

2011



2011

WEEK SIXTEEN IN REVIEW

January 29, 2012

IN-VINCIBLE



LATEST EFL NEWS INSIDE

THE GAMES

CORN KINGS CONQUER SPARTANS
LIZARDS LIVE!

- GLADS SHOOT DOWN EAGLES
- REGULATORS RISE OUT OF BASEMENT
- CONVICTS ON DEATH ROW
- KNIGHTS NIP CUBBIES
- YORK COMES UP SHORT
- PATS BLANK MOHAVE

COMMENT

“Death of a Dynasty,” “Cowtown is King,” “Dr. McChad’s Post-Season Post-Mortem “Around the EFL,” and more – Spats McChad

PREDICTIONS

“There will be one upset in the Quarter Finals. Do you know which one?” Jimmy knows! – Jimmy the Geek

Vince Young (left) rolls out from the pocket with his eyes downfield. Young tossed two TD passes in relief of Big Ben in a 24-7 comeback victory over Scarborough to take the South Division title. *(Story inside)*



Who was slick in Week Sixteen?

“BRYLCREEM” THE EFL’S FIRST SPONSOR



Philip Rivers
QB
Durham
Thunder Lizards

23 of 30, 255 yds, 4 TDs, 141.0 Rating. Big day in must win game.



Terrell Thomas
CB
Cowtown
Corn Kings

4 tackles, 1 INT returned 30 yards for division-winning TD

POZZO

POZZO

CORN KINGS' COMEBACK TAKES NORTH!



**PICKERING
SPARTANS**

13

22

**COWTOWN
CORN KINGS**



SPARTAN OF THE GAME	Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total	CORN KING OF THE GAME
Chris Johnson	PICKERING (14-2)	3	10	0	0	-	13	Aaron Kampman
16 carries, 53 yards, 1 TD	COWTOWN (14-2)	0	3	14	5	-	22	3 Sacks, 1 Pressure, 1 Safety

HIGHLIGHT REEL: Joe Flacco completed 16 of 25 for 158 yards, 1 TDs, 1 INT for a game day QB rating of 78.4.

- **Zach Miller** caught 7 passes for 54 yards, 4 1st downs and 1 TD.
- **Terrell Thomas** made 4 tackles and intercepted a pass for a 30-yard TD on the return.
- **Matt Cassel** completed 18 of 32 for 137 yards, 2 INTs and was sacked 5 times for a game day QB rating of 40.8.
- **Mercedes Lewis** caught 5 passes for 46 yards to lead Pickering in receiving.

GAME SUMMARY: The Spartans held the ball for 13:38 minutes in the 1st quarter but came away with only 3 points on a 39-yard Josh Scobee field goal off the opening drive. Pickering's second foray into Corn Kings' territory came to a sudden halt when **Vontae Davis** intercepted **Matt Cassel** on a deep throw to **Anquan Boldin** for his first pick of the year. Cowtown converted that turnover into a 35-yard **Olindo Mare** field goal at the end of their only sustained drive of the 1st half. Pickering got the ball back in great field position at the Cowtown 20 following a 79-yard kickoff return by **Percy Harvin**. Three straight carries by **Chris Johnson** brought it into the end zone as the Spartans' star punched it through the center of the line from 6 yards out for six points and a 10-3 lead. While the defence held their ground, Cowtown's offence struggled. **Joe Flacco** was picked off on the first play of a two-minute drill by **Joe Haden** at the Cowtown 36 yard line. The Spartans drove to 9 yard line where a 3rd and 9 pass to Harvin came up one yard short of the end zone, forcing a 21-yard Scobee field goal as time expired to give Pickering a 13-3 half time lead. The Corn Kings' 1st possession of the 2nd half went nowhere as **Aubrayo Franklin** brought down Flacco for a 9-yard loss to force a punt. The Spartans, however, could not put the game away and had to punt in turn. From their 20, the Corn Kings opened with an 18-yard run by back-up **Bernard Scott** and picked up momentum on a 12-yard pass to **Devery Henderson** to convert 3rd and 8 at mid-field. A 17-yard pass to **Santana Moss** on 3rd and 1 set up an 8-yard TD pass to **Zach Miller** to make it 13-10. The turning point came soon after when **Terrell Thomas** intercepted Cassel and returned it 30 yards for a TD, suddenly putting Cowtown in the lead, 17-13. From that point on, the Pickering offence was stymied, gaining just 2 first downs the rest of the way. After a field goal made it 20-13, the Corn Kings finished it off and grabbed the North Division title with a safety by **Aaron Kampman** on the 2nd of his 3 sacks on the day.



THE FANS LOVED
Terrell Thomas turnaround!

THE FANS HATED
Cassel sacked 5 times



FAN RATING



01-26-2012 Tillman Field Temp: 26 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: Zach Miller

1 6:08 Pickering	FG Scobee 39 (16-57-8:41)	3-0
2 9:35 Cowtown	FG Mare 35 (10-68-5:22)	3-3
2 7:53 Pickering	TD Johnson 6 run (Scobee) (4-20-1:36)	10-3
2 0:00 Pickering	FG Scobee 21 (7-33-1:30)	13-3
3 3:55 Cowtown	TD Flacco 8 pass to Miller (Mare) (10-80-6:35)	13-10
3 3:25 Cowtown	TD Thomas 30 interception return (Mare) (0-0-0:22)	13-17
4 7:21 Cowtown	FG Mare 28 (10-51-3:54)	13-20
4 2:08 Cowtown	Safety Kampman	13-22

	PIC	COW
First Downs	15	15
Rushes	28-93	25-105
Passes	32-18-137	25-16-158
Sacked	5-22	1-9
Fumble	1	1
Penalties	7-30	6-47
Turnovers	2	1
Time	30:19	29:41
Third Down	4-15	2-11
Fourth Down	2-3	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/1	3/1/2
Net Offense	208	254



INJURIES

PICKERING – None

COWTOWN – Maurice Jones-Drew (PG-2nd); Marcell Dareus (1 game-OUT)

QUOTE OF THE GAME

"This felt like a playoff game and we responded. We beat the Champs. Now they gotta take us seriously! We are Kings of the North!" – Corn King CB, **Terrell Thomas**.

RIVERS THROWS 4 TDS AS DINOS PREVAIL!



**MARKHAM
NORTH STARS**

16

31

**DURHAM THUNDER
LIZARDS**



NORTH STAR OF THE GAME	Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total	LIZARD OF THE GAME
DeAngelo Williams	MARKHAM (4-12)	3	10	3	0	-	16	Philip Rivers
19 carries, 126 yards, 44 long	DURHAM (9-7)	7	10	7	7	-	31	23 of 30, 255 yards, 4 TDs

HIGHLIGHT REEL: Antonio Gates caught 9 passes for 90 yards and 3 TDs

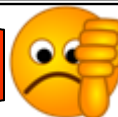
- Reggie Bush rushed for 52 yards on 6 carries and Michael Turner 42 yards on 16 carries.
- Calvin Johnson caught 5 passes for 83 yards and 1 TD.
- Mark Sanchez completed 20 of 36 for 238 yards, 1 TD and 1 INT for a game day QB rating of 73.6.
- Kenny Britt made 5 receptions for 74 yards and 1 TD and Patrick Crayton caught 4 passes for 59 yards.
- Trent Cole made 4 tackles, stuffed one run, and made 3 QB Pressures.

GAME SUMMARY: Adrian Wilson picked off Mark Sanchez at the Durham 40 yard line on Markham's opening drive to set up a 6-play counter-strike that featured 14 and 22-yard completions to Calvin Johnson and finished with an 18-yard TD pass to Antonio Gates for a quick 7-0 Durham lead. Markham answered with a 42-yard David Akers field goal, set up by a 39-yard completion to Patrick Crayton; but the Thunder Lizards came right back with an 89-yard drive, keyed by a 28-yard run by Reggie Bush, to widen the margin to 14-3 on a 6-yard TD pass to Gates. Markham bounced back with a 44-yard run by DeAngelo Williams and a 12-yard pass interference penalty against Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie to eventually reach the Durham 5 yard line, but had to settle for another field goal to make it 14-6 after Sanchez threw too high for Jahvid Best on 3rd down. Durham increased their lead to 17-6 with a 31-yard Adam Vinatieri field goal, but Markham got back in the game in the final minute of the first half after forcing Durham to punt from their own 3 yard line. Starting at their 49, Markham got a 10-yard run on 3rd and 1 by Williams to the Durham 32 where, two plays later, Sanchez connected with Kenny Britt on a long pass for a 32-yard TD to make the score 17-13 for the Lizards at half time. After Durham went 3-and-out to start the 2nd half, Markham drove 69 yards to the Durham 6 yard line but could not gain a single yard from there and settled for a 24-yard field goal to pull within 1 point, trailing 17-16. From there, the Lizards broke out and dominated the rest of the game. Brandon Banks returned the ensuing kickoff 31 yards to his 41 then Philip Rivers found Gates for 14 yards on 3rd and 10. Four plays later, Johnson took a short cross from Rivers 28 yards to the house for the big score and a 24-16 lead. Durham added another TD pass from Rivers to Gates to round off the scoring and help secure a wildcard playoff berth.



THE FANS LOVED
Rivers breaks out!

