



2009

# WEEK FIFTEEN

January 17th, 2010



Thomas Jones breaks free for a 22-yard run in the third quarter to put the Gladiators in scoring position for the go-ahead touchdown. Gwinnett beat Garland 24-17 to clinch a wildcard berth in Can-Am Conference.

## JONES CARRIES GLADIATORS INTO POST-SEASON!

***SLUMPING GWINNETT RUNNER GAINS 124 YARDS ON GROUND, SCORES TD, TO KEY BALANCED GLADS ASSAULT***



**GARLAND**

**17**

8 - 7



**GWINNETT**

**24**

10 - 5

GWINNETT – *Thomas Jones* loves the Mustangs – loves to run against them, that is. Gwinnett’s feature back posted his second best rushing performance of the 2009 season, gaining 124 yards on 22 carries and scoring the winning touchdown to earn MVP honours and lift his team to a crucial victory over its Division rival. In doing so, Gwinnett clinched a wildcard berth and avoided a situation in Week 16 where they would have needed to beat powerhouse Florida to ensure a post-season appearance, or hope for help from Ringgold or Durham. In addition to the wildcard, the Glads now have the no. 3 seed locked up and will travel to Durham in the Quarter Final round.

The last time Jones faced Garland he was also the MVP of the game, posting his best rushing performance of the year with 144 yards and 2 touchdowns to give Gwinnett its first victory of the campaign. This week, Jones continued his mastery of the Garland defense, coming alive in the second half for 96 yards and a touchdown to both take and help to preserve a precarious 7-point lead. For Garland, one mistake too many caused an opportunity to slip away and now places the happy ending to their 2009 Cinderella story in jeopardy.

Garland was fast out of the gate. On their opening possession *Matt Ryan* and his receivers looked fully recovered from last week’s debacle against Florida. Ryan completed six out of six passes to four different receivers for 67 yards of a 69 yard touchdown drive that ended with a short cross to Wes Welker that the elusive receiver carried to the house from 13 yards away. The Gladiators responded immediately, starting with good field position after a 45-yard kickoff return by *Leodis McKelvin* brought the ball to mid-field. *Matt Cassel* connected three times with *Reggie Wayne* for a total of 40 yards to set up a first down and goal at the 4 yard line. With the Mustangs flooding the end zone with pass coverage, Cassel saw a running lane and scrambled for the equalizer to make it 7-7.

Gwinnett caught the first break of the game on Garland’s next possession. Continuing his Pro Bowl-caliber season, cornerback *Terrence McGee* jumped an inside route by Welker and picked off Ryan as the Mustangs crossed into Gwinnett territory. The turnover led to the Glads scoring a go-ahead touchdown on a 3-yard pass from Cassel to *Braylon Edwards*. But the Mustangs would not be buried so quickly. Following an exchange of punts, Garland’s offence got back in gear, assisted by a fourth down offsides penalty against *Darnell Dockett* that nullified a punt and gained a first down. Ryan went on to complete two 3<sup>rd</sup> and long conversions to keep the drive alive and eventually cash in on a short hitch to *Matt Forte* that went for 10 yards and a TD to

tie the score at 14 going into half time.

The Gladiators got the ball first to open the second half. Jones took over, gaining 35 yards on the ground, 9 through the air, and winding up the drive with a 1-yard TD run behind a nice block by **Dallas Clark** to put the Gladiators in the lead, 21-14. Gwinnett would add a 52-yard field goal by **Josh Brown** to extend their lead to 10 points, but Garland would counter with one of their own when **Robbie Gould** hit it through from 45 yards to make it a one-score game once more.

It looked like Garland was about to reaffirm the mantle of Destiny's Team when McKelvin, who had so far played such an important role in the Gwinnett attack with two good returns, fumbled the ball on the ensuing kickoff and Garland's **Will Smith** recovered at the Gwinnett 30 yard line with 7:38 remaining. It was a golden opportunity for the Mustangs and they jumped at the chance with a 16-yard pass to Welker to bring the ball into the red zone. However, the Gwinnett 'D' gathered itself together and, looking for the pass all the way, clamped down on Ryan's receivers to force a 4<sup>th</sup> down and 6 at the 10. With six minutes remaining, down by 7, the Mustangs decided to forego the easy field goal attempt and go for the major. The Glads deployed 6 defensive backs and dropped their linebackers into coverage. The move paid off. Ryan tried to force the ball over the middle to Forte, but **Lance Briggs** stepped up and made the pick to give the Glads possession. Garland would not get another opportunity. With Jones leading the way, Gwinnett literally ran out the remaining 6 minutes of the game, moving the ball 52 yards, 44 of those on the ground, to preserve the victory and earn a ticket to Durham in the post-season.

01-14-2010 Gwinnett Coliseum. Temp: 48 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: **Thomas Jones**

2008 Garland (8-7) 7 7 0 3 -17  
2008 Gwinnett (10-5) 7 7 7 3 -24

1 9:49 Garland TD Ryan 13 pass to Welker (Gould) (8-69-5:11) 7-0  
1 6:05 Gwinnett TD Cassel 4 run (Brown,J) (7-51-3:44) 7-7  
2 13:30 Gwinnett TD Cassel 3 pass to Edwards (Brown,J) (11-62-5:15) 7-14  
2 1:47 Garland TD Ryan 10 pass to Forte (Gould) (16-80-5:31) 14-14  
3 8:29 Gwinnett TD Jones 1 run (Brown,J) (10-59-6:31) 14-21  
4 11:32 Gwinnett FG Brown 52 (6-38-3:45) 14-24  
4 7:56 Garland FG Gould 45 (7-43-3:31) 17-24

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **GWG** – **Matt Cassel** completed 15 of 21 passes for 160 yards and 1 TD; **Thomas Jones** rushed for 124 yards and 1 TD on 22 carries; **Reggie Wayne** caught 4 passes for 53 yards; Terrence McGee had 6 tackles, 2 Deflections and 1 INT. **GAR** – **Matt Ryan** completed 25 of 48 passes for 274 yards, 2 TDs and 2 INTs; **Wes Welker** caught 7 passes for 82 yards and 1 TD; **Frank Gore** carried 9 times for 23 yards; **Will Smith** had 6 tackles, 2 sacks, 1 run stuff, 1 Pressure, 1 Forced Fumble and 1 Fumble Recovery.

