

WEEK 3



EFL

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE



Elite Football League

How sweet it is! 2022

October 23, 2022

ALLEN-LUJIAH!



Josh Allen
Durham Thunder Lizards

Thunder Lizards' quarterback, **Josh Allen** ploughs into the end zone for his second rushing touchdown of the day in third-quarter action in Durham. The score put the Lizards in front of the Excaliburs to stay in a hard-fought game that was within 1-point going into the final minute before a late TD made the final 28-20 for Durham. *(Story inside)*

EAST



CENTRAL



WEST



NORTH



COASTAL

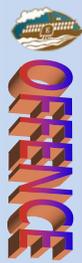


SOUTH



*Who was slick
in Week Three?*

**“Brylcreem” THE
EFL’S FIRST SPONSOR**



Kyler Murray
WR
Erieau Cadillac

24 of 25, 345 yds, 3 TDs, 158.3 QBR.
Perfect day in rout of Georgia.



Kenny Clark
DL
Twin Cities Triumph

3 T, 2 Sk, 1 Sff, 1 P, 2 FF. 2 pivotal strip-sacks, one returned for a TD.



14

30

Deebo Samuel took a screen pass from **Matt Stafford** 23 yards for a TD in the 1st quarter then sliced through a hole off left tackle for a 14-yard TD run in the 2nd quarter to spark the Wrecking Balls' attack and build a 14-6 halftime lead. After **Austin Hooper** capped the opening drive of the 2nd half with a 15-yard TD catch to make it 21-6 for New Jersey, the Pats tried to get back in the game by going for on 4th & 3 at the Balls' 23-yard line. **Calais Campbell** sacked **Kenny Pickett** to turn them away and set up a FG going the other way, paving the way for a comfortable finish for the home team.

10-23-2022 Stone Pony Shore Temp:77 Wind:Calm None Line:NJ by 18 MVP:Samuel HFA:

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Charleswood (0-3)	3	3	0	8	14
2022 New Jersey (3-0)	7	7	7	9	30

Passing

CHP: Pickett 30/21 248 Yds TD
 NJ: Stafford 31/24 299 Yds 2 TDs

Rushing

CHP: Kamara 8/31, Singletary 8/25, Pickett 1/4
 NJ: Montgomery 18/51, Samuel 8/46 TD, Robinson 5/16, Stafford 2/3

Receiving

CHP: Meyers 6/52, Beckham 5/77, Kelce 4/49, Singletary 2/11, Kamara 2/8, Bell 2/51 TD
 NJ: Allen 7/87, McLaurin 5/92, Montgomery 5/41, Samuel 5/56 TD, Hooper 1/15 TD

Defense

CHP: Richardson 12-Tk, Phillips 8-Tk, Brown 8-Tk
 NJ: Armstead 2-Sks FF 5-Tk, Stewart Sk FF 3-Tk, Hughes Sk 3-Tk

Injuries

CHP: Ojemudia 11, Stanley 10, Tunsil 9, Samuel Jr. 2
 NJ: Alexander 3, Adams 3

Misc

CHP: Pickett 2/1 F, Folk 2/2 FG 52 Lg
 NJ: Milano FR, Boswell 3/4 FG 36 Lg



19

13

Lamar Jackson scored the game's only offensive TD on a 4-yard bootleg to crown his team's first drive, and **Jake Elliott** kicked 4 field goals, including one from 59 yards, as the Derailers notched their first win of the season. The Buffalo defence was stingy on 3rd and 4th downs, allowing just 26% conversion on 3rd down and one-in-four tries on 4th down. The Pegs handed the ball back to Buffalo in their own territory 3 times. **Kayvon Thibodeaux** and **Aaron Donald** combined for 2 sacks, 4 hits and a forced fumble. The Crusader defence found the end zone late in the 4th quarter.

10-23-2022 True North Field Temp:11 Wind: None Line:PCC by 4 MVP:Thibodeaux HFA:

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Buffalo (1-2)	7	6	0	6	19
2022 Peg City (1-2)	3	0	0	10	13

Passing

BUF: Jackson 27/17 153 Yds
 PCC: Jones 32/22 171 Yds

Rushing

BUF: Jackson 17/72 TD, Davis 9/23, Dillon 4/20, Woods 1/7, Johnson 5/6
 PCC: Barkley 13/32, Jones 4/13

Receiving

BUF: Gage 7/72, Toney 3/36, Woods 2/21, Fant 2/27, Dillon 1/1, Jackson 1/-3
 PCC: Barkley 8/70, Pitts 3/28, Shenault 3/16, Sutton 3/29, Drake 2/10, Ingold 2/3

Defense

BUF: Thibodeaux Sk FF 7-Tk, Barnett 10-Tk, Tartt 9-Tk, Sneed Sk 4-Tk, Donald Sk 3-Tk
 PCC: Muhammad Sk FF 6-Tk, Hutchinson 2-Sks 4-Tk, Allen 10-Tk, Okereke 8-Tk

Injuries

BUF: Flowers 9, Horn 9, Toney 6, Greenard 3
 PCC:

Misc

BUF: Jackson 2/1 F, Elliott 4/4 FG 59 Lg
 PCC: Rapp 51-yd FR TD, Okereke FR, Koo 2/2 FG 49 Lg



23
9

On the Triumph's first play of the 2nd half **Jameis Winston** found **Antonio Brown** open deep for a 79-yard TD pass to open up a two-score lead in a tightly-contested game. The Coyotes responded with a 16-play drive but in the end had to settle for a FG to pull within 6 points. The Triumph broke it open with a 13-yard TD run by **Darrel Henderson Jr** early in the 4th, followed by a 21-yard fumble return for a TD by **Derek Stingley** on a strip-sack of **Ryan Tannehill** by **Kenny Clark** on the subsequent series. The Coyotes controlled the play for 35 minutes but turned the ball over 4 times in all.

10-23-2022 Coyote Field Temp:8 Wind: None Line:TCT by 18 MVP:Clark HFA:ON(3)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Twin Cities (2-1)	0	3	6	14	23
2022 Cobb County (0-3)	0	0	3	6	9

Passing

TCT: Winston 25/12 207 Yds TD 2 Int
 CB: Tannehill 52/34 324 Yds TD Int

Rushing

TCT: Henderson Jr. 22/106 TD, Winston 4/18
 CB: Cook 11/31, Tannehill 3/22, Hasty 3/18

Receiving

TCT: Moore 6/88, Brown 4/107 TD, Bryant 2/12
 CB: Pittman Jr. 12/114 TD, Cook 9/48, Cooks 6/82, Parker 5/56, Howard 1/1

Defense

TCT: Clark 2-Sks 2-FF 3-Tk, Wagner Int FF 9-Tk, Hunter 2-Sks 3-Tk, Sweat Sk 7-Tk
 CB: Jones Int 5-Tk

Injuries

TCT: Alexander 10, Moseley 4, Brown 2
 CB: Turner 9, Lawrence 7

Misc

TCT: Stingley 2-FR TD, Wagner FR, Hopkins 1/1 FG 43 Lg
 CB: Tannehill 2-FL, Cook FL, Lambo 1/2 FG 33 Lg



30
14

Patrick Mahomes connected deep to **DK Metcalf** for a 57-yard TD pass, and **C.J. Mosley** sacked **Jared Goff** for a 10-yard loss on 4th & 1, setting up a 9-yard TD run by Mahomes to cap a 3-play drive from the Bruxelles 24 and give Virden a 14-0 lead. The Violators padded that lead in the 2nd when **Elijhaa Penny** picked up a Mahomes fumble and ran 10 yards for a TD to make it 24-0. The Bombers had nothing on offence for the first 3 quarters, punting and turning the ball over on downs 3 times each and having a FG blocked by **Derwin James**. Mahomes won his 3rd straight Game MVP award.

10-23-2022 The Fortress Temp:77 Wind:Calm Line:BRX by 4 MVP:Mahomes HFA:ON(3)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Virden (3-0)	14	10	6	0	30
2022 Bruxelles (2-1)	0	0	0	14	14

Passing

VV: Mahomes 27/17 294 Yds 2 TDs
 BRX: Goff 27/16 187 Yds

Rushing

VV: Elliott 18/100, Mahomes 4/41 TD
 BRX: Fournette 25/115 TD, Williams 5/37, Herbert 4/1 TD

Receiving

VV: Chase 6/112 TD, Metcalf 5/111 TD, Hockenson 3/39, Olave 2/29, Elliott 1/3
 BRX: Godwin 4/61, Juszczyk 4/20, Fournette 3/8, Claypool 2/36, Williams 2/18

Defense

VV: Mosley Sk FF 9-Tk, Bolton 10-Tk, Singleton 8-Tk
 BRX: Smith 11-Tk, Walker Sk 6-Tk, Ebukam Sk FF 2-Tk, Karlaftis Sk 3-Tk

Injuries

VV: Barr 3
 BRX: Anderson 10, Ragnow 9, Whitehead 1

Misc

VV: Badgley 1/1 FG 22 LG
 BRX: Prater 0/1 FG



16



14

Dalvin Cook dove through the middle of the Chino line to score from 2 yards out and put the Bats in the lead for the first time in the game with just 1:23 left in the 4th quarter. Starting at his own 24, with no timeouts remaining, **Dak Prescott** led a desperate drive, reaching the Billtown 42-yard line with 0:11 left, but **Harrison Butker** shanked the 60-yard game-winning FG attempt. The Convicts scored TDs on their first two possessions of the game, with **Christian McCaffrey** and **Ameer Abdullah** both finding the end zone, but hit a Bats defensive wall after that, setting up the Billtown comeback.

10-23-2022 The Big House Temp:105 Wind:0-5 None Line:CHI by 8 MVP:Heyward HFA:ON

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Billtown (2-1)	3	0	0	13	16
2022 Chino (2-1)	7	7	0	0	14

Passing

BB: Herbert 23/14 151 Yds TD
CHI: Prescott 31/25 253 Yds

Rushing

BB: Cook 19/51 TD, Conner 10/19, Herbert 2/16, Harris 2/4
CHI: Abdullah 4/35 TD, McCaffrey 5/26 TD, Prescott 4/17, Jackson 6/14, Jones II 5/11

Receiving

BB: Beasley 5/84, Cook 4/27, Hardman 4/31, Conner 1/9 TD
CHI: Patrick 9/127, Mooney 7/74, Jones II 3/12, Jones 2/19, Abdullah 2/6, McCaffrey 1/8

Defense

BB: Leonard Sk FF 7-Tk, Heyward Sk FF 6-Tk
CHI: Addison Sk 5-Tk, Bowser Sk 4-Tk, Miller 9-Tk, Gholston Sk 3-Tk

Injuries

BB: Rhodes 1
CHI: Smith 9, McCaffrey 9

Misc

BB: Vea FR, Fairbairn 1/1 FG 45 Lg
CHI: Prescott 2/1 F, Butker 0/1 FG



40



19

Cubs' linebacker, **Julian Okwara** strip-sacked **Drew Lock** with 0:09 left in the 1st half and **Bryce Hall** recovered to set up a 45-yard **Justin Tucker** FG and give Iowa a 20-6 halftime lead. The late turnover topped off a fine half for the Cubs that saw **Russell Wilson** throw TD passes to **AJ Brown** and **Christian Kirk**, while the defence held Seattle to a pair of FGs. The Cubs opened the 2nd half with an 83-yard drive that ended with the first of **Joe Mixon's** two 7-yard TD runs to make the score 27-6. Trailing by 25, **Sam Darnold** finished the game at QB for Seattle, turning it over twice in the 4th.

