

# 2011



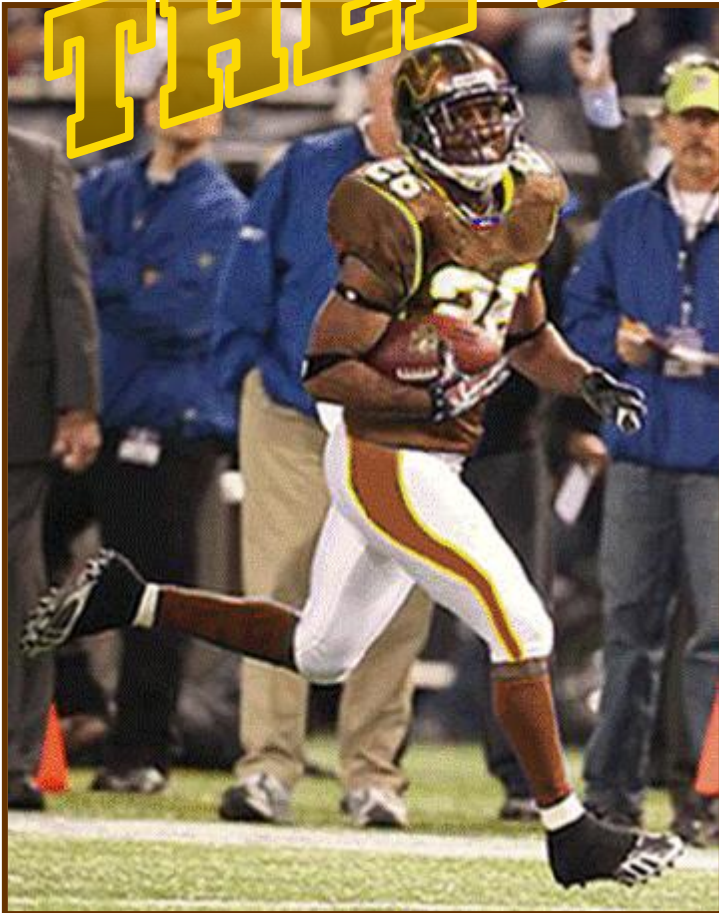
# 2011

## WEEK ONE IN REVIEW

October 9, 2011



# THREE



Antoine Winfield of Markham returns an interception for a TD to clinch a major Week One upset. (STORY INSIDE)

### LATEST EFL NEWS INSIDE

#### THE GAMES

- MARKHAM STEALS ONE
- DEATH TO THE CONVICTS
- GLADS BEGIN THEIR BIG "RUN"
- SPARTANS DEFEND THERMOPYLAE
- FREEMAN DAZZLES IN DEBUT
- TIME RUNS OUT ON YORK
- EAGLES SOAR IN HOME OPENER
- PETERSON POUNDS IT HOME FOR PATS

#### COMMENT

"Chris Dickinson," "The Great Spatskin," "The Story of Philip Rivers," "Rejected by Hell," and more....- Spats McChad

#### PREDICTIONS

Will Durham recover? Who will win the 'Game of the Week?' – Jimmy the Geek



*Who was slick in Week One?*

**"BRYLCREEM" THE EFL'S FIRST SPONSOR**



**Arian Foster**  
RB  
Iowa City Cubs

180 yards rushing and 2 TDs in losing effort versus L.A.



**Antoine Winfield**  
CB  
Markham  
North Stars

6 tackles, 2 INTs – 1 returned for a TD and 1 halted red zone drive.

# “DAWG” DAYS FOR DURHAM!



**DURHAM THUNDER  
LIZARDS**

**7**

**23**

**MARKHAM NORTH  
STARS**



**RCH PLAYER OF THE GAME**

**Calvin Johnson**

6 REC – 102 yds, 1 TD

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
<b>DURHAM (0-1)</b>	0	0	7	0	-	7
<b>MARKHAM (1-0)</b>	3	6	14	0	-	23

**GDM PLAYER OF THE GAME**

**Antoine Winfield**

6 T, 2 INTs – 37 yds, 2TDs

**HIGHLIGHT REEL:** **Antoine Winfield** picked off Philip Rivers twice – once in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter to stop a drive in the red zone and the second at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter that he returned for a TD to put the game out of reach for Durham.

- **Trent Cole** broke through for 3 sacks, 2 forced fumbles and was credited with 3 QB pressures. He also batted down a pass.
- **David Akers** kicked 3 field goals in 3 attempts, the longest from 46 yards.
- The **Markham Defence** forced 5 turnovers and held the Durham offence to just 2 trips inside the red zone.
- Thunder Lizard's receiver **Calvin Johnson** provided the lone Durham highlight with a 62-yard catch-and-run TD in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

**GAME SUMMARY:** The North Stars' defence set the tone on Durham's opening possession when off-season acquisition **Trent Cole** broke through the line and sacked **Philip Rivers**, forcing a fumble recovered by rookie, **Akeem Ayers** and giving Markham red zone possession at the 17 yard line. **David Akers** booted the first of three field goals from 33 yards to give the home team an early lead that they would never relinquish. Rivers was taken down in the backfield twice more by Cole on Durham's second possession, forcing a punt from deep in their end. **Kenny Britt** caught a 45-yard pass from **Mark Sanchez** on Markham's next possession, bringing his team to the Durham 8 yard line. Durham made a spirited goal line stand, stopping **Joseph Addai** on 4<sup>th</sup> down and inches at the goal line, but the Thunder Lizards' offence could not capitalize on the boost from their defence. A Durham march into the Markham red zone was halted by **Antoine Winfield's** first of two interceptions on the day and eventually led to Akers' second field goal. After falling behind 9-0 in the first half, Durham finally got on the board in the 3<sup>rd</sup> when **Calvin Johnson** took a medium pass across the middle 62 yards for a TD. It would be the lone high point for Durham. Five turnovers, including late "pick six" by Winfield from 34 yards, stymied Durham's offence and gave Markham a big win at the Dawg Pound.



**THE FANS LOVED**

Playoff-quality 'D' by Markham

**THE FANS HATED**

A pair of bumbling quarterbacks.



**FAN RATING**



10-07-2011 The Dawg Pound Temp: 62 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: **Antoine Winfield**

1 10:44	Markham	FG Akers 33 (4-2-1:32)	0-3
2 7:19	Markham	FG Akers 46 (13-55-7:29)	0-6
2 0:15	Markham	FG Akers 23 (14-47-4:53)	0-9
3 11:05	Durham	TD Rivers 62 pass to Johnson (Vinatieri) (3-76-1:45)	7-9
3 8:16	Markham	TD Best 2 run (Akers) (8-60-2:42)	7-16
3 0:00	Markham	TD Winfield 34 interception return (Akers) (0-0-0:55)	7-23

	DTL	MAR
First Downs	15	13
Rushes	16-37	37-113
Passes	45-26-277	25-9-165
Sacked	3-19	1-6
Fumble	2	0
Penalties	5-37	8-65
Turnovers	5	1
Time	29:30	30:30
Third Down	5-15	4-18
Fourth Down	2-3	0-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/0/0	4/1/2
Net Offense	295	272



**INJURIES**

**DURHAM** – Jim Leonhard (6 games); Mike Patterson (2 games)  
**MARKHAM** – Kenny Britt (5 games); Brandon LaFell (3 games); Jordy Nelson (PG-3<sup>rd</sup>)

**QUOTE OF THE GAME**

"If Philip Rivers was a horse, you'd think we'd hear a shotgun blast right about now."  
 – Durham radio announcer, **Gip Vance** at the sound of the final gun.

