

WEEK 5



EFL

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE



Blazing Through a Pandemic in our 14th Season!

November 8, 2020

REN FRO VICTORY!



Hunter Renfrow
Seattle Pilots

Seattle Pilots' wide receiver *Hunter Renfrow* runs toward the Virden goal line as safety *Nasir Adderley* gives chase. Renfrow would win the race, finishing off a 53-yard TD reception in the dying minutes of the 4th quarter to give Seattle a 24-17 lead. The score was the last of 24-straight unanswered points by the Pilots in a shocking comeback victory.

EAST



CENTRAL



WEST



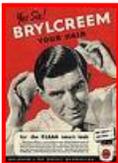
NORTH



COASTAL



SOUTH



Who was slick in Week Five?

“Brylcreem” THE EFL’S FIRST SPONSOR



Joe Mixon
RB
Iowa City
Cubs

33 carries, 214 yards, 3 TDs. Was a total force for Iowa in win over Pats.



Tre'Davious White
CB
Cobb County
Coyotes

4 T, 2 PDs, 2 INTs (43-yds). Momentum changing picks in 2nd half.




19

35

A tight 1st quarter punting duel gave way to scoring in the 2nd, as two check down passes to **Noah Fant**, one for 52 yards and the other for 11 yards and a score, accounted for the only TD in the 1st half and a 7-6 edge for Buffalo. The Wrecking Balls could not hold **Lamar Jackson** down any longer, however, as the Derailer QB capped his first drive of the 2nd half with a 15-yard scramble for a TD. Soon after, an interception of **Matt Stafford** by **Eric Rowe** set up another check down TD to Fant and Buffalo was in control. Jackson finished with 5 TDs (3 passing, 2 running) to earn game MVP.

11-07-2020 New Era Stadium Temp:65 Wind:5-15 None Line:NJ by 2 MVP:Jackson HFA:ON

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 New Jersey (1-4)	0	6	0	13	19
2019 Buffalo (3-2)	0	7	14	14	35

Scoring Summary

2 5:52	New Jersey	FG Boswell 27 (6-28-3:22)	3-0
2 1:20	Buffalo	TD Jackson 11 pass to Fant (Elliott,J) (8-80-4:25)	3-7
2 0:00	New Jersey	FG Boswell 27 (12-58-1:11)	6-7
3 6:39	Buffalo	TD Jackson 15 run (Elliott,J) (11-70-6:56)	6-14
3 0:35	Buffalo	TD Jackson 10 pass to Fant (Elliott,J) (5-30-2:14)	6-21
4 13:17	New Jersey	TD Stafford 38 pass to McLaurin (Boswell) (6-65-2:11)	13-21
4 8:10	Buffalo	TD Jackson 16 run (Elliott,J) (8-66-4:59)	13-28
4 3:01	Buffalo	TD Jackson 20 pass to Woods (Elliott,J) (5-46-2:48)	13-35
4 1:12	New Jersey	TD Keenum 9 pass to Johnson (2 - failed) (9-75-1:49)	19-35

Passing

NJ: Stafford 37/19 246 Yds TD 2 Int, Keenum 13/984 Yds TD
 BUF: Jackson,L 30/25 271 Yds 3 TDs

Rushing

NJ: Montgomery 9/28, Hill 3/7, Stafford 1/7, Samuel 1/0
 BUF: Jackson,L 18/71 2 TDs, Coleman 6/22, Dillon 1/5, Johnson 1/4

Receiving

NJ: Cohen 5/41, McLaurin 4/70 TD, Gabriel 4/47, Walker 4/46, Chark 3/41, Johnson 3/34 TD, Samuel 2/22, Montgomery 2/20, Griffin 1/9
 BUF: Woods 8/85 TD, Fant 6/95 2 TDs, Sanders 6/57, Thomas 2/26, Coleman 2/1, Ridley 1/7

Defense

NJ: Adams Sk 8-Tk, Hughes Sk STF 5-Tk, Quinn Sk 3-Tk
 BUF: Dunbar PD Int 9-Tk, Barnett 2-Sks 5-Tk, Rowe PD Int 5-Tk

Injuries

NJ: Stafford 8
 BUF:

Misc

NJ:
 BUF: 5/5 Red Zone TDs



29

41

The Coyotes started fast with chunk plays by **Adrian Peterson** and **Ryan Tannehill** leading to TDs on 3 of their first 4 possessions. Trailing 21-3 to begin the 2nd half, the Bombers took advantage of 2 Coyote turnovers to get back in it, cashing in 2 TDs on short-field drives to make it 21-16. Tannehill regained the momentum by beating a double-team on **DaVante Parker** for a 58-yard TD pass. Bruxelles hung around, coming within 5 points twice despite a pick and 43-yard return by **Tre'Davious White** setting up a Coyote TD early in the 4th. White's second interception sealed the game late.

11-05-2020 Coyote Field Temp:68 Wind:0-5 None Line:CB by 10 MVP:Tannehill HFA:ON(3)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Bruxelles (2-3)	3	0	16	10	29
2019 Cobb County (5-0)	7	14	6	14	41

Scoring Summary

1 6:57	Bruxelles	FG Prater 27 (15-66-8:00)	3-0
1 4:18	Cobb County	TD Tannehill 23 pass to Jones (McManus) (7-75-2:39)	3-7
2 12:40	Cobb County	TD Tannehill 6 pass to Peterson (McManus) (11-63-6:15)	3-14
2 3:26	Cobb County	TD Mostert 8 run (McManus) (7-82-4:08)	3-21
3 13:07	Bruxelles	TD Fournette 6 run (Prater) (3-21-1:41)	10-21
3 9:50	Bruxelles	TD Goff 11 pass to Godwin (2 - failed) (4-27-2:25)	16-21
3 9:25	Cobb County	TD Tannehill 58 pass to Parker (no good) (1-58-0:15)	16-27
3 6:11	Bruxelles	FG Prater 52 (8-41-3:09)	19-27
4 11:52	Cobb County	TD Peterson 4 run (McManus) (5-37-2:07)	19-34
4 7:23	Bruxelles	TD Goff 11 pass to Godwin (Prater) (11-67-4:20)	26-34
4 4:33	Bruxelles	FG Prater 49 (7-36-1:42)	29-34
4 2:10	Cobb County	TD Tannehill 13 pass to Jones (McManus) (8-75-2:23)	29-41

Passing

BRX: Goff 42/19 198 Yds 2 TDs 2 Ints
 CB: Tannehill 16/11 227 Yds 4 TDs

Rushing

BRX: Fournette 26/131 TD, Johnson 9/25, Goff 1/1
 CB: Peterson 14/88 TD, Tannehill 2/57, Mostert 11/19 TD, Bridegwater 3/-1

Receiving

BRX: Kelce 5/55, Waller 4/27, Johnson 3/18, Godwin 2/22 2 TDs, Fournette 2/19, Valdes-Scantling 1/46
 CB: Jones 5/88 2 TDs, Parker 3/104 TD, Cook 1/16, Mostert 1/13, Peterson 1/6

Defense

BRX: Smith,P 2-Sks FF 9-Tk, Dupree 2-Sks 2-STFs FF, 8-Tk, Smith,H FF 4-Tk
 CB: Martinez PD 14-Tk, Lawrence 2-STFs 6-Tk, White 2 PDS STF 2-Ints

Injuries

BRX:
 CB:
 Misc
 BRX:
 CB: Natson 4/123 KR



24
27

After the opening drive ended in a TD for the Triumph, the Convicts came back with the help of two TC turnovers – a lost fumble and a **Kiko Alonso** interception – leading to 10 points. A flat pass to **James White** netted 47 yards to set up a Triumph TD then **Dustin Hopkins** added 2 FGs for a 20-10 halftime lead. The Convicts came back with TDs early in the 3rd and 4th quarters to go ahead, 24-20, but **Mitch Trubisky** launched a 48-yard TD pass to **Kenny Golladay** to seize back the lead. The score held up as the Triumph 'D' clamped down with an interception and 4th down stop to seal the win.

11-05-2020 Wilhalla Stadium Temp:70 Wind: No Line MVP:Trubisky HFA:ON(3)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Chino (2-2-1)	10	0	7	7	24
2019 Twin Cities (1-4)	7	13	0	7	27

Scoring Summary

1 8:42 Twin Cities	TD Trubisky 9 pass to Moore (Hopkins) (14-75-6:18)	0-7
1 6:38 Chino	TD McCaffrey 6 run (McLaughlin) (4-24-1:02)	7-7
1 1:21 Chino	FG McLaughlin 46 (7-7-2:58)	10-7
2 11:37 Twin Cities	TD Edwards-Helaire 4 run (Hopkins) (9-75-4:38)	10-14
2 5:50 Twin Cities	FG Hopkins 22 (7-38-3:08)	10-17
2 0:01 Twin Cities	FG Hopkins 25 (15-73-2:45)	10-20
3 12:06 Chino	TD Prescott 21 pass to Gallup (McLaughlin) (5-60-2:54)	17-20
4 14:54 Chino	TD Ingram II 5 run (McLaughlin) (9-65-5:05)	24-20
4 10:55 Twin Cities	TD Trubisky 48 pass to Golladay (Hopkins) (6-75-3:59)	24-27

Passing

CHI: Prescott 34/19 202 Yds TD Int
TCT: Trubisky 37/23 309 Yds 2-TDs Int

Rushing

CHI: McCaffrey 10/60 TD, Ingram II 9/30 TD, Prescott 1/1
TCT: Edwards-Helaire 16/61 TD, White 11/36, Trubisky 4/27, Gordon III 2/7, Winston 2/-2

Receiving

CHI: McCaffrey 7/47, Fitzgerald 4/35, Gallup 3/58 TD, Ingram II 2/20, Jones II 1/18, Olsen 1/16, Jones Jr 1/8
TCT: Moore 8/64 TD, White 6/132, Edwards-Helaire 4/12, Golladay 3/73 TD, Gordon III 2/28

Defense

CHI: Davis,T PD 12-Tk, Jarrett 7-Tk, Alonso STF Int 4-Tk, Smith Sk STF 3-Tk
TCT: Thornhill 2-PD 8-Tk, Green 3-STFs 5-Tk, Savage 3-PDs Int 2-Tk

Injuries

CHI:
TCT: Brown 5

Misc



24
17

With **Patrick Mahomes** a late COVID scratch, **Ryan Finley** started at QB for Virden. He used the short field after a **Malik Hooker** interception to toss a 10-yard TD pass to **John Brown** and connected later with a wide-open **Eric Ebron** for a 42-yard TD to build a 17-0 half lead. The Pilots caught a break when **Westson Richburg** sailed a snap over the head of the punter to set up a 24-yard TD pass to **Kareem Hunt**. That marked the start of a 24-point barrage by **Sam Darnold** in the 2nd half, that included 2 TD passes to **Hunter Renfrow**. The Seattle defence stepped up at the end to preserve the win.

11-05-2020 TERRORDOME Temp:70 Wind: No Line MVP:Darnold HFA:ON(5)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Seattle (2-3)	0	0	14	10	24
2019 Virden (4-1)	0	17	0	0	17

Scoring Summary

2 10:18 Virden	FG Gonzalez 21 (7-83-3:49)	0-3
2 7:47 Virden	TD Finley 10 pass to Brown (Gonzalez) (3-28-0:58)	0-10
2 2:33 Virden	TD Finley 42 pass to Ebron (Gonzalez) (6-67-4:16)	0-17
3 6:38 Seattle	TD Darnold 24 pass to Hunt (Lambo) (3-41-1:40)	7-17
3 0:27 Seattle	TD Darnold 8 pass to Renfrow (Lambo) (6-78-3:05)	14-17
4 7:58 Seattle	FG Lambo 44 (6-15-2:57)	17-17
4 2:46 Seattle	TD Darnold 53 pass to Renfrow (Lambo) (4-77-1:43)	24-17

Passing

SEA: Darnold 31/23 274 Yds 3 TDs Int, Manning 2/1 7 Yds
VV: Finley 34/13 261 Yds 2 TDs

Rushing

SEA: Mack 8/28, Hunt 4/7, Akers 1/2, Darnold 2/1
VV: Elliott 24/73, Finley 6/42, Freeman 8/34, Mann 1/0, Richburg 0/-14

Receiving

SEA: Hunt 6/56 TD, Renfrow 5/89 2 TDs, Lamb 3/69, Miller 3/27, Deguara 2/11, Mack,M 2/11, Robinson 2/7, Moreau 1/11
VV: Brown 6/91 TD, Cooper 4/103, Ebron 2/65 TD, Elliott 1/2

Defense

SEA: White STF FF 16-Tk, Wright 2 PD 3 STF FF 6-Tk
VV: Barr PD 9-Tk, Heyward 2 Sks STF 6-Tk, Lawrence II 2 Sks 3-Tk, Hooker INT 2-Tk

Injuries

SEA: Curry
VV: Collins Sr

Misc

SEA: |
VV: Bad snap Richburg



Joe Mixon's 21-yard run powered the Cubs opening drive and set up his own 9-yard TD run. The Pats answered with an 11-yard TD pass from **DeShaun Watson** to **Jakobi Meyers**, but then the Cubs took off with 3 TD drives in the 2nd quarter, including two more Mixon TD runs, to take a 28-7 lead. Mixon ran for 214 yards in the game. A comeback window opened after a missed 4th & 2 by the Cubs. **Alvin Kamara** burst free for a 44-yard TD run and later added a 1-yard dive to pull within 7. But 2 interceptions by the Cubs in the 4th quarter, including a pick-six, held off the Pats comeback.