	GDM	GWG
First Downs	21	22
Rushes	11-29	37-173
Passes	48-25-274	21-15-160
Sacked	1-5	2-15
Fumble	0	2
Penalties	1-5	3-15
Turnovers	2	1
Time	26:45	33:15
Third Down	6-11	8-12
Fourth Down	0-1	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/2/0	5/3/0
Net Offense	298	318



17

WINNEMUCCA



34

LOS ANGELES

## JACKSON TO THE RESCUE AS KNIGHTS CLINCH

**GAME POINTS:** **David Garrard** completed a 33-yard TD pass to **Percy Harvin** and Winnemucca's **Chevis Jackson** picked off **Jason Campbell** and returned it 28 yards for a TD to give the Outlaws a surprising 14-7 first half lead. But the Knights tied it up on a **Charles Woodson** 19-yard interception for a TD on the second play of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, then **Tarvaris Jackson** relieved Campbell and led the Knights to the go-ahead TD on a 2-yard pass to **Roddy White**. Jackson would add another TD pass to **Jason Hill** mid-way through the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter to help the Knights run away from the feisty Outlaws and clinch the West Division title.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Tarvaris Jackson** went 12 of 17 for 97 yards and 2 TDs; **Shonn Greene** rushed for 78 yards on 17 carries; **Arnaz Battle** caught 6 passes for 59 yards and 1 TD; **Joey Porter** had 2 sacks, 1 Deflection, 2 run stuffs and 2 FFs. **David Garrard** went 17 of 30 for 168 yards, 1 TD and 1 INT.

01-16-2010 Round Table Stadium. Temp: 54 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: **Woodson**

2008 Winnemucca (1-14) 7 7 3 0 -17  
2008 Los Angeles (10-5) 0 7 17 10 -34

1 0:52 Winnemucca TD Garrard 33 pass to Harvin (Graham,S) (3-33-0:54) 7-0  
2 8:18 Los Angeles TD Campbell 6 pass to Battle (Brown,K) (8-57-4:30) 7-7  
2 2:22 Winnemucca TD Jackson 28 interception return (Graham,S) (0-0-0:00) 14-7  
3 14:35 Los Angeles TD Woodson 19 interception return (Brown,K) (0-0-0:00) 14-14  
3 9:22 Los Angeles TD Jackson 2 pass to White (Brown,K) (8-50-3:54) 14-21  
3 4:41 Los Angeles FG Brown 42 (6-28-2:45) 14-24  
3 0:32 Winnemucca FG Graham 26 (10-59-4:04) 17-24  
4 7:28 Los Angeles TD Jackson 1 pass to Hill (Brown,K) (14-77-8:00) 17-31  
4 4:11 Los Angeles FG Brown 47 (3-6-2:02) 17-34

	WMO	LAK
First Downs	9	19
Rushes	13-20	36-154
Passes	36-21-217	30-22-182
Sacked	4-24	2-12
Fumble	4	3
Penalties	10-83	2-20
Turnovers	3	2
Time	24:41	35:19
Third Down	3-14	7-14
Fourth Down	0-1	1-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	1/0/1	3/3/0
Net Offense	213	324



CHINO



IOWA CITY

7

24

### CUTLER CREATES CONVICTS CALAMITY

**GAME POINTS:** The Cubs intercepted **Jay Cutler** twice in less than a one-minute span late in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and returned both for touchdowns to erase a 7-3 deficit and vault into a 17-7 half time lead. After a successful field goal drive to take an early 3-0 lead, the Cubs' offence was shut down by a swarming and aggressive Chino defense. But the big defensive effort by the Convicts was in vain as the Cubs defense answered with the two major scores and a couple of key fourth down stands while the game's outcome was still in doubt. **Reggie Bush** added his third punt return TD in the past two games to complete the scoring.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Trent Edwards** went 12 of 15 for 99 yards; **Brandon Jacobs** rushed for 27 yards on 15 carries; **DeMeco Ryans** had 13 tackles and 2 forced fumbles; **Mario Williams** had 7 tackles, 2 sacks, 4 Pressures and 2 forced fumbles. **Jay Cutler** completed 21 of 43 for 218 yards and 2 INTs; **Knowshon Moreno** rushed for 77 yards on 15 carries; **LenDale White** ran for 31 yards and 1 TD on 10 carries.

01-16-2010 Joe Ferguson Stadium. Temp: 29 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: <b>Rolle</b>					CHI	ICC		
2008 Chino (8-7)	0	7	0	0	- 7	First Downs	13	7
2008 Iowa City (8-7)	3	14	0	7	- 24	Rushes	28-105	26-53
1 5:53 Iowa City	FG	Rackers	36	(11-46-5:27)	0-3	Passes	34-21-218	15-12-99
2 14:51 Chino	TD	White	1 run	(Reed,J) (11-91-5:57)	7-3	Sacked	3-21	5-37
2 3:07 Iowa City	TD	Rolle	27	interception return (Rackers) (0-0-0:00)	7-10	Fumble	5	2
2 2:27 Iowa City	TD	Hall	37	interception return (Rackers) (0-0-0:00)	7-17	Penalties	8-57	3-15
4 7:23 Iowa City	TD	Bush	55	punt return (Rackers) (0-0-0:00)	7-24	Turnovers	4	1
						Time	29:26	30:34
						Third Down	7-17	3-13
						Fourth Down	1-4	0-0
						Red Att/Td/Fg	1/1/0	0/0/0
						Net Offense	302	115

### REED'S RECORD DAY DESTROYS BEARS

**GAME POINTS:** **Ed Reed** set a single game EFL record with 4 interceptions, returning two for touchdowns to lead the Patriots to a 31-7 blowout victory over the Golden Bears. Reed's performance turned what could have been a close game into a laugher. The Bears did a good job of containing **Adrian Peterson** but had no answer for **Peyton Manning** and **Tony Gonzalez**, who paired up for 2 more TD passes, increasing Gonzalez's league-leading TD reception total to 12. With the score 3-0 Pats in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, Reed picked off **Tony Romo** on third down and ran it back 32 yards for the TD and a 10-0 lead. Reed finished all scoring with a 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 21-yard interception return for a TD to make the final 31-7.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Peyton Manning** went 16 of 26 for 204 yards and 2 TDs; **Tony Gonzalez** caught 6 passes for 89 yards and 2 TDs; **Adrian Peterson** had 75 yards on 23 carries; **Ed Reed** had 2 tackles and 4 interceptions for 87 yards and 2 TDs. **Tony Romo** went 15 of 31 for 152 yards, 1 TD and 4 INTs; **LeSean McCoy** ran for 59 yards on 4 carries.



