



# CHAMPIONSHIP EDITION

February 24, 2008

## CHINO WINS IT ALL!

*“UNDER DOG” IS NOW “TOP DOG” AFTER TOPPLING PATRIOTS*



**CHINO**

**24**

### *Quote of the Day*

“This is the best feeling in the world! I’m finally getting a Day Pass. I’m cashing in my bonus and heading to the Nymphet Palace!”  
- Adam ‘Pacman’ Jones

### *Stat of the Game*

LaDainian Tomlinson  
134 Yards from Scrimmage

## EFL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME



**CHARLESWOOD**

**21**

### *Quote of the Day*

“You have to give them all the credit in the world. They played us tough down for down. Do I feel let down by the running game? Yes, very much so. But I’m not here to make excuses. I wasn’t perfect either. Close, but not perfect.”  
-Peyton Manning

### *Stats of the Game*

Peyton Manning  
3 TD Passes,  
1 Championship Loss



Chino's Donovan McNabb celebrates 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter TD pass to Torry Holt in EFL Championship Game.

# TOUGH HARD FOUGHT BATTLE IN THE MEADOWLANDS

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## *DEFENSES SHOW UP*

MEADOWLANDS – One team had to win and one team had to lose. The final decision was anything but clear cut. Either team could have won this tenacious heavyweight bout – but in the end it was the team with the more balanced attack that prevailed. Although he had to fight for every yard against an unyielding Patriots defense, it was LaDainian Tomlinson’s 134 yards from scrimmage that tilted a virtually dead even contest in favour of the underdog Chino Convicts and helped to send the Charleswood Patriots home one victory short of their pre-season Championship goal.

Unlike in the West Division Title game however, LT did not have to carry his team on his back this week. He simply played his part, while his teammates played theirs. And unlike many of Chino’s big wins this year, there was no sudden offensive or defensive point-explosion to



**The Agony of Defeat!** A despondent Peyton Manning hangs his head as Chino runs out the clock late in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the EFL Championship Game.

knock down their opponent and carry the day. Instead, the entire game was an endurance contest where every yard counted and small plays became big plays. Little battles won – like Thomas Jones fighting for first down yardage against the heart of the Chino defense to convert a key third down on Charleswood’s opening touchdown drive; or LaDainian Tomlinson’s shifty move to elude a keying linebacker and convert a third down in the Patriot’s red zone on Chino’s first touchdown drive – had a more visible impact on the war. And then there were the little battles lost – such as Peyton Manning missing a wide open Wes Welker on a short hitch after consecutive first downs had appeared to generate momentum in a second quarter drive that fizzled shortly thereafter; or the holding penalty called on Pro Bowler Tarik Glenn that set the Patriots back on their heels at the very start of their final drive – that seemed to weigh more heavily than usual on the outcome of the game.

In the final analysis, it was the Convict’s ability to focus their attention on Peyton Manning – playing nickel, dime, and quarter packages in virtually any situation without fear of being gouged by the running game – that kept the Patriot offense sufficiently muzzled and helped Chino to stay in the game throughout and eventually grind out enough points to win. It was also the dual threat of Chino’s equally devastating ground and air offensive weapons that prevented the Charleswood defense from attaining a similar edge in their game plan, forcing them into more neutral postures and making them pay for misguided gambles. In this chess match, the strategy overcame the power of the pieces.

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### FIRST QUARTER

**CHINO**                      **0**

**CHARLESWOOD**        **7**

FIRST QUARTER – A promising start by the Patriots as they took the opening drive 75 yards in 9 plays to grab the early lead on an 11-yard TD pass from Peyton Manning to Jason Witten. Two third down conversions keyed the drive – a 24-yard catch-and-run play to Chad Johnson on third down and inches at the Charleswood 35 yard line; and a 2-yard run by Thomas Jones on 3<sup>rd</sup> down and 1 at the Chino 32 yard line. With the Convicts looking for Adrian Peterson in the backfield, Manning found Witten open across the middle from 11 yards out for the opening score.