THE FANS HATED
Markham pink in red zone



FAN RATING



01-25-2012 Jurassic Park Temp: 78 Wind: Calm None MVP: Philip Rivers

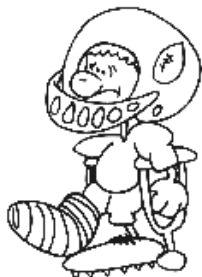
1 9:59 Durham	TD Rivers 18 pass to Gates (Vinatieri) (6-60-3:26)	0-7
1 6:04 Markham	FG Akers 42 (8-65-3:40)	3-7
2 12:22 Durham	TD Rivers 6 pass to Gates (Vinatieri) (16-89-8:35)	3-14
2 8:20 Markham	FG Akers 23 (9-72-3:54)	6-14
2 3:03 Durham	FG Vinatieri 31 (10-52-5:06)	6-17
2 0:10 Markham	TD Sanchez 32 pass to Britt (Akers) (5-51-1:09)	13-17
3 5:41 Markham	FG Akers 24 (14-69-6:58)	16-17
3 2:26 Durham	TD Rivers 28 pass to Johnson (Vinatieri) (7-59-3:07)	16-24
4 9:23 Durham	TD Rivers 13 pass to Gates (Vinatieri) (12-78-6:52)	16-31

	MAR	DTL
First Downs	19	23
Rushes	25-142	30-101
Passes	36-20-238	30-23-255
Sacked	1-6	0-0
Fumble	2	0
Penalties	6-44	6-41
Turnovers	2	0
Time	28:49	31:11
Third Down	5-13	10-13
Fourth Down	3-4	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/0/3	4/3/1
Net Offense	374	356

INJURIES

MARKHAM – Casey Matthews (1 game-WHO CARES);
Akeem Ayers (1 game-WHO CARES)

DURHAM – Jason Jones (1 game-OUT)



QUOTE OF THE GAME

“Go Glads Go!!!” – Chant at the end of the game from the ‘Dino Soeurs,’ Durham’s French-Canadian cheerleaders.

YOUNG LEADS GLADS TO FIRST TITLE!



**GWINNETT
GLADIATORS**

24

7

**SCARBOROUGH
BLUE EAGLES**



GLADIATOR OF THE GAME

LeSean McCoy

94 rush yds, 21 rec yds, 1 TD

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
GWINNETT (11-5)	0	3	7	14	-	24
SCARBOROUGH (9-7)	7	0	0	0	-	7

BLUE EAGLE OF THE GAME

Ndamukong Suh

2 sacks, 2 QB hurries, 2 FF

HIGHLIGHT REEL: **Vince Young** went 7 of 9 for 96 yards and 2 TDs for a game day QB rating of 150.7. He also rushed for 35 yards.

- **Ben Roethlisberger** completed 7 of 14 for 60 yards, 1 INT and he fumbled twice. He was removed from the game.
- **D.J. Williams** made 6 tackles, 2 sacks, 1 deflection, 1 run stuff and 1 QB hurry to lead the defence from the center.
- **Aaron Rodgers** completed 22 of 41 for 181 yards, 1 TD and 1 INT for a game day QB rating of 63.2.
- **Ray Rice** rushed for 42 yards on 14 carries and caught 5 passes for 33 yards.
- **Lance Moore** caught 6 passes for 38 yards and 1 TD, while **Brandon Marshall** was held to 3 catches for 30 yards.

GAME SUMMARY: In a first half dominated by the defences on both sides, it was the Scarborough offence that struck first after a **Brandon Meriweather** interception gave them the ball at the Gwinnett 11 yard line. Two plays later, **Aaron Rodgers** dodged the blitz and checked down to **Lance Moore** for a 4-yard TD pass to give the Blue Eagles a 7-0 lead. The Glads got back a portion of that on their next possession after passes of 29 and 12 yards from **Ben Roethlisberger** to **Jeremy Maclin** and an 11-yard run by **LeSean McCoy** spurred them deep into Scarborough territory. However, the Scarborough defence stiffened in the red zone and Gwinnett was forced to settle for a 23-yard **Josh Brown** field goal to make the score 7-3 early in the 2nd quarter. The score would remain that way as both defences smothered their respective opponent through the remainder of the first half and well into the 3rd quarter. After **Ndamukong Suh** sacked and stripped Roethlisberger of the ball on Gwinnett's second possession of the 2nd half, the Gladiator coach made a bold switch at quarterback, inserting **Vince Young** into the game. The move paid off with a 35-yard gainer off right tackle by Young and a fortunate fumble recovery at the end of the run to keep the drive alive. Six plays later, Young found **Reggie Wayne** on a curl route in the end zone from 13 yards to put the Glads on top 10-7. On the first play of the 4th quarter, Rodgers fumbled the snap and Gladiator inside linebacker **DJ Williams** pounced on it for the recovery at the Scarborough 31. **Ahmad Bradshaw** burned the Blue Eagles for 24 yards on 3 carries then McCoy snared a quick slant from Young for a 7-yard TD pass to make it 17-7. The swarming Gwinnett defence completely shut down the Scarborough offence the rest of the way, opening the door for a final TD drive to put the game out of reach. Well before the final gun, the Gladiators started celebrating their first Division Title.



THE FANS LOVED

Ball control = Pats' Points

THE FANS HATED

17 mins with ball for York



FAN RATING



01-24-2012 Bluffs Stadium Temp: 31 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: **LeSean McCoy**

1 3:28	Scarborough	TD Rodgers 4 pass to Moore (Janikowski) (2-11-0:48)	0-7
2 14:35	Gwinnett	FG Brown 23 (9-63-3:47)	3-7
3 1:18	Gwinnett	TD Young 13 pass to Wayne (Brown,J) (7-65-4:23)	10-7
4 12:37	Gwinnett	TD Young 7 pass to McCoy (Brown,J) (4-31-2:19)	17-7
4 4:58	Gwinnett	TD Bradshaw 4 run (Brown,J) (5-55-2:30)	24-7

	GWG	SBE
First Downs	15	15
Rushes	27-159	21-62
Passes	23-14-156	41-22-181
Sacked	4-33	2-16
Fumble	4	1
Penalties	6-35	10-82
Turnovers	2	2
Time	29:18	30:42
Third Down	3-15	4-16
Fourth Down	0-0	2-4
Red Att/Td/Fg	5/3/1	2/1/0
Net Offense	282	227



INJURIES

GWINNETT – Robert Mathis (PG-4th)

SCARBOROUGH – None

QUOTE OF THE GAME

“As a franchise, this has to be our biggest win so far. Coming into Scarborough and beating them for the South Division title is big – big, big, big!” – *Gwinnett coach, Dave Birdsall.*

REGULATORS PUT DOWN MUSTANGS!



**SOUTH CAROLINA
REGULATORS**

21

0

**GARLAND
MUSTANGS**



REGULATOR OF THE GAME

Tony Romo

25 of 29, 276 yards, 2 TDs

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
SOUTH CAROLINA (5-11)	7	7	7	0	-	21
GARLAND (4-12)	0	0	0	0	-	0

MUSTANG OF THE GAME

Eddie Royal

6 receptions, 84 yards

HIGHLIGHT REEL: **Chris Cooley** caught 10 passes for 105 yards, 1 TD and 5 first downs.

- **Frank Gore** rushed for 81 yards and 1 TD on 27 carries and added 3 receptions for 41 yards and another TD.
- Regulator defensive end, **Richard Seymour** made 6 tackles, notched 2 sacks and forced a fumble.
- **Matt Ryan** completed 15 of 26 for 169 yards, 1 INT for a game day QB rating of 61.2.
- **Tim Hightower** rushed for 68 yards on 16 carries.
- **Karlos Dansby** made 11 tackles and forced a fumble.

GAME SUMMARY: A sparse crowd estimated at less than 15,000 watched on as the South Carolina Regulators took aim at the Garland secondary to hang 21 points on the board while their defence posted their first shutout in franchise history. Going back to the dawn of the EFL as the Kutztown Golden Bears, the franchise had never shut out an opponent until this week. The Mustangs passed up a final opportunity to crack the goose egg when, trailing 21-0 in the 4th quarter, they elected to go for it on 4th and goal at the Regulators' 5 yard line instead of attempting the easy field goal. But South Carolina linebacker **EJ Henderson** batted away a dump-off intended for **Wes Welker** to preserve the zero. South Carolina opened in the scoring in the first quarter as **Tony Romo** completed 8 of 10 for 81 yards on a drive that ended with an 11-yard TD strike to **Chris Cooley**. After a three-and-out by Garland on their next possession, South Carolina started in good field position and soon added to their lead with a 16-yard TD run by **Frank Gore** on a pitch to the left side. The Mustangs responded with a strong thrust into Regulator territory after a 33-yard kickoff return by **Emmanuel Sanders** gave them good field position to start the drive. With the help of a 3rd down pass interference penalty against **Tracy Porter**, Garland reached inside the South Carolina red zone but was pushed back by a holding penalty on **Trent Williams** and then stopped cold when **Matt Ryan** was intercepted by **Kendrick Lewis** at the 9. Another opportunity to break the shutout was missed at the end of the 1st half when **Robbie Gould** missed a 32-yard field goal as time expired to keep the score 14-0 at half time. The Mustangs opened the 2nd half with the ball and made a pair of first downs before stalling at the Regulator 42. Facing 4th and 2 there, they went for it and missed, leading to the final South Carolina TD six plays later on a 22-yard screen pass to Gore.