# CONVICTS EXECUTED AT BIG HOUSE!



**DEATH VALLEY  
UNDERTAKERS**

**17**

**15**

**CHINO  
CONVICTS**



DV PLAYER OF THE GAME	Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total	CONVICT PLAYER OF THE
Drew Brees	DEATH VALLEY (1-0)	3	0	7	7	-	17	Steven Jackson
14 of 26, 272 yds, 1 INT, 1 TD	CHINO (0-1)	0	6	0	9	-	15	136 total yards, long run 30 yds

**HIGHLIGHT REEL:** **Braylon Edwards** took a short slant 81 yards to the house in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter for the game-winning TD.

- **Drew Brees** threw for 272 yards, including 4 throws of over 25 yards and 1 TD, to account for nearly all of Death Valley's total offence.
- **Ray Lewis** piled up 16 tackles and forced a fumble to lead the Undertakers' defence.
- Convicts' corner **Aqib Talib** picked off Brees and returned it 55 yards for a TD to give Chino a temporary lead in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.
- **Charles Johnson** was a presence against the pass and the run, with 12 tackles, 2 stuffs, 1 deflection, 1 pressure and a forced fumble.
- **Mario Manningham** caught 6 passes for 109 yards, and a long of 52.

**GAME SUMMARY:** A struggle dominated by the defences ended up turning in favour of the Undertakers on a few big plays by their offence. A 47-yard pass from **Drew Brees** to **Devin Hester** on 3<sup>rd</sup>-and-long set up the opening points; a 49-yard field goal by John Kasay. The Convicts' defence ruled the field for the remainder of the first half and that allowed **Jay Cutler** the opportunity to engineer a pair of field goal drives that gave Chino a 6-3 lead heading into the locker room. However, the Death Valley defence was not so kind to Cutler in the second half, starting with an interception by **Jason Allen** on Chino's first possession. A 30-yard pass from Brees to **Mario Manningham** followed, setting up a 4-yard TD run by **Ryan Matthews** to give Death Valley a 10-6 lead. A field possession battle ensued for the rest of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, with Chino finally winning the arm wrestle after a 53-yard drive set up **Billy Cundiff** from 44 yards out for his third field goal of the day. The Convicts would go on to take the lead in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter when **Aqib Talib** picked off Brees and returned it 55 yards for a TD to make it 15-10 after a failed two-point conversion attempt. Just two plays later, however, Brees hit **Braylon Edwards** in stride on a short slant and the Undertakers' wide receiver jetted 81 yards through the Convicts' secondary for the game-winning touchdown.



**THE FANS LOVED**  
Two dominant 'D's

**THE FANS HATED**  
Jay Cutler



**FAN RATING**



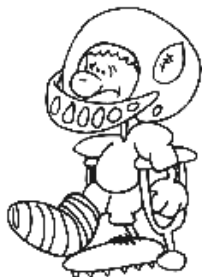
10-06-2011 The Big House Temp: 105 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: **Drew Brees**

1 10:17	Death Valley	FG Kasay 49 (9-51-4:32)	3-0
2 9:29	Chino	FG Cundiff 38 (12-60-6:47)	3-3
2 0:00	Chino	FG Cundiff 25 (14-57-6:25)	3-6
3 12:40	Death Valley	TD Mathews 4 run (Kasay) (3-34-0:48)	10-6
4 13:00	Chino	FG Cundiff 44 (13-53-6:36)	10-9
4 9:54	Chino	TD Talib 55 interception return (2 - failed) (0-0-0:00)	10-15
4 8:56	Death Valley	TD Brees 81 pass to Edwards (Kasay) (2-82-0:52)	17-15

	DVU	CHI
First Downs	9	17
Rushes	15-24	32-88
Passes	26-14-272	34-29-209
Sacked	2-13	3-26
Fumble	2	2
Penalties	7-55	5-33
Turnovers	1	2
Time	21:35	38:25
Third Down	4-11	7-18
Fourth Down	0-1	0-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	1/1/0	3/0/2
Net Offense	283	271

## INJURIES

DEATH VALLEY – Jerod Mayo (PG-3<sup>rd</sup>).  
CHINO – Marcu McNeill (6 games); Robert Gallery (5 games).



## QUOTE OF THE GAME

“Mario was getting most of the looks and I think they forgot about me. Well, that’s okay. They won’t forget me again,” – **Braylon Edwards**

# GLADS RUN ROUGHSHOD!



**GWINNETT  
GLADIATORS**

**25**

**17**

**GARLAND  
MUSTANGS**



**GWG PLAYER OF THE GAME**

**Le Sean McCoy**  
20-114 rushing, 4-33 rec., 1 TD

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
<b>GWINNETT (1-0)</b>	0	6	7	12	-	25
<b>GARLAND (0-1)</b>	0	7	0	10	-	17

**GDM PLAYER OF THE GAME**

**Dustin Keller**  
9-128 receiving, 1 TD

**HIGHLIGHT REEL:** **LeSean McCoy** rushed for 114 yards and 1 TD on 20 carries and added 33 yards receiving on 4 catches.

- **Vince Young** went 15 of 29 for 159 yards, 1 INT and 1 TD. He also ran for 74 yards and 4 1<sup>st</sup> downs on 9 carries.
- **Jeremy Maclin** had 6 receptions for 75 yards and 1 TD and kicker, **Josh Brown** booted 4 field goals.
- Mustangs' running back **Matt Forte** broke free for a 59-yard run that set up a 4<sup>th</sup> quarter field goal.
- **Dustin Keller** caught 9 balls for 128 yards and 1 TD.
- **Matt Ryan** attempted 41 passes, completing 23 for 239 yards, 1 INT and 1 TD.

**GAME SUMMARY:** Punters, **Andy Lee** and **Sam Koch** were the feature players in a 1<sup>st</sup> quarter controlled by the defences. The scoring began in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter after a 14-play, 73-yard drive by the Gladiators stalled in the red zone and **Josh Brown** broke the scoreless tie with a 32-yard field goal. Garland galloped back to take the lead on a 48-yard pass play to **Dustin Keller** that set up a 6-yard TD pass from **Matt Ryan** to Keller two plays later. The Glads marched back from their own 25 yard line to threaten at the Garland 9, but the Mustangs' defence held **Vince Young** out of the end zone on a scramble to the 2 yard line and forced consecutive in-completions to restrict Gwinnett to a field goal. Gwinnett's victory rally started with a **Bryant McFadden** interception of Ryan in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. From the Garland 38, three runs by **LeSean McCoy** and a 15-yard facemask penalty to **Fred Robbins** finally put Gwinnett in the end zone and gave them a 13-7 lead. They extended that lead to 19-7 when Young capped their next drive with a 15-yard TD pass to **Jeremy Maclin**. A 59-yard run by **Matt Forte** set up a Garland field goal, then **Leon Washington** fumbled away the kickoff to set up a 1-yard TD run by Forte to put the Mustangs within 2 points, trailing 19-17. But they would get no closer. The Glads added two more field goals and stopped Garland on 4<sup>th</sup> and 20 with 2 minutes remaining to lock the win.