11-06-2020 Joe Ferguson Stadium Temp:43 Wind:0-5 None Line:ICC by 4 MVP:Mixon

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Charleswood (1-4)	7	0	7	7	21
2019 Iowa City (2-2-1)	7	21	0	13	41

Scoring Summary

1 9:25 Iowa City	TD Mixon 9 run (Tucker,J) (9-68-5:27)	0-7
1 3:10 Charleswood	TD Watson 11 pass to Meyers (Carlson) (10-75-6:15)	7-7
2 14:13 Iowa City	TD Mixon 2 run (Tucker,J) (7-75-3:58)	7-14
2 5:17 Iowa City	TD Wilson 9 pass to Beasley (Tucker,J) (10-80-5:00)	7-21
2 0:27 Iowa City	TD Mixon 12 run (Tucker,J) (9-62-3:18)	7-28
3 8:05 Charleswood	TD Kamara 44 run (Carlson) (2-59-0:57)	14-28
4 14:53 Charleswood	TD Kamara 1 run (Carlson) (10-72-5:48)	21-28
4 10:15 Iowa City	FG Tucker 51 (9-42-4:32)	21-31
4 4:28 Iowa City	TD Ogletree 16 interception return (Tucker,J)	21-38
4 1:29 Iowa City	FG Tucker 26 (4--1-1:43)	21-41

Passing

CHP: Watson 34/21 243 Yds TD 2-Ints
 ICC: Wilson 18/14 184 Yds TD

Rushing

CHP: Kamara 13/112 2-TDs, Watson 1/15, Dobbins 1/1, Rudolph 3/-2
 ICC: Mixon 33/214 3-TDs, Armstead 4/22, Wilson 1/4, Coutee 1/-2

Receiving

CHP: Campbell 4/49, Meyers 4/45 TD, Kamara 4/29, Smith Jr 2/45, Metcalf 2/32, Smith-Schuster 2/24, DeValve 2/6, Howard 1/13
 ICC: Lockett 4/55, Coutee 4/36, Beasley 3/25 TD, Brown 1/48, Armstead 1/14, Wesco 1/6

Defense

CHP: Ferguson STF 9-Tk
 ICC: Rhodes PD FF 8-Tk, Littleton 2 PDs STF 8-Tk, Ogletree Int-TD| 4-Tk, Stone Int 3-Tk

Injuries

CHP: Mosley 13, Ferguson 2
 ICC:

Misc

CHP: 14 missed tackles, Watson 5 BP
 ICC: Taylor,D 5 QB Hurries



Defence ruled the day in perfect conditions at the Assassin's Den. Both offences managed to get close, but neither could punch the ball across the goal line in the 1st half. Vegas won the early FG battle 3-1, but could have had more if not for a decision to go for it on 4th & 1 at the Crusaders' 12. **Carson Wentz** was stuffed for a loss. Peg City finally hit paydirt in the 3rd when **Aaron Jones** ran it in for a 10-yard TD. Two more FGs were traded before LV took control with 2:26 left and no timeouts. They made it to the Pegs' 24 with 0:50 left, where **Ka'imi Fairbairn** hooked the 42-yard attempt.

11-07-2020 Assassin's Den Temp:74 Wind: No Line MVP:Jones HFA:ON(4)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Peg City (4-1)	0	3	7	3	13
2019 Las Vegas (3-2)	3	6	0	3	12

Scoring Summary

1 6:27 Las Vegas	FG Fairbairn 26 (13-65-4:48)	0-3
2 8:53 Las Vegas	FG Fairbairn 26 (8-30-3:52)	0-6
2 3:57 Peg City	FG Butker 22 (13-71-4:52)	3-6
2 0:25 Las Vegas	FG Fairbairn 29 (13-73-3:20)	3-9
3 5:23 Peg City	TD Jones 10 run (Butker) (11-80-5:46)	10-9
4 6:55 Las Vegas	FG Fairbairn 29 (14-62-5:52)	10-12
4 2:38 Peg City	FG Butker 27 (10-66-4:14)	13-12

Passing

PCC: Cousins 31/19 186 Yds Int
 LV: Wentz 44/27 279 Yds, Brissett 2/0 0 Yds

Rushing

PCC: Jones 12/55 TD, Barkley 6/45, Johnson 4/24
 LV: Cook 14/54, Wentz 4/33

Receiving

PCC: Barkley 4/22, Jones 3/24, Higbee 3/39, Sutton 3/43, Allen 3/40, Boyle 2/12
 LV: Thomas 7/66, Richardson Jr. 7/93, Cook 6/56, Graham 3/35, Jeudy 2/14, Smallwood 1/4

Defense

PCC: Miller Sk FF 3-Tk, Vigil 9-Tk, Allen Sk 3-Tk
 LV: Leonard 14-Tk, Armstrong Sk FF Tk, Williams Int 4-Tk, Barrett Sk 4-Tk

Injuries

PCC:
 LV:

Misc

PCC:
 LV:



30
6

The Durham 'D' took control of this game from the start, forcing Erieau to punt on each of its first 3 series, while the Durham offence pushed forward steadily with two extended drives to take a 10-0 lead. The Lizards suffered a setback when **Trevon Diggs** stripped the ball from **Cooper Kupp** and recovered the fumble at the Durham 28. This good field position led to a 19-yard TD pass to **Mark Andrews**. It would be Erieau's only score. Durham kept **Kyler Murray** bottled up, sacking him 6 times, including 2 by rookie **Chase Young**, while the offence bled the clock away on an easy win.

11-04-2020 Kelly-Burke Field Temp:58 Wind:15-25 None Line:DTL by 2 MVP:Allen HFA

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Durham (3-2)	7	10	10	3	30
2019 Erieau (1-4)	0	6	0	0	6

Scoring Summary

1 4:44 Durham	TD Allen 9 pass to Kupp (Pineiro) (14-81-8:46)	7-0
2 12:35 Durham	FG Pineiro 52 (10-34-4:42)	10-0
2 5:47 Erieau	TD Murray 19 pass to Andrews (no good) (3-28-1:39)	10-6
2 0:32 Durham	TD Allen 15 pass to Hooper (Pineiro) (7-70-1:34)	17-6
3 11:43 Durham	FG Pineiro 52 (9-51-3:06)	20-6
3 6:03 Durham	TD Allen 14 pass to Samuel (Pineiro) (7-57-4:00)	27-6
4 11:44 Durham	FG Pineiro 39 (11-44-6:53)	30-6

Passing

DTL: Allen 27/18 181 Yds 3 TDs
 ERI: Murray 18/13 110 Yds TD

Rushing

DTL: Chubb 20/110, Allen 6/66, Evans 5/19, Gbson 7/18, Mattison 4/12, Bowden Jr 1/0
 ERI: Murray 7/48, Gore 3/16, Hines 3/12, McCoy 4/10, Moss 1/6, Allen, J 3/4, Gore 1/0, Vaughn 1/0, Ruggs III 1/-6

Receiving

DTL: Samuel 5/61 TD, Hooper 3/33 TD, Boyd 2/27, Kupp 2/25 TD, Know 2/16, Chubb 2/14, Evans 2/5
 ERI: Higgins 2/26, Andrews 2/23 TD, Gordon 2/21, Henry 2/15, Hines 2/10, Ruggs III 1/14, Moss 1/1, McCoy 1/0

Defense

DTL: Young 2-Sks 3-Tk, Armstead Sk STF 4-Tk, Murphy Sk STF 2-Tk
 ERI: Bosa STF 5-Tk, Murray FF 6-Tk

Injuries

DTL:
 ERI: Staley 9



24
38

Joe Burrow got Scarborough got on the board in style with a dart over the middle that **Allen Robinson** carried in for a 58-yard TD pass. Georgia's **Tua Tagovailoa** answered with a dart to the sideline that **Jarvis Landry** hauled in for a 59-yard TD. The battle of 1st round picks began. But after both sides had matched each other to a 14-14 tie, the game turned into a lop-sided contest after Tua was intercepted by **Troy Hill** to set-up a 5-yard Burrow bootleg TD that opened the floodgates. The Georgia rookie was replaced after a 2/10 stretch while the Eagle's rookie finished with a combined 4 TDs.

11-06-2020 The Wolverine's Den Temp:56 Wind:0-10 None Line:SBE by 8 MVP:Burrow H

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Georgia (1-4)	7	7	0	10	24
2019 Scarborough (4-1)	14	10	7	7	38

Scoring Summary

1 7:32 Scarborough	TD Burrow 58 pass to Robinson II (Crosby) (4-84-2:28)	0-7
1 5:51 Georgia	TD Tagovailoa 59 pass to Landry (Bass) (4-75-1:41)	7-7
1 0:14 Scarborough	TD Burrow 4 pass to Crowder (Crosby) (11-75-5:37)	7-14
2 11:50 Georgia	TD Tagovailoa 9 pass to Fuller V (Bass) (6-80-3:18)	14-14
2 2:51 Scarborough	TD Burrow 5 run (Crosby) (6-33-2:42)	14-21
2 0:00 Scarborough	FG Crosby 28 (8-64-1:56)	14-24
3 4:44 Scarborough	TD Benjamin 4 run (Crosby) (7-62-4:08)	14-31
4 11:58 Scarborough	TD Burrow 10 pass to Robinson II (Crosby) (2-17-0:50)	14-38
4 9:26 Georgia	FG Bass 46 (7-47-2:27)	17-38
4 6:53 Georgia	TD Johnson 72 punt return (Bass)	24-38

Passing

GEO: Hodges 20/11 129 Yds Int, Tagovailoa 20/8 126 Yds 2 TDs 2 Ints
 SBE: Burrow 25/21 234 Yds 3 TDs

Rushing

GEO: Jacobs 15/92, Landry 1/13, Hodges 2/13, Robinson 5/7, Tagovailoa 3/7
 SBE: Carson 11/70, Freeman 10/39, Yeldon 4/12, Benjamin 6/10, Burrow 2/7, Lock 1/-1

Receiving

GEO: Landry 5/85 TD, Johnson 4/76, Akins 3/9, Fuller V 2/36, Stills 2/25, Robinson 2/14, James 1/10
 SBE: Robinson II 8/132 2 TDs, Freeman 3/31, Crowder 3/29 TD, Ward 2/17, Eifert 2/14, Carson 2/0, Yeldon 1/11

Defense

GEO: Ebukam 9-Tk, Edminds 2 STFs 8-Tk, Baker FF 4-Tk
 SBE: Lawson Sk 5-Tk, Hill PD Int 3-Tk, Bosa Sk 1-Tk, Arnette Int 5-Tk, Biegel Int 2-Tk

Injuries

GEO: Bryan
 SBE: Hightower 1

Misc

GEO: Beasley Jr 5 QB Hurries
 SBE: |



13



9

Brooklin recorded a FG on their opening drive then denied the Stars with a red zone takeaway by **Jonathan Jones**. The Hawks took over at their own 11 and, after almost giving up a safety, drove from their own 1 all the way into the Budapest end zone, scoring on a 26-yard **Derek Carr** to **DeAndre Hopkins** hook-up. Budapest struggled in the red zone all game, converting just 2 of 6 forays into a pair of FGs. Two failed 4th-down convert attempts by Brooklin deep in Stars' territory denied them easy FG tries, but **Randy Bullock** delivered when called upon for a 55-yarder to help seal the upset win.