CHARLESWOOD



KUTZTOWN

31

7

01-14-2010 Lincoln Financial. Temp: 43 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: <b>Ed Reed</b>					CHP	KUT		
2008 Charleswood (12-3)	10	7	7	7	- 31	First Downs	13	14
2008 Kutztown (6-9)	0	7	0	0	- 7	Rushes	24-80	27-129
1 9:33 Charleswood	FG	Gostkowski	46	(7-32-3:40)	3-0	Passes	26-16-204	31-15-152
1 3:23 Charleswood	TD	Reed	32	interception return (Gostkowski) (0-0-0:00)	10-0	Sacked	1-4	3-17
2 7:52 Charleswood	TD	Manning	9	pass to Gonzalez (Gostkowski) (16-76-8:29)	17-0	Fumble	0	0
2 2:22 Kutztown	TD	Romo	1	pass to Cooley (Kaeding) (9-81-5:30)	17-7	Penalties	3-30	5-33
3 4:15 Charleswood	TD	Manning	20	pass to Gonzalez (Gostkowski) (5-50-2:29)	24-7	Turnovers	0	4
4 3:03 Charleswood	TD	Reed	21	interception return (Gostkowski) (0-0-0:00)	31-7	Time	29:26	30:34
						Third Down	8-16	7-15
						Fourth Down	1-2	1-4
						Red Att/Td/Fg	3/2/0	1/1/0
						Net Offense	280	264

## DRAGONS RUN RINGGOLD INTO THE GROUND



30

FLORIDA



3

RINGGOLD

**GAME POINTS:** The Dragons scored TDs on their first three possessions in building up a 24-0 half time lead. It set the tone for a dreary second half as Florida ran the ball on every play to maintain possession and kill the clock. Florida had the Ringgold defense off balance from the start, moving the ball equally on the ground and through the air over their first two series. After **DeAngelo Williams** made it 14-0 with his 25<sup>th</sup> rushing TD of the season, the Crimson Hawks seemed to give up, playing their back-ups on defense and giving rookie QB **Matt Stafford** a chance to test himself against the Florida "Firewall." **Shaun Suisham** broke the shutout with a chip shot field goal with less than a minute left in the game.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Aaron Rodgers** went 7 of 8 for 106 yards and 1 TD; **Jonathan Stewart** rushed for 166 yards and 1 TD on 31 carries; **DeAngelo Williams** rushed for 100 yards and 1 TD on 13 carries; **LaMarr Woodley** had 3 tackles, 1 sack, 2 Deflections and 1 Pressure. **Matt Stafford** went 12 of 26 for 199 yards and 1 INT; **Andrew Johnson** caught 6 balls for 80 yards; **Tashard Choice** carried 6 times for 24 yards; **Gary Brackett** had 14 tackles and 1 stuff.

01-14-2010 The Hawk's Nest.    Temp: 38 Wind: Calm    None    MVP: <b>Stewart</b>									
2008 Florida (14-1)	14	10	6	0	-30	First Downs	20	RCH	7
2008 Ringgold (3-12)	0	0	0	3	-3	Rushes	47-262		17-31
1 9:53 Florida	TD	Rodgers	8	pass	to Marshall (Elam,J) (8-70-5:07)	7-0	Passes	8-7-106	28-12-119
1 5:41 Florida	TD	Williams	1	run	(Elam,J) (7-68-3:36)	14-0	Sacked	0-0	1-8
2 13:24 Florida	TD	Stewart	8	run	(Elam,J) (9-84-5:23)	21-0	Fumble	0	1
2 0:03 Florida	FG	Elam	19		(6-28-3:58)	24-0	Penalties	5-30	3-26
3 8:17 Florida	FG	Elam	45		(7-55-4:55)	27-0	Turnovers	0	1
3 0:03 Florida	FG	Elam	35		(8-36-6:06)	30-0	Time	38:48	21:12
4 0:34 Ringgold	FG	Suisham	29		(10-67-1:36)	30-3	Third Down	7-11	1-13
							Fourth Down	1-1	1-4
							Red Att/Td/Fg	4/3/1	1/0/1
							Net Offense	368	142

## KINGS DOUBLE UP STARS TO STAY ALIVE

**GAME POINTS:** With their post-season hopes on the line, the Corn Kings turned in a solid offensive performance and forced some key turnovers to churn out a win over Divisional rival, Markham. **Devery Henderson** continued his success against Cowtown, catching a 10-yard TD pass in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter to give the visitors a temporary 10-6 lead. But Cowtown dodged a **Chad Pennington** fumble in the Markham red zone, a penalty, then an **Omar Gaither** sack to convert third-and-long with a 24-yard pass to **Santana Moss** that set up a 3-yard TD run by **Marion Barber** to put Cowtown in the lead, 13-10. **Walt Harris** staved off the North Stars' attack with 2 picks of **Donovan McNabb** and **Greg Camarillo** iced the game with a 17-yard TD reception with 3:49 remaining.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Chad Pennington** went 25 of 35 for 288 yards and 1 TD; **Marion Barber** ran for 68 yards and 1 TD on 12 carries; **Kevin Walter** caught 7 passes for 72 yards; **Walt Harris** had 6 tackles, 1 Deflection and 2 INTs; **Donovan McNabb** went 19 of 35 for 179 yards, 1 TD and 2 INTs.



13

MARKHAM



26

COWTOWN

01-13-2010 Tillman Field.    Temp: 36 Wind: 5-15    MVP: <b>Pennington</b>									
2008 Markham (5-10)	3	7	0	3	-13	First Downs	19	MAR	24
2008 Cowtown (8-7)	6	10	3	7	-26	Rushes	26-106		26-126
1 10:55 Markham	FG	Longwell	39		(7-38-4:05)	3-0	Passes	35-19-179	35-25-288
1 5:29 Cowtown	FG	Hanson	41		(9-56-5:21)	3-3	Sacked	1-8	1-4
1 3:22 Cowtown	FG	Hanson	23		(5-20-2:02)	3-6	Fumble	1	3
2 12:58 Markham	TD	McNabb	10	pass	to Henderson (Longwell) (11-71-4:50)	10-6	Penalties	4-34	4-20
2 4:36 Cowtown	TD	Barber	3	run	(Hanson,J) (7-56-4:11)	10-13	Turnovers	3	1
2 0:03 Cowtown	FG	Hanson	47		(7-56-1:23)	10-16	Challenges	1-1	0-0
3 1:12 Cowtown	FG	Hanson	39		(5-35-3:25)	10-19	Time	28:33	31:27
4 7:34 Markham	FG	Longwell	22		(16-76-8:33)	13-19	Third Down	2-10	2-9
4 3:49 Cowtown	TD	Pennington	17	pass	to Camarillo (Hanson,J) (6-78-3:41)	13-26	Fourth Down	2-3	1-1
							Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/1	5/2/1
							Net Offense	277	410