**THE FANS LOVED**

243 yards rushing for Gwinnett

**THE FANS HATED**

15 penalty flags



**FAN RATING**



10-05-2011 The Corral Temp: \_\_ Wind: None MVP: **LeSean McCoy**

2 6:08	Gwinnett	FG Brown 32 (14-71-7:53)	3-0
2 2:38	Garland	TD Ryan 6 pass to Keller (Gould) (8-67-3:24)	3-7
2 0:21	Gwinnett	FG Brown 20 (11-73-2:05)	6-7
3 5:22	Gwinnett	TD McCoy 3 run (Brown,J) (3-38-1:40)	13-7
4 14:52	Gwinnett	TD Young 15 pass to Maclin (2 - failed) (8-56-4:02)	19-7
4 11:37	Garland	FG Gould 28 (7-72-3:03)	19-10
4 9:08	Garland	TD Forte 1 run (Gould) (5-38-2:23)	19-17
4 2:52	Gwinnett	FG Brown 30 (11-55-6:07)	22-17
4 0:55	Gwinnett	FG Brown 41 (6-16-1:03)	25-17

	<b>GWG</b>	<b>GDM</b>
First Downs	26	14
Rushes	42-243	10-67
Passes	29-15-159	41-23-239
Sacked	1-10	2-12
Fumble	2	2
Penalties	8-57	7-72
Turnovers	2	2
Time	35:29	24:31
Third Down	6-16	5-12
Fourth Down	0-0	0-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	11/2/3	3/2/1
Net Offense	392	294



**INJURIES**

**GWINNETT** – Bo Scaife (PG-3<sup>rd</sup>).  
**GARLAND** – Brian Cushing (5 games); Will Smith (1 game – questionable); Duane Brown (PG-2<sup>nd</sup>).

**QUOTE OF THE GAME**

"I like what Vince did for us today. He got the job done out there against a motivated opponent. I expect Ben won't miss his curfew next week." – *Gwinnett Coach, Dave Birdsall.*

# SPARTANS DEFEND THEIR TURF!



**COWTOWN CORN  
KINGS**

**10**

**20**

**PICKERING  
SPARTANS**



**COW PLAYER OF THE GAME**

**Kevin Walter**

8-109 receiving, 39 long

**Team 1 2 3 4 OT Total**

**COWTOWN (0-1)** 0 10 0 0 - 10

**PICKERING (1-0)** 10 0 3 7 - 20

**PIC PLAYER OF THE GAME**

**Joe Haden**

6 T, 2 PD, 1 FF, 1 INT, 1 TD

**HIGHLIGHT REEL:** **Joe Haden** returned an interception 52 yards for a TD and a forced fumble, both in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, to secure the win for Pickering. He also had 2 deflections and made 6 tackles.

- Pickering defensive end, **Ray Edwards** made 3 tackles, notched a sack, stuffed a run and recorded 2 QB pressures.
- **Kevin Walter** had 8 catches for 109 yards and 6 first downs.
- **Anquan Boldin** led the Spartans with 7 catches for 63 yards and 1 TD.
- Cowtown defensive end, **Aaron Kampman** had 6 tackles, including 4 run stuffs.

**GAME SUMMARY:** A 4<sup>th</sup> quarter interception return for a touchdown by Pickering cornerback, **Joe Haden** broke the tension of a close game and shot the Spartans into a commanding 20-10 lead with 7 minutes remaining. Haden followed up those heroics with the 'coup de grace,' forcing and recovering a **Santana Moss** fumble to shut down Cowtown's last reasonable chance at a comeback. Quarterback, **Matt Cassel** got off to a good start in his Pickering debut, completing 3 of 3 for 56 yards and a 20-yard TD pass to **Anquan Boldin** on his first possession to give Pickering an early 7-0 lead. Trailing 10-0 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, Cowtown's offence recovered from a poor start thanks to a 39-yard pass play to **Kevin Walter** that set up **Olindo Mare's** 30-yard field goal to make it 10-3. Both offences struggled in the rain and it looked like the score would remain at 10-3 until late in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter when Pickering punter, **Chris Kluwe** mishandled a snap and took a 9-yard loss. Cowtown took control in the red zone and scored four plays later when **Joe Flacco** found **Maurice Jones-Drew** in the end zone for a 3-yard TD to tie the game. Last year's offensive MVP, **Chris Johnson** found yards tough to come by on this day but still played a central role, carrying 8 times for 26 yards and drawing a facemask penalty on the drive that set up the eventual game-winning 28-yard field goal by **Josh Scobee**.



**THE FANS LOVED**

Smash-mouth football in the rain

**THE FANS HATED**

17 punts



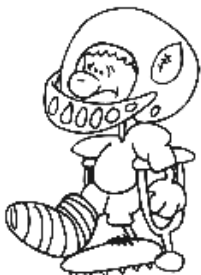
**FAN RATING**



10-06-2011 Thermopylae Stadium Temp: 65 Wind: 0-10 Light Rain MVP: **Joe Haden**

1 10:42	Pickering	TD Cassel 20 pass to Boldin (Scobee) (7-60-3:07)	0-7
1 1:37	Pickering	FG Scobee 29 (11-31-4:35)	0-10
2 13:33	Cowtown	FG Mare 30 (9-68-2:59)	3-10
2 0:49	Cowtown	TD Flacco 3 pass to Jones-Drew (Mare) (4-18-0:44)	10-10
3 0:45	Pickering	FG Scobee 28 (14-64-6:31)	10-13
4 7:22	Pickering	TD Haden 52 interception return (Scobee) (0-0-1:05)	10-20

	COW	PIC
First Downs	14	13
Rushes	18-49	38-96
Passes	47-26-251	31-14-144
Sacked	3-21	0-0
Fumble	1	1
Penalties	7-55	9-63
Turnovers	2	0
Time	29:12	30:48
Third Down	7-19	7-20
Fourth Down	0-0	0-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/1	4/1/2
Net Offense	279	240



**INJURIES**

**COWTOWN** – Brandon Mebane (5 games); Ryan Kerrigan (1 game – questionable).  
**PICKERING** – Jonathan Joseph (5 games); Joe Haden (PG-3<sup>rd</sup>); Chris Johnson (PG-2<sup>nd</sup>).

**QUOTE OF THE GAME**

"Cowtown came to play. They were tough on defence. This is a wake-up call for us. Teams will be gunning for us like this all year. We won't be ambushing anybody." – **Gus Konstantakos**, Pickering coach.