11-06-2020 Ferenc-Liszt Intl Temp:66 Wind:10-20 None Line:BUD by 10 MVP:Carr HF

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Brooklin (3-2)	3	7	0	3	13
2019 Budapest (4-1)	0	3	3	3	9

Scoring Summary

1 9:41 Brooklin	FG Bullock 33 (10-55-5:12)	3-0
2 14:50 Brooklin	TD Carr 26 pass to Hopkins (Bullock) (11-89-6:08)	10-0
2 9:32 Budapest	FG Myers 46 (9-47-5:13)	10-3
3 7:45 Budapest	FG Myers 29 (15-68-6:58)	10-6
4 10:28 Budapest	FG Myers 35 (14-68-6:57)	10-9
4 5:45 Brooklin	FG Bullock 55 (10-38-4:38)	13-9

Passing

BRH: Carr 32/21 231 Yds TD
BUD: Rodgers 34/20 215 Yds

Rushing

BRH: Hyde 14/64, Breida 10/48, Carr 5/22, Bonnafon 1/1
BUD: Williams 13/87, Taylor 2/20, Rodgers 1/9, Dallas 1/7, Diggs 1/1, Johnson 3/0

Receiving

BRH: Hopkins 9/120 TD, Jeffery 3/41, Engram 3/26, Hyde 2/9, Perriman 1/14, Breida 1/8, Fells 1/7, Scott 1/6
BUD: Kittle 8/69, Watkins 4/54, Diggs 3/48, Johnson 2/21, Jefferson 1/15, Clay 1/6, Williams 1/2

Defense

BRH: Jones,J FF 9-Tk, Harrison 2-PDs 3-Tk
BUD: David PD STF FF 12-Tk, Harris Sk PD 3-Tk

Injuries

BRH: McPhee 9
BUD:

Misc

BRH: Bulluck 2/2 FG 55-Lg
BUD:



6



23

The Excaliburs were stymied in the 1st half, unable to gain a first down against the Pickering defence over two quarters. While York struggled, the Spartans slowly built a 16-0 lead, with the big blow a 9-yard dive up the middle for a TD by **Justin Jackson** to cap off a drive that lasted 8½ minutes. York's first drive of the 2nd half started well, but was thwarted by 3 straight penalties and a fumbled snap that created a 4th & 31. The Spartans finally removed all doubt when **Philip Rivers** hit **Marquise Brown** for a 16-yard 4th quarter TD to make it 23-0. **Derrick Henry's** 9-yard TD broke the shutout.

11-05-2020 Thermopylae Stadium Temp:36 Wind:Calm None Line:YOR by 12 MVP:Rivers

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 York (2-3)	0	0	0	6	6
2019 Pickering (1-4)	3	13	0	7	23

Scoring Summary

1 6:15 Pickering	FG Zuerlein 26 (16-77-8:37)	0-3
2 11:42 Pickering	FG Zuerlein 30 (9-80-4:27)	0-6
2 1:44 Pickering	TD Jackson 9 run (Zuerlein) (13-73-8:25)	0-13
2 0:00 Pickering	FG Zuerlein 55 (10-47-1:16)	0-16
4 12:26 Pickering	TD Rivers 16 pass to Brown (Zuerlein) (10-70-5:53)	0-23
4 4:29 York	TD Brady 9 pass to Henry (2 - failed) (5-74-2:02)	6-23

Passing

YOR: Brady 28/16 143 Yds TD
PIC: Rivers 31/23 270 Yds TD

Rushing

YOR: Henry 13/44, Snell Jr. 1/2, Brady 1/-6
PIC: Sanders 21/59, Swift 13/55, Jackson 3/14 TD, Rivers 2/-2

Receiving

YOR: Ertz 3/52, Davis 3/20, Snell Jr 3/18, Amendola 2/18, Williams 2/12, Henry 1/9 TD, Hamilton 1/7, Smith,K 1/7
PIC: Ridley 7/80, Brown 5/88 TD, Shepard 3/44, Sanders 3/24, Williams 2/22, Swift 2/7, Jackson 1/5

Defense

YOR: Whitehead STF 9-Tk, McMillan STF 8-Tk, buckner 2 STFs 6-Tk
PIC: Schobert 2 PDs 6-Tk, Hyde PD STF FF 5-Tk, Ward 3 PDs 3-Tk

Injuries

YOR: Amendola 1
PIC:

Misc

YOR:
PIC: 39:56 TOP



35



38

A turnover on downs followed by a 49-yard TD pass to Julian Edelman and a pick-six by Erik Harris, helped Aurora build a quick 21-7 lead. When Haasan Reddick recovered a Jason Witten fumble, the Fish appeared in trouble. But a penalty-assisted TD drive and a Jalen Reagor 49-yard punt return, that set up a Jonathan Taylor TD run, tied the game at 21 late in the half. After a Sebastian TD to start the 3rd, the Mustangs went for 4th & 1 at their own 28 and missed, setting up Chase Edmonds' third TD and making it 35-21 Sebastian. The Mustangs pushed back, but could not come back.

11-04-2020 The Fish Tank Temp:76 Wind: No Line MVP:Edmonds HFA:ON(2)

Table with 6 columns: 1, 2, 3, 4, Tot. Rows for 2019 Aurora (3-2) and 2019 Sebastian (3-2).

Scoring Summary

Scoring summary table with columns for time, team, play description, and score.

Passing

AUR: Ryan 35/16 255 Yds 4 TDs Int
SS: Brees 33/23 197 Yds TD Int

Rushing

AUR: Drake 18/137, Ryan 3/10
SS: Edmonds 9/104 2 TDs, McFarland 9/42 TD, Taylor 10/31 TD, Williams 6/11, Brees 4/-2

Receiving

AUR: Edelman 8/140, Drake 2/34, Washington 2/34, Goedert 2/29, Perine 1/10, Gesicki 1/8
SS: Witten 9/69, Tate 6/64, Edmonds 4/23 TD, Bekham Jr 3/35, Reagor 1/6

Defense

AUR: Johnson PD 2 STFs 8-Tk, Harris Int-TD
SS: Jones 2 Sks FF 7-Tk, Baker 3 PD 5-Tk, Reid PD Int 2-Tk

Injuries

AUR: Goedert
SS: King

Misc

AUR: 11 missed tackles
SS:



23



6

A tipped ball interception by Xavier Woods near mid-field set Cowtown up for the only points of the 1st half, a 3-yard check down TD to Todd Gurley. The extra point failed, keeping their lead to 6-0. Two long Irish drives on their first two series of the 2nd half yielded just a pair of FGs. Meanwhile the Corn Kings' offence broke through with a 3rd & 8 conversion to Adam Humphries setting up a 14-yard screen for a TD to Le-Veon Bell. Jimmy Garoppolo added his 3rd TD pass of the game, a 13-yarder to Mike Evans, and the defence clinched it with a pick of Ryan Fitzpatrick at the 4:22 mark of the 4th.

11-05-2020 Msgr McClancy Mem Temp:65 Wind:5-15 None No Line MVP:Garoppolo HFA:ON(4)

Table with 6 columns: 1, 2, 3, 4, Tot. Rows for 2019 Cowtown (3-2) and 2019 East Elmhurst (1-4).

Scoring Summary

Scoring summary table with columns for time, team, play description, and score.

Passing

COW: Garoppolo 25/18 235 Yds 3 TDs
EE: Fitzpatrick 26/14 136 Yds 2 Ints

Rushing

COW: Bell 9/39, Gurley II 11/38, Garoppolo 5/15, Washington 5/6
EE: Fitzpatrick 10/70, Murray 11/33, Kelley 1/2

Receiving

COW: Bell 4/41 TD, Humphries 3/56, Evans 3/43 TD, Sprinkle 2/31, Conley 2/27, Gurley II 2/11 TD, Cephus 1/19, Washington 1/7
EE: Agholor 3/30, Murray 3/13, Kelley 3/9, Hill, T 2/19, Thielen 1/53, Davis 1/7, Everett 1/5

Defense

COW: Kennard PD 7-Tk, Ioannidis Sk STF FF 5-Tk, Sheffield PD Int 3-Tk, Gross-Matos Sk PD FF 2-Tk
EE: Smith 16-Tk, Graham Sk 2 STFs 6-Tk, Poe Sk STF 5-Tk

Injuries

COW:
EE:

Misc

COW: 3/3 Red Zone TDs
EE: |



STATS



WEEK FIVE

STANDINGS & STATS

EFL 2020 Official Standings

East	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Cobb County	5	0	0	1.000	W5	178	35.6	77	15.4	20.2	2 0 0	3 0 0	4 0 0
Buffalo	3	2	0	.600	W3	136	27.2	114	22.8	4.4	1 1 0	1 2 0	2 2 0
Bruxelles	2	3	0	.400	L1	147	29.4	148	29.6	-0.2	1 1 0	1 2 0	1 3 0
New Jersey	1	4	0	.200	L3	136	27.2	176	35.2	-8.0	1 1 0	1 2 0	1 3 0
Central	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Peg City	4	1	0	.800	W1	158	31.6	122	24.4	7.2	2 1 0	1 0 0	4 0 0
Virden	4	1	0	.800	L1	171	34.2	103	20.6	13.6	2 1 0	1 0 0	3 1 0
Twin Cities	1	4	0	.200	W1	89	17.8	141	28.2	-10.4	1 2 0	0 1 0	1 3 0
Charleswood	1	4	0	.200	L3	129	25.8	187	37.4	-11.6	0 3 0	0 1 0	1 3 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Las Vegas	3	2	0	.600	L1	115	23.0	95	19.0	4.0	2 1 0	1 1 0	2 2 0
Iowa City	2	2	1	.500	W1	110	22.0	119	23.8	-1.8	2 1 0	1 0 1	2 1 1
Chino	2	2	1	.500	L1	121	24.2	130	26.0	-1.8	2 0 1	1 0 1	1 2 1
Seattle	2	3	0	.400	W2	106	21.2	112	22.4	-1.2	1 2 0	0 2 0	1 3 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Scarborough	4	1	0	.800	W3	135	27.0	110	22.0	5.0	2 0 0	1 1 0	3 1 0
Cowtown	3	2	0	.600	W2	88	17.6	64	12.8	4.8	1 1 0	1 1 0	2 2 0
Durham	3	2	0	.600	W1	104	20.8	106	21.2	-0.4	1 0 0	1 1 0	3 1 0
Sebastian	3	2	0	.600	W2	130	26.0	139	27.8	-1.8	2 1 0	1 1 0	2 2 0
Coastal	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Budapest	4	1	0	.800	L1	116	23.2	57	11.4	11.8	1 1 0	1 1 0	3 1 0
Brooklin	3	2	0	.600	W1	108	21.6	101	20.2	1.4	2 0 0	2 0 0	3 1 0
York	2	3	0	.400	L2	85	17.0	94	18.8	-1.8	2 0 0	0 2 0	2 2 0
Pickering	1	4	0	.200	W1	91	18.2	129	25.8	-7.6	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 3 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Aurora	3	2	0	.600	L1	128	25.6	135	27.0	-1.4	2 1 0	2 0 0	2 2 0
Erieau	1	4	0	.200	L4	79	15.8	119	23.8	-8.0	1 2 0	1 1 0	1 3 0
Georgia	1	4	0	.200	L2	69	13.8	126	25.2	-11.4	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 3 0
East Elmhurst	1	4	0	.200	L3	90	18.0	115	23.0	-5.0	1 3 0	0 2 0	1 3 0

EFL 2020 Official Passing Leaders

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Tannehill	CB	94	71	75.5	1286	2	2.1	82	16	17.0	147.8
2	Mahomes	VV	114	80	70.2	1079	1	0.9	31	13	11.4	134.4
3	Cousins	PCC	195	135	69.2	1659	2	1.0	71	14	7.2	114.9
4	Burrow	SBE	158	106	67.1	1133	0	0.0	58	12	7.6	113.2
5	Jackson,L	BUF	158	114	72.2	1164	2	1.3	56	12	7.6	112.9
6	Minshew II	PIC	52	29	55.8	429	0	0.0	41	4	7.7	108.6
7	Stafford	NJ	196	131	66.8	1628	4	2.0	68	14	7.1	107.7
8	Brees	SS	171	119	69.6	1322	3	1.8	67	9	5.3	102.5
9	Garoppolo	COW	157	98	62.4	1181	1	0.6	64	9	5.7	101.9
10	Carr,D	BRH	177	124	70.1	1306	2	1.1	39	8	4.5	101.6
11	Watson,D	CHP	179	121	67.6	1423	6	3.4	49	10	5.6	96.2
12	Wilson,R	ICC	129	84	65.1	952	2	1.6	48	6	4.7	96.1
13	Prescott	CHI	181	118	65.2	1286	3	1.7	45	9	5.0	95.7
14	Rodgers,A	BUD	143	86	60.1	921	0	0.0	50	7	4.9	95.4
15	Allen,J	DTL	143	84	58.7	916	0	0.0	36	7	4.9	94.0
16	Brissett	LV	44	27	61.4	267	0	0.0	47	2	4.5	93.7
17	Rivers	PIC	102	67	65.7	842	2	2.0	44	3	2.9	92.9
18	Ryan,M	AUR	163	98	60.1	1161	7	4.3	49	14	8.6	92.6
19	Trubisky	TCT	65	40	61.5	468	1	1.5	48	3	4.6	92.3
20	Darnold	SEA	167	106	63.5	1100	4	2.4	66	9	5.4	90.4
21	Brady	YOR	145	88	60.7	999	4	2.8	52	7	4.8	86.0
22	Finley	VV	34	13	38.2	261	0	0.0	50	2	5.9	85.5
23	Goff	BRX	212	104	49.1	1343	4	1.9	65	13	6.1	81.9
24	Wentz	LV	157	93	59.2	931	2	1.3	33	5	3.2	81.5
25	Murray,K	ERI	130	79	60.8	836	4	3.1	37	4	3.1	77.0