THE FANS LOVED
Nearly flawless Romo

THE FANS HATED
Mustangs 0 for 4 in red zone



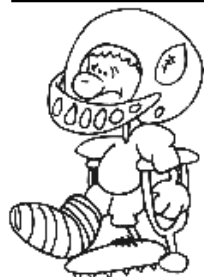
FAN RATING

★ 1/2

01-24-2012 The Corral Temp: 58 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: Tony Romo

- 1 1:06 South Carolina TD Romo 11 pass to Cooley (Kaeding) (13-72-7:33) 7-0
- 2 9:51 South Carolina TD Gore 16 run (Kaeding) (9-54-4:54) 14-0
- 3 8:36 South Carolina TD Romo 22 pass to Gore (Kaeding) (6-57-3:25) 21-0

	SC	GDM
First Downs	19	15
Rushes	28-80	25-91
Passes	29-25-276	26-15-169
Sacked	1-7	3-17
Fumble	1	1
Penalties	8-58	4-40
Turnovers	0	2
Time	32:29	27:31
Third Down	5-11	6-14
Fourth Down	2-4	0-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/2/0	4/0/0
Net Offense	349	243



INJURIES

SOUTH CAROLINA – None

GARLAND – None

QUOTE OF THE GAME

“You give Tony Romo time to throw the ball and he will perform surgery on the defence. Even the Mustangs realized that and sent blitzers for the first time all year. It didn't help.” – *The State writer, Johnny Rebb.*

KASAY KICK CAPS OFF COMEBACK!



**CHINO
CONVICTS**

17

0

**DEATH VALLEY
UNDERTAKERS**



CONVICT OF THE GAME

Cam Newton

114 yds passing, 74 yds rushing

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
CHINO (5-11)	7	0	3	7	-	17
DEATH VALLEY (9-7)	0	0	7	13	-	20

UNDERTAKER OF THE GAME

Drew Brees

43 of 58, 379 yds, 2 TDs, 1 INT

HIGHLIGHT REEL: Andre Johnson caught 9 passes for 131 yards and 7 first downs but no touchdowns.

- **Mario Manningham, DeMarco Murray** and **Braylon Edwards** caught 8 passes each but only one (Murray) found the end zone.
- Death Valley linebacker **Ray Lewis** made 9 tackles, intercepted a pass and returned it 15 yards to the Chino 1 yard line.
- **Cam Newton** completed 12 of 18 for 114 yards, 2 TDs, 1 INT and rushed 10 times for 74 yards to lead the offence.
- Seldom-used **Mark Clayton** caught 4 passes for 36 yards and **Derrick Mason** caught 3 for 61 yards and 1 TD.
- **James Harrison** made 7 tackles, dumped the quarterback twice and forced 2 fumbles in a losing cause.

GAME SUMMARY: On a frigid day at the Graveyard, **Jon Kasay** kicked a frozen football 56 yards for the game-winning field goal in the closing seconds to complete a second half comeback by the Undertakers over the Convicts. In a game without playoff implications, both squads played hard and gave fans their money's worth. For a while it appeared that the struggling Convicts would end the season on a positive note, as they shut down the high-powered Undertakers' offence while managing to score the only points of the first half. With Death Valley driving into Chino territory on their second possession, **Drew Brees** fumbled the snap and Chino linebacker **James Harrison** pounced on the loose ball. The Convicts took advantage of the turnover by driving down the field on the strength of a 27-yard run by **Cam Newton** and a 27-yard pass completion to fullback **Mike Sellers**; capping it off with a 7-yard TD pass to **Chad Ochocinco** to make it 7-0. The score would stay that way until the 3rd quarter, when **Ray Lewis** picked off Newton deep in Chino territory and returned it 15 yards to the 1 yard line. On the next play Brees found **Kendall Hunter** open in the end zone for a 1-yard TD to tie the game. A 50-yard pass completion to **Derrick Mason** set up Chino for a 38-yard **Billy Cundiff** field goal to regain the lead, but the Undertakers tied it up with a 29-yard Kasay field goal early in the 4th quarter. The stage was set for a furious exchange of touchdowns starting with an 8-yard TD pass from Brees to **DeMarco Murray** to top off an 8-play, 84-yard drive; and answered by the Convicts with a 7-yard TD pass to Mason, set up by a 38-yard run by **Steven Jackson** and a 16-yard pass to **Mark Clayton**. Brees topped off a record-setting day by commanding a time-consuming 46-yard drive for Kasay's winning kick.



THE FANS LOVED
Frantic 4th quarter

THE FANS HATED
Time expiring on the Convicts



FAN RATING



01-27-2012 The Graveyard Temp: 16 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: **Drew Brees**

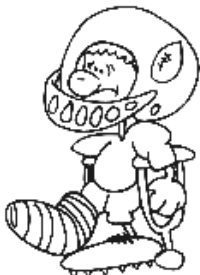
1 1:36	Chino	TD Newton 7 pass to Ochocinco (Cundiff) (5-71-2:58)	7-0
3 13:24	Death Valley	TD Brees 1 pass to Hunter (Kasay) (1-1-0:03)	7-7
3 8:59	Chino	FG Cundiff 38 (7-58-4:14)	10-7
4 14:14	Death Valley	FG Kasay 29 (14-72-6:57)	10-10
4 7:04	Death Valley	TD Brees 8 pass to Murray (Kasay) (9-84-4:30)	10-17
4 3:11	Chino	TD Newton 7 pass to Mason (Cundiff) (8-77-3:48)	17-17
4 0:23	Death Valley	FG Kasay 56 (13-46-2:37)	17-20

	CHI	DVU
First Downs	10	23
Rushes	24-135	18-41
Passes	19-13-141	58-43-379
Sacked	4-20	3-25
Fumble	0	5
Penalties	4-25	7-50
Turnovers	1	3
Time	24:13	35:47
Third Down	2-11	7-17
Fourth Down	1-1	4-5
Red Att/Td/Fg	6/2/1	4/2/1
Net Offense	256	395

INJURIES

CHINO – Brodney Pool (1 game-PROBABLE)

DEATH VALLEY – None



QUOTE OF THE GAME

"That's a nasty defence. Luckily, we have a nasty offence." – *Death Valley offensive tackle, Jake Long.*

CUBS LOSE GAME BUT WIN PLAYOFF BERTH!



**LOS ANGELES
KNIGHTS**

27

24

**IOWA CITY
CUBS**



KNIGHT OF THE GAME

Josh Freeman

214 passing yds, 70 rushing yds

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
LOS ANGELES (13-3)	10	3	7	7	-	27
IOWA CITY (6-10)	10	0	7	7	-	24

CUB OF THE GAME

Mike Wallace

8 receptions, 164 yds, 1 TD

HIGHLIGHT REEL: **Arian Foster** carried the ball 18 times for 84 yards and 1 TD

- **Sam Bradford** went 26 of 42 for 337 yards, 1 TD and 1 INT for a game day QB rating of 85.1.
- **Donte Whitner** made 8 tackles, deflected one pass, and made his 3rd interception of the year, returning it 39 yards for a TD.
- **Josh Freeman** completed 20 of 40 for 214 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT and rushed for 70 yards on 12 carries.
- **Jamaal Charles** rushed for 60 yards and 1 TD on 11 carries.
- **Charles Woodson** made 12 tackles, deflected a pass and intercepted another, returning it 51 yards for a TD.

GAME SUMMARY: An erratic **Neil Rackers** missed three field goals, two of them in the 4th quarter, as the Cubs fell by a 3-point margin to the Knights in a game they needed to win to control their playoff destiny. Despite the loss, the Cubs advanced to the post-season as the fourth seed because of York's loss to Virden. The Cubs' offence came alive for this one but it was their defence that found the end zone first when safety **Donte Whitner** jumped the route on a pass in the flat intended for **Jamaal Charles**, good for a 39-yard 'Pick Six' to give Iowa City a 10-3 lead. The Knights soon got that score back after **Eric Weems** returned the ensuing kickoff 70 yards to the Cubs' 30 yard line and 5 plays later, Charles darted around the end for a 14-yard TD run to make it 10-10. An amazing goal line stand by the Cubs, stopping the Knights four times from the half-yard line, kept the game tied until the very end of the 1st half when **Dan Carpenter** drilled a 48-yard field goal with 6 seconds left in the 2nd to make it 13-10 for LA. Cubs' returner **Michael Spurlock** answered Weems' earlier big return with his own 70-yard scamper to open the 2nd half, setting up a short field for **Sam Bradford**, who found **Mike Wallace** for a 25-yard pass completion then handed off to **Arian Foster** for a 5-yard TD run to give the Cubs a 17-13 lead. LA regained the lead on a 22-yard TD pass from **Josh Freeman** to **Roddy White**, then added another on a **Charles Woodson** interception, returned 51 yards for a TD to make the score 27-17. The Cubs charged back, converting a key 4th down and inches near mid-field before striking for six on a 12-yard TD pass to Wallace. With the Knights unable to run out the clock, the Cubs' offence twice got into position for the tying field goal, but both times Rackers missed



THE FANS LOVED
Electrifying Mike Wallace

THE FANS HATED
Rackers ruination



FAN RATING



01-28-2012 Joe Ferguson Stadium Temp: 28 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: **Josh Freeman**

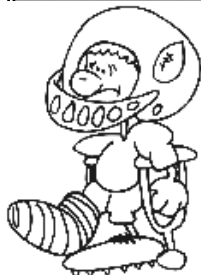
1 8:07	Los Angeles	FG Carpenter 32 (5-20-2:56)	3-0
1 3:56	Iowa City	FG Rackers 22 (7-69-4:03)	3-3
1 2:55	Iowa City	TD Whitner 39 interception return (Rackers) (0-0-0:57)	3-10
1 1:00	Los Angeles	TD Charles 14 run (Carpente,D) (5-30-1:51)	10-10
2 0:06	Los Angeles	FG Carpenter 48 (12-43-1:47)	13-10
3 14:04	Iowa City	TD Foster 5 run (Rackers) (3-30-0:50)	13-17
3 0:59	Los Angeles	TD Freeman 22 pass to White (Carpente,D) (7-73-3:54)	20-17
4 14:47	Los Angeles	TD Woodson 51 interception return (Carpente,D) (0-0-1:07)	27-17
4 7:40	Iowa City	TD Bradford 12 pass to Wallace (Rackers) (12-84-7:01)	27-24

	LAK	ICC
First Downs	25	20
Rushes	34-171	21-80
Passes	40-20-214	42-26-337
Sacked	0-0	0-0
Fumble	0	0
Penalties	3-20	3-15
Turnovers	1	1
Time	32:22	27:38
Third Down	7-16	2-11
Fourth Down	2-3	1-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/1/1	4/2/1
Net Offense	385	417

INJURIES

LOS ANGELES – None

IOWA CITY – None



QUOTE OF THE GAME

"We played them like it was a playoff game and they pushed us to the wall. We need to play better against them next week – we can't rely on their kicker every game." – LA coach, Jeff Dohn.

