At Joe Ferguson Stadium in Iowa City the Cubs exacted revenge for the stinger they received in Week One with a convincing 42-13 dethroning of the Monarchs. Corey Graham picked off 2 passes in the effort. And finally, the Swordfish sort of hung in for a bit against the Gladiators before falling to the duo of **Ben Roethlisberger** and **LeSean McCoy** 34-20 at Gwinnett Coliseum.

# BUG THE BOOKIE!

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

*Your source for fantasy and on-line betting solutions*



RECORD VS THE SPREAD AFTER WEEK 12:

72-44-4

## PLAYOFF PICTURE AT A GLANCE

		PACIFIC-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE		CAN-AM CONFERENCE	
OUT	ALIVE	IN	IN	ALIVE	OUT
		 1			
		 2			
		 3			
		 4			

## JIMMY'S WEEK THIRTEEN PICKS

### GAMES TO WATCH

#### DURHAM @ AURORA (line – Pick'Em)

**INJURIES:** Durham – Ahmad Bradshaw (QUESTIONABLE), Josh Gordon (OUT), DJ Hayden (OUT); Aurora – Kevin Pierre-Louis (OUT).

This is a big game in more ways than one. First, the outcome will almost certainly determine which team will finish as the no. 1 seed in the Can Am Conference. The Lizards have clinched their division already (while the second tier teams below them beat each other up) and the Mustangs can clinch the South with a win or a tie here. While there remains a very, very slight chance of the Gladiators overtaking Aurora for the division title, the probability is that both these teams will finish one-two in the Conference. Secondly, this game could very well be a preview of this year's Conference Final, although that fact is likely to make this contest

more of a chimera than the real deal. Neither team will want to show all of its cards here, even with the prize of home field advantage throughout the playoffs dangling alluringly within reach. The “pick’em” line with Aurora drawing home field advantage suggests that Vegas is not convinced that the statistically proficient Aurora pass attack is fully up to the task of laying waste to the Durham secondary. It also implies uncertainty about Aurora’s willingness to use Arian Foster as a counterweight to that aerial threat. Durham is hoping Ahmad Bradshaw, listed as “questionable,” can suit up and bring some punch to the running game, but his ball security issues could play into one of the strengths of the Mustangs defence. It is becoming cliché to say it, but Durham’s best chance lies in the arm of Drew Brees and the hands of his wide receivers. If Brees has to rely on the running game to take the heat off, it could be a long afternoon. Aurora, on the other hand, has options if they choose to use them. **PICK: AURORA**

### **YORK @ COWTOWN (line – CORN KINGS by 4)**

**INJURIES:** York – Kurt Coleman (QUESTIONABLE), Brandon Scherff (DOUBTFUL), Jonathan Goodwin (OUT); Cowtown – Ronald Darby (QUESTIONABLE), Derek Carrier (OUT), Cecil Shorts III (OUT), Cedric Ogbuehi (OUT), Julius Thomas (OUT).

If the pattern of lose-one, win-one continues for Cowtown then York will be the beneficiary of a pre-ordained victory and a likely return to a playoff spot. The Corn Kings’ knockdown win over Pickering last week coupled with York’s stunning fall to South Carolina nudged Cowtown a gopher hair past York in the three-way tie for second place in the North and ahead of Scarborough for the final wildcard berth (by virtue of their superior conference record). If the Corn Kings can somehow break that cycle and post their first, however modest, winning “streak” they will gain a solid foothold in second place in the North and earn a chance to control their own playoff destiny. York is in a slightly less steady position as a victory here only assures them of a one-game lead and tie-breaker over the Corn Kings. The last time these teams met the Swords stabbed the Kings in overtime to prevail in one of their more dominant offensive performances of the year. Conversely, that game was one of the few this season in which York’s defence was similarly man-handled. This game is shaping up to be another toss up, with much depending on the ability of Tom Brady to finish off through the air what Marshawn Lynch starts on the ground. Cowtown will need its defence to build on last week’s stellar performance against Pickering and hope that the offence doesn’t turn the ball over at a critical moment. Avoid either team this week if you are in a survivor pool but take the dog with a 4-point spread. **PICK: YORK**

### **SCARBOROUGH @ GWINNETT (line – GLADIATORS by 9)**

**INJURIES:** Scarborough – Chris Canty (QUESTIONABLE), Tarell Brown (OUT), Randy Gregory (OUT), Dont’a Hightower (OUT); Gwinnett – Rey Mauuluga (OUT).