EFL 2020 Official Punt Return Leaders

			No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Reagor	SS	7	4	114	16.3	49	0
2	Agnew	SEA	12	2	177	14.8	78	1
3	Ervin	VV	10	6	113	11.3	41	0
4	Johnson,D	GEO	14	3	156	11.1	72	1
5	Hardman	LV	13	4	122	9.4	20	0
6	Cohen	NJ	9	1	83	9.2	17	0
7	Berrios	AUR	11	1	101	9.2	19	0
8	Roberts,A	BRX	9	6	75	8.3	13	0
9	Harris,D	COW	14	4	107	7.6	17	0
10	Carter,D	BUF	13	3	96	7.4	13	0
11	Rogers,C	CHI	11	5	81	7.4	15	0
12	Proche II	DTL	14	1	92	6.6	11	0
13	Thomas,D	SBE	17	1	107	6.3	17	0
14	Logan,T	PCC	11	7	67	6.1	13	0
15	Cooper,P	BUD	7	8	40	5.7	10	0
16	Quinn,T	EE	10	6	57	5.7	15	0
17	Amendola	YOR	10	3	41	4.1	8	0
18	Barner	BRH	8	1	29	3.6	15	0
19	Natson	CB	13	3	45	3.5	14	0
20	Kirk	ICC	2	1	16	8.0	9	0
21	Lockett	ICC	2	2	15	7.5	9	0
22	Sherels	YOR	1	0	7	7.0	7	0
23	Peppers	ERI	4	5	27	6.8	13	0
24	Richard	CHP	4	1	18	4.5	7	0
25	Switzer	PIC	2	11	8	4.0	6	0

EFL 2020 Official Kick Return Leaders

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Patterson	VV	9	333	37.0	94	1
2	Roberts,A	BRX	8	254	31.8	46	0
3	Spencer,D	NJ	10	286	28.6	57	0
4	Ruggs III	ERI	10	286	28.6	53	0
5	Carter,D	BUF	16	417	26.1	52	0
6	Natson	CB	6	154	25.7	42	0
7	Hardman	LV	6	147	24.5	30	0
8	Raymond	EE	7	169	24.1	33	0
9	Hilliard	PCC	8	185	23.1	35	0
10	Sanders,M	PIC	7	161	23.0	27	0
11	Ballentine	SS	9	192	21.3	37	0
12	Latimer	DTL	8	170	21.3	37	0
13	James Jr.	GEO	11	225	20.5	29	0
14	Bolden	YOR	6	116	19.3	34	0
15	Richard	CHP	12	227	18.9	30	0
16	Grant,J	CHI	9	164	18.2	28	0
17	Perine	AUR	7	108	15.4	31	0
18	Harris,D	COW	1	42	42.0	42	0
19	Barner	BRH	2	59	29.5	32	0
20	Cohen	NJ	1	28	28.0	28	0
21	Scott,B	BRH	1	28	28.0	28	0
22	Lockett	ICC	3	73	24.3	31	0
23	Campbell,P	CHP	1	24	24.0	24	0
24	Davis,T	SBE	5	115	23.0	29	0
25	Pascal	LV	1	23	23.0	23	0

EFL 2020 Official Rushing Leaders

			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Elliott,E	VV	121	636	5.3	30	3
2	Fournette	BRX	110	629	5.7	56	3
3	Chubb,N	DTL	105	619	5.9	75	3
4	Jackson,L	BUF	93	572	6.2	25	4
5	Mixon	ICC	89	470	5.3	24	5
6	Carson,C	SBE	94	449	4.8	26	1
7	McCaffrey	CHI	68	372	5.5	50	5
8	Singletary	AUR	76	370	4.9	45	0
9	Henry,D	YOR	102	347	3.4	24	3
10	Cook,D	LV	98	343	3.5	19	3
11	Howard,J	BUD	66	336	5.1	19	3
12	Jones,A	PCC	59	330	5.6	32	2
13	Jacobs,J	GEO	76	325	4.3	27	0
14	Williams,J	BUD	49	317	6.5	29	2
15	Kamara	CHP	70	311	4.4	50	4
16	Peterson,A	CB	62	302	4.9	45	2
17	Hyde,C	BRH	68	291	4.3	24	3
18	Mostert	CB	43	269	6.3	40	5
19	Edwards-He	TCT	70	251	3.6	19	5
20	Mack,M	SEA	61	234	3.8	24	0
21	Swift	PIC	42	224	5.3	63	0
22	Barkley,S	PCC	44	209	4.8	29	2
23	Murray,K	ERI	35	203	5.8	25	2
24	Murray,L	EE	49	197	4.0	32	1
25	Drake	AUR	30	192	6.4	16	0
26	Ingram II	CHI	48	191	4.0	29	1
27	Allen,J	DTL	28	169	6.0	15	1
28	Robinson,J	GEO	46	169	3.7	27	0
29	Taylor,J	SS	56	169	3.0	15	1
30	Gurley II	COW	59	165	2.8	12	1
31	Montgomery	NJ	57	156	2.7	33	1
32	Breida	BRH	36	150	4.2	15	0
33	Bell,L	COW	38	131	3.4	16	0
34	Hill,J	EE	30	123	4.1	18	1
35	Wentz	LV	17	116	6.8	22	1

EFL 2020 Official Receiving Leaders

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Thomas,M	LV	51	523	10.3	47	3
2	McCaffrey	CHI	45	343	7.6	27	3
3	Woods,R	BUF	42	512	12.2	52	6
4	Hopkins,D	BRH	38	557	14.7	39	4
5	Kittle	BUD	31	312	10.1	17	3
6	Brown,J	VV	30	456	15.2	29	6
7	Edelman	AUR	30	350	11.7	49	7
8	Chark Jr.	NJ	29	463	16.0	52	6
9	Witten	SS	29	257	8.9	39	3
10	Sanders,E	BUF	28	303	10.8	28	2
11	Renfrow	SEA	28	359	12.8	66	5
12	Cohen	NJ	28	190	6.8	19	0
13	White,J	TCT	27	295	10.9	47	1
14	Fournette	BRX	27	234	8.7	26	1
15	Allen,K	PCC	26	318	12.2	28	3
16	Kupp	DTL	26	336	12.9	36	1
17	Evans,M	COW	26	433	16.7	64	3
18	Adams,D	AUR	26	364	14.0	33	5
19	Metcalfe	CHP	25	372	14.9	35	1
20	Bell,L	COW	25	191	7.6	22	3
21	Smith-Schu	CHP	25	332	13.3	36	3
22	Cooper,A	VV	25	485	19.4	50	6
23	McLaurin	NJ	24	408	17.0	68	5
24	Robinson,A	SBE	23	318	13.8	58	7
25	Engram,E	BRH	23	191	8.3	14	1
26	Barkley,S	PCC	23	258	11.2	65	3
27	Kamara	CHP	23	189	8.2	49	1
28	Andrews,M	ERI	23	233	10.1	19	4
29	Freeman,D	SBE	22	159	7.2	17	0
30	Sutton,C	PCC	22	391	17.8	71	3
31	Richardson	LV	22	216	9.8	21	0
32	Tate	SS	22	248	11.3	44	1
33	Brown,M	PIC	22	398	18.1	43	2
34	Ertz	YOR	22	280	12.7	36	3
35	Gallup	CHI	22	388	17.6	45	4



AROUND THE EFL With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – I promised myself that I would not address the Presidential Election in this column. You may have noticed I have been mum about it to date. It is not because I don't care. In fact, I care very much. Not about who wins – neither candidate is appealing to me. I care about the essence of our Democracy. I can stay silent no longer.

Regardless of who “wins” this election, American prestige as *the bastion of Democracy* has taken a big hit in the eyes of the world. Third World countries are better at counting ballots than we are, apparently. A person who has half a brain in their head and is *honest* with themselves – even a “never-Trumper” – has to wonder why only officials in key battleground states suddenly stopped counting ballots when it appeared likely that President Trump would win those states on election night. Texas, California and New York can count all of their ballots on time, but apparently Pennsylvania, Michigan, Georgia and Wisconsin cannot.

I will not get in to all of the details – they are messy. Irregularities are a certainty. Fraud is most likely. Whether or not it can be proven and whether or not it was fraud conducted on a scale large enough to overturn the ‘Will of the People’ are open questions. I am afraid we will never get the real answers to these questions. Everything will be swept under the carpet to preserve our precious “Democracy” – the guiding light increasingly held in contempt and hated by most of the world. It is all a sham.

What is happening in front of our eyes is far worse than the “hanging chads” that propelled George W to power. Voters of all stripes should be concerned. The declared winner of this election will never be fully legitimate in the eyes of the country. If Trump is eventually declared the winner, one half will allege “Russian meddling” and voter disenfranchisement; if Biden is declared the winner, as appears likely, the other half will allege the election was stolen from them by bags of illegal mail-in ballots. Regardless of whether or not this election was *actually* fair, it will not be *seen to be* fair by roughly one half of the populace.

Under these circumstances, I cannot fathom how any sane person would want the job.

FIVE-SIXTEENTHLY REVIEW

Week Five – or 5/16ths of the way through the season. More than one-quarter, but less than one-third. Not too early, not too late to note emerging trends and make meaningful projections. Week Five, like Week Nine, is one of those overlooked mileposts in the season. For a number like sixteen, divisible by 4, it is natural to break the season into quarters. But in doing so, we discard potentially valuable insights that come in Week Five – or any other irreducible fraction point in the year. So, with that in mind, I offer you *Spats' Five-Sixteenthly Review*:

GREAT JUMPS

Cobb County 5-0: Some prominent pundits in the national media predicted the Coyotes would surprise, including Yours Truly. I don't think any of them expected Cobb County to be the league's last undefeated team. The key variable, of course, is **Ryan Tannehill**. Viewed as a game manager more than a game changer, prevailing wisdom stated he needed to be protected in the system. But the reality visible on the field is that he is guiding the system. This is a solid team throughout, especially with the acquisition of **Demarcus Lawrence** at the trade deadline to shore up the one area of relative weakness on the defence. If Tannehill continues to perform at historic efficiency levels, the Coyotes will eclipse Virren as the favourite in the Pacific Conference.

Scarborough 4-1: Joe Burrow was expected to be a difference-maker, but the speed at which he is changing the game-day performance and culture of the Blue Eagles comes as a surprise, even to supporters. The Eagles have been butt-of-joke-bad for so long that the hidden talent on the roster had become invisible, as all attention focused on the twin tire fires at the quarterback and head coaching positions. With Burrow behind center and new coach **Kyle Shanahan** calling the shots, the Eagles look like a completely different team. With a last place schedule in front of them, expect them to continue making noise until the true tests come against division rival Durham and Virren in Week Eleven.

Peg City 4-1: Although coach **Stephen Katopodis** would love to have Week Four back, his team's good fortune against the Assassins in Week Five made up for that last-minute loss to **Joe Burrow** and the Blue Eagles. The bottom line is 4-1; a fast start that any Crusader fan would have been ecstatically content with if told before the season started that they would be tied with Virren in first place after five weeks. It is now established that Peg City is a bona fide contender that will not sneak up on opponents. Whether they will break the ceiling against teams like Virren or Cobb County will depend on **Kirk Cousins**.

Michael Thomas, 51 catches: The Assassins' no.1 wide receiver is on pace to catch 163 balls this year, which would eclipse the standing record of 122, held by **Michael Crabtree**, by a cavernous margin. It would be natural to assume that Thomas cannot maintain this pace. But I have yet to see evidence that he cannot. He and **Carson Wentz** are beating the increasing number of

double teams with relative ease. Barring injury, Thomas will set a new record for catches in a season.

Lamar Jackson, 572 yards rushing: It is unlikely that the physical phenom who starts behind center for the Derailers will actually win the rushing title, despite vows to do so by his coach. But unless teams find a way to stop him, Jackson is well on pace to shatter the *quarterback* rushing record of 837 yards, set by **Cam Newton** in 2012. Whether or not his exceptional running ability translates into more wins for his team, there is no question that Lamar is off to a fast start and is heading in the right direction.

Darius Leonard, 55 tackles+: He is not getting much press coverage outside of Las Vegas, but the Assassins' 'Will' linebacker is making his presence felt on the field as a standout in a very good defence. He is averaging 11 tackles per game and already has 5 tackles-for-loss, 4 pass deflections, a forced fumble and a pick-six to his credit. If he keeps this up, don't be surprised if Vegas steals the West Division by year's end.