# FREEMAN STARS IN KNIGHTS' DEBUT!



**IOWA CITY  
CUBS**

**22**

**30**

**LOS ANGELES  
KNIGHTS**



**CUBS PLAYER OF THE GAME**

**Arian Foster**

25-180 rushing, 2 TDs

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
IOWA CITY (0-1)	7	6	3	6	-	22
LOS ANGELES (1-0)	21	0	3	6	-	30

**LA PLAYER OF THE GAME**

**Josh Freeman**

23-34, 250 yds, 0 INT, 1 TD

**HIGHLIGHT REEL:** Josh Freeman threw for 250 yards and 1 TD in going 23 of 34 in his Knights' debut.

- **Roddy White** caught 8 passes for 109 yards and 1 TD and **Jamaal Charles** rushed 18 times for 92 yards to lead the Knights' skill positions.
- **Arian Foster** dominated the Cubs offence with 180 yards and 2 TDs rushing on 25 carries.
- **Mke Wallace** starred in the passing game for Iowa City with 6 receptions for 103 yards.
- **Charles Woodson** made 8 tackles and returned an interception 24 yards for a TD.

**GAME SUMMARY:** The Knights got to Iowa quarterback **Sam Bradford** early with two interceptions that spear-headed a 21-point 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. **Charles Woodson** picked off a screen pass and returned it 24 yards for a TD to break a 7-7 tie; then, on the Cubs' next series, safety **Yeremiah Bell** snared a tipped Bradford pass to give LA possession at the Cubs' 18 yard line. **Josh Freeman** quickly found **Roddy White** in the end zone from 5 yards out to make it 21-7. The Cubs fought back through the remainder of the contest but would never fully recover from their 1<sup>st</sup> quarter troubles. In spite of impressive running by Cubs' running back, **Arian Foster**, which included a 72-yard run from scrimmage and 180 rushing yards in total, Iowa City would have trouble converting their drives into touchdowns. **Neil Rackers** connected on three straight field goals, the longest from 55 yards, to help his team scratch back within one score by the mid-point of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. But the Knights added two field goals of their own to re-establish a two-score lead, 27-16, with less than 7 minutes remaining. The Cubs scrambled back within striking distance with an impressive 87-yard drive that culminated in a 1-yard TD run by Foster. With less than 3 minutes remaining, Freeman drove the Knights to the edge of **Dan Carpenter's** range and the kicker drilled a 55-yard field goal, all but sealing a big opening day win for LA.



**THE FANS LOVED**

Josh Freeman's performance

**THE FANS HATED**

Cubs play-calling on final series



**FAN RATING**



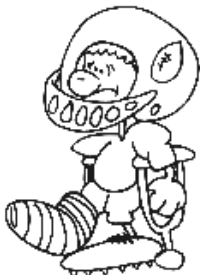
10-06-2011 Round Table Stadium Temp: 88 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: Josh Freeman

1 8:40	Iowa City	TD Foster 6 run (Rackers) (5-59-1:16)	7-0
1 4:06	Los Angeles	TD Charles 5 run (Carpente,D) (8-71-4:28)	7-7
1 3:11	Los Angeles	TD Woodson 24 interception return (Carpente,D) (0-0-0:49)	7-14
1 0:09	Los Angeles	TD Freeman 5 pass to White (Carpente,D) (3-18-1:27)	7-21
2 5:15	Iowa City	FG Rackers 21 (6-77-3:35)	10-21
2 0:24	Iowa City	FG Rackers 42 (11-56-2:30)	13-21
3 7:35	Iowa City	FG Rackers 55 (8-55-4:43)	16-21
3 0:07	Los Angeles	FG Carpenter 46 (9-33-5:18)	16-24
4 6:43	Los Angeles	FG Carpenter 23 (10-77-6:04)	16-27
4 3:03	Iowa City	TD Foster 1 run (2 - failed) (14-87-3:32)	22-27
4 0:59	Los Angeles	FG Carpenter 55 (7-38-1:53)	22-30

	ICC	LAK
First Downs	18	22
Rushes	27-185	24-99
Passes	35-21-229	34-23-250
Sacked	2-11	1-7
Fumble	0	1
Penalties	5-36	4-29
Turnovers	2	1
Time	26:42	33:18
Third Down	6-14	2-11
Fourth Down	1-1	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/2/1	4/2/1
Net Offense	403	342

**INJURIES**

IOWA CITY – Davin Joseph (Temp-1<sup>st</sup>)  
LOS ANGELES – Tony Gonzalez (Temp-1<sup>st</sup>)



**QUOTE OF THE GAME**

"It felt like we had to hold on for this one after getting that big lead. You can never count out the Cubs – they keep coming back at ya." – *Knights' cornerback, Charles Woodson.*

# VIRDEN VICTORIOUS, BRADY BAFFLED!



**YORK  
EXCALIBURS**

**10**

**13**

**VIRDEN  
VIOLATORS**



**YORK PLAYER OF THE GAME**

**Brian Urlacher**

11 Tackles, 1 Stf, 1 Ff

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
<b>YORK (0-1)</b>	0	7	0	3	-	10
<b>VIRDEN (1-0)</b>	3	0	3	7	-	13

**VIR PLAYER OF THE GAME**

**Mike Thomas**

9-120 Receiving

**HIGHLIGHT REEL:** **Dez Bryant** had 7 receptions for 109 yards, including a 42-yard TD.

- **Eli Manning** outdueled his more accomplished counterpart, going 22 of 33 for 284 yards and the game-winning TD.
- Virden wide receiver, **Mike Thomas** caught 9 passes for 120 yards and 6 first downs.
- York cornerback **Drayton Florence** intercepted Eli Manning in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter to set up York's only TD.
- **Tom Brady** had lacklustre numbers, going 22 of 32 for 179 yards and no TDs.
- York cornerback, **Chris Carr** had 3 deflections and 1 interception.

**GAME SUMMARY:** **Eli Manning** found receiver **Dez Bryant** wide open for a 42-yard TD pass to give the home town Violators a 13-7 lead early in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and set the stage for an improbable opening day upset. York offensive leaders, quarterback **Tom Brady** and running back **Darren McFadden**, both had uncharacteristically lacklustre performances against a Virden defence that performed above expectations and did not give up a play from scrimmage over 13 yards. Brady, in particular, looked baffled by the looks of the Virden secondary and did not appear poised during two disastrous two-minute drills that could have made a difference in the outcome. After finally breaking through the Virden defence for a TD on **Brandon Jacobs'** 3-yard run to take a 7-3 lead late in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, the Excaltiburs got the ball back at their own 27 with 3 minutes left in the half. Brady moved his team to the Virden 34 yard line but failed to call a timeout before throwing incomplete as time expired. After conceding 10 points, including the Bryant TD catch, to fall behind 13-7, York capitalized on a **Chris Carr** interception at mid-field and a 21-yard pass interference penalty to set up a 36-yard **Graham Gano** field goal. After **Lawrence Tynes** missed from 37 yards, Brady marched his team 67 yards to the Virden 24 yard line with 26 seconds remaining but failed to call timeout and threw a pass underneath as the clock expired.