YORK FALLS SHORT IN MUST WIN GAME!



**VIRDEN
VIOLATORS**

27

24

**YORK
EXCALIBURS**



VIOLATOR OF THE GAME

Julio Jones

7 receptions, 130 yards, 1 TD

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
VIRDEN (5-11)	0	7	13	7	-	27
YORK (6-10)	3	7	7	7	-	24

EXCALIBUR OF THE GAME

Tom Brady

31 of 46, 315 yds, 1 TD, 1 INT

HIGHLIGHT REEL: **Eli Manning** went 14 of 21 for 189 yards and 1 TD for a game day QB rating of 111.0.

- **LeGarrette Blount** rushed for 129 yards and 1 TD on 22 carries
- Linebacker, **Paul Posluszny** made 13 tackles and deflected 1 pass while safety **Eric Berry** deflected one pass and stuffed 2 runs.
- **Roy Williams** caught 10 passes for 108 yards and 1 TD and a long of 30 yards.
- **Tony Scheffler** caught 10 passes for 96 yards and 7 first downs.
- **Cullen Jenkins** notched 2 sacks and **Tommy Kelly** had one and a forced fumble.

GAME SUMMARY: The Excaliburs looked strong early, stopping Virden three-and-out on the game's opening drive then driving 55 yards for an opening field goal from 24 yards by **Graham Gano** to make the score 3-0. York added another score as **Tom Brady** fired short to **Roy Williams**, who caught the ball in stride and dashed 30 yards for TD to give the Swords a 10-0 advantage. The Violators came back in unconventional fashion, running **LeGarrette Blount** 10 consecutive times, gashing the defence for 78 yards, and finishing with a 2-yard plunge into the center of the York line for a TD that narrowed the York lead to 10-7. It looked like the Virden counter-strike would be a mere speed-bump on the road to victory as York took the opening drive of the 2nd half all 73 yards, to score on a 13-yard TD run by **Brandon Jacobs**. Brady had been a perfect 4-for-4 for 50 yards on the drive and it looked like he was on his game. As boisterous fans anticipated an imminent win, the Violators replied with a 50-yard **Lawrence Tynes** field goal to shave 3 more points off the York lead. Then the turning point came. The Excaliburs took over at their 21 yard line and gained a first down on a 12-yard pass to Williams, but had to give back 10 of those yards when **Danny Watkins** was flagged for holding. **Darren McFadden** got the call and broke free for 8 yards but was stripped by **DeMeco Ryans** at the 31. Virden recovered and **Eli Manning** wasted no time making York pay, connecting with **Julio Jones** for a 31-yard TD pass to tie the game 17-17. York got the ball back but soon gave it away when **LaRon Landry** picked off Brady at the York 39, setting up the go-ahead field goal from 55 yards. The wheels fell off completely early in the 4th quarter when **Devin Thomas** returned a **Sav Rocca** punt 83 yards for a TD, his 4th of the season. York replied with a late TD, but missed a chance to tie when Gano's 55-yard attempt fell short with 2 seconds remaining.



THE FANS LOVED

Rodgers-to-Marshall for 3 TDs

THE FANS HATED

Regs on third down



FAN RATING



01-27-2012 Camelot Temp: 53 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: **Julio Jones**

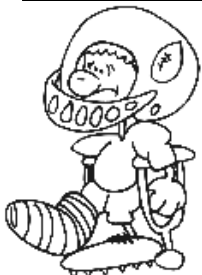
1 8:01 York	FG Gano 25 (10-55-5:40)	0-3
2 4:52 York	TD Brady 30 pass to Williams (Gano) (7-73-4:07)	0-10
2 1:15 Virden	TD Blount 2 run (Tynes) (10-78-3:31)	7-10
3 9:55 York	TD Jacobs 13 run (Gano) (8-73-4:59)	7-17
3 5:52 Virden	FG Tynes 50 (9-54-3:50)	10-17
3 4:24 Virden	TD Manning 31 pass to Jones (Tynes) (1-31-0:17)	17-17
3 0:54 Virden	FG Tynes 55 (4-2-1:56)	20-17
4 12:58 Virden	TD Thomas 83 punt return (Tynes) (0-0-2:32)	27-17
4 6:04 York	TD Jacobs 11 run (Gano) (14-81-6:49)	27-24

	VV	YOR
First Downs	15	22
Rushes	26-154	20-67
Passes	21-14-189	46-31-315
Sacked	4-20	1-7
Fumble	2	1
Penalties	8-53	5-30
Turnovers	1	2
Time	26:08	33:52
Third Down	3-11	5-13
Fourth Down	0-1	1-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	1/1/0	3/2/1
Net Offense	323	375

INJURIES

VIRDEN – None

YORK – None



QUOTE OF THE GAME

"I don't know what we've been doing wrong all year. If I knew, then we would have corrected it. I'm starting to think that maybe we're just not that good." – York offensive coordinator, **Dirk Koetter**.

PATS BLANK HELLFIRE!



**MOHAVE
HELLFIRE**

0

28

**CHARLESWOOD
PATRIOTS**



HELL PLAYER OF THE GAME

Matt Schaub

25 of 34, 264 yards, 1 INT

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
MOHAVE (3-13)	0	0	0	0	-	0
CHARLESWOOD (11-5)	7	21	0	0	-	28

PATRIOT OF THE GAME

Marques Colston

5 catches, 56 yards, 3 TDs

HIGHLIGHT REEL: **Peyton Manning** completed 11 of 14 passes for 111 yards, 3 TDs and a game day QB rating of 139.3.

- **Adrian Peterson** rushed for 153 yards and 1 TD on 21 carries with a long run of 56 yards.
- Defensive end, **Shaun Ellis** made 7 tackles, 2 sacks, 1 run stuff, 1 QB pressure and 1 forced fumble.
- **Hakeem Nicks** caught 10 passes for 99 yards and **Benjamin Watson** caught 6 balls for 87 yards.
- **Daniel Thomas** rushed for 48 yards on 17 carries and **Chris Ivory** rushed for 42 yards on 11 carries.
- The **Mohave Defence** brought no pressure at all to bear on the opposing QB, 0 sacks, 0 hurries.

GAME SUMMARY: The Hellfire brought an aggressive game plan into Patriot Place for their final game of the season but failed to generate a single scoring drive. Facing 4th and 4 at their 49 yard line on their opening possession, the Mohave offence stayed on the field and **Matt Schaub** lobbed a deep ball incomplete over the out-stretched hands of **Hakeem Nicks**. The Pats took over on downs and promptly marched down the field to open the scoring on a 1-yard TD dive by **Adrian Peterson**. The Hellfire were more successful on their next drive, running **Chris Ivory** seven consecutive times for 30 yards to push into Charleswood territory where they faced 4th and 2 at the 35. The offence stayed on the field and Schaub fumbled the snap, turning the ball over. Peterson immediately broke a 56-yard run to the Mohave 9 yard line then two plays later **Peyton Manning** connected with **Marques Colston** for a 5-yard TD pass to make it 14-0, Pats. On their next possession, the Hellfire earned a couple of first downs before hitting a snag at the Charleswood 42 yard line. On 4th and 3, **Daniel Thomas** was stuffed for a 2-yard loss, giving the ball back to the Pats, who punted after a three-and-out, pinning Mohave inside their 20 at the 17 yard line. The comedy soon continued, with Mohave gambling on 4th and 3 at their 24 yard line. **Shaun Ellis** broke through and sacked Schaub for a 4-yard loss, giving Charleswood the ball the Mohave 20. Peterson broke a 14-yard run and, two plays later, Manning found Colston in the end zone for a 7-yard TD pass and a 21-0 lead. Charleswood finished off their scoring after a 4th and 14 gamble by Mohave at their 39 yard line came up 2 yards short and Manning tossed a 27-yard TD strike to Colston for their third scoring hook-up of the game. The 2nd half was like the 1st but without the scoring. The best scoring chance for the Hellfire came in the 3rd quarter when they were stopped on 4th and goal from half a yard away.