Christian McCaffery, 715 yards from scrimmage, 8 TDs: The Convicts are hanging tough at 2-2-1 because of this guy. If there is a 5/16th season MVP, he would be it. Although nobody really talks about the true workhorse of the Convicts' offence, all attention being on **Dak Prescott**, McCaffery is currently 7th in the league in rushing and is on pace for 144 catches. He also leads all non-kickers in scoring. Reportedly still healthy as a horse, McCaffery is looking like the 'X-Factor' in the West Division.

Leonard Fournette, 863 yards from scrimmage, 4 TDs: The Bombers are struggling, but Fournette is not. He single-handedly won their opener against Buffalo and is the reason they have been competitive in losses. He is the focal point of the offence right now and the fact that he has been able to produce with all eyes upon him speaks to his thoroughbred talent. How long will the Bombers be able to ride him this hard?

Patrick Mahomes, 134.4 QB Rating, 4-0 as starter: Virden's young protégé at quarterback has played with remarkable maturity in his four starts. He has not posted the eye-popping numbers many expected, but he has not had to. He has done what needed to be done to put his team into position to win. This is reflected in his elite-level QB efficiency rating. When Mahomes is in the game, the Violators look unbeatable and appear well on their way to fulfilling high expectations in 2020.

FALSE STARTS

Jameis Winston Era in Twin Cities: The player most responsible for the Triumph dropping their first three games of the season and ensuring they would not come back in their 4th has posted atrocious numbers that accurately reflect the level of his play. Dead last, by a lot, in QB rating among qualifying passers with an abysmal 33.6, Winston obviously benefitted from the lack of a pre-season in order to snatch the starting job from **Mitch Trubisky**. What a mistake that was! It is not too late for the Triumph to turn things around, but it will not be with Winston behind center.

New Jersey 1-4: For a team that had designs on a division win and possibly more, a single victory (and a dubious win at that) is the very definition of a false start, possibly two false starts and an illegal motion. The good thing about the 5/16th mark of the season is that there is still time to reverse the slide and make the playoffs. A division title looks highly unlikely with the Coyotes baying at the moon as if they were wolves and with **Matt Stafford** out for at least 8 weeks. Looks like another lost year for the Balls.

Todd Gurley, 165 yards rushing, 2.8 avg., 2 TDs: At this time last year, Gurley led the league with 593 yards rushing, a 5.5 avg., and 4 TDs on his way to a rushing title, 2,146 total scrimmage yards and 19 TDs by year end. He had more yards rushing (214) on opening day in 2019 than he has thru 5 weeks this year. The engine of the Corn King attack is sputtering like an Edsel. That has left **Jimmy Garoppolo** exposed to defences that no longer respect the run. One would think Gurley's track record would still have influence. But he has not looked the part of an impact back. Defenders watch the film and see a player who suddenly looks 38 years old.

Richard Sherman, pylon: The reputedly lockdown-grade, mega-elite, former All-Pro corner is one of the reasons the Durham defence has struggled to get off the field on 3rd down. Sherman is still mauling receivers, but this year he is getting called on it to the tune of five penalties for a league-leading 70 yards. When he isn't laying down the hammer just before the ball arrives, he is simply letting receivers run by him, turn him around, or cut underneath and getting wide open. He has no interceptions yet and opposing QBs have completed 75% of passes against him. Nevertheless, *Pro Football Focal-Point* has consistently rated him in the top 10 at his position this year, which makes one wonder who is making these grades and what games they are watching.

The South Division: Three teams sitting at 1-4 is all one needs to see to realize this division is the ghetto of the EFL. While the Mustangs appreciate the near-automatic 6 wins they will be gifted in the standings, the concern is that life in the ghetto might rub off on them and turn them into Nags by the post-season. Pre-season speculation that a modest breakout year might be in store for Erieau has, so far, proven to be exactly that. There is no evidence the Caddies will go far as **Kyler Murray** adjusts with heroic effort, but few tangible results, to the absence of a cohesive offensive game plan. Georgia is basically a semi-pro team and East Elmhurst has an identity crisis.

Well, that's all for this year's *Spats' Five-Sixteenthly Review!* If I failed to mention your player or your team, it could be due to any of a number of reasons. My rule of thumb is; if it did not grab my attention, it isn't very important or significant. But I admit to missing important things occasionally – I am busy after all. So, if you have a player, team or unit you feel is deserving of mention in either the 'Great Jump' or 'False Start' category, make your case. The ones I like, I will publish next week!

THE FOOTBALL GODS AT PLAY

The apparently unstoppable Virden Violators proved unable to defend themselves against COVID-19. The virus hit them unexpectedly where it hurt most – at quarterback!

Patrick Mahomes tested positive for COVID-19 on Thursday, while his practice partner on QB-Team 1, **Jake Dolegala** tested negative. On Friday, Mahomes tested negative, but Dolegala tested positive. Their "last chance" test on Saturday yielded negative tests

for both, bringing a temporary sigh of relief from Virden coach **Lance Barrate**. But the nurse who administered their tests *also* tested positive at later that day. Having been in close contact with the nurse, both Mahomes and Dolegala were placed on the COVID-19 reserve list and de-activated from the roster for Virden's Week 5 game against Seattle. Third stringer **Ryan Finley**, who had tested negative all week, was announced as the starting quarterback Sunday morning. The Violators and their fans had been thrown sharp breaking curve ball but few thought it would break as sharply as it did.

Finley as surprise starter fed the QB controversy that had been steaming at a slow boil in Virden ever since Dolegala had made his briefly successful appearance against Durham last week. Those who had wildly speculated that **Lance Barrate** was looking for a reason to replace Mahomes with Dolegala adjusted their conspiracy accordingly – the coach must be auditioning Finley for the role. The fans who had drawn from Dolegala's flash of success the conclusion that Barrate's "system" made the quarterback and not the other way around, were looking forward to the chance to prove their point. Although none had actually seen Finley play (he had played one snap with the Gladiators last year and did not throw a pass) they were convinced that he would "do just fine under Coach Lance" and, after all, it was only the Pilots he would be facing. Yes, 4-0 had already made Virden fans comfortable, even a touch arrogant and perhaps ignorant, since most clearly had not been paying any attention to Seattle.

The Pilots brought an undaunting 1-3 record to Virden, but the record was a bit deceptive. Their average point differential was a narrow -3.3 and they were ranked, perhaps surprisingly, at no.9 in the *ESPN Power Rankings*. This was because they had battled Iowa City and Las Vegas hard and had rallied to beat a scrappy Brooklin team in Week Four. The Pilots had game. Although few expected it to last through 16 weeks, few expected it would dissipate after notching a big win the previous week.

The game itself had a bizarre feel about it. The way the stage had been set – with **Patrick Mahomes** suddenly plucked from the roster due to a chimera – induced a state of mild stupefaction and disbelief in the fanbase. The league itself must be conspiring to keep Virden down, a vocal minority complained. Others were stunned at the loss, but remained confident that the Violators would be able to handle the Pilots anyway. Well over half of the game was played-out with little drama or energy, as if both sides were content to slow-march in tandem to a pre-determined fate. Then the impossible happened and slapped Virden fans, players and coaches, back to reality.

Finley, to his credit, played well in the first half. He completed 9 of 14 pass attempts for 206 yards, including a 50-yard bomb to **Amari Cooper** as well as TD passes of 10 yards to **John Brown** and 42 yards to **Eric Ebron** to stake the Violators to 17-0 half time lead. Fans of the "system" argument were feeling already vindicated. But Finley completely lost the handle in the second half – one of the laziest halves of football you will ever witness from a team in the top tier of the power pyramid.

Leading 17-0, Virden went right into clock mode to start the second half, as if the game was won. The leisurely pace seemed to put the whole Virden offence into a coma, particularly Finley, whose accuracy plummeted under the sudden duress of an unexpected Seattle challenge. His second half numbers ended up a woeful 4 of 20 for 55 yards.

Seattle's comeback was remarkable to watch. It was as if the *Football Gods* themselves (they exist!) intervened to create the spark that lit the comeback fire. Why would they do this, you ask? I don't know – I cannot speak for these mysterious and inscrutable beings. Perhaps they were simply bored, as I was, watching **Ezekiel Elliott** run sweep after sweep in an effort to run out the clock, and finally decided to spice things up a bit. Think about it; the Football Gods have literally *nothing* to do *other* than watch football. So, they would not be happy watching a team make a mockery of competition by clocking it with half the game to play and a mere three-score lead.

Whatever the reason, the Football Gods quite likely induced a twitch in the hand of long-snapper **Weston Richburg**, causing him to sail a snap over the head of punter **Braden Mann** that gave the ball to Seattle at the Virden 41 with 8:09 left in the third. It was Seattle's first possession inside Virden territory and they made the most of it. It took them three plays to get it into the end zone, scoring on a pass in the flat that **Kareem Hunt** snagged and carried 24 yards to the left pylon. In a flash, it was 17-7.



Young Violators' fans protest in Virden town square prior to their Week 5 game against the Pilots. A cult of disaffected youth from across Manitoba has adopted the team. They assemble each week near **TERRORDOME** to voice their views on things like lockdown measures and the false positive COVID-19 test of **Patrick Mahomes**.

The botched snap and subsequent touchdown did not alter the overall Virден plan to drain time off the clock. On their next possession they led with three straight Elliott runs before shaking it up with easy pass plays, hoping to catch the Pilots in full run-stopping mode. The plan might have worked, except that Finley and his receivers were now out of synch. Three straight incomplete passes brought the punting unit onto the field and the Pilots took over at their own 22.

Sam Darnold, pumped up after throwing a TD pass on the previous drive, dropped back on 3rd & 6, shook off **Casey Heyward** in the pocket and checked down to **CeeDee Lamb**. The dazzling young rookie took it 55 yards to the Virден 3-yard line then, after a false start penalty brought it back 5 yards, Darnold looped a corner fade to **Hunter Renfrow** for a touchdown. The Virден lead was now down to 3 points, 17-14, with a full quarter left to play.

Lance Barrate had seen enough. It was time to switch gears and take a more aggressive posture. But Finley is no Mahomes. That became very clear over the ensuing 15 minutes. Finley oversaw two three-and-outs in which he went 1 of 5 for 2 yards. Meanwhile the Pilots were making measured progress in the field position battle and used it to tie the game on a 44-yard **Josh Lambo** field goal that came after a short drive of only 15 yards.

The positive momentum was raging on the Pilots' sideline. Finley led the Violators to a seven-and-out and punted the ball back to Seattle. Darnold took control at his own 23 and made short work of his 77-yard mission. Three short completions brought the ball to the Seattle 47 then **Hunter Renfrow** drove-in the knife. He snared a pass tipped at the line by **Sheldon Richardson**, which had been directed toward the middle of the field, in the direction of Lamb, but the carom deflected it to the left. All of Virден's 6 defensive backs were either on the other side of the field or had bit aggressively on the initial launch angle from Darnold. Somehow, Renfrow was all by himself on the left side of the field. He sprinted 53 yards to the end zone without being touched. The artificial crowd noise turned mute. The Seattle bench could be heard whooping it up. Properly social-distancing fans watching on patios in Seattle roared through their masks. The scent of upset was fresh in the air and everyone, including the Virден sideline, could smell it.

The Violators were now down by a touchdown as they took over at their 25 with 2:35 remaining and all of their timeouts. It was enough time to score, but a couple more minutes – the minutes they had frittered away early in the 2nd half – would have helped. *The Football Gods* certainly have an appreciation for irony.

Virден had little room for error, but they led with them anyway. Three straight incompletions set up a do-or-die 4th & 10. Fans, had they been in attendance, might have started heading to the exits at that point. But Finley delivered a strike in stride to **Eric Ebron**, who picked up extra yards for a 23-yard pass play to the Virден 44. Three plays later Finley found Cooper for a 15-yard completion then took it himself on the next play for a 23-yard scramble all the way to the Seattle 4-yard line. The Pilots were now on their heels.

There was 0:16 left on the clock and the Violators still had one timeout. Findley handed off to Elliott, but the Pilots had sniffed out the play. Elliott was greeted by **Larry Ogunjobi** 1-yard behind the line of scrimmage. Virден called its last timeout with 0:13 left and the ball on the Seattle 5. It was officially nervous time for both teams. Finley took a quick drop and flicked the ball underneath toward Elliott just inside the goal line. The fans, were there any, might have leaped to their feet as the ball headed toward an open Elliott. But they surely would have clasped their hands over the heads in disbelief when Elliott dropped the pass.

Virден went back to the same play but **KJ Wright**, recognized it and got his hand up to deflect the pass. Facing 4th & goal at the 5, Virден went back to the same play a third time, but the receivers were covered. Finley saw an opening and made a charge for the goal line, but was violently ambushed by **Khalil Mack** at the 4-yard line. The star of the Seattle defence, who had not been much of a factor to this point, rose up to make the defensive play of the game, preserving a hard-fought win.