## SLOPPY LIZARDS STUMBLE PAST SPARTANS



**DURHAM**



**PICKERING**

**14**

**10**

**GAME POINTS:** Pickering's **Chris Johnson** rushed for 48 yards on a field goal drive and **Eli Manning** connected with **Tony Scheffler** for a 64-yard pass play to set up a 5-yard TD pass to **Michael Jenkins** to give the Spartans a surprising 10-0 lead after one quarter. **Philip Rivers** missed on his first 7 pass attempts, was intercepted by **Ryan Clark** and lost a fumble to stifle the Durham attack early. Late in the first half, however, the Lizards got a break when **Ken Lucas** picked off Manning in the Durham red zone. Rivers hit **Calvin Johnson** for 32 yards to jump start the drive and finished it off 6 plays later with a 20-yard TD pass to **Dwayne Bowe** to get on the board before half time. After **Jared Allen** stopped another Pickering drive with his 4<sup>th</sup> sack of the game, Rivers completed a 25-yard pass to **Steve Breaston** to set up the 21-yard winning TD pass to **Antonio Gates**.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Philip Rivers** went 21 of 38 for 305 yards, 2 TDs and 2 INTs; **Calvin Johnson** caught 6 passes for 110 yards; **Jared Allen** had 4 sacks and 1 Pressure; **Karlos Dansby** had 12 tackles and 3 stuffs. **Eli Manning** went 10 of 18 for 130 yards, 1 TD and 1 INT; **Chris Johnson** ran for 1-2 yards on 21 carries; **Tony Scheffler** caught 3 passes for 77 yards.

01-16-2010 Thermopylae Stadium. Temp: 20 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: <b>Jared Allen</b>			DTL	PIC				
2008 Durham (13-2)	0	7	7	0	-14	First Downs	23	9
2008 Pickering (4-11)	10	0	0	0	-10	Rushes	33-135	24-105
						Passes	38-21-305	18-10-130
1 4:17 Pickering	FG Kasay	28	(7-48-4:17)		0-3	Sacked	2-11	5-28
1 1:08 Pickering	TD Manning	5	pass to Jenkins (Kasay) (4-70-1:37)		0-10	Fumble	3	0
2 0:43 Durham	TD Rivers	20	pass to Bowe (Crosby) (8-89-3:12)		7-10	Penalties	7-39	3-30
3 0:49 Durham	TD Rivers	21	pass to Gates (Crosby) (8-77-3:49)		14-10	Turnovers	4	1
						Time	34:07	25:53
						Third Down	9-16	1-11
						Fourth Down	0-0	0-0
						Red Att/Td/Fg	4/1/0	2/1/1
						Net Offense	429	207

## WARNER HAS BIG DAY

**GAME POINTS:** **Kurt Warner** tossed 3 TDs and completed 80% of his passes in leading the Hellfire to victory over the punchless Virden Violators. The Mohave game plan was simple: stop **Drew Brees**. And for most of the game they did, only allowing one big play, a 39-yard TD pass underneath to **Marvin Harrison** in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter that pulled Virden to within 3 points, down 10-7. But after **Jason Baker** dropped a punt on the Hellfire 6 yard line, Warner led his troops 94 yards in 8½ minutes, the key play being a 25-yard pass to **Owen Daniels** on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16, to score on a 5-yard TD pass to **Antwaan Randle El** for a 17-7 Mohave lead. After stopping Virden at the 2 and forcing them to settle for a field goal, Warner finished Virden off with a 25-yard TD pass to **Donald Driver**.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Kurt Warner** completed 32 of 40 for 327 yards and 3 TDs; **Donald Driver** caught 9 passes for 89 yards and 2 TDs; **Owen Daniels** caught 6 passes for 89 yards. **Drew Brees** went 11 of 23 for 112 yards and 1 TD; **Marvin Harrison** caught 4 balls for 65 yards and 1 TD.



**VIRDEN**



**MOHAVE**

**10**

**24**

01-14-2010 The Fiery Depths. Temp: 89 Wind: Calm None MVP: <b>Warner</b>			VV	MOH				
2008 Virden (4-11)	0	7	0	3	-10	First Downs	11	23
2008 Mohave (6-9)	10	0	0	14	-24	Rushes	21-73	27-86
						Passes	23-11-112	40-32-327
1 9:14 Mohave	TD Warner	10	pass to Driver (Bironas) (8-61-4:24)		0-7	Sacked	0-0	1-6
1 2:32 Mohave	FG Bironas	31	(8-57-4:48)		0-10	Fumble	0	0
2 14:28 Virden	TD Brees	39	pass to Harrison (Vinatieri) (8-69-2:58)		7-10	Penalties	3-30	5-35
4 13:10 Mohave	TD Warner	5	pass to Randle El (Bironas) (16-94-8:34)		7-17	Turnovers	0	0
4 8:32 Virden	FG Vinatieri	19	(8-40-4:38)		10-17	Time	22:54	37:06
4 3:47 Mohave	TD Warner	25	pass to Driver (Bironas) (8-67-4:42)		10-24	Third Down	2-10	8-13
						Fourth Down	1-2	0-3
						Red Att/Td/Fg	1/0/1	4/2/1
						Net Offense	185	407



# AROUND THE EFL With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – Last week I bemoaned the fact that I live in the City that gave rise to the “No Pants Subway Ride.” This week I am proud to say that I live in a City that was among the first to respond to the disaster in Haiti with on the ground assistance. 80 members of Task Force 1 Urban Search and Rescue were among the first to arrive at Port au Prince. They are busy rescuing people from the rubble. Unfortunately, New Yorkers are all too recently familiar with disaster – of the man-made kind.