10-23-2022 Kingdome Temp:70 Wind:Calm Line:SEA by 7 MVP:Mixon HFA:ON(2)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Iowa City (2-1)	7	13	10	10	40
2022 Seattle (0-3)	0	6	6	7	19

Passing

ICC: Wilson 24/19 210 Yds 2 TDs
SEA: Lock 18/13 170 Yds, Darnold 6/4 35 Yds Int

Rushing

ICC: Mixon 26/148 2 TDs, Carter 7/50, Wilson 1/2
SEA: Sermon 8/74, Hunt 5/42 TD, Miller 1/31, Walker III 10/21 TD, Lock 2/19

Receiving

ICC: Kirk 4/51 TD, Njoku 3/29, Brown 3/60 TD, Moore 2/8, Mixon 2/16, Dissly 2/18
SEA: Lamb 4/65, Renfrow 4/59, Anderson 3/26, St. Brown 2/10, Harry 1/7, Cole 1/13

Defense

ICC: Okwara Sk FF 3-Tk, Nelson Sk 3-Tk
SEA:

Injuries

ICC: Brown 7, Smith 5
SEA: Akers 12, Mack 9, Joseph-Day 8

Misc

ICC: Chenal FR, Hall FR, Tucker 4/4 FG 55 Lg
SEA: Lock FL, Darnold FL, McPherson 2/2 FG 34 Lg



20

28

Durham QB, **Josh Allen** ran like a fullback into the line and ploughed into the end zone from 7 yards to give Durham a 21-17 lead late in the 3rd. It was the second TD run by Allen and it would give the Lizards a lead they would not relinquish. This was a tight game, with defence and offence shining on both sides. **Treyton Burks** broke 4 tackles to finish off a 90-yard TD pass from **Tom Brady**, while **Cooper Kupp** beat a York double-team to haul in a 41-yard TD catch. **Devin McCourty** intercepted Brady, and **DeForest Buckner** recovered an Allen fumble to thwart red zone chances.

10-23-2022 Jurassic Park Temp:82 Wind:Calm None Line:DTL by 8 MVP:Allen HFA:ON(

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 York (1-2)	3	7	7	3	20
2022 Durham (3-0)	7	7	7	7	28

Passing

YOR: Brady 42/27 354 Yds 2 TDs Int
 DTL: Allen 36/26 283 Yds TD

Rushing

YOR: Henry 12/28, Brady 2/17, Williams 3/16
 DTL: Gibson 17/107, Allen 10/39 2 TDs, Mattison 1/28 TD, Edmonds 6/27, Allgeier 1/4

Receiving

YOR: St. Brown 7/85, Burks 6/157 TD, Davis 4/36, Kmet 4/26, Williams 4/40 TD
 DTL: Kupp 13/179 TD, Edmonds 5/28, Gibson 2/35, Boyd 2/21, Waller 2/4, Allgeier 1/6

Defense

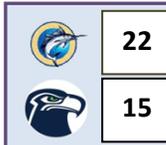
YOR: Holcomb FF 10-Tk, Guy 12-Tk, Thomas 12-Tk
 DTL: Hendrickson Sk 4-Tk

Injuries

YOR: Zuniga 11, Scherff 4
 DTL: Reed 2

Misc

YOR: Buckner FR, Gould 2/2 FG 36 Lg
 DTL: Allen F-L



22

15

Kirk Cousins delivered a strike to **AJ Green** for a 51-yard pass play that set up a 33-yard FG by **Daniel Carlson** to give Sebastian a 16-9 lead early in the 2nd half. That would turn out to be the difference in the game, as the Swordfish out-kicked the Hawks 3 FGs-to-2 in the 2nd half. Brooklin struck on the game's opening drive, with **Derek Carr** going 4 of 4 for 76 yards, including a 20-yard TD pass to **DeAndre Hopkins**. The Swordfish responded with a 1-yard TD run by **Nick Chubb** to take a 7-6 lead. Those were the only TDs of the game as both kickers combined for 8 FGs the rest of the way.

10-23-2022 Hawkeye Park Temp:71 Wind:Calm None Line:SS by 6 MVP:Cousins HFA:ON(3)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Sebastian (1-2)	7	6	3	6	22
2022 Brooklin (1-2)	6	3	3	3	15

Passing

SS: Cousins 41/25 287 Yds
 BRH: Carr 39/22 281 Yds TD 2 Int

Rushing

SS: Taylor 24/49, Chubb 11/48 TD, Cousins 3/6
 BRH: Ekeler 9/43, Carr 1/2

Receiving

SS: Green 8/144, Cooper 6/55, Schultz 4/29, Jones 3/37, Chubb 2/7, Bates 1/5
 BRH: Hopkins 9/145 TD, Conklin 5/39, Gronkowski 4/37, Ekeler 3/29, London 1/31

Defense

SS: Schobert Int 5-Tk, Perryman Sk 3-Tk, Fuller 8-Tk
 BRH: Hall Sk 6-Tk

Injuries

SS: Vickers 11, Reid 1
 BRH: Elliott 9, Al-Shaair 2, Paye 1

Misc

SS: Carlson 5/5 FG 43 Lg
 BRH: Bullock 3/3 FG 46 Lg



Quandre Diggs intercepted **Jimmy Garoppolo** and returned it 51 yards to the Cowtown 12-yard line to set up the go-ahead TD on an **Aaron Rodgers** check down to **Cordarrell Patterson**. That made the score 30-23 for Budapest midway through the 3rd quarter and would prove to be the game-winning score. The Budapest defence denied the Corn Kings the rest of the way, with **Jamel Dean** forcing and recovering a **Mike Evans** fumble and picking off Garoppolo late to earn the save. This was a hard-fought game that could have gone either way prior to the Diggs interception.

10-22-2022 Tillman Field Temp:79 Wind:0-5 *Internet* Line:BUD by 10 MVP:Rodgers HFA:ON(3)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Budapest (3-0)	7	16	7	6	36
2022 Cowtown (2-1)	6	10	7	0	23

Passing

BUD: Rodgers 40/26 359 Yds 2 TDs

COW: Garoppolo 43/25 303 Yds TD 2 Int

Rushing

BUD: Patterson 7/48 TD, Rodgers 3/32 TD, Reynolds 5/29, Ford 3/25, Patterson 4/11

COW: Booker 6/26 TD, Williams 6/19, Murray 7/13, Garoppolo 4/2 TD

Receiving

BUD: Diggs 8/133, Patterson 6/53 TD, Kittle 4/44 TD, Jefferson 3/84, Thornton 2/31

COW: Bourne 5/91 TD, Harris 5/69, Evans 4/37, Booker 3/32, Alie-Cox 2/15, Watson 2/40

Defense

BUD: Diggs Int 7-Tk, Nichols Sk 5-Tk, Dean Int FF 2-Tk

COW: Jefferson Sk 3-Tk, Wonnum Sk 3-Tk

Injuries

BUD: Reynolds 10

COW:

Misc

BUD: Dean FR, McManus 3/5 FG 57 Lg

COW: Evans F-Lost, Slye 1/1 G 55 Lg



Velus Jones Jr opened the scoring off a first drive three-and-out by Scarborough with a 76-yard punt return for a TD. That score marked the start of an offensive avalanche for the Spartans in the 1st half, in which **Jalen Hurts** threw 2TD passes to **Marquise Brown** and ran one into the end zone himself from 5 yards out. **D'Andre Swift** hit paydirt on a pitch from 8 yards and punter **Jack Fox**, replacing an injured **Greg Zuerlein**, added a 20-yard FG to complete the scoring. The Blue Eagles' **Joe Burrow** continued to struggle, getting intercepted 3 times for a total of 6 in the young season.

10-23-2022 Thermopylae Stadium Temp:62 Wind:0-5 None No Line MVP:Hurts HFA:ON(

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Scarborough (0-3)	7	0	0	7	14
2022 Pickering (1-2)	14	24	0	0	38

Passing

SBE: Burrow 44/26 229 Yds TD 3 Int

PIC: Hurts 14/9 135 Yds 2 TDs

Rushing

SBE: Johnson 16/101, Gaskin 5/22 TD, Burrow 3/14

PIC: Sanders 15/106, Carson 7/26, Williams 11/25, Hurts 4/17 TD, Swift 4/15 TD

Receiving

SBE: Uzomah 9/85, Crowder 6/46, Dotson 3/18, Gaskin 2/10, Robinson 2/23, Johnson 2/23

PIC: Shepard 3/52, Brown 3/58 2 TDs, Sanders 1/4, Smith 1/10, Freiermuth 1/11

Defense

SBE: Wharton Sk FF 5-Tk, Ryan 9-Tk, Bosa 9-Tk

PIC: Hyde Int 11-Tk, Autry 2-Sks 4-Tk, Ward Int 6-Tk, Clowney Sk 5-Tk, Howard Int

Injuries

SBE: Jones 5

PIC: Ridley 10, Okwara 8, Gay 3

Misc

SBE: Jones FR, Crosby 0/1 FG

PIC: Jones Jr 1/76 PR TD, Carson F-Lost, Fox 1/1 FG 20 Lg



14



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Kyler Murray posted a perfect 158.3 passer rating in leading the Cadillac to a convincing victory over the Gladiators. Murray led the Caddies to scores on their first 4 possessions, throwing TD passes to **Tee Higgins** and **Mark Andrews** and setting up 2 of 4 FGs by **Jason Myers**. The Glads managed a pair of TDs on back-to-back series in the 2nd quarter, including a 32-yard bomb from **Tua** to rookie **Skyy Moore** with 0:07 left in the 1st half to close the gap to 6 points. However, two picks by **Trevon Diggs** and one by **Kyle Hamilton** in the 2nd half set up the offence for an easy finish and an Erieau win.

10-23-2022 Kelly-Burke Field Temp:64 Wind:10-20 None Line:GEO by 4 MVP:Murray HFA

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Georgia (1-2)	0	14	0	0	14
2022 Erieau (2-1)	7	13	10	10	40

Passing

GEO: Tagovailoa 30/17 213 Yds TD 3 Int

ERI: Murray 25/24 345 Yds 3 TDs

Rushing

GEO: Robinson 13/70, Jacobs 7/26

ERI: Harris 12/26, Murray 6/21, Pierce 7/15, Hines 2/7 TD

Receiving

GEO: Jacobs 5/41, Johnson 3/34, Ertz 3/24, Pringle 3/64, Jones 2/18, Moore 1/32 TD

ERI: Andrews 9/143 TD, Higgins 4/86 TD, Waddle 3/45, Henry 3/30, Harris 2/21 TD

Defense

GEO: Baker Sk FF 6-Tk, Smith Sk FF 4-Tk, Johnson III 8-Tk

ERI: Diggs 2-Int 3-Tk, King II Sk FF 4-Tk, Van Noy FF 7-Tk, Hamilton Int 3-Tk

Injuries

GEO: Fulton 1

ERI: Gilmore 5

Misc

GEO: Tagovailoa 2/1 F

ERI: Pierce FR, Myers 4/4 FG 38 Lg, Team 11/71 Pen



21



42

Carson Wentz threw TD passes to **Tyreek Hill** and **Sony Michel** on the Irish's first two drives of the game while the defence kept Oshawa off the board in the first two quarters to give the home team a 16-0 halftime lead. **Matt Ryan** and **Davante Adams** hooked up for a 46-yard TD pass to start the 2nd half, but a **Mike Hilton** pick and return of 35 yards on Oshawa's second possession set up Wentz's 3rd TD pass of the game to make it 26-7. Ryan was picked off twice more trying to rally his team, both by **Jalen Ramsey**, with the first being a 33-yard pick-six to complete the scoring and ice the game.