THE FANS LOVED

Manning on target

THE FANS HATED

Mohave suicide mission successful



FAN RATING



01-24-2012 Patriot Place Temp: 75 Wind:

MVP: **Marques Colston**

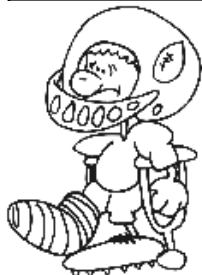
1 6:02	Charleswood	TD Peterson 1 run (Rayner) (8-49-4:17)	0-7
2 14:15	Charleswood	TD Manning 5 pass to Colston (Rayner) (3-65-1:12)	0-14
2 4:30	Charleswood	TD Manning 7 pass to Colston (Rayner) (3-20-1:32)	0-21
2 0:42	Charleswood	TD Manning 27 pass to Colston (Rayner) (4-51-1:17)	0-28

	MOH	CHP
First Downs	18	17
Rushes	32-101	31-182
Passes	34-25-264	14-11-111
Sacked	2-16	0-0
Fumble	3	1
Penalties	3-18	1-5
Turnovers	2	1
Time	33:55	26:05
Third Down	7-14	4-8
Fourth Down	0-7	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/0/0	3/3/0
Net Offense	349	293

INJURIES

MOHAVE – Shaun Rogers (1 game-OUT); Terrell Owens (2 games)

CHARLESWOOD – None



QUOTE OF THE GAME

“This mild winter is affecting the ski slopes, Bill. My daughter and her husband are skiers and they’ve made just one trip to Whistler this year.” – Charleswood play-by-play man, **Phil Patterson**, in the 4th quarter.

EFL STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood (2)	11	5	0	0.688	360	22.5	301	18.8	3.7	6 2 0	6 0 0	8 2 0
York	6	10	0	0.375	301	18.8	331	20.7	-1.9	2 6 0	2 4 0	4 6 0
Virден	5	11	0	0.313	269	16.8	371	23.2	-6.4	3 5 0	3 3 0	4 6 0
Mohave	3	13	0	0.188	224	14	411	25.7	-11.7	2 6 0	1 5 0	2 8 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Los Angeles (1)	13	3	0	0.813	397	24.8	241	15.1	9.8	8 0 0	6 0 0	10 0 0
Death Valley (3)	9	7	0	0.563	403	25.2	380	23.8	1.4	4 4 0	3 3 0	6 4 0
Iowa City (4)	6	10	0	0.375	329	20.6	344	21.5	-0.9	3 5 0	3 3 0	5 5 0
Chino	5	11	0	0.313	247	15.4	246	15.4	0.1	3 5 0	0 6 0	1 9 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Cowtown (1)	14	2	0	0.875	415	25.9	223	13.9	12	7 1 0	5 1 0	8 2 0
Pickering (3)	14	2	0	0.875	371	23.2	279	17.4	5.8	8 0 0	4 2 0	8 2 0
Durham (4)	9	7	0	0.563	373	23.3	309	19.3	4	6 2 0	2 4 0	5 5 0
Markham	4	12	0	0.250	199	12.4	338	21.1	-8.7	3 5 0	1 5 0	2 8 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Gwinnett (2)	11	5	0	0.688	372	23.3	258	16.1	7.1	4 4 0	4 2 0	7 3 0
Scarborough	9	7	0	0.563	318	19.9	306	19.1	0.8	3 5 0	4 2 0	5 5 0
South Carolina	5	11	0	0.313	274	17.1	362	22.6	-5.5	2 6 0	2 4 0	3 7 0
Garland	4	12	0	0.250	182	11.4	334	20.9	-9.5	2 6 0	2 4 0	2 8 0

(#)=play-off seeding

PASSING

Rk	Player	Team	Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Flacco	COW	514	332	64.6	4049	8	1.6	75	31	6.0	102.4
2	Brees	DVU	557	373	67.0	4069	11	2.0	89	36	6.5	101.6
3	Romo	SC	187	137	73.3	1494	7	3.7	56	10	5.3	98.7
4	Freeman	LAK	491	309	62.9	3081	6	1.2	65	27	5.5	93.9
5	Manning, P	CHP	512	345	67.4	3571	14	2.7	56	22	4.3	90.2
6	Campbell, J	SC	330	217	65.8	2147	5	1.5	52	11	3.3	88.8
7	Rivers, P	DTL	462	288	62.3	3433	13	2.8	62	21	4.5	88.4
8	Rodgers	SBE	499	318	63.7	3143	9	1.8	53	18	3.6	85.9
9	Roethlisberger	GWG	343	202	58.9	2384	9	2.6	78	17	5.0	85.7
10	Newton	CHI	277	168	60.6	1673	7	2.5	51	10	3.6	79.3
11	Brady, T	YOR	494	292	59.1	3044	9	1.8	88	14	2.8	78.9
12	Cassel	PIC	323	174	53.9	2214	5	1.5	78	9	2.8	78.4
13	Schaub	MOH	538	327	60.8	3393	12	2.2	54	13	2.4	77.8
14	Bradford	ICC	431	252	58.5	3220	16	3.7	70	13	3.0	76.5
15	Manning, E	VV	512	312	60.9	4045	29	5.7	91	16	3.1	72.6
16	Ryan, M	GDM	562	336	59.8	3331	13	2.3	77	7	1.2	71.1
17	Sanchez	MAR	390	215	55.1	2366	12	3.1	55	7	1.8	66.5

RUSHING

Rk	Player	Team	Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	Rk	Player	Team	Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Foster, A	ICC	332	1698	5.1	72	9	11	McFadden,D	YOR	186	789	4.2	39	7
2	Peterson, A	CHP	314	1570	5.0	74	14	12	Jacobs, B	YOR	154	778	5.1	59	12
3	Johnson, C	PIC	336	1404	4.2	58	15	13	Turner, M	DTL	205	777	3.8	78	2
4	Charles	LAK	227	1199	5.3	28	6	14	Gore	SC	164	741	4.5	59	6
5	McCoy, L	GWG	220	1149	5.2	40	4	15	Blount	VV	190	736	3.9	14	5
6	Jones-Drew	COW	242	1099	4.5	44	5	16	Newton	CHI	120	688	5.7	46	6
7	Jackson, S	CHI	266	992	3.7	47	2	17	Forte	GDM	140	603	4.3	59	4
8	Ivory	MOH	151	813	5.4	50	2	18	Best	MAR	176	562	3.2	35	3
9	Bradshaw	GWG	193	811	4.2	20	6	19	Freeman	LAK	75	545	7.3	28	1
10	Rice, R	SBE	251	811	3.2	38	1	20	Jackson, B	COW	109	530	4.9	42	2

RECEIVING

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD				No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	White, R	LAK	114	1172	10.3	33	12	11	Jennings, G	SC	77	1055	13.7	41	5
2	Witten	CHP	94	880	9.4	22	10	12	Marshall, B	SBE	75	827	11.0	53	6
3	Wayne	GWG	93	1350	14.5	47	13	13	Watson, B	MOH	75	768	10.2	52	5
4	Moss, S	COW	90	1416	15.7	75	17	14	Owens, T	MOH	74	743	10.0	36	4
5	Nicks	MOH	82	1074	13.1	54	3	15	Colston	CHP	71	729	10.3	38	5
6	Fitzgerald	ICC	81	826	10.2	47	3	16	Miller, Z	COW	71	888	12.5	52	7
7	Cooley	SC	81	680	8.4	34	2	17	Gonzalez	LAK	67	571	8.5	29	7
8	Thomas, M	VV	80	1261	15.8	91	4	18	Edwards, B	DVU	64	753	11.8	81	4
9	Johnson, A	DVU	78	1100	14.1	89	8	19	Keller	GDM	62	672	10.8	48	2
10	Bowe	DTL	77	1068	13.9	53	9	20	Royal, E	GDM	61	609	10.0	28	0

TACKLES

1	Lewis, R	DVU	149	8	Mayo	DVU	121	15	Laurinaitis	GWG	105
2	Henderson, EJ	SC	144	9	Dansby	GDM	120	16	Spikes, T	MAR	105
3	Posluszny	VV	133	10	Johnson, D	COW	119	17	Hall, D	ICC	101
4	Beason	CHP	131	11	Urlacher	YOR	119	18	Cole, T	MAR	99
5	Barber, R	PIC	129	12	Whitner	ICC	117	19	Woodson	LAK	96
6	Jones, D	MOH	125	13	Willis, P	ICC	112	20	Tulloch	COW	96
7	Timmons	YOR	122	14	Ruud	CHI	109	21	Dorsey	SC	96

KICKING

Rk	Player	Team	FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts
1	Brown, J	GWG	43	39	90.7	13	2	53	148
2	Mare	COW	38	33	86.8	6	0	49	143
3	Carpenter, D	LAK	39	32	82.1	8	1	55	139
4	Rackers	ICC	46	33	71.7	17	6	56	129
5	Kasay	DVU	31	28	90.3	12	6	56	127
6	Scobee	PIC	36	28	77.8	5	1	50	123
7	Vinatieri	DTL	29	26	89.7	5	0	46	119
8	Cundiff	CHI	34	31	91.2	9	2	55	113
9	Janikowski	SBE	32	22	68.8	11	3	55	102
10	Tynes	VV	39	25	64.1	13	6	58	101
11	Akers	MAR	30	27	90.0	6	0	49	97
12	Bironas	MOH	22	21	95.5	7	2	54	86
13	Gano	YOR	23	16	69.6	4	2	50	83
14	Gould	GDM	27	21	77.8	7	1	53	80
15	Kaeding	SC	16	12	75.0	2	0	44	59
16	Rayner	CHP	8	8	100.0	0	0	39	46
17	Gostkowski	CHP	9	7	77.8	2	0	45	42
18	Buehler	SC	3	2	66.7	0	0	39	13
19	Longwell	SBE	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0