## ***WILL THE GLASS SLIPPER FIT MATT RYAN?***

The Mustangs dropped their second straight game to a Divisional opponent, losing 24-17 to Gwinnett at the Coliseum. The Mustangs were officially underdogs in both losses, but declared so with a conspiratorial wink from the odds-makers. They would of course be “underdogs” until they actually knocked off a serious Divisional opponent, but many of us knew deep down they were going to beat one of those teams, perhaps both. After all, weren’t they this year’s official ‘Cinderella’ story? Well, now that Garland’s playoff destiny is out of their hands after dropping matches to Florida and Gwinnett, fans are looking more soberly at them and seeing what they saw at the beginning of the season – a team riddled with debilitating weaknesses. Somehow, Garland has managed to maximize a few strengths, minimize its weaknesses, and largely exploit its opportunities to rise to an unlikely 8-7. It’s been a happy run for Garland’s neophyte fans and MVP candidate **Matt Ryan**, but reality is setting in as their season comes down to one game against the bitterly angry Crimson Hawks. All may turn out well in the end for Garland, but the bloom is off their rose heading into Week 16. If they beat Ringgold and Cowtown loses to Durham they will earn a playoff berth, but don’t harbour illusions of their fitness to stop the Dragons if they do.

## ***FANS AT THEIR FICKLEST***

Kutztown’s emotional fans are more volatile than a portfolio of penny stocks. Nicknamed, “the twelfth man,” Golden Bears boosters sometimes line up with their team and sometimes against it, but either way they are determined to be the twelfth man. This week, a blowout loss to Charleswood brought out the blowhards at Lincoln Financial Field and a bad situation turned ugly quickly. Led by the irascible “Pot-Bellied Pete,” an entire section in the north end zone began chanting offensive slogans in the third quarter after **Tony Romo** tossed his second interception of the game to **Ed Reed**. Rhyming “Romo” with a well-known derogatory term for male sexual preference, Pete soon had most of the crowd whipped into a catcalling frenzy. Television producers of the game were forced to turn down the crowd noise monitors as the rabid jeers increased in intensity and abusiveness. A fourth down conversion on an 8-yard pass from Romo to **Greg Jennings** later in the same quarter prompted “Pot-Bellied Pete” and his followers to their feet for a sarcastic standing ovation. When Romo was picked for a third time by Reed on the next play, the sarcastic ovation turned to an whole-hearted hail of boos so raucous that it seemed about to bring rain. Had there been a roof on the stadium, it would have collapsed. Hails of bottles and other refuse were tossed onto the field, causing a lengthy delay in play. Romo looked so rattled that the veteran Reed had no problem following his eyes for a fourth pick late in the game, setting an EFL interception record.

‘YouTube’ clips of “Pot-Bellied Pete” shot during a Week Six loss to the Florida show a short, barrel-bellied man with dark curly hair, a thick neck, florid complexion, and spindly legs. With each harassing outburst he looks ready to collapse from a stroke, but still he strains to be ever louder with each belt of invective, calling players everything from “bums” to “pimples.” He has followers, of course, during the bad times for Kutztown. He rises to the forefront during losses but retreats in victory, deferring to half a dozen “Bear-Huggers,” a small group of fans wearing bear costumes who run around hugging spectators when Kutztown is winning. It is perhaps fitting that the league’s most unpredictable team has such an unstable fan base. If I cheered for the Bears I wouldn’t know what to feel from one week to the next.

### ***CUTLER DRAGGING CONVICTS TO JAIL.....DONOVAN, WHERE ARE YOU?***

The Chino Convicts are in free fall after shocking Florida, dropping three straight. All of these losses are attributable to the ineffectiveness of their offence. **Jay Cutler's** high caliber arm is pointed in the wrong direction and is blowing gaping holes in the Convicts' post-season positioning. Sure, they'll make the playoffs, but they will do so more due to lack of competition in the PAC than to their team's achievements, which have so far been of the "under" variety. At one point 8-4 and seemingly in control of the West Division, the Convicts are now 8-7 and at risk of falling to the no. 4 seed. With Winnemucca on the schedule to finish the year and Iowa City facing LA, the odds are in their favour to hold their position, but it should never have gotten to this point. It seems like ages ago that **Donovan McNabb** was leading the Convicts to stupendous upsets on the way to the first ever EFL Championship. Now the Convicts are getting victimized in the same way they used to victimize others – by turnovers and special teams play. The Cubs rocked their boat with two interceptions returned for touchdowns and a **Reggie Bush** punt return for a touchdown. The Convicts lost to the Cubs despite holding Iowa City to a woeful 115 yards of offence – all because they could not score! Some people blame the Convict's troubles on the disappearance of **LaDainian Tomlinson**. LT's dismal performance has been a shocker. **LenDale White** has not made up the difference, which has put more pressure on Cutler as opponents do not respect the run. But Cutler, who doesn't lack for confidence in himself, should not use that as any kind of excuse. With one of the best defenses in the league guarding his back and a great receiving corps, Cutler should be getting the job done better than he is. McNabb is going through problems this season as he labours for his second expansion franchise in as many years, but I have the feeling he would putting up some bigger numbers and more Ws if he was back where belongs – wearing Convict's grey.

### ***THE FASTEST 5 PARAGRAPHS IN SPORTS***

Los Angeles got more of a fight than they bargained for out of Winnemucca. Trailing 14-7 at half time, **Jeff Dohrn** had to call on **Tarvaris Jackson** for the second straight week to bail out **Jason Campbell**. Jackson took over and the Knights won easily. A protected source tells me that Campbell beat Jackson in the shower after the game and had to be pulled off by teammates. A family violence councilor has been brought in to mediate.

Florida made short work of Ringgold at The Hawk's Nest. The game was basically over after one quarter, with the Hawks' back-ups entering the game in the second quarter already trailing 21-0. As Florida usually does when they are in control, they ran the ball steadily for the remainder of the game, not throwing even once in the second half and the Hawks couldn't stop it. It was another un-watchable game.

Cowtown stayed alive in the playoff race, handling Markham with apparent ease, 26-13. But the game was tighter than the score suggests. The Corn Kings fumbled on both of their touchdown drives, luckily recovering before going on to score. If Markham recovers even one of those, it's a different ball game.

Durham looked disinterested and lethargic in handing Pickering their 11<sup>th</sup> loss of the season. They turned the ball over 4 times and at one point trailed 10-0. However, good teams find a way to win and bad teams find a way to lose. With both at play in this game the Durham victory was a foregone conclusion.

**Kurt Warner** turned it on in a meaningless game in Mohave, throwing for over 300 yards and 3 TDs in slapping down Virden, 24-10. Has anyone else noticed that **Devin Hester** is quietly having an awesome year? He is tied with **Greg Jennings** for second in receptions with 84.