Following the touchdown, both teams traded three-and-outs before Chino's offense got on track late in the quarter. An aggressive Patriot defense got caught out of position twice on third down, with McNabb shaking off a blitz to find Anquan Boldin open for a 12-yard gain on third down and 6 at the Convict's own 17 yard line; and Tomlinson pounding out a 5-yard gain on third down and 1 at the Patriots 49 yard line while the Pats played 7 defensive backs in an all-out gamble to stop the pass. As the opening quarter ended, Boldin burned the Pats for a 20-yard gain on a short pass and the Convicts were inside the red zone and threatening to score.

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SECOND QUARTER – The Convicts made good on their threat, scoring four plays later when McNabb found Randy McMichael open on the flank for a 7-yard touchdown pass. It was a play made possible by a nifty and heady 11-yard run by Tomlinson on 3<sup>rd</sup> down and 10 that kept the drive alive in the red zone. That would turn out to be LT's longest run from scrimmage and arguably his most important carry of the day.

The Pats were shut down on their next series but caught a break when 'Pacman' Jones fumbled Craig Hentrich's punt and the Pats'

David Givens pounced on it at the Chino 36 yard line. Although Manning misfired on his first two pass attempts, he completed to Chad Johnson for 13 yards on 3<sup>rd</sup> down and 10 to move within field goal range. Two plays later, with the Convicts searching for Adrian Peterson, Manning tossed a short hitch to Donald Driver, who carried it the rest of the way for a 17-yard touchdown play and a 14-7 Patriots lead.

Chino answered with an Adam Vinatieri field goal from 36 yards away to pull within 4 points and cap off the first half scoring. The Patriots answered with two quick first downs and appeared to be regaining the momentum before Manning inexplicably missed a short pass to a wide open Wes Welker that had the effect of throwing cold water on the drive. An obviously frustrated Manning missed on his next two passes and the Pats were forced to punt.

The first half ended in un-dramatic fashion as Chino could not get anything going on their last possession and Charleswood seemed content to run out the clock and take a 14-10 lead into the locker room.

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<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>
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<b>CHINO</b>	<b>10</b>
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<b>CHARLESWOOD</b>	<b>14</b>
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<b>THIRD QUARTER</b>
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<b>CHINO</b>	<b>24</b>
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<b>CHARLESWOOD</b>	<b>14</b>
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THIRD QUARTER – Like they have so many times this year, the Convicts came out of the locker room after half time and took control of the game. They got an immediate boost from 'Pacman' Jones (the player responsible for the one major blunder of the first half), who returned the opening kick-off 70 yards to the Patriots 25 yard line. From there it took Chino 7 plays to cover the distance to the end zone, with LT busting through the Charleswood line from one yard out to give the Convicts their first lead of the day, 17-14. The key play of the short drive was a 12-yard end around by wide

receiver, Reggie Brown, on 3<sup>rd</sup> down and 10 that put the ball at the 13 yard line. From there it was all LT, who initially appeared to have come up short of the goal line on the scoring play. But the Charleswood challenge was overturned when video replay clearly showed the nose of the ball crossing the plane before Tomlinson's knee hit the turf.

The Pat's offense responded feebly with two quick three-and-outs on their next two possessions. Facing a swarm of white jersey in the secondary, Manning had difficulty finding a safe place to throw and only 1 of his 6 pass attempts found the mark. To make things worse, Hentrich, on 4<sup>th</sup> and 7 from his own 23 yard line, shanked the punt, sending it a mere 19 yards and failing to get the Pats out of their own territory. The Convicts, sensing a turn in the tide, seized the moment.