The size of this line is perhaps surprising until you consider that the Blue Eagles have been in freefall since gutting out a 6-point victory over LA in Week 10. After an impressive 2-0 start to the season, they have stayed in the playoff hunt thanks to a relatively easy schedule, with their 4 victories since then coming against opponents with a combined winning percentage of .167. The Glads will not be so easy, as they were *not* back in Week 5 when Big Ben posted a perfect passer rating en route to a 38-17 victory. Gwinnett currently sits alone in the 1<sup>st</sup> wildcard spot and has a microscopic chance at stealing the division if Matt Ryan’s arm falls off and Big Ben’s alter ego, Big Boob takes a permanent leave of absence. The Glads are too inconsistent to realistically challenge for the division but they can realistically bury the Blue Eagles with a win this week. They should guard against being overconfident however, as Scarborough’s recent woes have been attributable to bad luck as much as to talented personnel playing badly. A Blue Eagle victory would put Scarborough right back in the thick of the playoff hunt. Gwinnett relies on too few big names to get the job done on game days and those few can be a temperamental bunch. If the Eagles spread their wings they can, arguably, keep up with anybody in this league. Theory is one thing, action is another. It’s do-or-die time for the Big Birds. **PICK: SCARBOROUGH**

## **GAMES OF NOTE**

### **CARTHAGE @ BEAUFORT COUNTY (line – RAVENS by 3)**

**INJURIES:** Carthage – Justin Durant (IR), Greg Hardy (IR), Derrick Johnson (IR), Manti Te’o (IR), Jason Verrett (IR); Beaufort County – Shaun Hill (OUT), Ryan Mathews (OUT), Stevan Ridley (OUT), Frank Alexander (IR), Jairus Byrd (IR);

Every week I brace myself waiting for the Ravens to come unglued and every week they step up and prove me and the critics wrong. First it was the proverbial journeyman Shaun Hill playing like a franchise QB and now his back-up, RGIII, is looking like the first-round pick that he is. All the same, I can’t help feeling that the mercurial third son of Robert Griffin could go postal at any

moment, blowing up the carefully constructed house of cards that Ravens GM Neil Shannon has built up to look like an impregnable fortress. It may not start with RGIII himself. The running game is on soft ground with Stevan Ridley and Ryan Mathews out of action and Jonathan Stewart and Karlos Williams limited in practice this week nursing minor ailments. The defence is the healthiest it's been since opening day, but this week it will face pressure from the multi-faceted Carthage attack, led by Marcus Mariota, who is proving to be a more durable and stable version of the RGIII himself. Emmanuel Sanders, the league-leader in yards-per-catch, will travel to Revis Island for his biggest test of the season in one of the week's more intriguing one-on-one match-ups. Against virtually all predictions, Carthage is still in the playoff hunt and the Ravens are one of the teams it could catch. Expect another bold attack plan from Ken Main to compensate for a sieve-like defence. **PICK: CARTHAGE**

### **MARKHAM @ PICKERING (line – SPARTANS by 5)**

**INJURIES:** Markham – Ereck Flowers (OUT), Jordan Reed (OUT), Max Unger (OUT), Chris Long (IR); Pickering – Roberto Garza (PROBABLE).

Despite a 6-game losing streak the North Stars are still alive in the playoff hunt thanks to a pyrrhic war that has five teams in their conference sporting 6-6 records. Markham's chances of a post-season berth are fractionally better than the chance of an asteroid smacking into the Dawg Pound at the 50-yard line, but if they can manoeuvre themselves into a 7-9 tie with the right team, and the rest of the competition tanks completely, they could squeeze in. The Spartans currently own the tie-breakers over three of the six teams in the wildcard hunt, but might not get a chance to test those against South Division opponents if they cannot get past their North Division rivals. Pickering crash landed against Cowtown last week, raising questions about their stability, while the North Stars put in another combative performance against Durham, giving them the dubious honour of being one of the toughest 3-9 teams in history. The Stars players will not quit on their coach, but with rookie tackle Ereck Flowers out of action and veteran center Max Unger at least one week away from return, their ground game, so important to the success of their offence, could get buried early. Expect the Spartans offence to rebound and their defence to hold up. **PICK: PICKERING**