10-23-2022 Msgr McClancy Mem. Temp:77 Wind:0-5 None Line:OSH by 2 MVP:Wentz HF

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Oshawa (0-3)	0	0	14	7	21
2022 East Elmhurst (3-0)	13	3	13	13	42

Passing

OSH: Ryan 36/22 317 Yds 3 TDs 3 Int

EE: Wentz 36/21 276 Yds 4 TDs

Rushing

OSH: Gordon 10/31, Ryan 3/7

EE: Michel 15/105, Jones 9/36, Wentz 6/34, Ingram 7/13, Raymond 1/3

Receiving

OSH: Adams 6/162 2 TDs, Thielen 4/23, Goedert 4/78 TD, Tolbert 3/23, Gesicki 2/16

EE: Hill 8/137 2 TDs, Everett 4/40 TD, Lockett 2/41, Jones 2/10, Raymond 2/25

Defense

OSH: Kendrick 16-Tk, Williams 11-Tk, Reddick Sk 5-Tk, Thompson 8-Tk

EE: Ramsey 2-Int(TD) 2-Tk, Hyder Sk 4-Tk, Hilton Int 4-Tk, Lawrence Sk 3-Tk

Injuries

OSH: Watt 8, Davenport 5, Harris 4

EE: Griffen 7

Misc

OSH:

EE: Blankenship 3/3 FG 44 Lg



WEEK THREE

STANDINGS & STATS

EFL 2022 - Week 3 Standings

East	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
New Jersey	3	0	0	1.000	W3	80	26.7	45	15.0	11.7	1 0 0	1 0 0	3 0 0
Bruxelles	2	1	0	.667	L1	64	21.3	69	23.0	-1.7	1 1 0	1 0 0	2 1 0
Buffalo	1	2	0	.333	W1	53	17.7	69	23.0	-5.3	0 2 0	0 1 0	1 2 0
Cobb County	0	3	0	.000	L3	54	18.0	88	29.3	-11.3	0 2 0	0 1 0	0 3 0
Central	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Virden	3	0	0	1.000	W3	81	27.0	47	15.7	11.3	1 0 0	2 0 0	3 0 0
Twin Cities	2	1	0	.667	W1	78	26.0	38	12.7	13.3	0 1 0	1 1 0	2 1 0
Peg City	1	2	0	.333	L1	52	17.3	52	17.3	0.0	0 2 0	1 1 0	1 2 0
Charleswood	0	3	0	.000	L3	37	12.3	103	34.3	-22.0	0 1 0	0 2 0	0 3 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Billtown	2	1	0	.667	W1	68	22.7	63	21.0	1.7	1 0 0	2 0 0	2 1 0
Chino	2	1	0	.667	L1	77	25.7	56	18.7	7.0	0 1 0	1 1 0	2 1 0
Iowa City	2	1	0	.667	W2	101	33.7	84	28.0	5.7	1 1 0	1 1 0	2 1 0
Seattle	0	3	0	.000	L3	59	19.7	90	30.0	-10.3	0 2 0	0 2 0	0 3 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham	3	0	0	1.000	W3	103	34.3	41	13.7	20.7	2 0 0	1 0 0	3 0 0
Cowtown	2	1	0	.667		78	26.0	77	25.7	0.3	1 1 0	1 0 0	2 1 0
Sebastian	1	2	0	.333	W1	67	22.3	73	24.3	-2.0	0 1 0	0 1 0	1 2 0
Scarborough	0	3	0	.000	L3	42	14.0	103	34.3	-20.3	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 3 0
Coastal	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Budapest	3	0	0	1.000	W3	94	31.3	39	13.0	18.3	2 0 0	2 0 0	3 0 0
Brooklin	1	2	0	.333	L2	41	13.7	73	24.3	-10.7	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 2 0
York	1	2	0	.333	L1	67	22.3	74	24.7	-2.3	1 0 0	1 1 0	1 2 0
Pickering	1	2	0	.333	W1	74	24.7	68	22.7	2.0	1 0 0	0 2 0	1 2 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
East Elmhurst	3	0	0	1.000	W3	81	27.0	51	17.0	10.0	2 0 0	2 0 0	3 0 0
Erieau	2	1	0	.667	W2	74	24.7	41	13.7	11.0	1 0 0	1 1 0	2 1 0
Georgia	1	2	0	.333	L2	34	11.3	80	26.7	-15.3	0 1 0	1 1 0	1 2 0
Oshawa	0	3	0	.000	L3	43	14.3	78	26.0	-11.7	0 2 0	0 2 0	0 3 0

EFL 2022 - Week 3 Passing Leaders

		Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate	
1	Wilson	ICC	82	56	68.3	727	1	1.2	44	7	8.5	119.3
2	Rodgers	BUD	87	61	70.1	745	1	1.1	52	6	6.9	114.4
3	Murray,K	ERI	85	64	75.3	794	2	2.4	51	5	5.9	113.6
4	Stafford	NJ	101	69	68.3	872	1	1.0	51	5	5.0	107.4
5	Prescott	CHI	89	71	79.8	824	2	2.2	40	3	3.4	107.1
6	Allen	DTL	96	61	63.5	772	0	0.0	66	4	4.2	102.4
7	Mahomes	VV	116	72	62.1	946	2	1.7	57	7	6.0	100.7
8	Hurts	PIC	51	27	52.9	343	0	0.0	57	4	7.8	100.4
9	Wentz	EE	101	62	61.4	657	2	2.0	32	7	6.9	95.2
10	Jones,M	PCC	91	54	59.3	624	0	0.0	62	4	4.4	94.8
11	Lock	SEA	58	40	69.0	471	1	1.7	30	1	1.7	92.0
12	Goff	BRX	77	49	63.6	540	1	1.3	44	3	3.9	91.9
13	Brady	YOR	115	78	67.8	875	4	3.5	90	5	4.3	90.3
14	Herbert	BB	87	50	57.5	589	0	0.0	48	2	2.3	85.8
15	Cousins	SS	119	71	59.7	805	1	0.8	51	3	2.5	84.9
16	Tannehill	CB	128	77	60.2	830	3	2.3	45	5	3.9	82.5
17	Garoppolo	COW	108	68	63.0	778	3	2.8	43	3	2.8	82.3
18	Jackson.L	BUF	92	63	68.5	486	2	2.2	37	2	2.2	79.3
19	Carr	BRH	104	68	65.4	739	4	3.8	48	2	1.9	76.6
20	Ryan	OSH	124	73	58.9	814	3	2.4	54	3	2.4	76.5
21	Winston	TCT	82	44	53.7	558	3	3.7	79	4	4.9	76.2
22	Burrow	SBE	116	77	66.4	701	6	5.2	27	4	3.4	72.5
23	Pickett	CHP	95	60	63.2	664	5	5.3	44	3	3.2	72.4
24	Darnold	SEA	54	34	63.0	321	2	3.7	24	1	1.9	70.1
25	Roethlisbe	GEO	81	47	58.0	331	4	4.9	22	1	1.2	51.0

EFL 2022 - Week 3 Kick Return Leaders

EFL 2022 - Week 3 Punt Return Leaders

		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1	Moore	EE	5	176	35.2	92	0	1	Jones,V	PIC	4	2	102	25.5	76	1
2	McCloud	PCC	12	350	29.2	37	0	2	Duvernay	TCT	6	5	89	14.8	23	0
3	Dallas	SBE	5	139	27.8	32	0	3	Harris	COW	5	4	73	14.6	20	0
4	Rodgers	CHP	4	110	27.5	35	0	4	McCloud	PCC	5	3	65	13.0	19	0
5	Pringle	GEO	6	151	25.2	31	0	5	Hines	ERI	9	4	101	11.2	20	0
6	Roberts	BRX	7	173	24.7	37	0	6	Renfrow	SEA	4	1	40	10.0	15	0
7	Smith,T	CHI	6	145	24.2	28	0	7	Peoples-Jo	SS	8	1	72	9.0	14	0
8	Carter	BUF	5	119	23.8	39	0	8	Grant	CHI	8	0	70	8.8	18	0
9	Phillips	VV	5	118	23.6	31	0	9	Dotson	SBE	7	2	58	8.3	18	0
10	Hasty	CB	8	132	16.5	30	0	10	Erickson	VV	5	3	32	6.4	13	0
11	Dulin	BB	4	62	15.5	18	0	11	Carter	BUF	6	1	38	6.3	11	0
12	Isabella	BRH	4	57	14.3	28	0	12	Berrios	OSH	6	2	38	6.3	12	0
13	Cole	SEA	5	63	12.6	21	0	13	Roberts	BRX	7	5	44	6.3	11	0
14	Pierce	TCT	1	29	29.0	29	0	14	Shakir	GEO	5	3	28	5.6	8	0
15	Berrios	OSH	2	57	28.5	30	0	15	Gray	DTL	4	9	20	5.0	9	0
16	Ballentine	YOR	1	28	28.0	28	0	16	Robinson	CB	11	0	10	0.9	6	0
17	Walker	SEA	1	27	27.0	27	0	17	Philips	ICC	2	0	68	34.0	52	0
18	McFarland	SS	1	26	26.0	26	0	18	Holland	CHP	3	0	57	19.0	36	0
19	Spencer,D	NJ	3	68	22.7	27	0	19	Spencer,D	NJ	3	2	47	15.7	26	0
20	Tremble	ICC	1	22	22.0	22	0	20	Hardman	BB	3	2	24	8.0	16	0
21	Cook	CB	2	41	20.5	26	0	21	Agnew	GEO	2	0	13	6.5	7	0
22	Agnew	GEO	3	59	19.7	22	0	22	Moore	EE	3	3	17	5.7	13	0
23	Erickson	VV	1	19	19.0	19	0	23	Swain	YOR	1	4	5	5.0	5	0
24	Harris	COW	2	37	18.5	25	0	24	Rodgers,Am	BUD	2	2	8	4.0	7	0
25	Duvernay	TCT	3	54	18.0	21	0	25	Raymond	EE	2	3	5	2.5	5	0