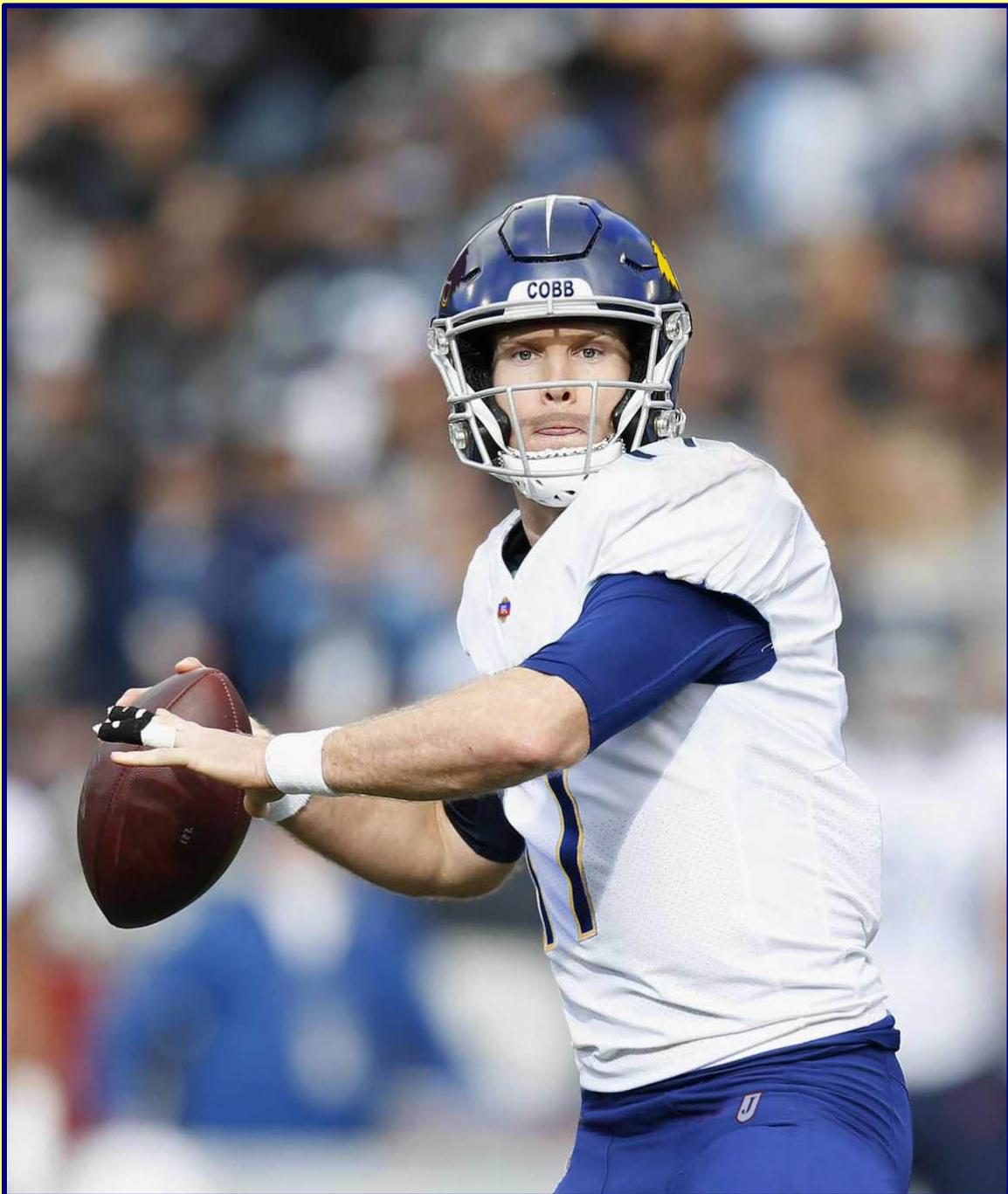
The Pilots' victory was a stunning upset. Even without Mahomes at quarterback, the Violators were regarded as being too strong to lose to a team like Seattle. The statistics in this game bear out the view that Virден should have won. But the numbers don't always tell the story when the *Football Gods* (yes, they exist!) get involved.

TRADING PLACES

At Ferenc-Liszt International Airport Stadium in Budapest, the Hawks startled the entire football world by grinding out – yes, *grinding* out – a 13-9 victory over the previously unbeaten North Stars. The upset stops Brooklin's two-game slide and puts them alone in second place in the Coastal at 3-2, one game behind the 4-1 Stars.

This contest bore no resemblance to any predictive pre-game analysis. Things we thought we knew about both teams were boldly challenged by events on the field, as if they had traded places. Weather was not a factor in the low score. Apart from a brisk wind at times, conditions were as good as could be expected on the hard-scrabble grass field on top of a pitted, 80-year old Soviet runway.

This was a genuine defensive contest between a true heavyweight defence and a welter weight defence, where, somehow the welter weight defence found a path to victory by playing real defence instead of relying on the takeaway game. Were the North Stars spooked by **Stephon Diggs'** opening drive turnover inside the Brooklin red zone? Was the Brooklin defence emboldened by it? Probably a bit of both. Whatever the reason, the "Big Day" expected from **Aaron Rodgers** against the unsteady Brooklin secondary never materialized. **Eli Apple**, who every top-notch wide receiver likes to take a bite out of, along with a combination of safeties and converted safeties playing corner, held their own against Diggs and **Sammy Watkins**, limiting them to 7 mostly inconsequential receptions. This forced Rodgers to turn to **George Kittle**, who caught 8 balls, but was effectively contained after the catch by safety **Jonathan Jones**. The Stars might have used their running game a little more – **Jamaal Williams** racked up 87 yards on just 13 carries. But on the other hand, who could blame **Darrin Jones** for wanting to undress the already half-naked Hawks' secondary? Brooklin rose above themselves and played disciplined, hard-nosed defence – the kind the North Stars play.



This week's frame-up photo is Coyote quarterback, **Ryan Tannehill**, who continued to pile up astonishing numbers in Week Five with 4 TD passes in just 11 completions to lead his team to a 41-29 win over Bruxelles. Tannehill's accuracy has been a big part of Cobb County's 5-0 start and that makes them the last undefeated team in the EFL.

On the offensive side of the ball, it was clear that Hawks' coach, **Tom Jones**, did not trust that the A-grade performance of his defence would last a full game, or that his offence would get many opportunities to score touchdowns against the hard wall of the Budapest defence. Those are the only possible explanations for his 4th down decisions inside the Budapest red zone. They missed badly on both 4th & 1 tries, one at the Budapest 2 the other at the Budapest 14. On a day when field goals actually made a difference, it seemed likely those decisions would come back to bite him. They probably would have, but for the magic weaved by his defence and the leg of **Randy Bullock** who, when finally given a chance, nailed a 55-yard field goal with 5:45 left to extend the Brooklin lead to more than a field goal, 13-9.

At the same time that fans and pundits were adjusting their glasses to the unbelievable sight of the Hawks playing shutdown defence, they were also forced to re-examine the assumption that the North Stars' offence under **Aaron Rodgers** is a scoring threat in the same category as an Aurora or a Virden. A subtle edge was missing in the passing game – a barely detectable hesitation in execution visible only to the sharpest eyes. One *Pro Football Focal-Point* (PFFP) contributor, **Tyler Lochness**, summed it up well in rating

Rodgers' performance low, rather than the Hawks' defence high:

"The Hawks' secondary played with discipline, kept everything in front of them, but at the same time offered many open windows for Aaron Rodgers," Lochness writes in his PFFP article, 'Outlier Alert - Don't Panic!' *"Rodgers, for some reason, did not take advantage of those windows despite having plenty of time. He hesitated that extra split-second, did not anticipate openings on crosses and slants and looked frustrated at his wide receivers, who were not running their routes crisply or closing aggressively toward the ball. To summarize; they were not clicking as a unit. The question is, why? Possibly, Rodgers expected to see more zone coverage, explaining the frequent returns to ineffective hitch routes. But the Hawks manned up in coverage almost exclusively, except for the two-minute drill near the end of the first half. Perhaps he simply expected to see bigger windows than Brooklin was allowing. Whatever the reason, it was a decidedly uncharacteristic performance and one unlikely to be repeated. So, don't panic if you are a North Stars' fan!"*

Neither **Aaron Rodgers** nor **Darrin Jones** were much help in understanding the reasons behind this game's perplexing flow and outcome. They did not try to analyze or explain what happened. It was one big 'mea culpa' designed to get the media off their backs.

"We have to be better," a chastened-looking Rodgers said after the game. "I have to be better. We'll be working together on being better."

Well, yes, of course, Aaron. That is obvious. But just in case it was not obvious, Coach **Darrin Jones** weighed in for the benefit of the most simpleton fan:

"We have to take ownership of this loss," he said gravely. "And we have to get better. Aaron would agree he has to be better. Stephon is kicking himself for coughing up that turnover in their red zone – he's knows that's not him. He knows he has to be better. We all have to be better. We have a big game coming up and we're going to have to play better."

<Yawn!>

While the Budapest side of the post-game ritual delivered the above drivel in the atmosphere of a wake, **Tom Jones** was front and center and looking pretty pleased that he got to explain his 4th down decisions after a win and not a loss.

"I have confidence in my offence in that kind of situation," Jones declared proudly when asked about his failed 4th down gambits in the red zone. "I felt we needed touchdowns, not field goals. Yes, it would have been nice, in retrospect, to have those field goals later in the game. But I'm not in the business of second-guessing myself. I felt we needed to go for it at the time and that's why I kept the offence on the field. Fortunately, it worked out."

Yes, fortunately indeed.

NO MORE MR. NICE GUY

It has taken 14 years, but apparently it is 'No more 'Mr. Nice Guy' time for Iowa coach **Deron Redding**. The author of several books and articles on the power of positive thinking, powerful motivational speaker, and doting father figure to his typically young teams, has reportedly become so fed up with his team's lack of effort on game day that he is taking a radically different approach to his players – *negative* reinforcement.

Redding's changing mood was becoming increasingly evident in recent post-game press conferences and in-week interviews following a rough quarter-season peppered with 2 bad losses and the lucky tie with Chino. But it became glaringly obvious that a radical and deliberate change was afloat after his team pummelled the Patriots 42-21 at Joe Ferguson Stadium on the strength of 214-yard, 3-touchdown effort by Cubs' running back **Joe Mixon**. When the dust settled on the first truly convincing showing by the Cubs so far this season, media were treated to a bizarre rant by Redding in the Cubs' post-game press conference.

As usual, the conference led with Redding, who approached the podium with a clipped and heavy stride. Once he had settled in, he paused to glare at the gathered reporters before beginning one of the strangest post-game addresses ever delivered following a win.

"First of all, to address the question I am sure is number one in all of your minds: Yes, our effort on defence was atrocious," he began, his eyes briefly darting to defensive coordinator **Wade Phillips**, who stood off to the right. This startled the room. A couple of reporters chuckled, thinking it was an ice-breaker. But Redding was serious. He continued:

"They ran through our defence at will. Alvin Kamara put up a 112-yard day against us. That is completely unacceptable! While I do take responsibility for this as the Head Coach, I also hold our coaching staff and our players responsible. And make no mistake, I will hold them accountable for their performance."

The playful buzz in the room subsided as concern filled the air that the typically happy Cubs coach might be having some kind of breakdown.

"And on offence, we simply have to run the ball better in key situations!" he declared without a hint of irony in his voice or expression. "Joe has to break that tackle by the corner on third down. I mean, he *has* to get that first down there! Then the way we executed that jet sweep was plain amateurish, no other way to describe it. We practiced it all bleeping week and on game day we look like a Pop Warner team trying to execute," he shook his head slowly and solemnly. He was referring to an early third quarter segment, where Mixon was wrapped up by corner **Michael Ojemudia** for a 1-yard gain on 3rd & 3 and **Keke Coutee** was stuffed for a loss on the subsequent 4th & 2 attempt. "In my role as GM, I am looking closely at everybody and how they perform during these critical times and I am warning you all right now, I will not be playing favourites at the end of the season. There are no safe positions on this team. Perform or prepare to take your act somewhere else!"

Sparky McGillicuddy of *The Iowan*, Cubs beat reporter since the team's inception, tried to bring his coach around to happier ground with a question about Mixon's big day.

"Coach Redding, were you pleased to see Joe Mixon break out this week and what do you take from that going forward?"

"Thanks for the question, Sparky," Redding said, softening his tone and expression for an instant, out of respect for the venerable reporter. But in a flash he was back on the attack. "I think Joe can do better than that, honestly. And you have to remember, it's not just one game. While you and the fans are celebrating a 200-yard day, I, as the coach, have to ask myself, why is that not the norm with Joe? I mean, if he is giving it all he's got, he should be giving us those results every week. He's still running too upright at times and allowing these tiny corners to take him down. We've been down that road a million times with Joe, telling him to drive low. He still forgets to do it. How the heck am I supposed to trust a guy like that?"