### **CHINO @ MISSION VIEJO (line – CONVICTS by 1)**

**INJURIES:** Chino – Michael Schofield (OUT), Victor Cruz (IR). Mission Viejo – Dwayne Bowe (PROBABLE), Timmy Jernigan (OUT), Kevin White (OUT), Jerod Mayo (IR);

The Convicts are still alive in the quest for a post-season berth but they need to win games like this one while hoping for help from the relatively feeble bottom rung of teams in the PAC. The Monarchs have been hot and cold over a difficult 2-2 stretch that has seen them pummelled by top competition and slugging out winning decisions over wildcard contenders. The Convicts are proving to be a mid-grade playoff contender that has taken a recent dip with sub-par play from Cam Newton. Unquestionably the engine of the offence, the Chino quarterback was reportedly rushed back from injury a week early to take on the Patriots and was held to just 136 yards passing. DeMarco Murray picked up his season-long pedestrian pace in that game with 140 yards and 2 touchdowns, but his success came against six-DB sets protecting a three-score second half lead. The Convicts will need to establish a balanced attack against a Mission defence that generally held the Convicts' offence in check when not giving up deep throw touchdowns in a Week Three loss. The Monarchs have no pressure and can either tank or play loose. **PICK: CHINO**

## **HOLIDAY LEFTOVERS**

### **CHARLESWOOD @ MOHAVE (line – PATRIOTS by 7)**

**INJURIES:** Charleswood – None; Mohave – Allen Robinson (PROBABLE), Jimmie Ward (QUESTIONABLE), Bruce Irvin (DOUBTFUL), Ronnie Hillman (OUT), Whitney Mercilus (OUT), Donnie Avery (IR).

After a depressing 8-game losing streak, the team that gave Virden its best shot at a win this year is suddenly hot. Well, hot by Hellfire standards, anyway. After flaming Sebastian in Week 10 Mohave has gone down guns a-blazing in back-to-back losses to the Ravens and the Triumph. It is no coincidence that the recent spirited showings have involved the sudden emergence of Julio Jones. After nine weeks of getting acquainted he and Andrew Luck are finally clicking and sparking the offence as a result. The Pats recovered from their Week 11 fiasco against Iowa City with a solid effort against Chino last week. A win here will put them in a position to clinch the East Division in their Week 14 game against the Triumph. The Pats' defence, no.1 in fewest yards surrendered and no.2 against the pass, is well equipped and motivated to handle the one-trick Hellfire. **PICK: CHARLESWOOD**

### **LOS ANGELES @ IOWA CITY (line – CUBS by 11)**

**INJURIES:** Los Angeles – Bryan Stork (QUESTIONABLE), Cortland Finnegan (OUT), Andrew Norwell (OUT), Brian Orakpo (OUT); Iowa City – None.

Traditionally the Knights and Cubs play each other tough, although recent hard times for the Knights have caused them to drop their last five to the Cubs after holding a 7-5 regular season lead and a 2-1 playoff edge through the league's first six seasons.

While there is no question the Cubs are currently the better team, the revival of pride in the Blue Shield and the recent opening of the playbook for rookie Teddy Bridgewater has Knights' fans interested in football once more. The spirit of rivalry could result in this being a much closer game than anticipated. For the Cubs, this game has the appearance of a breather before a three-game test down the stretch against their main competition for a playoff berth. It is a classic "trap" scenario. **PICK: LOS ANGELES**

### **SOUTH CAROLINA @ SEBASTIAN (line – REGULATORS by 6)**

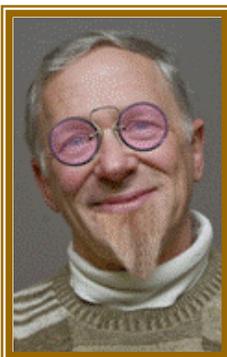
**INJURIES: South Carolina** – Dontay Moch (DOUBTFUL), Ameer Abdullah (OUT), Keenan Allen (OUT), Terrence Brooks (OUT), Star Lotulelei (OUT), TJ Ward (OUT); **Sebastian** – Jerry Attaochu (OUT), Jamell Fleming (OUT), Chandler Jones (OUT), Alex Mack (OUT), Mike Pouncey (OUT), Adrian Clayborn (IR), Jadeveon Clowney (IR), Paul Posluszny (IR).