EFL 2022 - Week 3 Rushing Leaders

		Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	Mixon	ICC	64	383	6.0	30	4
2	Henry	YOR	60	303	5.1	63	1
3	Fournette	BRX	54	300	5.6	62	3
4	Montgomery	NJ	53	276	5.2	46	1
5	Gibson	DTL	43	264	6.1	17	0
6	Sanders	PIC	52	263	5.1	22	0
7	Elliott	VV	53	254	4.8	40	1
8	Cook	BB	55	238	4.3	30	4
9	Henderson	TCT	56	234	4.2	13	1
10	Taylor	SS	59	212	3.6	39	2
11	Ekeler	BRH	40	208	5.2	27	0
12	Michel	EE	39	193	4.9	26	0
13	Mitchell	BRX	34	191	5.6	21	1
14	Singletary	CHP	35	191	5.5	52	0
15	Cook	CB	32	186	5.8	37	1
16	Jackson,L	BUF	42	183	4.4	29	2
17	McCaffrey	CHI	42	177	4.2	23	3
18	Jacobs	GEO	37	174	4.7	28	0
19	Jones,A	EE	36	171	4.8	50	1
20	Robinson,J	GEO	27	164	6.1	38	1
21	Walker	SEA	36	155	4.3	33	1
22	Allen	DTL	23	154	6.7	28	6
23	Williams,J	COW	31	146	4.7	17	1
24	Gordon	OSH	32	144	4.5	26	1
25	Pierce	ERI	29	139	4.8	31	0
26	Patterson	BUD	23	136	5.9	19	3
27	Johnson,D	SBE	25	125	5.0	30	0
28	Booker	COW	19	113	5.9	22	2
29	Barkley	PCC	37	110	3.0	15	0
30	Murray,K	ERI	26	107	4.1	18	2
31	Conner	BB	28	105	3.8	22	2
32	Chubb	SS	25	102	4.1	24	2
33	Carter	ICC	21	98	4.7	35	0
34	Tannehill	CB	9	98	10.9	23	0
35	Dillon	BUF	27	97	3.6	9	1
36	Hurts	PIC	22	94	4.3	17	2
37	Ford	BUD	12	86	7.2	17	0
38	Harris	ERI	25	86	3.4	17	0
39	Samuel	NJ	18	85	4.7	18	2
40	Herbert	BB	9	81	9.0	22	0

EFL 2022 - Week 3 Receiving Leaders

		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	Kupp	DTL	27	412	15.3	66	3
2	Pittman Jr	CB	26	288	11.1	29	2
3	Lamb	SEA	23	323	14.0	30	1
4	Patrick,T	CHI	22	322	14.6	40	2
5	Adams	OSH	22	368	16.7	54	2
6	Cooks	CB	21	260	12.4	45	2
7	Hill	EE	20	292	14.6	29	3
8	Renfrow	SEA	20	247	12.4	26	0
9	Ekeler	BRH	20	194	9.7	48	0
10	Kmet	YOR	20	144	7.2	11	0
11	Beasley	BB	19	255	13.4	30	1
12	Allen	NJ	19	267	14.1	51	1
13	Green	SS	18	292	16.2	51	0
14	Johnson,D	GEO	18	165	9.2	19	0
15	Andrews	ERI	18	234	13.0	51	1
16	Jefferson	BUD	17	292	17.2	52	3
17	Burks	YOR	17	284	16.7	90	3
18	Chase	VV	17	316	18.6	47	1
19	Hopkins	BRH	17	236	13.9	28	1
20	Metcalfe	VV	16	321	20.1	57	3
21	Samuel	NJ	16	244	15.3	41	2
22	Uzomah	SBE	16	158	9.9	26	1
23	Meyers	CHP	16	151	9.4	13	0
24	Gage	BUF	16	144	9.0	28	0
25	St. Brown	YOR	16	222	13.9	37	0
26	Jacobs	GEO	16	100	6.3	24	0
27	Kelce	CHP	15	186	12.4	38	1
28	Cooper	SS	15	165	11.0	31	2
29	Moore	TCT	15	208	13.9	30	2
30	Hockenson	VV	15	137	9.1	14	0
31	Diggs	BUD	15	219	14.6	29	0
32	Elliott	VV	15	71	4.7	16	1
33	Schultz	SS	14	103	7.4	12	0
34	Barkley	PCC	14	137	9.8	23	1
35	Bourne	COW	14	219	15.6	43	1
36	Fant	BUF	13	144	11.1	37	1
37	Thielen	OSH	13	129	9.9	30	0
38	Jones,M	CHI	13	197	15.2	38	1
39	McLaurin	NJ	13	170	13.1	29	0
40	Godwin	BRX	13	150	11.5	25	1



AROUND THE



With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – It appears that my casual observations about non-football topics, such as the fading pandemic, the war in the Ukraine and the price of gas touched many nerves. I understand that people have been relentlessly programmed by many years of propaganda masquerading as news ever since *Operation Mockingbird* (look it up) was launched around the start of the Cold War, but there is no need for people who don't agree with me to be rude and threatening!

I did not actually hear any arguments in the feedback I received about those casual observations, just accusations of all sorts, some of them quite laughable (if you only knew me outside of this column), many of them insulting, and the odd one that was truly baffling – like the woman (I assume) who charged me with being a Venezuelan spy. I don't remember ever talking about Venezuela in my column, but maybe that is exactly why she deduced that I was one of their spies. I always find it ironic when people who use “conspiracy theorist” as a pejorative unwittingly concoct their own conspiracies to explain why the “conspiracy theorist” is wrong. Of course, everything comes back to Putin and his seemingly omnipotent control of our electoral process and alternative media. This all-powerful bogey man is the same Putin who “miscalculated” and is “losing” the war in the Ukraine, the same war some politicians say we must enter in order to save the Ukraine. *Uh...*what was that again? This ability for people to hold contradictory views and believe both to be the truth is the essence of Orwell's “double-think.” Think about it...

ERIE-OH!

The EFL franchise in Erieau has been on life support for many years now – probably as far back as 2016, when it joined the league. Why the EFL awarded a franchise to **Jamie Rilett** in the first place is a decision that has not been satisfactorily explained. One must assume that money changed hands in ways that went unrecorded, that feasibility reports were fudged, that investors were misled or, as sources have leaked, that the EFL Committee actually believed the franchise was going to Erie, Pennsylvania, and not to a charming little village peninsula appended to the rural Municipality of Chatham-Kent, which, as far as 99.9% of Americans are concerned, might as well be nowhere.

The landing of a pro football franchise in Erieau seems to have caught even the locals by surprise. The quaint Kelly-Burke Field, where the Cadillac play, was built in seven days by local Mennonites, according to local legend, upon receiving the news. Whether that is literally true or not, the involvement of Mennonites is verified by news photos and a local documentary film made by a Fanshawe College filmmaking student. Executed in the manner of a traditional barn-raising, the park project drew over one thousand Mennonite labourers to supplement paid labour and engineers from a small construction firm hired by Rilett to ensure the structure conformed to the Ontario Building Code. The result was actually quite impressive, even if the park, at a capacity of 28,740, is now the smallest in the league after the recent replacement of Optimist Park in Brooklin with the 45,000-seat Hawkeye Park.

The sudden appearance of the Cadillac prompted an initial burst of excitement in Chatham-Kent, the border city of Windsor, and even across the border in Metro Detroit among football-starved fans of the defunct Lions. It is not thought to be coincidental that the ‘Lake Blue’ colour of Erieau's football jerseys so closely matches the ‘Honolulu Blue’ worn by the Lions. However, average attendance peaked in 2017 at 26,524 per game – still below capacity – and dropped off a cliff after that, even prior to the pandemic. COVID-19 and its lingering effects further devastated attendance at Cadillac games, even more than the team's poor performance on the field. Now, official attendance is no longer announced, but often appears to be less than 10,000.

As the team struggled on the field and at the gate, the eccentric owner of the Cadillac behaved as if nothing was amiss.

“There is strong grassroots support for our football team,” Rilett stated baldly in a rare interview with *ESPN*. “I see this every day when I visit the shops, cafes and restaurants of our community. People ask me all the time about how the team is doing and tell me how they plan to come out some day to watch. I tell these people that the players are trying really hard and that we're holding our own against the best football players in the world. It's a very positive feeling when I talk to folks.”

As I speculated in 2016 when the Cadillac came into the league: I think **Jamie Rilett** must have a silent backer, or else he has more money than brains, to enable this real-life experiment in football's version of ‘Field of Dreams’ to continue as long as it has. I fully expected that this would be the year they announced the sale of the Cadillac, after fully-expecting it the year before, and the year before that as well. The team is still there, however, and reports that a half dozen busloads of fans from Detroit and a kilometer-long line of cars from Windsor were on the road Sunday morning at dawn to attend the Cadillac's 2022 home-opener in Week Three against the Gladiators suggest that there may still be hope that the team will survive in Erieau another year.

Despite public pronouncements of confidence and the seemingly unshakeable veneer of stoicism that Rilett displays when

he is in the media spotlight, it must have registered on the Cadillac owner at some level – probably when opening up and paying the bills – that his team was in trouble. I surmise this based on the unprecedented publicity campaign the team embarked on during this latest off-season and that continued up until their home opener this week.

One must keep in mind that I use the term “unprecedented” in the relative sense. For the Cadillac, it was unprecedented both in length and in scope. For just about any other team, it would hardly have registered.

The most extravagant component of the campaign consisted of a 30-second TV ad entitled ‘*Erie-OH!*,’ composed of stock game footage, artificial crowd noise, and a highly diverse cast of so-called everyday people taking turns appearing to be thrilled by Cadillac highlights. Since there aren’t too many of those, most of the highlight sequences were different angles of the same **Kyler Murray** touchdown run and **Myles Garrett** sack of **Mac Jones** taken from their win over Peg City last year. A shot of **Mark Andrews** tow-tapping inside the corner of the end zone for a touchdown against Oshawa and a **Joey Bosa** strip-sack of **Mitch Trubisky** of the Triumph were plugged in for some variety.

The motif of the ad goes like this: A person is shown in an “every day” setting away from the football field looking straight at the camera/viewer. With an exaggerated quizzical look on his/her/their face, the person says: “Erieau?” as if responding to a word never heard before or not quite understood. The scene instantly switches to a Cadillac on-field highlight followed by the same person in the stands, wearing game day blue make-up and fan apparel, appearing thrilled at the just-shown highlight and yelling “Erie-OH!” with exaggerated emphasis on the “OH!” to underscore the exclamation. These are the only words in the entire ad. At the end, all of these characters who have been introduced individually appear together. They stand and yell at the camera, “*Erie-OHHHHHH!*”

The same film student who shot the Kelly-Burke Field documentary likely put this together for Rilett on a shoe-string budget. It certainly looks like something an arts student trying to curry favour with his professors with little-to-no understanding of the football demographic in North America would create. It first attempts to capture a local flavour by featuring a middle-aged male boater at the marina tying his boat to the dock while stating, “Erieau?” to the camera, then the next second reacting in the stands to Murray’s touchdown run wearing blue face paint and a fisherman’s hat with the Cadillac logo yelling “Erie-OH!” After that, it quickly degenerates into a parody of woke-ism, with a racially-ambiguous techie, a gender-ambiguous sculptor, a 20-something female black corporate executive in a navy suit, a sliver-haired grandmother working on an automobile assembly line, an apparent lesbian couple arm-in-arm behind the counter of a bookstore, an obviously gay man with a rainbow pin decorating a cake, a special needs child looking up from a nuclear physics textbook, a First Nations Chief in full regalia, and – to top it off – an apparently pregnant man looking to purchase a crib, all among the excited “locals” taking turns “discovering” the thrill of Erieau football. Not a single white male trucker, tradesperson, labourer, insurance salesman, engineer or other professional who make up the principal EFL football fan demographic. You’d think they could have worked a Mennonite in, given their past assistance to the team, but the Mennonites are all white, conservative and most are strictly religious. The ad ran in Chatham-Kent, London, Windsor and on the local ESPN affiliate in Michigan. It did not draw as much ridicule as it should have, although *The Onion* declared in a short statement to the media that it would not attempt to parody the ad, as “it is beyond parody.”