**THE FANS LOVED**  
The Virden secondary

**THE FANS HATED**  
York clock management



**FAN RATING**



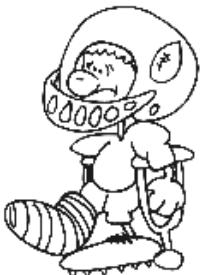
10-07-2011 **TERRORDOME** Temp: 63 Wind: Calm None MVP: **Mike Thomas**

1 1:46	Virden	FG Tynes 38 (12-53-5:17)	0-3
2 4:55	York	TD Jacobs 3 run (Gano) (12-68-7:05)	7-3
3 1:48	Virden	FG Tynes 31 (10-57-5:53)	7-6
4 14:08	Virden	TD Manning 42 pass to Bryant (Tynes) (3-46-1:25)	7-13
4 9:51	York	FG Gano 36 (6-32-2:23)	10-13

	<b>YOR</b>	<b>VV</b>
First Downs	17	17
Rushes	29-104	21-83
Passes	32-22-179	33-22-284
Sacked	0-0	1-7
Fumble	0	1
Penalties	4-35	4-46
Turnovers	0	2
Time	29:27	30:33
Third Down	6-14	6-13
Fourth Down	1-1	1-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/1	3/0/1
Net Offense	283	360

## INJURIES

**YORK** – Cullen Jenkins (6 games); Delanie Walker (3 games); Alphonso Smith (3 games).  
**VIRDEN** – Albert Haynesworht (10 games); Owen Daniels (5 games); John Jerry (5 games); LeGarrette Blount (3 games).



## QUOTE OF THE GAME

“We stuck to our coverage all day and locked them down. People say Brady had a bad day but we made him have a bad day. He’d look out and there we were, all over the place.” – *Virden cornerback, Corey Webster.*

# EAGLES TAKE FLIGHT IN HOME OPENER!



**SOUTH CAROLINA  
REGULATORS**

**15**

**41**

**SCARBOROUGH  
BLUE EAGLES**



## SC PLAYER OF THE GAME

**Greg Jennings**

5-92 Receiving, 2 TDs

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA (0-1)</b>	7	0	0	8	-	15
<b>SCARBOROUGH (1-0)</b>	3	10	14	14	-	41

## SCAR PLAYER OF THE GAME

**Aaron Rodgers**

17-26, 195 yds, 1 INT, 1 TD

**HIGHLIGHT REEL:** **Aaron Rodgers** went 17 of 26 for 195 yards, 1 INT and 1 TD.

- Scarborough corner **Richard Marshall** had one interception, returned for 28 yards, and 2 forced fumbles.
- **LaMarr Woodley** recorded 3 sacks and 1 pass deflection.
- **Greg Jennings** had 5 receptions for 92 yards and 2 TDs.
- **Tony Romo** completed 13 of 20 for 154 yards, 1 INT and 1 TD before going down to injury in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.
- **Ahtyba Rubin** recovered a fumble and returned it 47 yards for a TD to round out the scoring for Scarborough

**GAME SUMMARY:** Scarborough quarterback **Aaron Rodgers** recovered from a rough 1<sup>st</sup> quarter by threading the needle at the goal line for a 6-yard TD pass to **Jerricho Cotchery** to give the Blue Eagles a 10-7 lead in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. The underdog Regulators got off to a quick start with **Patrick Chung** picking off Rodgers on Scarborough's opening possession to set up a 14-yard TD pass from **Tony Romo** to **Greg Jennings**. Rodgers continued to struggle early, failing to complete a pass until their fourth possession when they got on the scoreboard with a 55-yard field goal by **Sebastien Janikowski**. The game remained close after one half with heavily favoured Scarborough leading by just 6 points, 13-7. However, South Carolina's **Javier Arenas** fumbled away the kick return to start the second half and the Blue Eagles would take advantage immediately on a 15-yard TD run by **DeSean Jackson** on the end around to make it 20-7. Romo came right back, moving his team into the Scarborough red zone, but **Richard Marshall's** interception at the 6 yard line thwarted the budding rally and led to another TD on a 3<sup>rd</sup>-and-inches dive into a stacked line by **Jonathan Stewart** to make it 27-7. Worse, Romo was injured on the play and will miss at least 10 games. The game continued with the Blue Eagles getting more air under their wings in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter to finish off the rout with two more TDs.



### THE FANS LOVED

4 turnovers forced by the Birds

### THE FANS HATED

Watching a blowout



### FAN RATING



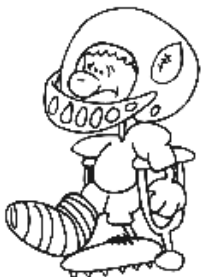
10-06-2011 Bluffs Stadium Temp: 78 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: **Aaron Rodgers**

1 12:26	South Carolina	TD Romo 14 pass to Jennings (Buehler) (2-21-0:54)	7-0
1 0:30	Scarborough	FG Janikowski 55 (10-62-5:08)	7-3
2 10:25	Scarborough	TD Rodgers 6 pass to Cotchery (Janikowski) (7-46-3:40)	7-10
2 0:22	Scarborough	FG Janikowski 32 (12-66-3:34)	7-13
3 14:45	Scarborough	TD Jackson 15 run (Janikowski) (1-15-0:09)	7-20
3 1:53	Scarborough	TD Stewart 1 run (Janikowski) (11-66-6:28)	7-27
4 9:39	Scarborough	TD Spiller 4 run (Janikowski) (10-73-5:37)	7-34
4 5:31	South Carolina	TD Campbell 32 pass to Jennings (2 - Cooley) (8-82-4:01)	15-34
4 1:25	Scarborough	TD Rubin 47 yd fumble recovery (Janikowski) (0-0-1:46)	15-41

	SC	SBE
First Downs	16	21
Rushes	28-113	33-156
Passes	25-17-206	26-17-195
Sacked	3-29	1-6
Fumble	5	0
Penalties	4-28	7-50
Turnovers	4	1
Time	29:33	30:27
Third Down	6-11	7-13
Fourth Down	1-1	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/1/0	5/4/1
Net Offense	290	345

## INJURIES

**SOUTH CAROLINA** – Tony Romo (10 games); Austin Collie (8 games); Brandon Spikes (2 games); Jeremy Zuttah (1 game – OUT).  
**SCARBOROUGH** – Sean Weatherspoon (6 games); Jermaine Gresham (PG-4<sup>th</sup>).



## QUOTE OF THE GAME

"One down, fifteen to go." – Scarborough owner, **Chris Dickinson**.



# PATS POUND OUT WIN IN MOHAVE HEAT!



**CHARLESWOOD  
PATRIOTS**

**28**

**9**

**MOHAVE  
HELLFIRE**



PATS PLAYER OF THE GAME
<b>Adrian Peterson</b>
27-112 Rushing, 3 TDs

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
<b>CHARLESWOOD (1-0)</b>	7	7	7	7	-	28
<b>MOHAVE (0-1)</b>	3	3	3	0	-	9

MOH PLAYER OF THE GAME
<b>Chris Ivory</b>
21-102 Rushing

**HIGHLIGHT REEL:** **Adrian Peterson** rushed for 112 yards and 3 TDs on 27 carries.

- **Peyton Manning** threw for 190 yards and 1 TD while completing 20 of 27 passes
- Back-up running back, **Mike Goodson** rushed twice for 18 yards and also made 3 catches for 54 yards.
- Mohave running back **Chris Ivory** rushed for 102 yards on 21 carries.
- Mohave defensive end **Robert Ayers** made 12 tackles and recorded 1 sack and 1 run stuff.
- **Hakeem Nicks** caught 4 passes for 73 yards and a long of 43.