### ***WEST COAST ABUZZ WITH KNIGHT'S FEVER***

In Hollywood these days, the only thing hotter than donating to Haitian earthquake relief efforts is being seen at a Los Angeles Knights game. Yes, the Knights are big time news again this year, thanks to the efforts of former gossip-columnist-turned-sports-writer, **Gabrielle Laurent-Vainluven**. But unlike last year, when the Knights were a passing fad with the glitterati, the Knights' franchise has acquired some staying power with the emergence of the most dominating defense in the league and the QB controversy between starter **Jason Campbell** and relief pitcher, **Tarvaris Jackson**. The Los Angeles gay community is obsessed with the saga of the two quarterbacks and is following every move on and off the field closely. Degenerative gossip (is there any other kind?) in that community is filtering into the mainstream with the co-mingling of fashion designers, caterers and party planners with Jet Setters at the Golden Globe Awards. The party scene around the Awards is fueling gossip about everything from the fate of Conan O'Brien; to whether the Harrison Ford that took the stage at the awards was drunk, drugged, or actually dead and replaced by some kind of experimental cybernetic replica not fully programmed; to who is the "Man" in the strange relationship between the two Knights' quarterbacks.

Laurent-Vainluven is aggressively promoting her designs for the Knights' new "third" uniforms, required by the EFL to be worn on special promotional weeks throughout the year. So far, only a handful of teams have actually settled on third versions of their uniforms and a couple of those, like Durham and Chino, have opted for "throwbacks" from the EFL's first season as opposed to new designs. Laurent-Vainluven used

her connections at the Ministry of Gossip to get a couple of male models into the Awards ceremony wearing her new Knights' uniform designs. They created a stir, of course, and drew raves, mostly from members of the aforementioned gay community. All of this is playing havoc with the Knights' image as the toughest, most feared defensive unit in professional football. Even the Outlaws were amused when they caught wind of it and

promptly hung 14 points on the Knights' 'D' before **Charles Woodson** helped them to remember their place. At the moment, the only thing that is holding up a deal with Laurent-Vainluven is the conflict between her sponsor, Ralph Lauren, and the Knights' new sports apparel dealer, 'Goat.'

**NEW YORK GRIPES**

Who is **Omar Gaither** and why is nobody talking about him? He only has 35 tackles, 4 run stuffs, 6 deflections, 3 forced fumbles, 9 QB Pressures, and a whopping 12 sacks, good for 4<sup>th</sup> in the league. But, like **Barrett Ruud**, he toils in a Media Outback known as Markham. Put him on Charleswood, Florida or Los Angeles and he'd be a household name and in the running for Defensive MVP. < sigh! > another "Unsung Hero" to add to the list of players that Media forgot. If you have an unsung hero you feel deserves some print, send me his name and why we should all know about him.



**Pictured at Left** – Gabrielle Laurent-Vainluven's brother, Anson and his partner, Franz model Gabrielle's proposed new Knights uniforms. The uniforms drew attention and approval from many in attendance at the Golden Globe Awards Ceremony and are catching on in Los Angeles and San Francisco. Knights Management has not commented publicly on the designs.

**SPATS.**



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

**PLAY OF THE WEEK**

**SITUATION**

Gwinnett 24, Garland 17, 4th Quarter, 06:09 remaining, Mustangs in possession, 4<sup>th</sup> down & 6 at Gwinnett's 10 yard line. 3 WR / 2 RB set vs. 3-2-6 Dime Package, short ZONE coverage, PASS Defense.

**RESULT**

Matt Ryan checks down from his primary receiver and tries to loft a ball over the zone. Lance Briggs launches himself in the air and snags the pass with his fingertips, coming down with the interception.

**ANALYSIS**

Another fourth down gamble by the Mustangs had the potential to be a game-breaker. Briggs snatched the ball and the game for Gwinnett.

**WEEK FIFTEEN LEADERS**

**PASSING**

Warner (MOH)	40-32-327
Rivers (DTL)	38-21-305
Pennington (COW)	35-25-288
Ryan (GAR)	48-25-274
Cutler (CHI)	24-21-218

**RUSHING**

Stewart (FLD)	31-166
Jones, T. (GWG)	22-124
Johnson, C. (PIC)	21-102
Williams, D. (FLD)	13-100
Greene (LAK)	17-78

**RECEIVING**

Johnson, C. (DTL)	6-110
Daniels, O. (MOH)	6-89
Driver (MOH)	9-89
Gonzalez, T. (CHP)	6-89
Boldin (CHI)	7-84



# LEADER BOARD

## STANDINGS

### PACIFIC-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood (z)	12	3	0	0.800	382	25.5	211	14.1	11.4	6 1 0	4 1 0	8 1 0
Kutztown	6	9	0	0.400	277	18.5	339	22.6	-4.1	2 5 0	3 2 0	4 5 0
Mohave	6	9	0	0.400	299	19.9	329	21.9	-2	5 3 0	3 2 0	4 5 0
Virden	4	11	0	0.267	260	17.3	387	25.8	-8.5	1 7 0	0 5 0	2 7 0

West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Los Angeles (z)	10	5	0	0.667	335	22.3	219	14.6	7.7	6 1 0	4 1 0	7 2 0
Chino (y)	8	7	0	0.533	302	20.1	247	16.5	3.7	4 3 0	2 3 0	5 4 0
Iowa City (y)	8	7	0	0.533	297	19.8	287	19.1	0.7	4 4 0	3 2 0	5 4 0
Winnemucca	1	14	0	0.067	178	11.9	422	28.1	-16.3	0 8 0	1 4 0	1 8 0

### CAN-AM CONFERENCE

North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham (z)	13	2	0	0.867	341	22.7	190	12.7	10.1	6 1 0	5 0 0	7 2 0
Cowtown	8	7	0	0.533	329	21.9	292	19.5	2.5	6 2 0	3 2 0	5 4 0
Markham	5	10	0	0.333	215	14.3	333	22.2	-7.9	3 5 0	1 4 0	2 7 0
Pickering	4	11	0	0.267	273	18.2	383	25.5	-7.3	1 6 0	1 4 0	2 7 0