The rest of the campaign consisted of door-to-door mail flyers, posters pinned to café, bookstore and supermarket billboards, classified ads of various sizes in the local newspapers, road signs, and promotional appearances on local sports talk radio by Rilett, the Cadillac beat-writer combo of **Ferguson Jenkins** and **Archibald Davies**, **Kyler Murray**, **Joey Bosa**, and the most popular and well-known Cadillac player, punter **Michael Dickson**. The main message of these appearances was that the Cadillac were introducing a brand new “model” in 2022 – one with improved performance and handling, and fans were urged to come to the stadium to “sit back and enjoy the ride.”

This publicity campaign may have had some highly-localized minor impacts. It’s hard to say. One can presume that pregnant men would feel more disposed to attend Kelly Burke Field for a Cadillac game than before, but none were plainly in evidence Sunday among the sellout crowd that crammed into the little stadium to watch their boys in blue tackle the 1-1 Gladiators from Georgia.

What more likely caused real football fans from as far away as Detroit, Windsor, Sarnia, and London coming to the stadium was a combination of the full lifting of pandemic restrictions and the persistent buzz around the Cadillac during the off-season from legitimate national media sources. No less than **Kris Hortenson** of ESPN’s Sports Central and **Peter Prince** of *North America Today* had endorsed the Cadillac as a true contender for the South Division this year. Then there was the buzz coming out of training camp that supported this optimistic outlook. **Kyler Murray** looked dialed in, **Jaylen Waddle** looked for real, **Tyron Smith** wasn’t injured yet, and the defence – oh, the defence! – looked angry and deadly serious. The best defensive front in football would do some real damage if it didn’t have to spend over half the game on the field; and it indeed looked as if the offence would finally pull its weight this year.

The first two weeks of the regular season had brought mixed reviews. The defence had looked as good as advertised in a Week One loss to East Elmhurst. The offence had struggled, but it was understood that the Irish defence was hardly less talented than the Caddies. It had been a defensive slugfest and East Elmhurst, with the homefield advantage, had eked out the win. No shame for Erieau there. Week Two had seen a marked improvement in the offence in a 24-14 win over Scarborough, yet the fact that it had come against the Blue Eagles caused prudent analysts to curb their enthusiasm. The offence had registered false positives before.

The Gladiators also entered this game at 1-1. Their win came against Oshawa in a rare defensive struggle for a Glads’ team with a lot of defensive holes. Week Two had seen them blasted into next week by Durham. Losing to the Thunder Lizards had been expected. What had been disturbing for Georgia fans was the dismal play of **Ben Roethlisberger**. It had been so bad, that rumours had



Jamie Rilett, owner of the Cadillac, poses in front of a vintage Model-T Ford prior to his team's home opener. Rilett personally drove the car around the field after every TD in Erieau's 40-14 win over Georgia.

swirled ever since that **Big Ben** was going to get the hook in Week Three. Coach **Dave Birdsall** was non-committal when confronted by reporters during the week, but the tell that something was up was that Ben and **Tua** had shared first team reps equally in the week leading up to the game. On game day, it became official: **Tua Tagovailoa** would get the start and remain the starter for the remainder of the season.

“The Gladiators want to thank Big Ben for his 11 years of service with our team since we traded for him back in 2011,” Birdsall's statement read. “Ben will remain on the team as the back-up and mentor to Tua, who we drafted no.5 in 2020 and whose time, we feel, has come. This move was made in consultation with Ben. We have nothing but respect for Ben's professionalism and leadership as a member of the Gladiators.”

Blah, blah, blah, we're moving on! in other words. I like the Georgia owner and coach; I think he is a class act. But I think if you are going to deliver Big Ben's eulogy as the Gladiators' starting QB, you should

do it in person, early in the week before the game, and not throw it on paper for release the morning of the game. It is possible, of course, that the coach was uncertain and wanted to see how Ben practiced. But it didn't feel right to me. In any case, without much ceremony and fanfare, the Tua Era in Georgia officially began this week against the Cadillac. If the Glads' coach thought the Caddies would be a soft touch for his young protégé, he was sorely mistaken.

To emphasize his message that the Cadillac of 2022 were a true “new model,” Cadillac owner **Jamie Rilett** took up too much time in a pre-game address to the fans explaining the importance of the Model-T Ford to the expansion of the use of the automobile in the early 20th century. Rilett, a collector of vintage cars and a car restoration enthusiast who, bizarrely, does not have a driver's licence, but is skilled in the difficult driving mechanisms of these antique vehicles and drives them on his private track, spoke pedantically about the features of Henry Ford's influential creation. The crowd was getting restless after about 10 minutes of a discussion about (among other things) the off-road qualities of the Model-T and how, at 20-horse power, it was the most powerful car of its day. Finally, Rilett got around to his point: as the Model-T had revolutionized driving in North America, “*the 2022 Erieau Cadillac will revolutionize the game of football, while making it accessible to ALL!*” With that pronouncement, he got into the Model-T and drove it around the field as the song ‘*See See Rider Blues*,’ by **Ma Rainey**, a popular song in the 1925, crackled over the PA at Kelly-Burke Field.

Clearly, Rilett did not care about brand loyalty – the “new model” Cadillac, according to his dissertation, was actually an old Ford. As I re-watched this peculiar pre-game program, it struck me that I did not know the significance of the nickname Cadillac. I now knew more than I needed to know about the Model-T, but where did Cadillac come from? And why was there a river boat on the team's helmet? Why was it so important that pregnant men came to watch football games in Erieau?

As I contemplated all this weirdness, I recalled that Erieau was the place that had stripped **Marshawn Lynch** of his manhood, and that of just about every offensive player to ever play for the team. A crazy thought occurred to me that if this kept up, Erieau would eventually become entirely populated by gender-ambiguous artists, lesbian book sellers, and pregnant men – a good portion of them former professional football players. Not that there's anything wrong with gender-ambiguous artists and lesbian book sellers (pregnant men is another matter), but Football could never survive in such a place. Something had to happen to prevent this disaster! The Cadillac needed to win, and win big. They needed to throw some team up against the wall just to show who was boss. They needed to take the manhood away from their opponent, for a change!

As if one cue, with an air pre-destiny, enter, **Tua Tagovailoa** – the perfect sacrificial goat. This was not Tua's first game as a pro. He had started 13 games in 202, the year he was drafted, replacing an injured Big Ben. That had been more than enough exposure to demonstrate that the rookie was nowhere near ready. He threw just one pass in 2021, sitting behind Big Ben. In camp this year he had shown improvement, but camp is camp. This sudden move seemed to be more an indictment of Roethlisberger than an endorsement of Tua. It is likely Tua knew this at some level. He would be playing *over* Big Ben now, not playing *for* him due to an injury. Psychologically there is a big difference, especially for a young quarterback.

Whatever might have been running through the head of the Gladiators' quarterback prior to the game was certainly knocked out of it when he was drilled by **Maxx Crosby** after an incompletion to start the 2nd quarter. Crosby was flagged on the play, but probably felt the message he sent was well-worth the fifteen yards. That message was: We're coming after you kid! You can't hide.

Tua fumbled the very next snap and **Michael Pierce** recovered for the first of four Gladiator turnovers on the afternoon. Prior to that, the Cadillac had scored a touchdown on the game's opening drive; held the Glads' offence on 4th & 4 at their 36; and had kicked a

field goal on their second possession to make it 10-0. They took over at the Georgia 30 after the fumble, and proceeded to cover the remaining distance to the end zone in just 3 plays; with Murray hitting **Tee Higgins** off play-action for 29 yards, and drilling it to **Mark Andrews** from 1-yard out two plays later to make the score 17-0. The rout was on.

Nobody in Erieau or in the national media could remember a time when the Cadillac had looked so dominant in a game. Their defence had Tua rattled; he would go on to throw three interceptions in the second half. Their offence kept the Glads' defence off balance with the threat of **Najee Harris**, which opened things up for a ruthlessly efficient Murray, who completed 24 of 25 passes for 345 yards and 3 TDs. The effectiveness of the Erieau attack had Georgia coach, **Dave Birdsall** feeling the need to go for it on 4th down in his own end and to repeatedly try to push the ball deep, with mixed results.

The Glads did not lay down for this. They fought back and landed a couple of blows before half time to pull within six points. Tua connected on a bomb to **Byron Pringle**, who beat **Desmond King II** on a post route to set up a Tua sneak into the end zone for a touchdown. Tua then connected on a deep go-route to **Skyy Moore** for a 32-yard TD pass with 0:07 left in the 1st half to trail just 20-14; it was his best throw of the afternoon.

Wherein this late TD – coupled with the Glads getting the ball first to begin the second half, which set up the prospect of completing the dreaded “double-score” and taking the lead – might have caused Cadillac teams of the past to seize up in panic, on this occasion it simply made them mad. **Trevon Diggs** ended Georgia's opening drive of the 2nd half with his second pick of the season off a poorly thrown ball by a back-peddalling Tua trying to set up s screen. The Caddies turned that good field position into a field goal drive to make it 23-14.

On Georgia's next possession, King II got his revenge for being beaten deep earlier by sacking Tua on third down on a corner blitz and knocking the ball out. The Glads' QB never saw the cornerback coming, locked in as he was on his receiver. The Glads recovered and were forced to punt, setting up an 80-yard Erieau drive for another touchdown, this one a 9-yard checkdown to Harris, to make it 30-14. The key play of that drive – the one that got little Kelly-Burke Field rocking really hard for the first time – was a sideline pass from Murray to Andrews that the tight end tight-roped down the sideline for 51 yards before being knocked out at the 13-yard line. This was the play that seemed to send a subliminal signal to the fans that this game was not going to be like other Cadillac games. The Caddies were going to finish kicking Gladiator ass, and not let them back up off the floor.

A ragged-looking Tua threw two more picks on the first two Georgia series of the 4th quarter, including a second one to Diggs for the corner's third interception of the year. These turnovers set up an Erieau field goal and a touchdown to make the score 40-14 with still nine minutes left to play. However, it was clear by then that the Glads were no longer interested in really playing. In an effort to preserve the little that was left of his quarterback's dignity, Coach Birdsall turned conservative and the final minutes played out uneventfully on the field.

It was a different story in the stands, where this strange mix of locals and fans from points abroad joined together jubilantly to mug for the TV cameras. This was unusual for fans at Kelly-Burke Field, who normally slumped in their seats or hid behind paper bags. These appeared to be *real* football fans. Some of them were obviously part of large groups, distinguishable by themes in their appearance. One group wore hard hats with no shirts, jiggly beer bellies protruding proudly as they high-fived each other. Another group sitting at the top of one of the bleachers sported fisherman hats and raincoats and tossed around silver footballs with painted scales into large fishing nets. A placard affixed to the top of the bleachers behind the last row of seats read: THE PERCH. There were women there as well – the pretty kind, many wearing **MURRAY** or **ANDREWS** jerseys, in small groups or sitting individually next to burly dudes wearing **BOSA** jerseys. Families with kids scoffed down hot dogs and fish cakes. Football had come alive in the stands in Erieau!

It was one game, but there is reason to believe that this year there will be more games like it where the Cadillac drive straight over their opponents instead of veering into the ditch. **Kyler Murray** earned EFL Offensive Player of the Week for his effort. (A perfect passer rating will garner that kind of recognition). **Trevon Diggs** is being talked about in excited tones. The Cadillac were not an afterthought in network recaps. If this keeps up, pigs will almost certainly fly, and people will no longer be saying, “Erieau?” they'll be cheering, “Erie-OH!!”