INTERCEPTIONS

Rk	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	Rk	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Haden	PIC	6	120	20.0	52	1	11	Cason	PIC	3	26	8.7	26	0
2	Polamalu	GWG	5	31	6.2	14	0	12	McCourty	DTL	3	32	10.7	18	0
3	Godfrey	COW	4	45	11.3	38	1	13	Moore, W	DVU	3	37	12.3	37	0
4	Rodgers-Crom	DTL	4	158	39.5	67	1	14	Clements	DVU	3	2	0.7	2	0
5	Tillman	MAR	4	102	25.5	43	0	15	Hall, L	DVU	3	2	0.7	2	0
6	Thomas, T	COW	4	91	22.8	37	2	16	Hall, D	ICC	3	4	1.3	4	0
7	Briggs, L	GWG	4	3	0.8	3	0	17	Whitner	ICC	3	43	14.3	39	1
8	Williams, T	COW	4	78	19.5	33	1	18	Lawson, M	ICC	3	9	3.0	7	0
9	Winfield	MAR	3	58	19.3	34	1	19	Woodson	LAK	3	138	46.0	63	2
10	Atogwe	PIC	3	105	35.0	60	2	20	Cox, D	VV	3	25	8.3	13	0

SACKS

1	Harrison, J	CHI	12	8	Matthews, C	DVU	8	15	Ellis, S	CHP	7
2	Edwards, R	PIC	11	9	Kelly, T	YOR	8	16	Suggs	SBE	7
3	Allen, J	DTL	10	10	Orakpo	LAK	8	17	Ware, D	DVU	7
4	Mathis, R	GWG	10	11	Williams, D	GWG	8	18	Abraham	CHP	7
5	Suh	SBE	9	12	Dunlap	VV	7	19	Houston, L	DTL	7
6	Woodley	SBE	9	13	Umenyiora	LAK	7	20	Cole, T	MAR	6
7	Johnson, C	DVU	9	14	Tuck	SBE	7	21	Raji	LAK	6



AROUND THE



With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – I am glad I did not have to travel anywhere for Week 16. Mr. Finchley is nursing his gout. He is in too much pain to think about how he can inconvenience my life and compromise my career by having me chase old stories that die the moment I get close to the protagonists. His incapacity couldn't have come at a better time as this weekend's games featured some great contests that were best observed on multiple televisions in a crowded bar with cold ones coming at you from cute little servers who flirt with you for tips. I have found my new football heaven and it's a sports bar called – you guessed it – 'Football Heaven!' Conveniently located just a couple of blocks from my residence, this is the place 'Mickey's' could have been, but isn't because their prices are too high and the food so-so.

I had a great time, but I admit that perhaps I wasn't paying as much attention to the finer points of the games as I usually do, thanks to Carrie's unfaltering attentiveness and my wandering eyes. That's what tape is for, though, and after sober review of the game film, one day later, I offer you the definitive word on Week Sixteen in the EFL!

DEATH OF A DYNASTY

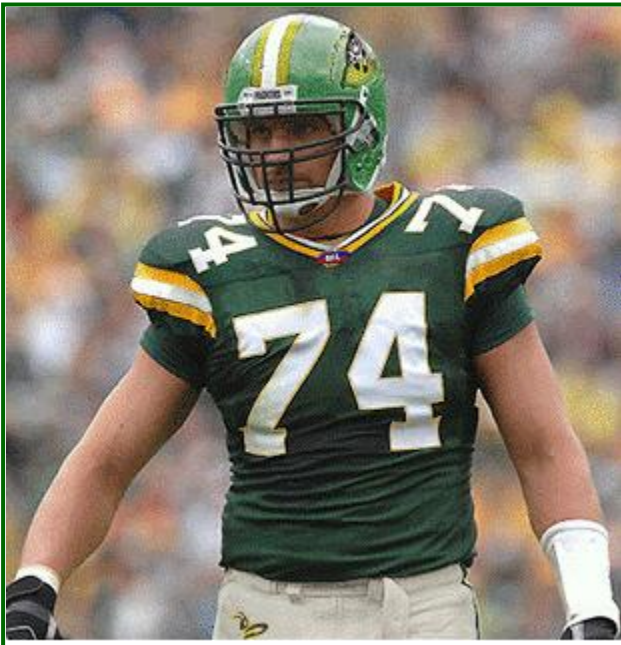
If there was any doubt that Gwinnett had the parts to steal the South Division from the incumbent Blue Eagles and knock them out of the playoffs, it disappeared this week as the Gladiators survived some early bumbling by **Big Boob** to swat down Scarborough 24-7 at Bluffs Stadium. The home team jumped out to a good start with a **Brandon Meriweather** interception and return to the Gwinnett 11, followed by a touchdown pass from **Aaron Rodgers** to **Lance Moore**. However, that would be the only highlight for the Scarborough offence as the Gladiators' defence took total control, forcing punts and turnovers the rest of the way. As well as their defence had been playing, however, it finally became apparent after **Ben Roethlisberger** fumbled away the ball while being sacked by **Ndamukong Suh** in the third quarter, that the Glads would likely fall to defeat, in spite of its defence's sterling performance, if a drastic change didn't take place on offence.

Trailing 7-3 late in the third quarter, **Dave Birdsall** yanked **Big Ben** and sent in **Vince Young** to try and salvage the game. The move provoked an angry outburst from the league's largest child and, for a brief moment, there were actually two quarterbacks on the field at the same time when Roethlisberger put on his helmet and chased Young toward the huddle. A posse of Gwinnett defenders, led by **Robert Mathis**, blitzed the field and hauled off **Big Bonehead** just in time to avoid a penalty. The QB switch paid off almost immediately, assisted by a little luck. The immediate pay-off was a 35-yard designed run off right tackle by Young that caught the Blue Eagles' defence by surprise. The luck came with a perfect bounce back into the hands of Young after **LaMarr Woodley** punched the ball out as he tackled him at the Blue Eagles' 28 yard line.

The long run and the fortunate bounce snapped the Glads' offence out of its trance. Plays started clicking and within a couple of minutes Gwinnett was on top 10-7 with a 13-yard strike from Young to **Reggie Wayne**. The vaunted Scarborough defence had been breached, finally, and that seemed to create panic in their own offence while invigorating the Glads' defence. On the opening play of the fourth quarter, a botched exchange between Rodgers and center **Ryan Kalil** was recovered by **D.J. Williams** at the 31 yard line, setting up another Young TD pass – this one to **LeSean McCoy** for 7 yards. A penalty-riddled three-and-out by the disoriented Blue Eagles followed, giving the ball back to the Glads. They proceeded to shred the Scarborough defence with a 30-yard completion to Wayne and a 20-yard run by McCoy, paving the way for a 4-yard TD run by **Ahmad Bradshaw** to make the score 24-7.

It was a sudden and complete collapse by Scarborough and it had the fans silently leaving the stadium in droves with hardly a heckle to be heard. Of course, several drunks hung around to heap abuse on Rodgers, **Brandon Marshall** and coach "**Jonesey**," but the majority surrendered sullenly to the harsh reality that, for all of their talent, this had not been, and obviously was not *going* to be, their season. It was a sad turn for what had appeared, not too long ago, to be an omnipotent Florida Dynasty on its way to a legendary three-peat EFL Championship. The first crack in the foundation had appeared in their Can-Am Conference Final loss to Pickering in 2010; but the entire structure started collapsing with the controversial and sudden ownership change and eleventh-hour move north from the Everglades to the windy Scarborough bluffs.

On the other side, jubilation erupted on the Gwinnett bench as the team registered its first title of any kind despite fielding a few competitive squads in their five-year history. A purple-stained **Dave Birdsall** (the Gladiators stock their coolers with grape juice instead of traditional Gatorade) spoke after the game about the satisfaction of winning the South



Aaron Kampman says "whach ya lookin' at?" The Corn Kings' lineman finished strong in Week 16 with 3 sacks and a safety to finish off the Spartans at Tillman Field.

Division against "a top notch opponent." When asked if he felt the result would have been the same if the Blue Eagles had remained in Florida, Birdsall was diplomatic vis-a-vis his opponent while giving a mild scolding to the media in the same breath: "You fellas don't have to take the field against them (Scarborough). There is no player on our team who didn't know they were in a helluva game today. That's a great team we beat. Sometimes things just don't go your way, even for the best. I like to think we have a pretty good team too and we proved it today."

On the subject of the quarterback switch, Birdsall would not address Big Ben's play directly, preferring instead to focus on the performance of **Vince Young**; "Vince came in off the bench and played like a true professional. He salvaged the game and gave us the division title. I know the writers gave Shady McCoy the game MVP, but Vince was the spark we needed. He deserves the start in the first playoff game." So, there it was – official word that Big Ben would be benched, at least for the start of the playoffs.

CORN KINGS RULE THE NORTH

Regardless of what happens in the playoffs, this will be a season that the Corn Kings fans who experienced it will never forget. It was the best kind of season for fans and players alike. Unsaddled with great

expectations, merely the fervent hope of fans and coaches that the team would show improvement over a dismal 3-13 campaign in 2010, the Corn Kings took everyone by the most pleasant of surprises. Cowtown played like a powerhouse from Week Two to Week Sixteen. An opening day 20-10 loss to Pickering was their only serious blemish, since many believed the Corn Kings were just a miraculous and desperate 36-yard-Big-Ben-scramble away from knocking off the mighty Gladiators in Week Eight - their only other loss.

Cowtown made up for that Week One hiccup against the Spartans, and took the North Division title in the process, with a 22-13 victory at Tillman Field over their illustrious rival in the final regular season game. The Corn Kings finished the game so strongly on offence and defence that it was easy, in the post-game euphoria, for their supporters to forget that the result could have easily gone the other way. In fact, for more than half of the game it appeared that it would be just a matter of time before the Spartans put the boots to the tiring Cowtown defence after **Joe Flacco's** crew continually stalled and sputtered on the attack and lost **Maurice Jones-Drew** for the game to injury in the second quarter. The Spartans took a 13-3 lead into the locker at half time, but it could have been easily more. Pickering coach, **Gus Kostantakos** felt it should have been more, and the fact that it wasn't, had him bitterly lamenting the fact afterwards.