**GAME SUMMARY:** Mohave struck first off the opening drive, moving the ball 68 yards in 8 plays to put **Rob Bironas** in position to make a 30-yard field goal. Charleswood bounced right back with an 80-yard drive topped off with 3 straight completions by **Peyton Manning**; the last an 11-yard TD strike to **Santonio Holmes**. After getting the ball back with a short field, the Pats extended their lead to 14-3 on a 5-yard TD run by **Adrian Peterson**. Mohave closed the 1<sup>st</sup> half scoring with another field goal and the teams retired to the underground locker rooms to take refuge from the 100-degree heat at the Fiery Depths. After the teams traded punts to start the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, the Pats scored again when Peterson bulldozed through a 6-man defensive line for a 1-yard TD to make it 21-6 for Charleswood. The Hellfire under **Matt Schaub** could not press it home against a stout Patriots' defence that bent slightly but did not break. The Pats took control and put the game away for good after the Hellfire tried unsuccessfully to convert 4<sup>th</sup> down at their own 46 yard line with 12 minutes still remaining. An 11-play drive followed that ended when Peterson pounded the ball through another 6-man stacked line, while keyed, from 1 yard out for his third rushing TD of the game.



**THE FANS LOVED**  
Peterson's power running

**THE FANS HATED**  
Lack of competition



**FAN RATING**



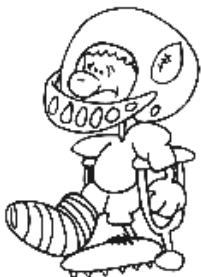
10-07-2011 The Fiery Depths Temp: 100 Wind: Calm None MVP: **Adrian Peterson**

1 10:37 Mohave	FG Bironas 30 (8-68-4:18)	0-3
1 4:47 Charleswood	TD Manning 11 pass to Holmes (Rayner) (11-80-5:50)	7-3
2 13:23 Charleswood	TD Peterson 5 run (Rayner) (8-45-4:36)	14-3
2 5:12 Mohave	FG Bironas 32 (13-63-8:00)	14-6
3 6:02 Charleswood	TD Peterson 1 run (Rayner) (11-71-5:32)	21-6
3 1:12 Mohave	FG Bironas 35 (11-58-4:39)	21-9
4 5:42 Charleswood	TD Peterson 1 run (Rayner) (11-51-6:24)	28-9

	CHP	MOH
First Downs	23	12
Rushes	32-126	27-118
Passes	27-20-190	27-15-186
Sacked	1-3	0-0
Fumble	0	0
Penalties	2-15	8-65
Turnovers	0	0
Time	32:12	27:48
Third Down	6-13	5-13
Fourth Down	2-2	1-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/4/0	2/0/2
Net Offense	313	304

## INJURIES

CHARLESWOOD – Jason Witten (PG-1<sup>st</sup>).  
MOHAVE – Hakeem Nicks (4 agmes); Pat sims (2 games);  
Daniel Thomas (1 game – OUT); Reed Doughty (Temp-2<sup>nd</sup>);  
David Hawthorne (Temp-2<sup>nd</sup>).



## QUOTE OF THE GAME

“This could be a long year if we don't find a way to stop the run” – Mohave coach, **Bobby Elder**.

## EFL STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood	1	0	0	1	28	28	9	9	19	0 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Virden	1	0	0	1	13	13	10	10	3	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Mohave	0	1	0	0	9	9	28	28	-19	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 1 0
York	0	1	0	0	10	10	13	13	-3	0 0 0	0 1 0	0 1 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Death Valley	1	0	0	1	17	17	15	15	2	0 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Los Angeles	1	0	0	1	30	30	22	22	8	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Chino	0	1	0	0	15	15	17	17	-2	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 1 0
Iowa City	0	1	0	0	22	22	30	30	-8	0 0 0	0 1 0	0 1 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Markham	1	0	0	1	23	23	7	7	16	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Pickering	1	0	0	1	20	20	10	10	10	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Cowtown	0	1	0	0	10	10	20	20	-10	0 0 0	0 1 0	0 1 0
Durham	0	1	0	0	7	7	23	23	-16	0 0 0	0 1 0	0 1 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Scarborough	1	0	0	1	41	41	15	15	26	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Gwinnett	1	0	0	1	25	25	17	17	8	0 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Garland	0	1	0	0	17	17	25	25	-8	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 1 0
South Carolina	0	1	0	0	15	15	41	41	-26	0 0 0	0 1 0	0 1 0

## PASSING

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Manning, P	CHP	27	20	74.1	190	0	0	28	1	3.7	105.5
2	Freeman	LAK	34	23	67.6	250	0	0	25	1	2.9	98.9
3	Brees	DVU	26	14	53.8	272	1	3.8	81	1	3.8	87.3
4	Rodgers	SBE	26	17	65.4	195	1	3.8	40	1	3.8	84.6
5	Romo	SC	20	13	65	154	1	5	28	1	5	84.2
6	Brady, T	YOR	32	22	68.8	179	0	0	13	0	0	82.7
7	Manning, E	VV	33	22	66.7	284	2	6.1	42	1	3	78.3
8	Schaub	MOH	27	15	55.6	186	0	0	42	0	0	77.1
9	Ryan, M	GDM	41	23	56.1	239	1	2.4	48	1	2.4	71.1
10	Cassel	PIC	31	14	45.2	144	0	0	20	1	3.2	69.8
11	Flacco	COW	47	26	55.3	251	1	2.1	39	1	2.1	68.7
12	Cutler	CHI	34	29	85.3	209	2	5.9	15	0	0	67.8
13	Young, V	GWG	29	15	51.7	159	1	3.4	16	1	3.4	65.2
14	Bradford	ICC	35	21	60	229	2	5.7	31	0	0	55.5
15	Rivers, P	DTL	45	26	57.8	277	4	8.9	62	1	2.2	46.2
16	Sanchez	MAR	25	9	36	165	1	4	45	0	0	42.9

## RUSHING

		Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1	Foster, A	ICC	25	180	7.2	72	2	<b>11</b>	Addai	MAR	18	59	3.3	14	0
2	McCoy, L	GWG	20	114	5.7	18	1	<b>12</b>	Forte	GDM	5	58	11.6	59	1
3	Peterson, A	CHP	27	112	4.1	15	3	<b>13</b>	Bradshaw	GWG	13	55	4.2	13	0
4	Ivory	MOH	21	102	4.9	15	0	<b>14</b>	Best	MAR	16	50	3.1	10	1
5	Charles	LAK	18	92	5.1	19	1	<b>15</b>	Jones-Drew	COW	16	49	3.1	15	0
6	Johnson, C	PIC	29	85	2.9	12	0	<b>16</b>	McFadden, D	YOR	11	48	4.4	12	0
7	Jackson, S	CHI	24	77	3.2	30	0	<b>17</b>	Blount	VV	12	48	4	12	0
8	Young, V	GWG	9	74	8.2	18	0	<b>18</b>	Stewart, J	SBE	8	40	5	13	1
9	Rice, R	SBE	18	67	3.7	13	0	<b>19</b>	Jacobs, B	YOR	12	33	2.8	9	1
10	Gore	SC	14	62	4.4	11	0	<b>20</b>	Rodgers	SBE	4	27	6.8	14	0