With another shortened field in front of them, the Convict's Marcus McNeill tried to give some of it back with a holding penalty on the first play from scrimmage. McNabb and the Chino offense refused to fold. A 14-yard scramble by McNabb on a busted screen brought up a manageable 2<sup>nd</sup> down, but the Pats dug in and held the line, bringing up a 4<sup>th</sup> down and 3 and a fateful decision for Coach Nazar. To his credit, he did not hesitate,

keeping the offense on the field. The Pats stacked the line of scrimmage and looked for LT, but while the offensive line and LT moved left, the player who emerged with the ball was McNabb, who ran the naked bootleg right for a 16-yard play and a huge first down. Five plays later, the Convicts were in the end zone for the second time in the quarter – McNabb throwing underneath to Torry Holt, who burst like lightning into the end zone for a 24-14 Chino lead.

A sense of urgency engulfed the Patriot sideline. Manning took the field after Welker returned the kickoff 26 yards to the 31 yard line. After Jones ran twice for 9 yards, Manning failed to connect with Johnson on 3<sup>rd</sup> down and 1, bringing up fourth down at their own 40 yard line. The Patriots then took what could have been a disastrous gamble at that point in the game – they decided to go for it. The Convicts looked like they expected another pass, but Adrian Peterson took the handoff and scampered for 6 yards and a key first down. On the next play Peterson got the call again, bursting through for Charleswood’s longest run from scrimmage on the day, covering 8 yards, as the third quarter came to a close. The Pats were moving the ball, but they were down by 10 points and the Chino defense was giving up ground grudgingly. Would they be able to come back?

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FOURTH QUARTER – In an obvious attempt to create some room for the passing game, the Pats ran Jones for three straight plays and made a first down in the process. However, a return to the pass on 3<sup>rd</sup> down and 3 saw Manning miss another short throw, bringing up another fourth down situation at the Chino 33. Although a field goal would put them within 7 points, Coach Findlay did not appear ready to trust his field goal kicker from 50 yards away and he ordered Manning to stay on the field. Their second big gamble of the series came inches away from backfiring.

**FOURTH QUARTER**

<b>CHINO</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>CHARLESWOOD</b>	<b>21</b>

Manning hit Driver on a short curl but Terrence Newman closed immediately and wrapped him up at the line of gain. A favourable spot was just enough, by mere inches, to make the first. After Peterson was stopped for no yards, ‘Ocho Cinco’ made a key play, turning a short button hook into a 12-yard gain. Then, Manning made a nice pass to Witten, who ducked underneath a head shot by Sean Taylor and backed into the end zone for his second touchdown of the contest. With little more than 9 minutes remaining in the game, the Pats had closed to within 3 points. Now they needed a stop from their defense.

They got it. LT was stopped dead in his tracks on 3<sup>rd</sup> down and 1 at the Chino 34 yard line, and given the situation, the Convicts were forced to punt. The Pats got the ball back at their own 31 yard line but immediately gave back 10 yards when Tarik Glenn was called for a rare holding penalty. Consecutive completions on the next two plays erased the penalty and gained Charleswood a first down, but the offensive blocking scheme seemed to be affected by the earlier penalty. Peterson was stuffed for a 4-yard loss two plays later after a missed blocking assignment allowed Zach Thomas to penetrate the line untouched. The significance of losing 4 yards on a rush against a ‘quarter’ pass defense was not lost on anyone. The Convicts were buoyed by the big play and the Pats were suddenly deflated.

Manning threaded the needle on 3<sup>rd</sup> down and 13, hitting Johnson for 11 yards at midfield, but not enough for the first down. With 2:41 left in the game, facing 4<sup>th</sup> down and 2, the chips were down for Peyton Manning and the Charleswood Patriots.

The Convict’s defense did not even pretend to care about the run. They lined up with only 3 down linemen and 1 linebacker, mining the secondary with 7 defensive backs. The Pats lined up with 3 wide receivers and a lone back in the backfield. Manning handled the snap from Meester and took a two-step drop, firing quickly to Johnson who sprinted forward three yards and turned around. But Manning’s throw was a split second too early; hitting Johnson in the hands before he had acquired sight of the ball, and it fell to the ground incomplete.