The conference went on in like vein. Redding gave nobody on the Cubs credit for anything. He congratulated the Pats for everything from scoring touchdowns to "brilliant" special teams play. He went so far as telling them that they deserved to win, as if they had actually won the game. It was only when Redding started to criticize **Russell Wilson** for not running more often (Wilson had 1 carry for 4 yards) that **Dr. Rodney Alberhasky II**, son of the Cubs owner, stepped forward and whispered in the coach's ear. The interruption seemed to reset the Iowa coach, and, for a brief instant, he looked like himself. He then hastily ended his availability to the media with a curt, "All I mean to say is that I hope to see an even better effort from my team next week. That is all, thank you."

RUSTY WARRIORS

At Thermopylae Stadium in Pickering, the Spartans erased the goose egg in the 'W' column with a 23-6 win over York. Like the other 23-6 game this week between Cowtown and East Elmhurst, it was a boring affair with few highlights, noteworthy only because the Spartans got off the schvide and **Jay Hammond** was sent into a psychotic tailspin.

Like the Triumph win this week, it had to happen sooner or later. Pickering was always bound to win a game or two this year. York, a team with playoff aspirations, is merely bitter that the Spartans finally got things together against them. The Pickering defence came out of nowhere and put the Excaliburs in a headlock. York did not gain a single first down in the first half. The Spartans also dominated on offence, holding the ball for almost 40 minutes and gaining 392 net yards.

Jay Hammond is really pissed...in the angry sense as well. Avalon media reports the York coach was calling in anonymously to local sports talk shows after the loss to criticize himself and his players, **Tom Brady** in particular, but also **Derrick Henry**, **Danny Amendola**, **Zach Ertz** and anyone else of importance to the team. Bizarre behaviour indeed, but perhaps cathartic as well.

High profile national media figures, such as **Peter Prince** and **Kris Hortenson**, are making much too big a deal about this Spartan victory in their columns and interviews, even though it will eventually mean nothing in the big picture. When the football establishment pretends to be impressed with a victory in which somebody name **Justin Jackson** scored the game-winning touchdown in the 2nd quarter, you know things have reached the pity stage. Nobody, apart from dyed-in-the-wool Thunder Lizards fans, wants to see the Spartans reduced to dreaded Erieau status.

The Spartans as an organization have a proud history and are an important piece of the EFL legacy – they have a Championship banner after all. But the face of that organization is now down to one or two rusted warriors and **Gus Konstantakos**. And you can't even see Gus' face these days due to his phobia of the pandemic. If you spontaneously asked me over beers to name 3 players on the Spartans in 10 seconds or less, I don't think I could do it. **Philip Rivers**...**Xavien Howard**...and...ahhh...that guy they took in the first round, you know: *what's-his-name*. Oh yeah...and I really like **Joe Schobert**, but I don't instinctively connect him with this Spartans team; I keep having to be reminded of the fact. I guess this is what is to be expected when a team rebuilds. Maybe we will know who **Justin Jackson** is two years from now, and not have to look him up when hearing his name called on a broadcast. But until that day comes, Spartan fans and sympathetic supporters of the Spartans' culture must pause and cherish games like this.

AROUND THE EFL – ERUDITE OBSERVATIONS AND LEARNING POINTS

It was an extremely interesting week in the EFL; one filled with upsets, intriguing match-ups and lots of questionable coaching decisions. There is almost too much to capture and do justice, but I will give it a try:

❧ At the Assassin's Den in Las Vegas, Peg City's crusade to win the Central got an assist from their opponent in a 13-12 squeaker that has media and fans raining criticism down on the head of Assassins coach, **Anthony Holguin**. This was a game that the Assassins let get away due to a couple of questionable coaching decisions, beginning as early as the 1st quarter when Vegas, up 3-0, kept its offence on the field to attempt a 4th & 1 at the Peg City 12-yard line. **Carson Wentz** was stuffed for a 1-yard loss and they came away with nothing. In a game that played out very much like the defensive struggle in Budapest between the Hawks and North Stars, another field goal would have made a huge difference in the endgame dynamic, which follows.

Fast forward to the final minutes of the 4th quarter: After their defence had made a stop inside their red zone to force Peg City to settle for a go-ahead field goal, the Assassins offence took over at their 29, down 13-12, with 2:26 left in the game. Even with no timeouts remaining, (except for the two-minute warning) this was still more than enough time to get into field goal range. The stage was set for an identity-defining, game-winning drive to vault the Assassins one more game in front of Iowa City and Chino in the West. Wentz pulled off what appeared to be the defining play of that drive when he scrambled out of the pocket for 22 yards to the Peg City 15-yard line with still over one-minute remaining. The Crusaders now had to call their timeouts to preserve the clock for themselves in case the inevitable Vegas field goal attempt was good. The Assassins were flagged for holding then Wentz was held to a 1-yard gain on another scramble attempt. The Crusaders called timeout with 0:50 left. Facing 2nd & 19 at the 24-yard line, Las Vegas had one more play to get closer for **Ka'imi Fairbairn** and to induce Peg City to burn another timeout. But to the surprise of all, Holguin sent the field goal unit on the field on 2nd down to make a 42-yard attempt. Fairbairn, who had been a perfect 4 of 4 up until that point, missed the kick. At

the exact moment the ball sailed past the left upright, the moaning, shouting and recriminations in the media and throughout all of Assassin Land began. What the heck was Coach Holguin thinking – or was he, in fact, thinking – when he sent out Fairbairn one down early? The Assassins coach spoke briefly, but did not take questions after the game. Under pressure, he subsequently released a statement that he will address the decision on Tuesday. I am interested in what he has to say.

‣ At the Fish Tank in Sebastian, the league's two original Fourth-Down Desperados played a game of *Fourth-Down Chicken* and it was the Mustangs that went into the ditch, losing a 38-35 firefight to the Swordfish and falling to 3-2. The irony is that the Fish failed to convert on 4th down more often than the Mustangs, succeeding just twice in six tries compared with two in three tries for the Mustangs. But the Mustangs' miss was critical; not to mention exceptionally impulsive and unnecessary. After a roaring 1st half that concluded in a 21-21 deadlock, Sebastian scored on an 81-yard TD drive to open the 2nd half and take a 28-21 lead. On the Mustangs' subsequent possession, **Kenyan Drake** was stymied at the line on 3rd & 1 at the Aurora 28, bringing up 4th down and the punting unit. But Coach **Rich Liotta** directed his offence back on to the field with instructions to go for it. Drake cut right off tackle but was brought down mere inches short of the line of gain. They say it is a game of inches and this time it literally was. Starting at the Aurora 29, it took three plays for Sebastian's **Chase Edmonds** to cross the goal line and, suddenly, the Swordfish were up by two touchdowns. The fireworks continued for a while, but that was essentially the game. The Analytics God claimed another victim.

‣ The Triumph joined Pickering in finally notching a '1' in the 'Win' column with a 27-24 upset over cursed Chino. Fans of the Convicts are in an uproar about this loss and calling for *somebody's* head to roll, but nobody can agree on whose head it should be. **Dak Prescott** did not have one of his better games, but the criminal element in the Chino fan-base who supports him is known for threatening his critics. Coach **Rob Nazar**, unlike many of his coaching peers this week, did not do anything notably stupid, but fans are sourcing blame on him for the offence's 1 out of 9 third down conversion rate. The corners had a rough day, but nobody wants to upset the confidence of rookie **AJ Terrell**, so their failure is mentioned in polite terms. Oh well, they will figure out who's to blame by Tuesday! On the Triumph side, **Guy Williams** did what he had to do: let **Mitch Trubisky** play. It worked out and maybe the Triumph are heading for the rebound.

‣ Durham stabilized their boat with a solid 30-6 win over Erieau. The Lizards finally got the marquis defensive performance they were looking for, holding the Cadillac to 7 first downs, 151 yards of total offence and sacking **Kyler Murray** 6 times. Rookie **Chase Young** stayed on the field for every defensive snap and created problems for the left side of the Erieau line. Although some vocal national analysts had expressed doubts about **George Kaldis'** crew heading into Week Five, the Thunder Lizards performed as expected in this much-needed bounce back game after their crushing defeat at the hand of Virden. I hate to throw cold water on the overall feeling of contentment emanating from Durham media following this "statement win," but it is my duty, as your Syndicated Sourpuss, to remind you that Erieau was the victim, not a team with good post-season prospects. This game demonstrated that the Erieau offence still has no identity other than a vague hope that **Kyler Murray** will extend plays to their limit and in the process fix everything else. So, by all means Durham fans, tip back a cool one and enjoy this win; but be aware that the true test will come in Week Six against Budapest.

‣ Coyote quarterback **Ryan Tannehill** continued to display economy and pin-point accuracy, completing 11 of 16 passes for 227 yards 4 TD passes to strafe the Bombers 41-29 at Coyote Field. The win makes Cobb County the last undefeated team in the league and puts them in two games in front of Buffalo for the East Division lead.

‣ In a battle of first round prospective franchise quarterbacks, **Joe Burrow** of Scarborough out-dueled **Tua Tagovailoa** of Georgia, 38-24 at the Wolverine's Den, (the temporary home of the Blue Eagles). This match had hallmarks of a classic quarterback duel early on, with both QBs exchanging 55+ yard bombs for TDs to open the scoring then matching each other with TD passes on their subsequent drives. The equilibrium snapped, however, at the 5:33 mark of the 2nd quarter, when **Troy Hill** picked off Tua on 4th & 4 at the Scarborough 31. Yes, folks, another missed 4th down gamble turned a game in the wrong direction for guy rolling the dice. Hill returned the ball 41 yards to the Georgia 33 and 6 plays later, Burrow was bootlegging it into the end zone to give Scarborough a 21-14 lead. It was never close after that. A rattled Tua was benched for **Devlin Hodges**, but that did not work out for the Glads and the Eagles coasted the rest of the way. With the focus on the QB match-up, one could overlook the much bigger news: The Blue Eagles are now in sole possession of first place in the North Division, one game in front of a 3-pack of 3-2 wolves behind them. I never saw that coming!

‣ At New Era Field in Buffalo, the Derailers exploded for 28 points in the 2nd half to knock off the Wrecking Balls, 35-19 and raise their record to 3-2. The synergistic play of **Lamar Jackson** combined with a Buffalo defence that took the ball away from **Matt Stafford** twice in the 3rd quarter, was the catalyst that changed this game from the tightly-contest defensive struggle it had been in the 1st half, into a full-scale rout in the 2nd half. With the team firing on all cylinders, Jackson scored 5 touchdowns, 3 passing and 2 rushing and looks to have discovered a new target in tight end **Noah Fant**, who caught 2 TD passes and turned a medium slant into a 56-yard catch-and-run. The situation went from bad to worse for New Jersey when Stafford was carted off the field in the 4th quarter with what is suspected to be a . If the Balls didn't have bad luck, they would have no luck at all.

‣ And finally, we end the wrap up in East Elmhurst, where an empty Monsignor McClancy Memorial Stadium witnessed the Corn Kings wear down the Irish, 23-6 to rise to 3-2 and stay, unconvincingly, in the hunt for the North Division crown. *Fun Fact:* The home of the Irish is the only stadium in the EFL that has yet to have a fan with a paid ticket sit in a seat for a game. (Coyote Field, the other new EFL stadium, was the site of an XFL Exhibition game in 2019 when Atlanta was attempting to get a franchise in the short-lived league). If the seats had had a choice, they might have left after the 3rd quarter. The Corn Kings' defence means business, the offence not so much. But because the defence picked off **Ryan Fitzpatrick** twice, sacked him twice and generally made the Easties work for every yard, the Cowtown offence under **Jimmy Garoppolo** finally got its act together and put the Irish away with two 2nd half TD passes.

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Jimmy's WEEK SIX PICKS

NEW JERSEY @ SEATTLE (line – PILOTS by 7)

INJURIES: New Jersey – Matthew Stafford (OUT); Seattle – Olivier Vernon (OUT).