## RECEIVING

		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1	Thomas, M	VV	9	120	13.3	28	0	<b>11</b>	Boldin	PIC	7	63	9	20	1
2	Keller	GDM	9	128	14.2	48	1	<b>12</b>	Amendola	DTL	6	70	11.7	28	0
3	Jackson, S	CHI	8	59	7.4	13	0	<b>13</b>	Manningham	DVU	6	109	18.2	52	0
4	Moreno	CHI	8	44	5.5	9	0	<b>14</b>	Wallace, M	ICC	6	103	17.2	31	0
5	White, R	LAK	8	109	13.6	25	1	<b>15</b>	Bowe	DTL	6	50	8.3	15	0
6	Walter	COW	8	109	13.6	39	0	<b>16</b>	Moss, S	COW	6	51	8.5	14	0
7	Colston	CHP	7	54	7.7	11	0	<b>17</b>	Holmes, S	CHP	6	49	8.2	11	1
8	Jenkins, M	YOR	7	61	8.7	13	0	<b>18</b>	Maclin	GWG	6	75	12.5	15	1
9	Gonzalez	LAK	7	75	10.7	17	0	<b>19</b>	Winslow	ICC	5	37	7.4	9	0
10	Bryant, D	VV	7	109	15.6	42	1	<b>20</b>	Bush, R	DTL	5	30	6	14	0

## TACKLES

1	Lewis, R	DVU	16	<b>12</b>	Hayden	MOH	9	<b>23</b>	Flowers, B	VV	7
2	Johnson, C	DVU	12	<b>13</b>	Weddle	GDM	8	<b>24</b>	Dansby	GDM	7
3	Willis, P	ICC	12	<b>14</b>	Timmons	YOR	8	<b>25</b>	Davis, V	COW	7
4	Ayers	MOH	12	<b>15</b>	Vilma	DTL	8	<b>26</b>	McClain, J	GDM	7
5	Mayo	DVU	11	<b>16</b>	Woodson	LAK	8	<b>27</b>	Laurinaiti	GWG	7
6	Urlacher	YOR	11	<b>17</b>	Atogwe	PIC	8	<b>28</b>	Porter, T	SC	7
7	Johnson, D	COW	11	<b>18</b>	Jones, D	MOH	7	<b>29</b>	Tulloch	COW	7
8	Barber, R	PIC	11	<b>19</b>	Webster, C	VV	7	<b>30</b>	Trufant	CHP	6
9	Henders, EJ	SC	11	<b>20</b>	Whitner	ICC	7	<b>31</b>	Peterson	GDM	6
10	Bethea	LAK	10	<b>21</b>	Black, Q	DTL	7	<b>32</b>	Haden	PIC	6

## KICKING

			FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts
1	Brown, J	GWG	5	4	80	1	0	41	13
2	Carpenter, D	LAK	4	3	75	2	1	55	12
3	Janikowski	SBE	2	2	100	1	1	55	11
4	Akers	MAR	3	3	100	1	0	46	11
5	Rackers	ICC	3	3	100	2	1	55	10
6	Cundiff	CHI	3	3	100	1	0	44	9
7	Bironas	MOH	3	3	100	0	0	35	9
8	Scobee	PIC	3	2	66.7	0	0	29	8
9	Tynes	VV	4	2	50	0	0	38	7
10	Kasay	DVU	1	1	100	1	0	49	5
11	Gould	GDM	1	1	100	0	0	28	5
12	Gano	YOR	1	1	100	0	0	36	4
13	Mare	COW	2	1	50	0	0	30	4
14	Rayner	CHP	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
15	Buehler	SC	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
16	Vinatieri	DTL	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

## INTERCEPTIONS

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Winfield	MAR	2	37	18.5	34	1	9	Delmas	MAR	1	4	4	0
2	Haden	PIC	1	52	52	52	1	10	Talib	CHI	1	55	55	1
3	McFadden, B	GWG	1	0	0	0	0	11	Carr, C	YOR	1	3	3	0
4	Black, Q	DTL	1	3	3	3	0	12	Tillman	MAR	1	1	1	0
5	Marshall, R	SBE	1	28	28	28	0	13	Moore	DVU	1	0	0	0
6	Chung	SC	1	23	23	23	0	14	Bell, Y	LAK	1	0	0	0
7	Florence	YOR	1	20	20	20	0	15	Woodson	LAK	1	24	24	1
8	Smith, W	GDM	1	4	4	4	0	16	Allen, J	DVU	1	0	0	0

## SACKS

1	Cole, T	MAR	3	7	Edwards, R	PIC	1	13	Orakpo	LAK	1
2	Woodley	SBE	3	8	Boley	CHI	1	14	Wimbley	LAK	1
3	Matthews, C	DVU	2	9	Peppers	CHI	1	15	Allen, J	DTL	1
4	Ayers	MOH	1	10	Ware, D	DVU	1	16	Avril	GDM	1
5	Misi	PIC	1	11	Bowers	YOR	1	17	Hood	GWG	1
6	Vanden Bos	PIC	1	12	Wilkerson	ICC	1	18	Mathis, R	GWG	1



# AROUND THE



*With Spats McChad*

NEW YORK – On the topic of alternate universes, I am beginning to believe that my geek nephew, Byron may know what he’s talking about. Remind me to ask him if these multiple universes exist completely separately side-by-side; or if they occupy the same physical space on different dimensional frequencies and somehow interact with each other. This is important because I feel as if I have just stepped into an alternate universe.

I was settling back into my Manhattan condo after a lengthy summer sojourn in Bonaire and fixing my concentration on preparing for the 2011 EFL campaign when I got a phone call from my editor. “Yes, Mr. Finchley,” I sighed as I picked up the call, “I’ll do that fearless prediction column you asked me to do even though I don’t want to.”

“Sure, sure, Spats, that’s fine. But that’s not why I called,” he replied. He sounded both pressed for time and distracted all at once, bringing to mind the same feeling I used to get when I worked at the paper and my editor would appear in my office for an impromptu meeting when I’d be late for an appointment and had to urgently relieve myself because I had just finished my sixth cup of coffee in half an hour.

“Get out to Scarborough right away and interview that kid, **Chris Dickinson!** There’s a plane ticket at the airport with your name on it!” he ordered brusquely.

“What are you talking about,” I replied in bewilderment.

“Dickinson!” he sounded impatient. “The new owner of the Dragons, or the Screaming Condors, or whatever they’re called now.”

*New owner of the Dragons. Did I miss something when I was away?*

## **INTRODUCING THE NEW OWNER OF THE DRAGONS**

I arrived in Scarborough late the night before the home opener against South Carolina. The trip from the airport took over 90 minutes due to the traffic and the incompetence of my airport limo driver. Don’t let the word “limo” fool you. They call it a limo but it’s really just a big, black taxi with smelly seats. I’m not sure what language my driver spoke but it sure as heck wasn’t English. Oh well, I used the extra time to my advantage burning up the data plan on my *Blackberry* doing ‘Google-research’ on my upcoming interview subject.