South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Florida (z)	14	1	0	0.933	448	29.9	187	12.5	17.4	7 0 0	5 0 0	9 0 0
Gwinnett (y)	10	5	0	0.667	304	20.3	261	17.4	2.9	5 3 0	4 1 0	6 3 0
Garland	8	7	0	0.533	341	22.7	363	24.2	-1.5	5 3 0	1 4 0	4 5 0
Ringgold	3	12	0	0.200	213	14.2	344	22.9	-8.7	2 5 0	0 5 0	1 8 0

z-clinch division

y-clinched wildcard

## PASSING

	Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate	
1 Manning, P	CHP	389	267	68.6	3179	8	2.1	50	24	6.2	105.3
2 Rivers, P	DTL	408	250	61.3	3596	8	2	80	26	6.4	102.9
3 Warner	MOH	431	294	68.2	3255	9	2.1	61	22	5.1	98.7
4 Ryan, M	GDM	502	324	64.5	3717	13	2.6	69	31	6.2	96.5
5 Campbell, J	LAK	340	220	64.7	2418	8	2.4	63	20	5.9	95.4
6 Rodgers	FLD	368	250	67.9	2891	7	1.9	50	13	3.5	95.3
7 Cassel	GWG	358	228	63.7	2400	4	1.1	41	18	5	95.2
8 Manning, E	PIC	395	241	61	3175	14	3.5	74	22	5.6	90.2
9 Pennington	COW	461	291	63.1	3265	11	2.4	59	20	4.3	88.7
10 Brees	VV	413	251	60.8	2957	12	2.9	51	19	4.6	85.8
11 Edwards, T	ICC	275	179	65.1	1829	9	3.3	36	8	2.9	80.1
12 Roethlisberger	RCH	403	225	55.8	2516	8	2	41	14	3.5	77.9
13 Cutler	CHI	452	283	62.6	2814	15	3.3	63	14	3.1	76.7
14 Romo	KUT	374	223	59.6	2373	13	3.5	44	13	3.5	75.3
15 McNabb	MAR	365	213	58.4	2260	18	4.9	67	12	3.3	66.9

## RUSHING

		Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1	Peterson, A	CHP	323	1390	4.3	69	9	8	Lewis, J	MAR	264	1015	3.8	19	2
2	Williams, D	FLD	243	1337	5.5	48	25	9	Barber, M	COW	215	876	4.1	40	9
3	Turner, M	DTL	288	1171	4.1	85	5	10	Brown, R	ICC	181	792	4.4	53	4
4	Portis	VV	320	1135	3.5	36	1	11	Slaton	MOH	225	779	3.5	80	4
5	Jones, T	GWG	277	1076	3.9	69	7	12	White, L	CHI	180	757	4.2	75	9
6	Jacobs, B	ICC	214	1043	4.9	49	12	13	Stewart, J	FLD	165	738	4.5	46	6
7	Johnson, C	PIC	233	1029	4.4	69	3	14	Gore	GDM	139	659	4.7	46	1
8	Lewis, J	MAR	264	1015	3.8	19	2	15	McCoy, L	KUT	113	629	5.6	52	2

## RECEIVING

		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1	Gonzalez, T	CHP	89	1108	12.4	41	12	8	Johnson, A	RCH	76	1090	14	41	5
2	Jennings, G	KUT	84	1142	13.6	62	7	9	Fitzgerald	ICC	73	838	12	36	4
3	Hester, D	VV	84	1152	13.7	40	7	10	Ward, H	CHI	73	853	12	39	4
4	White, R	LAK	83	880	10.6	27	8	11	Johnson, C	DTL	71	1299	18	80	8
5	Royal, E	RCH	81	799	9.9	33	4	12	Smith, S	LAK	71	850	12	63	10
6	Welker	GDM	79	974	12.3	69	12	13	Boldin	CHI	71	749	11	63	4
7	Marshall, B	FLD	77	1177	15.3	50	5	14	Houshmandz	FLD	69	666	9.7	24	0
8	Johnson, A	RCH	76	1090	14.3	41	5	15	Coles	WMO	68	788	12	60	3



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

### OFFENSE



**RB – Jonathan Stewart, Florida Dragons**  
31 Att., 166 Yards, 5.4 Avg., Long 36, 1 TD.  
Main workhorse in a 262-yard ground effort over Ringgold.

### DEFENSE



**S – Ed Reed, Charleswood Patriots**  
2 Tackles, 4 Interceptions, 2 TDs.  
Sets EFL record for single game picks and adds 2 TDs.

### SPECIAL TEAMS



**K – Jason Hanson, Cowtown Corn Kings**  
4 of 5 Field Goals, Long 47, 2 of 2 Extra Pts, 14 Points.  
Kept the Corn Kings alive on offense until 4<sup>th</sup> quarter TD won it.

## INJURY REPORT - Week Sixteen

**CHARLESWOOD** – Ringer (PROBABLE); **CHINO** – McNeill (QUESTIONABLE); **COWTOWN** – LaBoy (OUT); **DURHAM** – None. **FLORIDA** – J. Henderson (OUT); **GARLAND** – M. Williams (OUT); **GWINNETT** – Burleson (OUT), McFadden (OUT), Florence (OUT); **IOWA CITY** – T. Branch (OUT); **KUTZTOWN** – E.J. Henderson (OUT), D. Landry (OUT), F. Davis (OUT); **LOS ANGELES** – J. Taylor (OUT); **MARKHAM** – Pittman (OUT), Askew (OUT); **MOHAVE** – Hayden (OUT); **PICKERING** – J. Joseph (OUT); **RINGGOLD** – Barnett (OUT); **VIRDEN** – None. **WINNEMUCCA** – McAlister (OUT), McFadden (OUT).



## BUG THE BOOKIE!

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

**YOUR SOURCE FOR FANTASY AND ON-LINE BETTING SOLUTIONS**



### PLAYOFF PICTURE AT A GLANCE AFTER 15 GAMES

#### PACIFIC – ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

IN	ALIVE	OUT
----	-------	-----

1			
2			
3			
4			

#### CAN – AM CONFERENCE

IN	ALIVE	OUT
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1			
2			
3			
4			

## JIMMY'S WEEK SIXTEEN PICKS

### **WINNEMUCCA @ CHINO (LINE – CONVICTS BY 13)**

Chino can clinch the third seed in the Pacific-Atlantic Conference with a win and a Cubs loss. The Outlaws have nothing to play for, or not to play for, having sewn up the first overall pick in the draft for Florida several weeks ago. The Convicts have lost three straight and Jay Cutler is playing tight. The Outlaws showed last week that they have some spark left despite their standing, taking a 14-7 lead into half time on the road against the Knights. After the fiasco last week against the Cubs, the Convicts must be wondering what they have to do to win a ball game. Well, scoring would help. The Outlaws will not do much of that, so the Chino offense can be patient and take what the Outlaws give them defensively without forcing the play. Expect the Convicts to score on both offense and defense and cover the spread with a late touchdown.