VIRTUAL COACH

At Jurassic Park in Durham, the Thunder Lizards finally found themselves in a real game, salting away a hard-fought victory over York with a tight window throw to **Cooper Kupp** for 7 yards and a first down, up 21-20, with 1:30 left and no Excalibur timeouts remaining. Or, so it looked at the time. The Lizards brought the clock down to 0:51 before calling their first timeout to bleed as much time as possible off the clock before, it was assumed, they would adopt the victory formation and dance triumphantly to the sidelines after a kneel down. However, in another head-scratching coaching moment in a young season full of them, Durham coach, **George Kaldis** called a handoff to running back **Alexander Mattison**, who dove through the middle of the York defensive line and galloped 28 yards for a touchdown. **Cade York** came on to kick the extra point to make the score 28-20 with 0:44 left. Several thousand of the dullest Durham fans cheered wildly as the kick went through the uprights, while the equally dense Mattison chest bumped his linemen and slapped skin with some of the training staff. These people seemed to have not noticed that the York defenders had offered mere token resistance on the play, that All-Pro safety **Kevin Byard** had not given chase, that All-World defensive tackle **DeForest Buckner** had actually stepped out of his running lane and thrown his arms up feebly as Mattison ran by him, that there was nobody within ten yards of Mattison when he crossed the goal line.

Coach Kaldis knew what was going on, however. He stood on the sideline, jaw clenched, black eyes staring like a dead man's up at the clock then over to the York sideline where **Tom Brady** had put his helmet back on and was throwing warm-ups to receiver,

Mike Williams, the Swords' premier deep threat. Forty-four seconds was a lot of time in the right hands – and Brady had the right hands.

Yet, the Durham coach had, presumably, called the play to Mattison. What had he expected would happen? That Mattison would give himself up? Possibly. Did anybody tell Mattison to do that? Why bother with any of that when you can just have the quarterback kneel? These were questions that would be asked after the game. In the moment, however, there was the possibility, slim though it might be, that the Excaliburs could come back and send this game to overtime. *Nobody* thought that was possible when Kupp thrust the football forward for the 1st down minutes earlier.

It was a longshot, of course, but with the fresh memory of rookie **Treyton Burks**, earlier in the game, turning a simple medium hitch from Brady in the perfect spot into a 90-yard touchdown, it was a shot the Durham coaching staff did not want to give them. Burks had jetted, weaved and dodged his way through a sea of seven defensive backs, eluding or breaking five tackles along the way. At the time it had given the Excaliburs a 10-7 lead and had sent a message to those who remembered only York's traditional plodding offensive style that the Swords were able to strike quickly this year.

It all worked out in the end for Durham. After a couple of 8-yard completions, the second one in-bounds, Brady hustled to the line, took the snap, dropped back, and was sacked by **Ed Oliver**. York was able to get off another play, but ran out of time as **Amon-Ra St. Brown** raced against the clock to get out of bounds for one last shot that never came. The game was over.

The win boosted Durham to 3-0 while the Excaliburs fell to 1-2. It was the appropriate outcome as dictated by the play, which had been mostly controlled by Durham throughout. **Derrick Henry** could not get off the ground, while the Thunder Lizards' run game had played a key role in movement, possession, and in unlocking **Cooper Kupp**, who caught 13 passes for 179 yards and a TD. **Josh Allen** was recognized for the third consecutive week and the most valuable player, adding two more touchdown runs to give him a league-leading 6 on the year. **Devin McCourty** had made a key pick in the red zone at the end of the first half. In the absence of anything really wrong with the Thunder Lizards and their game plan, reporters eager for something, **anything**, to criticize, focused on the decision to run a play, rather than kneel, in the game's final minute. The response was quite surprising.

"Simple. I wanted to save Allen's running attempts," Durham coach, **George Kaldis** said frankly, looking straight at the gallery.

Reporters did not know what to do with this response at first. There was a pregnant pause then, as if they all came to same thought at the same time, a number of them asked him simultaneously what he had meant by "saving running attempts."

The Durham coach flipped through some papers he had with him, focused in on one, then answered: "By my calculations, Josh Allen has the capacity for 134 full strength run attempts this year. After that he will get tired and be less effective. A kneel down would be considered an attempt by the 'game.' So, I gave the ball to Alexander, whose run attempts I don't care about as much."

This response was even more baffling than the first. It opened up a flurry of additional questions. How had he made that calculation about Allen's run attempts? What did he mean by "the game?" Why did he not care about Mattison's run attempts? Had he told Mattison to give himself up? Why, if he cared about Allen's attempts so much, had he not put a back-up quarterback on the roster?

The Durham coach's answers, in order, were: "It's in the game." "Life, the game of life." "Mattison is programmed to run at a 3.7 yards per carry average – he is a clock-eater." "There is no option for that in the game." "Why waste a roster space when Allen is not going to get injured this year?"

In the space of five minutes, the conversation nationwide in the media turned from Durham's strong start on the football field, to the mental health of their coach. Always a little high-strung, stubborn, and often on the edge of going postal, **Georg Kaldis** has a track record as a great GM and effective game planner. His record speaks for itself. He has been described as "intense," "impassioned," "angry" and "vindictive," but never, until now, has he been called crazy.

Certainly, what he said at the podium after the game Sunday comes across at first blush as nutty, or possibly a failed attempt at humour to keep reporters off balance. As a result, I did some emergency digging with my sources in Durham, who tell me they were not surprised by the substance of the Durham coach's answers, only that he would speak them publicly and risk giving away his "secret." When I asked for clarification, I was given a patchwork of explanations that essentially boil down to the following:

The Durham coach is not crazy, but subscribes to the so-called *Simulation Hypothesis*, the thought that we exist in a simulated reality, similar to a computer game. He apparently began researching this theory after **Elon Musk** claimed in an interview that, "*we are most likely in a simulation.*" The "secret" the Durham coach possesses, however, is not this mere belief that we live in a simulation. It is that he thinks he has discovered the 'rules' for a sub-component of the universal simulation that deals with "football action." This is his most closely-guarded secret and one that he does not share with anybody. So, my sources in Durham were quite shocked that he revealed Josh Allen's full-strength run attempts. One source suggested that Kaldis was probably under inordinate post-game stress because he knew he could not really answer the question logically about why he ran a play with Mattison without looking like an idiot. So, he told the "truth," hoping that reporters would think he was being glib and Belichick-like in his responses.

As this column goes to press, the coaching fraternity in the EFL has reacted with amusement, most assuming Kaldis was just playing with the media. The reaction of Budapest coach, **Darrin Jones**, however, was a surprisingly terse, "no comment" and an abrupt breaking off of the interview. Come to think of it, Jones has been known to "sit" healthy players for no obvious reason and, it is reported, compiles a "pitch count" for every offensive player before every game. His team is also well-built every year. Hmmm...I wonder now, if there are any more "virtual coaches" out there in the offices of the EFL...

AROUND THE EFL

I begin the rest of my quick Week Three survey by checking in on one of my favourite study subjects: **Russ Lemmon** and the Swordfish.

This week in Brooklin their aggressive fourth-down posturing worked out for them in an excruciatingly drawn out 22-15 victory. This game saw **Daniel Carlson** and **Randy Bullock** combine for eight field goals after both teams scored touchdowns on their opening drives. No, it wasn't raining at Hawkeye Park! The Swordfish controlled the ball for 39 minutes thanks to their successful fourth-down forays and the bend-not-break quality of the Hawks' defence. So, chalk one up for the madman, and let's pretend it would not have gone sideways in a hurry if a couple of those fourth down gambles had not worked out. Let's take a quick look: #1 – 4th & 4, own 31, down 6-0 in 1st quarter – that one definitely could have backfired. Had he failed, he would have looked like a lug-head. Personally, I don't consider success in that situation to absolve him of the "lug-head" tag; #2 – 4th & goal at the half-yard line – worth a gamble to score the TD, which they did. The alternative gives the Hawks terrible starting field position. Spats supports that one. #3 – 4th & 4 at the Hawks' 49-yard line, late 1st quarter, leading 7-6 – *meh...* I don't like it, even though they made it. Play the field position battle, I say. As far as Lemmon 4th down conversion attempts go, thought, this one was pretty tame. #4 – 4th & 8, Brooklin 27, early in 2nd quarter, still leading 7-6. This attempt was later in the same drive as the previous 4th & 4, and this one ended the drive. **Jessie Bates** tipped a pass intended for **Dalton Schultz** and <presto!> Brooklin ball and no Fish points! It was 4th & 8, for crissakes! What was he thinking? (Rhetorical question). #5 – 4th & 1 at the Brooklin 24 with 3:30 left in the 1st half, Swordfish trailing 9-7. Another attempt when already in field goal range. Does Russ not trust **Daniel Carlson** from over 40 yards or something? The Fish converted this one, but ended up kicking the field goal eventually anyway, on 4th & goal at the 4. The net gain was another 2 minutes of possession, leaving the Hawks that much less time to score before the half. Interestingly, there were no more 4th down gambles in the game. Things were seriously close in the 2nd half of this one and possibly the Sebastian coach did not want to see a lynch mob in front of his home when he returned to Sebastian.

At True North Field in Winnipeg, the Derailers got into the 'Win' column by prevailing 19-13 in a defensive struggle over Peg City. Taking a page from the Lemmon Book of Boldness, possibly in an attempt to jump start his sputtering offence, Crusader coach **Stephen Katopodis** turned the ball over on downs three times in his team's own territory. I guess the part about "sputtering offence" did not factor into his calculations of the potential success rate his offence would have on fourth down against a pretty good Buffalo defence. The Derailers made them pay the first time, turning the short field into the game's only offensive touchdown, a 4-yard bootleg by **Lamar Jackson**. Otherwise, the Crusader defence bailed out the offence, which begs the question of why Coach Katopodis would not trust that defence to win the field position battle against the league-worst Buffalo offence, and perhaps set up his sputtering offence in a better way. The defence, ironically, ended up scoring the Peg's only touchdown on a 51-yard fumble return by **Taylor Rapp**. The Peg City run game struggled, **Mac Jones** was under pressure. The offence gained less than 200 yards. As I have pointed out, the Crusaders' have a playoff defence and a remedial offence. Still, if the coach lets his defence play, this team could sneak into the playoffs.

At Tillman Field in Cowtown, the North Stars fended off stiff pushback from the Corn Kings to pull away decisively in the late stages to secure a 36-23 win. From the start, the prospects of the Corn Kings stopping the Budapest offence without **TJ Watt** on the field looked grim. Sure enough, the Budapest attack scored, or were in a position to score (missed field goal), on all five of their first half possessions. However, the Corn Kings moved the ball well-enough to stay close, trailing by a touchdown 23-16, after 30 minutes. When **Jimmy Garoppolo** connected on a rare long pass to **Kendrick Bourne** for a 43-yard touchdown pass to tie the game early in the 3rd quarter, the whiff of an upset, carried by a gentle Cowtown breeze, filled the air at Tillman Field. It was quickly blown away, however, by the foul stench of three flatulent Cowtown turnovers in the final 22 minutes, starting with a fluttery pass by Garoppolo that was tipped by **Cameron Sutton** and picked off by **Quandre Diggs** to setup the go-ahead, and eventual game-winning, touchdown on a 12-yard check down from **Aaron Rodgers** to **Cordarrell Patterson**. A lost fumble by **Mike Evans** and a second Jimmy G interception ensured there would be no dramatic comeback as the Corn Kings were shutout the rest of the way. Turning the ball over three times is not going to win many games against Budapest.