"I was concerned about our missed opportunities. I knew we could not keep them down for the whole game and it turned out we couldn't. We executed better early in the game but didn't finish them off when we had the chance," Kostantakos admitted in a post-game interview. "This was a very *Athenian* performance. I have to think that Greece would be Persian today if the 300 had fought like that at Thermopylae," he added dejectedly.

Although most of the network hacks saw it differently, in my view the turning point actually came prior to the dramatic, game-winning score by **Terrell Thomas**. At the 10-minute mark of the 3rd quarter, trailing 13-3, with just 88 yards of total offence to their credit, the Corn Kings took possession at their 20 yard line with a nervous and restless home crowd sitting on its hands. Out of nowhere, back-up running back **Bernard Scott** opened the drive with an 18-yard run off left tackle. It was just the kind of play nobody expected to get with Jones-Drew on the sidelines, and it appeared to knock the Spartans' defence for a loop. Six plays later, little-used **Devery Henderson** snared a 12-yard pass against a 'dime' package to convert a 3rd and 8 at the Pickering 36 yard line. The back-breaker of the drive came three plays later on 3rd and 1 at the Pickering 25. The Pickering line swarmed to stuff the run and it looked like Scott would be stopped for a loss; but Scott didn't have the ball, Flacco did - it was a perfect play action. He stepped to his right and tossed a spiral to **Santana Moss** for 17 yards. On the next play, he threw a strike to **Zach Miller** in the end zone. Miller survived a brutal but clean hit from **Oshiomogho Atogwe** and held on for the TD. It was a great drive, coming when the Corn Kings needed it most, and it energized their defence. On Pickering's next possession, Thomas jumped a short slant intended for **Vincent Jackson**, picked the ball cleanly, and was off to the races for a 30-yard "pick six" that put Cowtown in the lead for good.

KICKER GIVEN THE BOOT

My worst fears were realized when the Cubs lost, but backed into a playoff spot with a miserable 6-10 record anyway. They tried to do it honourably, but came up a field goal short at home against the powerful Knights, losing 27-24. Had place-kicker

Neil Rackers made even one of three missed field goal attempts, **Deron Redding's** crew could have forced overtime and, perhaps, pulled off an upset; but that was not to be. Now the Cubs turn around and face the Knights again, in the first round of the playoffs at Round Table Stadium, in a game that could go either way if the Cubs' offence plays like they did in this game. The **Sam Bradford to Mike Wallace** connection came alive once more as the league's premier deep threat posted triple-digit yardage, 164, on 8 catches and one touchdown grab. **Arian Foster** also made his presence felt in limited action, scoring a touchdown and gaining 84 hard-fought yards on 18 carries against the 'Blue Shield.' Perhaps most worrisome for the Knights going forward is that their season-long lifeline, **Josh Freeman**, looked a lot like **Cam Newton** in the dying days of Chino's anti-climactic season: inconsistent passing with a lot of scrambling to make up for it.

The contest really came down to the long but erratic leg of Rackers, prompting Iowa City coach, **Deron Redding**, mistakenly thinking his season was lost, to uncharacteristically let loose with a public diatribe blaming his kicker for missing the playoffs. An emotional Redding (is there any other kind?) addressed the media, flushed with anger and frustration. "Those guys fought to the very end. I'd take any one of them with me into battle," he said, voice cracking. "Well, all except *Neil*. He really let us down *AGAIN* and I am just so damn happy I was able to orchestrate that one-year deal for him last off-season so we're not on the hook anymore. That's *right*, I said it. PRINT IT!!! *I'M 40, I'M A MAN!!!*"

According to my sources, Redding had equipment manager **Buddy "Big Bear" Bernie** ban Rackers from the locker room and dump his gear and personal effects at the door with a note that read: 'YOUR SHIT...PACKED.' Sometime later, when he received word that York had lost to Virden to push the Cubs into the playoffs anyway, Redding's mood lit up and he acted as if nothing much had happened. "Wow, we're in! Cool! Neil will have to understand. He feels bad enough, I guess. Hopefully he will start kicking to his potential!!! He might benefit from CD #2 of my '*Be the Game, Boyz*.' motivational series, 'Dump the Negative Stuff!'"

Having no friends in Iowa, I have nothing to lose by declaring publicly that I am praying for a Cubs' loss, and a big one, in the first round of the playoffs. It is bad enough when a team with a 6-10 record, *any* team, makes it to the post-season to begin with; but the thought of such a team advancing to the Conference Final or, God forbid (and I believe in God in these situations), the...<ahem>...FINAL...makes me want to barf. The only way to redress this insult to the honour of the Post-Season is to see the **Knights** thrash the Cubs so badly that they will never want to win another meaningful game again.

UNREDEEMED BRADY LEFT TO PONDER LOST SEASON

Too little, too late, Tommy boy! **Tom Brady** went down fighting, but could not make up for a season's worth of lost opportunities in the final game. York's season ended much like it played out during the year - always a glimmer of hope, but never fulfilment. Trailing 27-24 to the Violators with 45 seconds left, no timeouts, and Virden in control at the York 49, all looked lost for the Excaliburs. But, inexplicably, instead of taking a knee, the Violators ran **LeGarrette Blount** off left tackle, where he was met and hammered by **Tommy Kelly**. The ball came loose and the Yorkies pounced on it like a starving man at a buffet. Astounded by their good fortune, it looked like the Football Gods were, for once, smiling on Camelot. A clearly giddy Brady threw wild on his first pass attempt, but threw a strike on his second, good for 11 yards to **Tony Scheffler**, who went down at the Virden 37 yard line. The Yorkies moved quickly to the line and Brady spiked the ball with 10 seconds showing on the clock. It would be a long attempt for **Graham Gano** - 55 yards - but they could not risk missing the opportunity by running another play and possibly letting time expire. If he made it, it would be his longest field goal of the year, eclipsing his previous long of 50 by 5 yards. Gano lined up as the crowd stood. The snap was good and the kick was true...but short. Just like his team, Gano had come up short, and there would be no post-season for the squad some had predicted would challenge Charleswood for the East Division title. To make the loss a little more bitter, word arrived later that the Cubs had fallen to LA at home after, ironically, a missed field goal in the dying seconds. Had the Excaliburs, who needed a Cubs' loss to advance, gotten just a few yards closer, maybe...just maybe.... *oh well!* Brady and Co. have all off-season to think what might have been.

AROUND THE EFL

Who do you turn to when everything is on the line? Facing elimination with a loss, Durham turned to **Philip Rivers**, NOT **Tim Tebow**, against Markham in Week Sixteen. In fact, Jesus' cousin did not see a single snap during the entire game as the Dinos dumped Markham 31-16. Rivers returned to top form, completing 77% of his passes and throwing 4 TDs without a pick. It was the kind of performance that keeps Rivers on the roster in spite of days when he looks more like **Steve Stenstrom**. If nothing else it shows that, like the Rolling Stones, Durham management has sympathy for the Devil they know, rather than the Born Again Devil they are still getting acquainted with. "Tim Tebow is still, very much, a part of this team," explained **George Kaldis** after the game, when asked why the Cross-Bow formation did not see the field. "Just not this afternoon," he added.

In the battle to escape the basement of the South Division, the Mustangs rewarded their diehard faithful with a shameful exhibition of offensive futility that had even **Doug Shirley** supporters, such as **Sam Saddle Sores** and **Granny Gee**, voicing mild criticism in their post-game reports. A crowd estimated at less than 15,000, composed of the most stubborn and fanatical Garland fans (yes, they have such fans) showed up at The Corral for Week Sixteen's most unwatched game. The vast majority of those did not stay to the end of a 21-0 whitewash of the home team by the revamped Regulators. By the 4th quarter

there was so little noise in the park that one could hear the louder conversations on both sidelines. I don't like wasting precious column space on a game like this, but it has to be said that somebody needs to be fired immediately now that the season is done. If not the sacred Shirley, then both coordinators at least, and maybe the training staff as well. Otherwise, even the deep pool of diehard support in Garland will eventually evaporate in the Texas heat.

It was a fitting end to the Convicts' season - another **Cam Newton** solo effort and another loss, 20-17 to Death Valley. To think that this team once had even me excited about a rookie-led playoff run. With Iowa City sneaking into the post-season at 6-10 this would have been the year where such a feat would have been possible, even probable; but the complete collapse of the Convicts' offence starting in Week Eleven at Virden was severe enough that even the '*Great Wall of Chino*' could not keep the games close enough. At least there were Chino touchdowns this week – two of them – to talk about afterwards; but those two were not enough to overcome a surging Undertakers' squad that charged back from a 7-0 deficit in the 3rd quarter. An interception and return to the Chino one-yard line by **Ray Lewis** set up a 1-yard TD pass from **Drew Brees** to **Kendall Hunter** on the next play to tie the game. Then, even the vaunted Chino defence succumbed to the malaise infecting **Rob Nazar's** team, parting like the Great Sea in the face of a 4th-quarter passing clinic by Brees. Death Valley counted 13 points in the final period and won the game coming from behind on a 56-yard **Jon Kasay** field goal with 14 seconds on the clock. This game saw Brees set a season record for total passing yards (4069), eclipsing **Peyton Manning's** 2007 mark of 4059 by a first down; he also tied **Tom Brady's** TD pass record of 36 set with the Dragons in 2008 and broke Brady's pass completion record of 363 set with York in last year with 373 completions. The Undertakers move on to the post-season and leave their sick division rival behind to ponder what needs to be done in the off-season to fix the ageing and slowing prison gang.