The Regulators are riding a three-game win streak and are now the fashionable favourite among adoring media to snag one of the wild card spots in the Can-Am Conference. This sudden change of attitude toward a team that looked completely moribund in Week Nine appears to be fickle fancy, but when reputations and dollars are on the line, gauging the hottest team matters and there is no question that South Carolina is hot right now. It is not just Tony Romo who is sizzling; Frank Gore is also back, the opportunistic defence has forced 7 turnovers in 3 games and Tamba Hali got his first sack – on a blitz, no less! Meanwhile the Swordfish continue to lose while causing great discomfort to their opponents with flashes of offensive energy that put them just a couple of takeaways away from inflicting an embarrassing and crippling loss on some unfortunate playoff contender. But CJ Anderson, a big part of that Sebastian attack, is looking fatigued lately, while the talent-deprived defence is missing most of its line-backing corps. The Fish are long overdue for a win, but it won't come this week. **PICK: SOUTH CAROLINA**

### **VIRDEN @ TWIN CITIES (line – TRIUMPH by 18)**

**INJURIES: Virden** – Prince Amukamara (DOUBTFUL), Trumaine Johnson (OUT), Daniel McCullers (OUT), Alex Carrington (IR), Eric Berry (IR), Kelcy Quarles (IR), Demeco Ryans (IR), Stephen Tulloch (IR), Aldon Smith (IR); **Twin Cities** – Nigel Bradham (OUT).

Heading into the final quarter of the season what remains of the Virden fan base is celebrating the team's departure for a three-game road trip. For three weeks there will be no loyalty pressure to attend the *TERRORDOME* and witness the worst team to take the field in a professional football game since the Winnemucca Outlaws of 2008 get manhandled with ease. The monstrous line could be much higher except for the well-founded fear that the Triumph will lose interest in running up the score and decide to give Johnny Manziel some training snaps and see if Doug Martin has any moves left in his oft-injured legs. You know Virden will be unleashing Jamaal Charles and Mark Ingram at least 40 times to try and burn up as much time as possible. Although the Triumph could score 40 points without much effort, it is also possible that a couple of bad bounces could shave a critical 7 points or so off the difference. Expect a conservative effort on both sides and a garbage-time Virden TD or two. **PICK: VIRDEN**



CHANN  
**ANCIENT HISTORY**  
CHANNEL  
PRESENTS  
*This Week in EFL History*  
With Professor  
*Sterling Smitherman*

FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – Week 12 of the 2009 EFL season was the week the dream of a perfect season for the Dragons slammed into the reality of the Chino Convicts' strange mastery over the EFL's first dynastic team. In 2008 the Convicts had handed Florida its first and only loss. At the time, many had not expected that it would be Florida's last, but the 2008 Dragons went undefeated the rest of the way to win their first Championship. This year it was different – many people were on watch for a perfect season from Florida. It they were to be denied, only Durham and the Pats

were considered worthy enough for the job, and the Dragons had beaten both already. Nobody had expected the Convicts to deny the Dragons again. But, in an uncanny repeat of history (it does tend to repeat itself, you know), Chino did just that after a squib kick with 56 seconds left gave them the ball at their own 48 yard line. The Convicts drove just 22 yards to set up the 47-yard game-winner by *Jeff Reed* as time expired.

In other EFL news, the Garland Mustangs (7-5) continued their surprisingly strong gallop in the race for a post-season berth with an amazing 26-24 upset of the LA Knights (7-5). What made it surprising was the fact that the Mustangs managed to hang 26 points on the league's top-rated defence. The game hinged on a crazy 4<sup>th</sup> and 2 gambit by the Mustangs at their 22, trailing 17-9 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Had it backfired, you would not be reading this right now. They made the 1<sup>st</sup> down and went on to score a TD on that drive, shifting the momentum permanently in their favour.

In the playoff picture, the Dragons, despite having the league's best record (11-1), had still not clinched the South Division. Only Winnemucca (1-11) and Pickering (3-9) were out of the playoff hunt at this point.