Although 2:34 still remained in the game, there was an eruption of celebration on the Chino sideline. McNabb and the offense ran on to the field as the defense danced off of it. The Pats sent 6 linemen and dug in to stop the run, but the Convicts crossed them up by aggressively turning to the short passing game. Then, with the Pat’s defense changing tack and looking for the pass on third down and 1, the Convicts crossed them up again by running fullback, Jeremi Johnson into the middle of the line. He burst through for a back-breaking 11-yard run and a virtual game-clinching first down. Out of timeouts, all the Pats could do was watch as Vince Young and Donovan McNabb shared the kneeling duties. The Chino Convicts had won the first ever EFL Championship.



## **POST-GAME LOCKER ROOM**

### **CHINO**

“It was a tough game. I can’t think of much to say at the moment, I’m just letting it sink in. As usual, we weren’t given credit for being at the same level as our opponents and that motivated us. Jimmy the Weasel’s prediction of a Charleswood victory was again our motivational tool as we prepared all week. I just want to say, “thanks, Jimmy. Feel free to drop by the ‘Big House’ anytime. The weekend is on us” And that’s from the Warden himself.” – *Chino coach, Rob Nazar.*

“It’s an honour for me to be named MVP, but this was a team effort. They’re a great team. We got them this year because we’re also a great team and we played really well. That young running back of theirs is going to be a star, mark my words. They’ll be tough to stop next year. – *Championship MVP, LaDainian Tomlinson.*

“I’m so proud of my boy and his friends! That soup I made them before the game had some special ingredients in it and they worked!” – *Donovan McNabb’s mother.*

### **CHARLESWOOD**

“We had our chances. We missed some easy plays through poor execution. We were inconsistent, and you can’t be that way against a good team that’s playing well. I thought Peyton made some plays for us, but there are a few I’m sure he’d like to have back.” – *Charleswood coach, Jason Findlay.*

“I’m tired of all you media types blaming everything on Thomas Jones. There was hardly any room to run out there and that’s because they have a good run defense. Our line was not aggressive enough when we ran the ball. Sure, you hope your running back can make some plays in those situations, but you can’t count on him doing it. I wish I could, but I can’t.” – *Patriots coach, Jason Findlay* (responding to question about Jones returning to the team next year).

“I think I’m going to have more opportunities next year to show what I can do.” – *Rookie running back, Adrian Peterson.*

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# **EFL ANNOUNCES EXPANSION**

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## ***FOUR NEW TEAMS BRINGS LEAGUE STRENGTH TO 16***

MEADOWLANDS – EFL officials announced league expansion to 16 teams beginning next season. The new teams were awarded after careful consideration that took into account the stability of the league and its rising popularity. The EFL is winning the ratings war against its rivals, the SFL, the CFL and the Tex-Mex Football League.

The new teams were awarded to owners with deep pockets and a firm commitment to the league. National Funeral Home magnate, **Chris Worthley**, takes over the *Death Valley Undertakers*; Australian Outback Adventure Tours owner, **Chris Mordas** controls the *Brisbane Bay Sharks*; Colorado ski hill operator, **Kris Heaton** runs the *Colorado Thundersnow*; and the Vatican, represented by Cardinal **Jamie Imhoff**, assumes ownership and provides spiritual guidance to the *Saint Gabriel Apostles*.

The Expansion Draft is scheduled to take place on March 1, in Chino. Current EFL owners will have to expose 26 of their players to the new teams. The remaining roster spots will be filled by Free Agents from both the EFL and the rival professional leagues. The league also announced that the expansion teams will pick before the established teams in the upcoming College Draft. First pick in the draft was awarded by lottery to Death Valley, followed by Brisbane Bay, Saint Gabriel, and Colorado.