It was another punt-free day for Mohave as they finished off the worst campaign in their franchise's history with a 28-0 loss to the Pats. Unlike last week, when **Ben Graham** wasn't called upon to punt because the Hellfire were scoring; this week he just didn't punt. **Bobby Elder** hasn't called one a game like that in a while so he was past due and, when you are 3-12 and going nowhere, why not? Graham served sandwiches and drinks on the sidelines and even helped fetch equipment for the trainers, trying to be helpful while everyone else worked. It was a light-hearted way to end a depressing season, but it would have been a lot more fun if the Hellfire had managed to convert even one of their seven 4th down conversion attempts. That's right: 0 for 7 on 4th down. That pretty much explains how they managed to rack up 349 yards of offence without scoring a single point. The Pats scored all 28 of their points in the first half covering short fields after botched 4th down attempts by the Hellfire. The second half consisted of Mohave playing offence until they ran out of downs then the Pats picking up wherever the Hellfire offence left off and running with Adrian Peterson. It was torture to watch and I am sure there were fewer viewers tuned into this late Thanksgiving turkey before half time than were watching the other shutout-in-progress in Garland.

DOCTOR McCHAD'S POST-SEASON POST-MORTEM

Sixteen weeks have passed since Opening Day and there remain 8 teams alive in the hunt for the EFL's ultimate prize: the Gale Sayers Trophy. So what about the other 8? What brought about the deaths of their playoff hopes? How in the name of decency did a 9-7 team get cut from post-season play while a 6-10 team snuck through? As always, you can rely on Dr. McChad to examine the carcasses and identify the cause. Read on:

SCARBOROUGH (9-7) – Cause of Death: *Shock*. The transition from the steamy Florida everglades to the stark asphalt landscape of Scarberia brought more than an unwelcome change of scenery; it also brought a brand new coaching staff. The rookie Blue Eagles' coach looked a little green at times, to be certain, but to lay the blame entirely on his shoulders would be unfair. Little went right for this team and the opposition was hungrier, and more capable, than ever. In the end, they had a chance to salvage everything in the final week but had not game-planned for Vince Young. No doubt they will return.

YORK (6-10) – Cause of Death: *Unknown natural causes*. A team that looked decent on paper consistently failed to perform to expectations. So, were those expectations misplaced? The short answer is "maybe." The complicated answer involves breaking down the game film frame-by-frame to see how often Tom Brady's wide receivers were open. A lot of weight was placed on Brady's shoulders, but he had nothing to with shelving **Darren McFadden** and **Tony Scheffler** for the first half of the year. He also had nothing to do with a management team that neglected to acquire key assets in the off-season – like a defence.

VIRDEN (5-11) – Cause of Death: *Suicide*. The Violators posted some respectable numbers for a young team with raw but undeveloped talent and kept many of their losses close. Their *Achilles Heel* was a -17 turnover ratio that was almost entirely the fault of **Eli Manning's** 29 interceptions and 13 fumbles. Reserve some scorn, as well, for an offensive line that opened up more holes for opposing blitzers than it did for their running backs.

SOUTH CAROLINA (5-11) – Cause of Death: *Decapitation*. The Regulators came on strong in the last quarter of the season after a 2-10 start. It was no coincidence that their 3-1 finish came with **Tony Romo** at the helm after missing 10 games to injury. While it also didn't hurt to have their secondary back and **Frank Gore** to hand-off to, it was Romo who provided the spark. He is the head of the offence and when he was missing, the team played like the proverbial chicken with its head cut off.

CHINO (5-11) – Cause of Death: *Old Age*. Ranked 15th overall in offence and 3rd overall in defence, the Convicts appear to have shaken the notion that "defence wins championships." I am sure, however, that whoever coined the phrase did not have

in his mind an offence as lethargic and tired as Chino's as an acceptable accompaniment to that great defence. A geriatric wide receiving corps and a running back who ran like a man twice his age were at the root of young *Cam Newton's* difficulties as the season progressed and defences learned how to limit his impact. The stars on this defence are not getting any younger either, which means a complete overhaul is coming. It has to, since it is now clear that the Convicts, as is, are no playoff team.

MARKHAM (4-12) – Cause of Death: *Boredom*. The good thing about the North Stars – the only thing that enabled them to win 4 games – is that they do the little things well. They have to; because they can't do the big things – at least not on offence. Rated at the bottom of the league in overall efficiency, the Markham offence is as close as an offence can get to a giant sloth – asleep for 15 or 18 hours a day, often around game time. The defence carried the load this year, forcing 24 turnovers and repeatedly holding high-powered opponents at bay. Credit Darrin Jones for not finishing dead last with this group of nobodies.

GARLAND (4-12) – Cause of Death: *Dementia*. When a coach blitzes less than 1% of the time, doesn't double-cover a receiver for an entire season, and gambles on 4th down an average of 3 times a game, you know you have one stubborn mule of a coach. Or else you're looking at someone who doesn't know what he's doing and who could just as easily wander out into a country snow storm barefoot in his pyjamas to buy some milk. Hey, I get that he may not have been confident in his players – with good reason – but always bringing the same game plan when you're battling to stay out of the basement is just crazy, man!

MOHAVE (3-13) – Cause of Death: *Murder/Suicide*. When the Hellfire weren't getting murdered by their opponents, they were shooting themselves. The league's other 'Fourth Down Fetishist' came by his gambling proclivity more as a result of being driven insane by the horrible beatings administered to his team than by a deliberately designed, and faulty, strategy. The inability to generate turnovers on defence coupled with the ability to generate them on offence resulted in a -13 turnover ratio; which didn't help. But the real reason Mohave finished at the bottom of the heap this year was that they played like S%\$T!

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			2		
			3		
			4		

JIMMY'S QUARTER FINAL PLAYOFF PICKS

SATURDAY'S GAMES

DEATH VALLEY @ CHARLESWOOD (line – PATRIOTS by 4)

When these teams met in Lucky Week 13, the Undertakers dominated the first three quarters before a withering counter-strike by Peyton Manning nearly realized a miraculous 4th-quarter comeback. This time the Pats are on their home turf and looking for payback. These teams are nearly equal in terms of talent on the defensive side of the ball and 'Manning vs. Brees' makes for a classic QB duel on offence. The noticeable difference is at running back, where the runner-up for the rushing title, Adrian Peterson gives the Patriots a big edge. Death Valley has not been able to generate a consistent ground threat all season and don't expect them to find the magic formula in the playoffs. Although I can see the 'Fearsome Foursome' returning to scary form against a questionable Patriots' offensive line, I can also see Manning taking advantage of the empty spaces vacated by Clay Mathews and DeMarcus Ware. It will be close, and expect some fireworks, but the pick the Pats. **PICK: CHARLESWOOD**

PICKERING @ GWINNETT (line – GLADIATORS by 6)

'Four turnovers' is all you need to know about Gwinnett's Week 13 loss to Pickering at Thermopylae Stadium. The Spartans still had their hands full, needing a late touchdown and some hard-nosed blocking by their top grade offensive line to close the deal against the Glads. Troy Polamalu was also missing in that contest, but he and the rest of the key players on the Gwinnett squad are healthy for the start of the playoffs and will enjoy home field advantage to boot. The Spartans have been brilliant all season, but they have also been consummate opportunists and have benefitted from a little luck combined with the intimidation factor of being the defending champs. Don't expect the Gladiators to be impressed now that they have faced them once and have only themselves to blame for the loss. There will be no gifts for Pickering this week with Vince young starting behind center. The Gladiators will finally show the league exactly how good they are and it will be more than good enough. **PICK: GWINNETT**

SUNDAY'S GAMES

DURHAM @ COWTOWN (line – CORN KINGS by 7)

I said I would believe the Corn Kings were for real if they took the North Division from the Spartans. Well, here they are, Division Champs after knocking off the Spartans in convincing fashion, and I am still wondering if they are for real. As great as the regular season was for the green-and-yellow, the post-season is a new season and, for Durham, an opportunity to atone for a wobbly regular season that saw them nearly eliminated from the playoff race at home against this same Cowtown squad in Week 15. If Philip Rivers can play like he did last week against Markham and the Durham secondary can step up against the deceptively dangerous duo of Santana Moss and Zach Miller, this could be a one-sided affair that brings Cowtown's Cinderella season crashing down like a smashed pumpkin. On the other hand, if Maurice Jones-Drew can stay healthy for a full game and get on track, the Lizards may have no choice but to bring the linebackers in and open up space for Joe Flacco to continue his MVP-like season. Either way, I don't see either of these teams winning by more than seven points, so throw down on the Dinos! **PICK: DURHAM**

IOWA CITY @ LOS ANGELES (line – KNIGHTS by 7)

It's not often in this league that you get an opportunity to play an opponent in back-to-back weeks. It is even less often that you see a team with a 6-10 record make the post-season; so fans should step up and see the "Freak Show" while they can. The Cubs' bizarre entry into the playoffs means they are either a Team of Destiny that will end up causing a rule change if they win it all, or a discreditable example of the pitfalls of a 16-team league with separate conferences. Either way, I pity the poor Knights if the unthinkable happens and the Cubs pull off an upset. Unfairly, the pressure is all on LA while the Cubs, who thought they were going golfing for hours after their Week 16 loss, are as loose as a two-dollar whore in a Barracks. **PICK: LOS ANGELES**