**PICK: CHINO**

### **IOWA CITY @ LOS ANGELES (LINE – KNIGHTS BY 7)**

The “Blue Shield” is officially the top-rated defense in the league and they stand at home against a Cubs’ offence that ranks 12<sup>th</sup> overall and is averaging just 224 yards and 13 first downs per game over their past 4 games. In that time they have averaged a mere 126 yards passing per game, and that includes a 200+ performance against Winnemucca. Trent Edwards is showing that he can’t get it done against the good defenses in the league without a lot of help from the running game, and lately the Cubs have struggled to move the ball on the ground. There may be a slight crack in the LA shield this week as Jason Taylor is out and the Knights may want to sit some starters. Jason Campbell will get the start at quarterback for LA again but is subject to a quick hook if things go even slightly wrong. Iowa City is fighting for no. 3 seed and can guarantee it with a win here or a Chino loss to Winnemucca. They will bring everything they have and, with a little luck, will push Los Angeles to the wall. I say the Cubs get lucky.

**PICK: IOWA CITY**

### **GARLAND @ RINGGOLD (LINE – MUSTANGS BY 1)**

Garland is no longer a master of its own destiny. They must win this game and hope Durham beats Cowtown in order to advance to the no. 4 seed in the playoffs. It’s a better than even bet that Durham will take care of Cowtown at home, but Garland must still win this road game. Luckily for the Mustangs, they visit the home of the EFL’s most defective offence – a turnover machine that gets behind early and stays behind. The mysterious dysfunction of the Ringgold attack will be the subject of great scrutiny by football’s leading minds during the off-season. But for now, the Ringgold coaching staff is beyond panic and has crossed the line into mild insanity. Expect a game plan that makes no sense but that just might work because nothing else has. The important thing for Garland is to be patient and wait for the inevitable implosion by the Hawks’ offense before getting too aggressive. The wildcard is the Hawks’ defense. What will it do? Is it too demoralized by its offence to care or will it take a stand? The answer to that question could be the difference in the game.

**PICK: RINGGOLD**

### **GWINNETT @ FLORIDA (LINE – DRAGONS BY 11)**

With home field advantage sewn up for Florida and Gwinnett penned into the no. 3 seed in the playoffs, there is nothing riding on the outcome of this game except pride and record for posterity. Both teams will use the game as a scouting vehicle for a potential match-up in the Conference Championship, but should not put too much stock in what they see from the other. Florida has shown the ability to successfully adapt any style to suit their opponent while Gwinnett has consistently stuck to their strictly balanced attack, doing just enough to win, or sometimes not quite enough. Last time these teams met, two punt returns for touchdowns by DeSean Jackson disguised the fact that Florida was unable to move the ball with their customary ease against the Gladiator’s ‘Tortoise.’ I do not see either team putting it on the line in this one, meaning it will be closer than expected, with Florida getting the “W” but winning by less than the generous 11 point spread.

**PICK: GWINNETT**

### **MARKHAM @ PICKERING (LINE – SPARTANS BY 3)**

Few realize, and even fewer care, that an intense battle for third place in the North Division is about to take place at Thermopylae Stadium this week. A Spartans victory would earn them third place by virtue of a better Division record. A North Stars victory would give Markham outright possession of third place by virtue of a better won-loss record. The question is; do either of them really want third place? It brings with it nothing of value other than avoiding the stigma of being a last place team and it drops the winning team a slot in the draft. So why is this battle going to be so intense? Hatred. These expansion brothers, like Cain and Abel, would like nothing better than to kill each other on the gridiron for the sheer pleasure of seeing one expire under the other’s foot. There is also, I understand, a massive side bet between the owners driving the competition. Rumour has it that a Markham victory will apparently move the Fat Lady to Pickering while a Spartans win will force Markham to take Jarron Gilbert (the pool jumper) off Pickering’s hands for a first round pick.

**PICK: PICKERING**



**COWTOWN @ DURHAM (LINE – THUNDER LIZARDS BY 6)**

The Corn Kings can clinch the no. 4 seed with a win this week or a Garland loss. The good news is that they control their destiny. The bad news is that they have to hurdle Durham at Jurassic Park to maintain that control. Rashean Mathis returns to the line-up and will be sorely needed. The Thunder Lizards are exceptionally deep at wide receiver and Mathis will have his hands full with Calvin Johnson. Dwayne Bowe will have a slight edge over Aaron Ross, and after that the competitive edge swings strongly to Durham. The scary thing for Cowtown is that the T-Lizards don't have to pass the ball to move the ball. Michael Turner is a workhorse behind the league's top offensive line, so it will be a guessing game for the Cowtown 'D' and too many wrong guesses will mean trouble. The Durham defense does not fear Chad Pennington, as evidenced by their 4-1 lifetime record against him. On paper, the match-ups in almost every phase favour the Thunder Lizards. The only legitimate hope for the Corn Kings is that the Durham offence – prone to sudden and unexplained lapses in concentration – suffers about a half dozen of those lapses in this game.

**PICK: DURHAM**

**VIRDEN @ KUTZTOWN (LINE – GOLDEN BEARS BY 5)**

Tony Romo was eaten for lunch by Ed Reed last week and is still working his way through Ed's digestive system. When he gets back on the field, in a slightly mushier state, he will not find the same challenge against the Virden secondary. It will be a nice change for Romo as he looks to pad his stats for the upcoming contract renegotiations with owner Pete Katsafanas. Drew Brees is in a similar contract position with Virden and he will want to show not only the Violators, but the rest of the league, that he is worth at least as much as Tom Brady used to be worth. It will be an Ego War between the quarterbacks and worthwhile pausing to watch.

**PICK: KUTZTOWN**

**MOHAVE @ CHARLESWOOD (LINE – PATRIOTS BY 8)**

The Patriots are aware of their franchise's top grade pedigree and have no desire to throw a game away for the sake of resting for the playoffs. They will start their first stringers and stay with them as long as it takes to get a comfortable lead. The Hellfire have not given a consistent effort all season and there is no reason to believe they will play hard in this game except for the fact that it will likely be Kurt Warner's last game wearing Hellfire red. Warner has apparently not been approached to renew his contract and waiting in the wings, ready to take over, is Matt Schaub. Warner will have something to prove, showing that he can still get the job done against a top rated secondary. Expect some big plays and some big mistakes by Warner as Mohave goes down fighting.

**PICK: CHARLESWOOD**

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

**HOW I'M DOING AGAINST THE SPREAD**

**LAST WEEK: 5-3-0**

**OVERALL: 80-39-1**