At The Big House in Chino, the visiting Bats pulled off a 16-14 win to secure the upper hand in what promises to be a season-long fight with the Convicts for the West Division. The Convicts let one get away from them here. Leading 14-3 late in the 3rd quarter, Chino failed to convert on 4th & 2 at the Billtown 40-yard line. The Bats turned the short field into their first touchdown drive of the day, with **Justin Herbert** dumping off under pressure to **James Conner** for a 9-yard score. Now, it is known that the *Football Gods* (yes, they exist!) in their mercy sometimes give coaches a second chance. Sure enough, **Rob Nazar** saw his offence face another 4th & 2 at the exact same spot, the 40-yard line with 4:01 left in the game, leading by four, 14-10. The Bats needed a touchdown and had struggled to move the ball all day. Pushing them back with a punt to make them have to travel farther was a fair play. The edgy Chino coach, however, did not pay heed to the subtle warning of the *Football Gods* from the previous experience and doubled down on his earlier decision. In fairness, he certainly saw this as a chance to salt the game away, but that was not the point the *Football Gods* were trying to make. In a game when your defence is making it very hard for the opponent to move the ball, and your own offence has been struggling to that point, trusting the defence is the better play. He went for it anyway and, like the first time, **Dak Prescott** threw incomplete to turn the ball over on downs. The Bats again turned the good field position into a touchdown, scoring the eventual game-winner on a **Dalvin Cook** 2-yard TD run. In their wrath, the *Football Gods* would then toy with the Chino coach. The extra point was missed, opening up a tantalizing window for a game-winning field goal to save the day. But the Bat's defence gave up ground grudgingly on the ensuing Chino drive, forcing **Harrison Butker** to attempt the game-winner from 60 yards. He shanked the kick and, with it, might as well have stuck a shank into his coach's side. This was a bitter loss for Nazar, as the unprintable transcript of his post-game presser suggests.

At Coyote Field in Cobb County, the Triumph got by the Coyotes, 23-9, in a game most notable for the ineptness of both offences in the first half and the novel decisions a coach must make when his kicker apparently cannot make a field goal past the distance

of an extra point. **Josh Lambo**, who just two years ago booted a 59-yard field goal – his career long – while a member of the Pilots, is reported to have “permanent leg tightness,” a rare condition that affects the length and accuracy of his kicks. This is, of course, a very bad thing for a kicker to have, but Cobb County coach, **Eron Osman**, is reportedly willing to “let Josh work through it.” To preserve his fragile confidence, however, he is not putting Lambo in a position to attempt kicks of more than 35 yards. The result is that the Dogs have attempted 13 fourth downs already, second only to the Swordfish, with many of them coming inside the opponent’s 35-yard line in less optimal situations. A classic example from this game was the gamble on 4th & 8 at the Triumph 21-yard line in the 3rd quarter, with Coyotes trailing 3-0. Normally, this would be a high-percentage field goal attempt, not a low-percentage 4th & long play. But with Lambo waving the coach off and pointing to his leg, Osman was forced to run a play, which failed to convert. Anyway, an extra field goal or two would have gone a long way to changing the balance of power in this hard-to-watch game. For one half of play the offences disgraced themselves, with the only points going to the Triumph on a 43-yard **Dustin Hopkins** field goal. Finally, on Twin Cities’ first play from scrimmage of the second half, **Jameis Winston**, who had looked like Jameis Winston to that point, let loose with a dart deep down field to **Antonio Brown**, who did the rest for a 79-yard TD to give them a two-point lead, 9-0. If all you saw from this game was that highlight, you would think that Winston and Brown had great chemistry going. That was not the case in the rest of the game, however, with Winston completing just 3 of 9 for 28 yards to Brown on his other targets, causing the mercurial and likely brain-damaged Brown to throw his helmet at the bench after Winston overthrew him in the end zone on 4th & goal from the 3-yard line. Anyway, any rhythm the Coyotes got going was cancelled out by turnovers – four of them – one going the other way for a TD by the Triumph defence. Twin Cities made fewer mistakes and emerged the winner, but nobody is handing out awards to the offence. Defensive tackle, **Kenny Clark**, earned player-of-the-game honours for his two strip-sacks of **Ryan Tannehill**. Brace yourselves – the week gets worse...

At The Fortress in Bruxelles, the Violators got their offence rolling early for the first time this year, piling up a 30-0 lead before easing up and gliding to a 3-14 win over the Bombers. Virden got some help from their defence and an aggressive Bruxelles offence in the first quarter, when the Bombers decided to go for it on 4th & 1 at their own 34-yard line (notice a theme here in Week 3?) **Jared Goff** audibled at the line, dropped back to pass and was brought down by **C.J. Mosley** for a 10-yard loss. Three plays later **Patrick Mahomes** ran it into the end zone for Virden's second TD of the quarter and a 14-0 lead. On top of being bad for most of the game, the Bombers were a little unlucky. They forced two Mahomes fumbles, but both bounced to Virden players, the second one picked up by fullback **Elijhaa Penny**, who ran it in to the end zone to make the score 24-0 in the 2nd quarter.

At Thermopylae Stadium in Pickering, the Spartans exploded for 24 points in the 2nd quarter, which came on top of 14 points in the 1st quarter, to give them an overwhelming 38-8 halftime lead. They would go on to beat the Blue Eagles, 38-14 to grab their first win of the season and send Scarborough to 0-3. It was shocking how quickly this game got away from the visitors and the shock obviously affected the judgement of somebody on the Blue Eagles’ sideline. Trailing 21-7, the Eagles went for it on 4th & 18 at the Spartans’ 33-yard line. 4th & 18! I can’t see even our Sebastian friend doing that. Coach **Kyle Shanahan** nominally called in the play, but owner **Chris Dickinson** was standing right behind him when he did so, looking manic and frustrated. The conversion failed, as it was likely to do, and the Spartans steamrolled back up the field to take a 28-7 lead on a 27-yard TD pass from **Jalen Hurts** to **Marquise Brown**, his second TD catch of the game. This was one of those Week Three “must-wins” for both teams. As every analyst on the *EFL Network* likes to remind us, “less than 5% of teams that start 0-3 end up making the playoffs.” I haven’t checked the numbers, but it sounds about right. If **Joe Burrow** continues to perform as he did in this game (3 picks, 52.2 passer rating), the Eagles will not be one of those 5%.

The Pink Panthers' ongoing freefall continues into the second year under new coach **Scott Dennis**, as Oshawa got blasted 42-21 by the Irish at Monsignor McClancy Memorial Stadium in East Elmhurst. The Irish made a mockery of one of the league's storied franchises with 3 interceptions of **Matt Ryan** – one of those pick-six – and their offence mowed down the Oshawa defence for 26 first downs, 463 total yards, and 36 additional points. **Carson Wentz** looked like a top tier QB against what looks, on paper anyway, to be a talented Oshawa back-11 that, for whatever reason, looked terminally lost all afternoon. They kept losing **Tyreek Hill** in the secondary to the point where the star wideout could hardly be missed by *any* quarterback – although Wentz still managed to miss him on 5 occasions to contrast with the 8 times that he did connect with him, for 137 yards and 2 touchdowns. **Sony Michel** rushed for over one-hundred yards at 7.0 yards per carry average. The legendary Ryan-to-**Davante Adams** connection put 162 yards and 2 touchdowns on the board for Oshawa, but it was a hollow achievement in light of the overall second-rate performance of the team. Who knows where this is all going for Dennis and the Pink Panthers? Expect them to play the “alternate” black jersey card very soon. But if that doesn’t work...?

At Kingdome in Seattle, the Cubs took care of an arch-nemesis with a 40-19 thumping of the Pilots. **Joe Mixon** rushed for 148 yards and two touchdowns on 26 carries, while **Russell Wilson** added 210 yards and two TD passes through the air. The dubious Cubs’ defence gave up plenty of yards, but also took the ball away 3 times to turn a solid win into a rout. The Pilots seem to have settled on **Drew Lock** as their starter, but when the game looked lost, **Sam Darnold** came on in the 4th quarter, only to promptly turn the ball over twice. I must say that I expected a better effort from the home team here, but the Cubs are playing with an attitude and aggression so far in a year where expectations were low. If they keep this up, those expectations will grow in a hurry.

And finally, at Stone Pony Shore in New Jersey, the Wrecking Balls demolished the Patriots 30-14. Okay, “demolish” may be too strong a word for what was merely a comfortable victory, but I was dying to use it connection with the *Wrecking Balls* because that is what wrecking balls do; they *demolish* things. **Deebo Samuel** provided the main highlights here, taking a screen pass in from 23 yards then running it from the backfield into the end zone from 14 yards out for their first two TDs of the game. **Matt Stafford** threw a TD pass to **Austin Hooper** for good measure then coasted the rest of the way, as the Pats’ offence under **Kenny Pickett** was never coming back.

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Jimmy's WEEK FOUR PICKS

NEW JERSEY @ SCARBOROUGH (line – WRECKING BALLS by 9)

INJURIES: New Jersey – Chidobe Awuzie (QUESTIONABLE), Jamal Adams (OUT), Kwon Alexander (OUT); Scarborough – Landon Collins (QUESTIONABLE), Dustin Jones (OUT).

The Wrecking Balls were in control of the Pats from the start last week but a lack of killer instinct kept the score within respectable boundaries for an ill-equipped opponent. New Jersey has notched the wins but not enough style points to join the ranks of the elite quite yet. The Blue Eagles were never really in the game last week, making it three uncompetitive games in a row. Joe Burrow looks lost and the defence equally so. Granted, the competition has been stiff, but that there has been no hint of competence on a team that has been rebuilding for four years now, and supposedly has its franchise quarterback, has to be depressing for fans and management alike. Unless something dramatic occurs off the field, I cannot see the Blue Eagles offering any real challenge. **PICK: NEW JERSEY**

BUFFALO @ DURHAM (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 12)

INJURIES: Buffalo – Trey Flowers (OUT), Jonathan Greenard (OUT), Jaycee Horn (OUT), Kadarius Toney (OUT); Durham – Malik Reed (OUT).

The Derailers got an important win in a tough slog against the Crusaders, but the credit goes more to the defence than Lamar Jackson's offence. In fact, a Jackson fumble led directly to the only Peg City touchdown in the game. There is no chemistry between Jackson and his receivers and opponents are keying on Lamar more than they are the Buffalo running backs. The opposition gets more difficult this week against the Thunder Lizards, a team that just passed its sternest test of the young season with a hard-fought win over York. Josh Allen has not been sacked, nor has he been picked off, and the secondary has imposed a no-fly zone on opposing quarterbacks. This is not the ideal scenario for a Derailer offence trying to get back on track. This is an aggressive line – one that I would normally hesitate to take, but the Derailers are so dysfunctional and the Lizards are so functional that it makes sense. **PICK: DURHAM**

COWTOWN @ COBB COUNTY (line – CORN KINGS by 5)

INJURIES: Cowtown – Rob Havenstein (DOUBTFUL), Akiem Hicks (OUT), TJ. Watt (OUT); Cobb County – DeMarcus Lawrence (OUT), Payton Turner (OUT).