The Wrecking Balls are giving up slightly over 35 points per game, bad enough for second worst in the league. Considering the talent on the back side, this number is shocking and explains why they are struggling. Now with Matthew Stafford out for at least 8 weeks, they have lost their puncher's chance of keeping up with the blows reigning down on their defenceless defence. Not that the Pilots' offence is in the heavyweight class. Sam Darnold and Hunter Renfrow have developed real chemistry, but the run game has not been a support, posting a league-low 59 yards per game. The Pilots have not distinguished itself in any particular facet of the game so far, but they are a tenacious group that has been in every game and fortune often smiles upon them at critical times. Conversely, fortune tends to crap on the Wrecking Balls. Have no idea how Case Keenum will work out – he might be good for them. **PICK: NEW JERSEY**

BUFFALO @ CHINO (line – DERAILERS by 3)

INJURIES: Buffalo – Jonathan Abram (IR). Chino– Morgan Burnett (OUT), Kawann Short (IR);

It is taking time for the Convicts to get into their groove, if they have a groove to get into, that is. Their suspect 'D' has surrendered 14 TD passes and given up gobs of passing yards – not surprising given that their best cover corner is a rookie. This is putting more pressure on Dak Prescott and Christian McCaffery than they should have to carry. Last week's loss to the winless Triumph could be the wake-up call they need, or bury them further into mediocrity. The Derailers are back on track, having won three in a row thanks to the multi-threat dynamism of Lamar Jackson. On defence, Aaron Donald has yet to break out statistically, but he attracts a lot of attention from opponents. The guys around him have to start making plays. With these teams trending in opposite directions, the signs point to a fairly easy Buffalo win. But history shows the Convicts are most dangerous when their backs are against the wall. **PICK: CHINO**

TWIN CITIES @ VIRDEN (line – VIOLATORS by 15)

INJURIES: Twin Cities – Kwon Alexander (OUT), Trent Brown (OUT), Chris Lindstrom (OUT), Russell Okung (OUT), Antonio Brown (COVID-19); Virden – None.

The Triumph are coming off a win against a good Chino team. We can now dispense with the adjective “winless” and replace it with “one-win” when referring to them. In that game, they looked more like the Triumph we are accustomed to, as opposed to the geek show we had witnessed over the first four weeks. If last week was the first step in redeeming the 2020 season, it is a pity that they must back-up that victory in Virden, against arguably the best team in the entire league. It took COVID-19 to put a '1' in the loss column for the Violators, ruining hopes for a perfect season harboured by the fanatical Virden fan set. Patrick Mahomes will be eager to reaffirm his place as 'The Man' this week (provided he tests 'negative' of course). Virden is favoured by double-digits, as they should be. But as long as Jameis Winston stays off the field, the Triumph should prove to be a pesky hang-around opponent. **PICK: TWIN CITIES**

PEG CITY @ CHARLESWOOD (line – CRUSADERS by 10)

INJURIES: Peg City – None. Charleswood – Jaylon Ferguson (OUT), Kendall Fuller (OUT), Derwin James (OUT), Jalen Mills (OUT), Devin Funchess (IR), CJ Mosley (IR).

The Patriots' fall from grace this year has been a precipitous one. The line says the boys in Vegas do not see it turning around any time soon. The Crusaders, coming off a 1-point, somewhat lucky win against the football team from Vegas last week are being given the benefit of the doubt that whatever caused their offence to hiccup in that game will be corrected by the gaping holes in the Charleswood defence. Desmond Trufant, the best player currently healthy on the Charleswood defence, will draw the Keenan Allen assignment. He will have his hands full. After that it is mismatch after mismatch in favour of the visitors. Now, I know I sound like a broken record

when I remind you that DeShaun Watson and Alvin Kamara could get hot at any time. They can, but not this time. **PICK: PEG CITY**

IOWA CITY @ BRUXELLES (line – BOMBERS by 4)

INJURIES: Iowa City – Dee Ford (OUT), Reshad Jones (OUT). **Bruxelles** – Emmanuel Ogbah (OUT);

It will be interesting to see which of these two underperforming teams underperforms the most in this game. It is too early to use the term “must win game,” but the Bombers and the Cubs could both *really* use a boost right now. A loss for either team could bury them psychologically. The Cubs are coming off a decisive win over the Patriots, so they bring some momentum with them. But the Cubs have proven to be accomplished squanderers of momentum. The Bombers, unlike the lethargic Cubs, have played spirited ball on their rocky road to 2-3. They are simply not executing at a high level, mostly due to the pedestrian play of their QB, Jared Goff. This has had a residual effect on their talented defence, which is – seemingly impossibly – ranked no.23 overall in efficiency and giving up almost 30 points per game. This has to be a “get-right game” for the home team. Expect Bruxelles to pull out all the stops. **PICK: BRUXELLES**

COBB COUNTY @ LAS VEGAS (line – COYOTES by 1)

INJURIES: Cobb County – None; Las Vegas – None.

In a rare battle of division-switchers, the Coyotes (formerly the Knights of the West) visit the Assassins (formerly the Chargers of the East) in a game that could have playoff seeding implications down the road if both can maintain their current success. Undefeated Cobb County looks unstoppable, however, while the Assassins are coming off a confusing and demoralizing loss to Peg City, a game that was theirs for the taking. So, I am at a loss to explain why the professionals in Vegas have this line set at almost even. Both teams are healthy and a healthy Coyote squad is the more complete team. They have yet to be beaten. When it finally happens, it is unlikely to be here, unless the Las Vegas defence figures out a way to score points off the highest-ranked QB in the league. And then there is Carson Wentz throwing into the teeth of the second-best CB-tandem in the league. Michael Thomas or no, it’ll be a tall task. **PICK: COBB COUNTY**

PICKERING @ COWTOWN (line – CORN KINGS by 8)

INJURIES: Pickering – Xavien Howard (OUT); Cowtown – Cordy Glenn (OUT), Roquan Smith (OUT), Brian Winters (OUT).

Pickering notched their first win last week, relieving the pressure of being the only Atlantic Conference team without one. Can they win two in a row? They handled Tom Brady well and Brady handled this Corn Kings’ squad pretty easily in Week Two. So, theoretically, yes they can. Will they? The prognosis is doubtful. Cowtown has not been lighting up the scoreboard at close to last year’s pace, but they have not been lit up much either. The defence, by necessity, has had the back of the offence, waiting for Todd Gurley to finally break out. The Spartans have not been able to run the ball effectively, putting pressure on the turnover-prone Philip Rivers and the amateurish arm of Gardner Minshew II. The Spartans’ offence is similar to Cowtown’s but without a reliable defence to back it up. Xavien Howard is out, but the nearly non-existent Pickering pass rush makes sound cornerback play almost a moot point. **PICK: COWTOWN**

BUDAPEST @ DURHAM (line – NORTH STARS by 3)

INJURIES: Budapest – None; Durham – None.

This Monday Night Football marquis game, billed “Conference Final Preview” by the network, was pencilled in on every fan’s and sports analyst’s calendar before the season began. It remains a must-see, but doubts are creeping in after Durham’s shaky five weeks and Budapest’s surprising no-show against the Hawks last week, that either team is the epitome of ‘Powerhouse.’ While few thought that either team would go undefeated, it was not then unreasonable to surmise that the first loss for one of them would happen this week. Not so, of course, and the Lizards already have two under their belt. Durham has the home field advantage, (for whatever that is worth these days), and the defensive secondary capable of strangling the Budapest passing attack. The North Stars have the elite twin defensive ends to contain Josh Allen in the pocket and force him to use that un-aimed, erratic cannon of an arm. The Budapest defence is ranked 3rd in terms of efficiency, but is no.1 in the eye test. Nick Chubb has to produce or it will be a long day for the Lizards. **PICK: BUDAPEST**

SEBASTIAN @ BROOKLIN (line – HAWKS by 3)

INJURIES: Sebastian – Adam Gotsis (QUESTIONABLE), Kevin King (QUESTIONABLE); Brooklin – Pernell McPhee (OUT), Stephon Tuitt (OUT), Leighton Vander Esch (OUT).

The Brooklin Hawks of 2020 are destined for...something. I am not sure what it is, but of all the possible playoff misfits standing outside the circle of media-beloved teams, the Hawks have proven to be the most entertaining so far. Last week they added a “signature win” to their resume after handing Budapest its first loss. They did it with defence, which was doubly shocking due to their 22nd overall ranking in defensive efficiency. When the laws of nature are routinely bent – as they seem to be with Brooklin – an astute observer must take note, in case there really are forces beyond our reach that are helping them out. The Swordfish are coming off their own “signature win” over the Mustangs. It was a decisive victory and a real morale-booster, but was ultimately the result of a career day from Chase Edmonds

and one bad decision by their opponent. The Fish are a new story every week, while the Hawks always go for it. **PICK: BROOKLIN**

SCARBOROUGH @ YORK (line – BLUE EAGLES by 2)

INJURIES: Scarborough – Dont’a Hightower (OUT), Justin Jones (OUT), DeSean Jackson (OUT); York – Danny Amendola (PROBABLE), Darren Sproles (OUT).

The Blue Eagles are coming off yet another win to snag top position in the North Division. There is a positive vibe in Scarborough and the sky is the limit for young Joe Burrow. But if this season has taught us one thing already; it is that teams should not get too comfortable. Reality checks can hit anywhere, anytime, against any opponent – just ask Virden and Budapest. The Excaliburs are coming off a humiliating loss against a last place opponent. It was a loss where they were not competitive on offence and eventually their defence crumbled against the Spartan war machine. York has not been able to get Derrick Henry going at the level they need him to be playing at in order to turn their so-so passing attack into a threat. Tom Brady rebounds quickly. Expect his team to do so here. **PICK: YORK**

AURORA @ GEORGIA (line – MUSTANGS by 6)

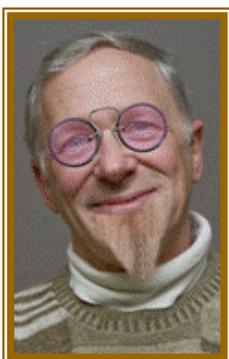
INJURIES: Aurora – None; Georgia – John Johnson III (OUT).

After getting a well-deserved chop-block from Sebastian last week, thanks in large part to a blown 4th down gamble at their own 28, the Mustangs can take comfort that they can now turn on one of the three also-rans in the South Division to make up the lost ground. The Mustangs are a very good team, but they will look much better than they are in the process of reaching the playoffs because of the opportunity to play six games against teams like the Gladiators. The Georgians are a mess, but that doesn’t seem to be affecting their morale. Apart from a blowout loss to Buffalo, they have given good effort and have been competitive in all of their games. That spirit bodes well for a future day when they acquire some better talent on the roster. In the meantime, they will keep trying in the “good try, Timmy!” vein and hope for the Football Gods to intervene on their behalf every now and then. **PICK: AURORA**

ERIEAU @ EAST ELMHURST (line – IRISH by 5)

INJURIES: Erieau – Joe Staley (OUT), Akiem Hicks (IR); East Elmhurst – CJ Anderson (IR).

While Kyler Murray offers an element of form-over-substance relief from the unwatchable garbage of past Erieau offences, the Cadillac remain stuck in their historical rut of being unable to mount any kind of consistent, let alone serious, attack. Ranked last in total yards-per-game and passing yards-per-game, and second last in points-per-game; this is the one team in the league that has to rely on defensive scores and turnovers to stand any chance of winning. They visit an East Elmhurst team that has not been a whole lot better in the yardage-generated department. But the small edge they hold on the offensive side of the ball is balanced to some degree by a more fundamentally sound and talented Erieau defence. Surprisingly, however, the Irish lead the league in sacks with 19. Everybody in the front seven is getting in on the sack action and this is creating turnovers. Expect a lot of turnovers here and a close coin flip outcome. **PICK: ERIEAU**



ANCIENT HISTORY
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This Week in EFL History
With Professor Sterling Smitherman

FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – In Week Five of the 2014 EFL season the South Carolina Regulators, much like the Pilots of 2020, showed what can happen when a good team gets complacent against a not-so-good team in a professional football game. The Durham Thunder Lizards led the Regulators 28-7 going into the 4th quarter and took their foot off the gas. Regs’ QB, **Tony Romo** made them pay with a TD run and 2 TD passes to lead his team to a 24-point 4th quarter. **Nick Foles** replaced **Drew Brees** and engineered an 80-yard drive that featured a 49-yard completion to **Vernon Davis** and an 11-yard TD pass to **TY Hilton**, allowing Durham to escape

with a win.

In a battle for first place in the East Division between Carthage and Twin Cities, the league leader in TD passes and early season MVP, **Jay Cutler**, was knocked out of the game. This was a devastating blow to the Triumph. They went on to lose the game, 31-19 and would later find out that Cutler was gone for 4-5 weeks. The Cannibals rose to 5-0, one of the league’s three undefeated teams, while the Triumph fell to 4-1.

After a 0-4 start, the talented Violators finally won a game, knocking off a good Chino team, 41-24. Although the score was lop-sided in the end, the erratic play of Matt Stafford kept Virden fans on edge throughout the game as his two 3rd-quarter interceptions allowed Chino to tie the game at 24 in the 3rd quarter. Jamaal Charles reignited the ground game and he and Stafford combined to put up 17 unanswered points to seal the game in the 4th quarter.

Big games: Cowtown’s **Joe Flacco** earned Offensive Player of the Week for his 435-yard, 4-TD performance in a shootout 31-28 win over the North Stars. On the defensive side, **Robert Mathis** of the Banana Sluggs registered 5 sacks, 2 forced fumbles and 8 tackles as Santa Clara walloped the LA Knights, 38-13 to remain one of three undefeated teams in the league.