The Corn Kings hung in for most of three quarters against mighty Budapest, but were unable to offer any resistance in the game's final 25 minutes. Jimmy Garoppolo was so frustrating down the stretch of that game that the coach announced, to everyone's surprise, that Davis Mills – the \$6 million back-up – would get the start this week. If Cowtown is looking to eventually replace Garoppolo, starting Mills against one of the league's weakest teams makes sense, but the Coyotes have not looked like such a pushover so far. Turnovers turned a very winnable game against them last week against Twin Cities. Ryan Tannehill still has some of that magic in his arm and the defence is not so bad that a neophyte like Mills can be expected to excel against it. With TJ Watt ruled "out," the Cowtown defence will be relying on Roquan Smith to lead it. There is only so much a middle linebacker can do. **PICK: COBB COUNTY**

SEBASTIAN @ BRUXELLES (line – BOMBERS by 6)

INJURIES: Sebastian – Justin Reid (OUT), Kendal Vickers (OUT); Bruxelles – Henry Anderson (OUT), Frank Ragnow (OUT), Jordan Whitehead (OUT).

The Swordfish got into the 'Win' column last week thanks to some bold risks on 4th down that turned out well and the ineptness of the Hawks' offence. It was not exactly the kind of performance, however, that has Fish fans buzzing about the return of the offence to last year's form. If this team has to settle for five field goals a game it is not going to win many games. The Bombers were shot down last

week by Virden – a reality check after their big win over Billtown. The match-up on paper for the Bruxelles offence is a good one: A strong running game against one of the league's thinnest fronts. But the Fish like to gamble on defence as much as on offence and when they guess right, they can be effective. Can the Bombers exploit it when they guess wrong? Uh...I don't think so. **PICK: SEBASTIAN**

YORK @ CHARLESWOOD (line – EXCALIBURS by 10)

INJURIES: York – Brandon Scherff (OUT), Jabari Zuniga (OUT); Charleswood – Michael Ojemudia (OUT), Asante Samuel Jr., (OUT), Ronnie Stanley (OUT), Laremy Tunsil (OUT);

The Pats got their best effort of the year so far from Kenny Pickett last week in a losing cause. Unfortunately, the running game they count on to take the heat off their young QB was mostly a non-factor. This week they face a York team that is much better than its losing record suggests. Last week they gave Durham a run for their money, but Tom Brady was unable to deliver any late game heroics. This is an opportunity to test the offensive tactics they need down the stretch to pull out those close games against elite opponents. If they don't work against the Pats, they won't work on Budapest or Durham. Seriously though, the Swords need to make a statement in this game – to themselves and to their opposition. Nothing is a gimme in this league, but sometimes a team is ripe for the picking. **PICK: YORK**

PICKERING @ VIRDEN (line – VIOLATORS by 8)

INJURIES Pickering – Kyle Dugger (OUT), Willie Gay (OUT), Romeo Okwara (OUT). **Virden** – Anthony Barr (OUT);

The Violators rank third among the four unbeaten teams in the power rankings, which is about right given the hard work they had to put in to dispatch Peg City and Charleswood. Last week we caught a glimpse of what this team should be, as they got off to a quick start against a decent Bruxelles defence and never let the Bombers back in the game. The Spartans are one of those teams you have to jump on early. If you let them get ahead or hang around, they get progressively more dangerous, although Jalen Hurts has yet to have that defining comeback moment. Last week, the offence under Hurts looked the best it's been so far, but that was against Scarborough. Virden will pose a truer test. I don't normally put much stock in team data after just three games, but the Spartans' pass defence is tied for the lead in picks, is ranked second in passer rating, and has a history of performance with Xavien Howard in the secondary. The Violators won't be able to pass with impunity, which will make for a slower, lower-scoring game. **PICK: PICKERING**

TWIN CITIES @ BROOKLIN (line – TRIUMPH by 6)

INJURIES: Twin Cities – Chris Wormley (DOUBTFUL), Jaire Alexander (OUT), Emmanuel Moseley (OUT); **Brooklin** – Sam Hubbard (DOUBTFUL).

The turnover was the big difference-maker for the Triumph last week, as Jameis Winston looked like Bad Jameis for the second week in a row. Fans are clamouring more than ever for Trevor Lawrence, but the Triumph coach is sticking to his plan – whatever it is. This does not bode well for them in a hostile environment at Hawkeye Park, where the Hawks seem to have some magic going, even if it wasn't in evidence last week. Derek Carr did struggle in that game, which is a concern, given how focused Sebastian was on Austin Ekeler and how unremarkable the Fish secondary is. The Triumph have the most efficient run defence after three weeks, but they are missing two of their most talented young corners. Expect Ekeler to be a decoy and for Carr to attempt to exploit that weakness, in the hope young receivers, Drake London and Van Jefferson, emerge to make opponents pay for their focus on DeAndre Hopkins. **PICK: BROOKLIN**

PEG CITY @ BUDAPEST (line – NORTH STARS by 13)

INJURIES: Peg City – None. **Budapest** – Cameron Jordan (OUT), Elgton Jenkins (OUT);

It is still early, but it appears that the Crusaders rebuild is ahead of schedule on defence and behind schedule on offence. This has resulted in low-scoring games all three weeks. That is about to end this week – not because the Pegs are any less plucky, determined and, yes, talented on the back side, but because, like all good defences in this league, they are not good enough to stop Aaron Rodgers and the trio of aerial terror comprised of Stefon Diggs, Justin Jefferson and George Kittle. Going all in to stop this group will call to order the Running Back Committee, chaired by Cordarrell Patterson, which brings a peculiar torture of its own. Then there is the unlikelihood of Mac Jones being able to do anything against the Star's defence...and...this game is in Budapest! I could go on... **PICK: BUDAPEST**

ERIEAU @ CHINO (line – CONVICTS by 1)

INJURIES: Erieau – Joey Bosa (DOUBTFUL), Stephon Gilmore (OUT). **Chino** – AJ Terrell (QUESTIONABLE), Za'Darius Smith (OUT).

There is understandable excitement in Erieau about the coming out party by Kyler Murray last week against the Glads. Murray posted a perfect passer rating in throwing for over 300 yards and 3 touchdowns, bringing a sting on offence not seen since...well, just not seen ever from the Cadillac. Let's not get too carried away with it, I say. No disrespect to the Glads but they were missing their two top corners on a secondary that is not very good to begin with. Having said that, perfect passer ratings don't come along every day, even against bad defences, so let's wait and see how they handle the Convicts and AJ Terrell. Chino is coming off a tough loss to Billtown – a

game they would like to replay the 4th quarter of. They lost Christian McCaffrey in that game, which is a big blow. However, the Convicts have a long history of brawling when they are down, and the nasty home town crowd will egg them on. **PICK: CHINO**

IOWA CITY @ OSHAWA (line – CUBS by 4)

INJURIES: Iowa City – Chauncey Golston (DOUBTFUL), Tre Brown (OUT); Oshawa – J.J. Watt (OUT);

The Cubs have been a pleasant surprise, unless you are one of those Cubs fans hoping for a high draft pick next year. Russell Wilson leads all passers, Joe Mixon leads all rushers, and AJ Brown and Christian Kirk are making big plays. The defence is a sieve, but making timely takeaways. The Pink Panthers, on the other hand, continue to be a disappointment. To add insult to the injury of a struggling offence, the veneer of a respectable defence was stripped away by the Irish last week. Carson Wentz throwing four touchdown passes against you is a bright red flag. So, will this be the week that the Pink Panthers recover and the Cubs come down to earth? My brain says this almost has to be so, if everything we think we know about Matt Ryan is still true and the Cubs' defence is so young and bad. My gut is a little nervous, however, as I've been here before. Still, that is a lot of points to give the Cubs on the road. **PICK: OSHAWA**

GEORGIA @ BILLTOWN (line – BATS by 4)

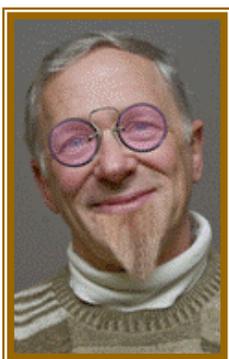
INJURIES: Georgia – Kristian Fulton (OUT); Billtown – Shaquill Griffin (OUT), Xavier Rhodes (OUT);

The Bats came from behind to beat Chino last week in an important intra-division match. The win will wash away the anxiety for the moment, but the struggles of Justin Herbert and the Bats offence are beginning to cause concern in Nevada, where calculations are being re-calculated based on the new data that suggests the offence is sluggish at best, or bad at worst. I attribute much of this to a new coach, a new system, and the trauma of having the former coach charged with murder. Herbert and the Bats will find their way, perhaps even beginning this week against the ripe-for-plucking Glads. Georgia was spanked by Erieau last week. The newly anointed saviour of the franchise, Tua Tagovailoa, looked awful. Kyler Murray tore them apart on defence. There was little good to take from that game for the Glads, and every reason to fear they will continue to be horrible against tough teams. Take the Bats and sleep well. **PICK: BILLTOWN**

SEATTLE @ EAST ELMHURST (line – IRISH by 6)

INJURIES: Seattle – Cam Akers (OUT), Sebastian Joseph-Day (OUT). East Elmhurst – Spencer Buford (PROBABLE), Dexter Lawrence (DOUBTFUL).

Perhaps it was due to an emotional letdown after nearly upsetting New Jersey the week before, but the Pilots regressed to an expansion-grade level last week against a team they usually are up for, the Cubs. Turnovers, and the inability to stop the run, sunk them and the game turned into a blowout in the second half. The Irish remain unbeaten after manhandling the Pink Panthers last week. Concerns about their offence were alleviated by the 463 yards and the bucket of points they posted against an ostensibly good Oshawa defence. The Pilots' 'D' is not even ostensibly good, ranking near the bottom in nearly everything. This line is what?? **PICK: EAST ELMHURST**



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This Week in EFL History
With Professor Sterling Smitherman

FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – Week Three of the 2016 EFL season was a week of notable upsets, with Mohave's barn-burning 45-38 win over Brooklin catching the most attention at the time. **Ryan Fitzpatrick** was awarded Offensive Player of the Week for his performance in that contest, completing 21 of 28 passes for 284 yards and 4 TDs. Mohave was 0-2 coming into the game while the division-leading Hawks were 2-0. This created the illusion of a bigger upset than it was, as the Hellfire would go on to have a rare 500 season under **Bobby Elder**, just one game behind **Tom Jones'** Hawks by the end of the year.

In York, **Josh Doctson** caught a pass over the middle from **Tom Brady** and ran it 73 yards for a TD as the Excaliburs built up a 26-0 lead over the reigning Can-Am Conference Champion Aurora Mustangs. They would go on to subdue Aurora 32-13 and drop them to 1-2. This was, indeed, a big upset. The high-powered Mustangs offence managed just 252 yards and turned the ball over 5 times, with **Matt Ryan** causing them all with 4 interceptions and 1 lost fumble. Kurt Coleman, York Safety, would earn Defensive Player of the Week honours for his 2 interceptions in this game. Aurora would not lose again in the regular season that year.

At the Carolina Slammer, **Justin Tucker** booted a 51-yard field goal with 0:01 left to cap a 4th-quarter comeback and finish off a clutch 27-24 win over the favoured North Stars. South Carolina tied it with 1:50 left on a 4th & goal 5-yard TD pass from **Kirk Cousins** to **Andre Johnson**. They then got the ball back with a minute left to set up the game-winning drive.

In other notable performances, **Adrian Peterson** of Chino rushed for 156 yards and 1 TD on 32 carries in a losing effort against Twin Cities. **TY Hilton** of Durham caught 6 passes for 187 yards and 1 TD to star in a dominant 31-3 win over Scarborough.