By the time I reached my hotel I felt I already had enough to write the article without actually interviewing him. Dickinson is all over social media and the Internet and has a wide open Facebook profile that contains surprisingly graphic details about his life. This guy was an open book and apparently the richest guy nobody has heard of.

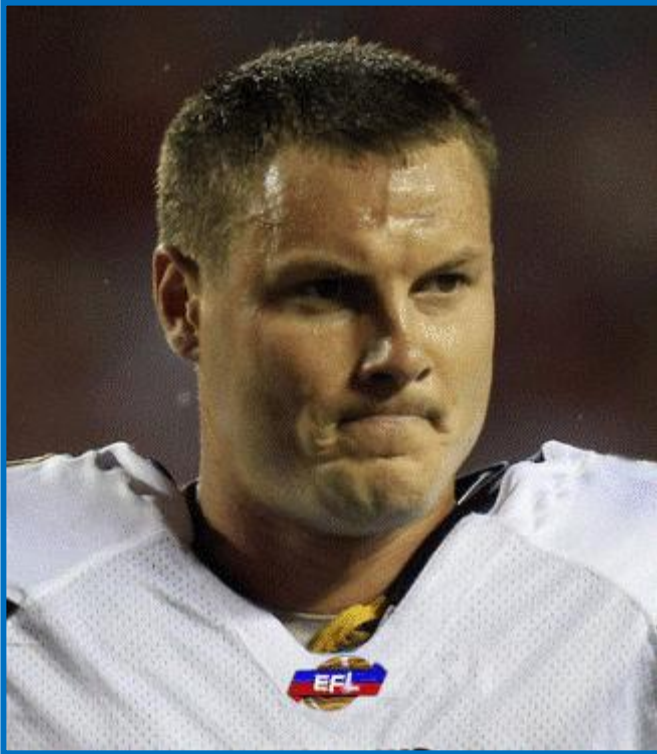
Dickinson made his fortune winning the lottery – *sixteen times*. He’s also apparently benefitted from some good investment advice and has ventured capital into some cutting edge industries – including a satellite salvage company that plans to retrieve NASA’s “space junk” before any more of it comes hurtling through the atmosphere to threaten civilization.

His holding company is called Dickinson and Friends, Inc., and its net worth is at least several billion dollars. His latest acquisition, the **Florida Dragons**, fell into his lap almost literally when he won the team at a game of cards while visiting a mountain retreat in China frequented by rich friends of the country’s increasingly un-Communist regime. Dickinson admits he knows nothing about the game of football, preferring golf and ping pong, but has vowed to make the Dragons, now dubbed the Blue Eagles, “*the best football team in the world.*”

I have news for you, Mr. Dickinson: the Dragons/Eagles are already the best football team in the world. Don’t drop the ball!

## **THE OWNER’S BOX.....**

.....is perched at the top of the most dangerous stadium I have ever seen. Built in the 1940’s in the middle of World War II, when building materials were scarce and expensive, Bluffs Stadium has not been used since 1972 and it is amazing in itself that the structure still stands. Overlooking Lake Ontario, the north grandstand is very grand indeed and extremely rickety. Its 196 rows climb the bluffs from which the stadium takes its name and overlook a patchy field, hastily prepared for the



Philip Rivers sports his now familiar look of disgust while contemplating throwing the interception that put the game against Markham out of reach for his Lizards.

unexpected event of an EFL game, and the south “grandstand” which consists of 2 rows of seats dug into the edge of the beach that serves as a breakwater against the encroaching waves. The Scarborough Historical Society has apparently poured money donated by the community into ‘preserving’ this heritage treasure but I’m not convinced the money ever made it into the actual structure of the grandstand. A family of four fell through the seats in the 53<sup>rd</sup> row during half time. Fortunately they simply got stuck in some cliff hedges instead of plummeting to their deaths.

The owner’s luxury box, however, looked brand new and fully-fitted for comfort. My editor had scored me a ‘Press’ ticket to the box – an accomplishment he seemed proud of at the time but was not so impressive to me when I saw staff handing them out in the parking lot. The “Meet the Owner Exclusive Privilege” tickets were first-come, first-served and came with a detachable coupon for a free draft. I was lucky to squeeze in before the cut off.

Inside was a cross between Hooters and a university pub. Everyone was drunk and loud and when I finally spotted the owner he was doing tequila shots from the cleavage of a big-busted young blonde server. A bunch of his friends and a familiar journalist friend of mine were cheering him on. I caught **Jean Boisvert’s** eye and he waved me over.

“Spats! Great to see you, buddy. I’m going to like this

new guy,” the glassy-eyed writer for the *Swampland Proof* slurred as he put his hand on my shoulder and belched. “I’m quitting *Swampland Proof* and moving to Scarborough!”

In the end, I did not see much of the game and got scandalously drunk. I managed to meet Dickinson only briefly when, cheeks flushed red and bloodshot eyes bugging out, he pointed at my nearly full pint of draft and ordered, “chug that! Now!” and started a chorus of “*Chug, chug, chug, chug.....*” that everyone nearby took up in seconds.

What can a person do in such a situation other than comply? I chugged that draft, and about eight others over the course of the game along with innumerable shooters served in Mandy’s “slush puppies.”

As I sit here in my hotel room after missing my flight back to New York, I pray to God to relieve my hangover long enough to get through this. Forgive me dear readers, for what you are about to read.

### ***THE GREAT SPATSKIN***

Periodically, my cherished readers and my editor will take me to task for not putting my reputation on the line before the season starts with a fearless prediction for the final finishes in the Divisional Title and Wildcard races. For years I have resisted this pressure based on the fervently held belief that it is a stupid and pointless exercise. So much can happen during the course of a season and nobody can completely account for coaching idiocy before the actual games start. Let ‘Jimmy the Geek’ (not his real name, by the way) waste his time pretending to see the future 19 long weeks in advance. He can afford this self-indulgence because nobody really takes him seriously.

However, most people take me very seriously and many hate me enough to hold me to account for whatever I put on the record. Do you expect they will give me a pass if, God forbid, I am actually *wrong* about who will win the West Division this year? *Not so easy without hindsight, is it Spats?* I can just hear them now.

Unfortunately, this year I no longer enjoy the luxury of being to laugh off my editor or flip the bird to my readers. With prediction columns suddenly in vogue and bettors across the continent clamouring for every micro gram of information to improve their odds of a big pay-off, it has become almost a business necessity for journalists to offer fantasy football and/or betting advice disguised as analysis in their columns.

I have been handed an ultimatum: write your predictions, Spats, or find work elsewhere! So, under protest, *The Great Spatskin* offers his wisdom to the EFL readership:

**EAST DIVISION:** The Patriots will win the Division with the ease to which they’ve become accustomed since the other

three teams have unique deficiencies that, for the sake of saving time and space, I will summarize succinctly as bad enough to cause them all to suck this year. York will pretend to challenge until other teams figure out that their wide receivers can't get open and even the great **Tom Brady** can't make it better. (Based on the result of their Week One game against Virden, at least one team seems to have figured that out already)

**WEST DIVISION:** I admit this one is a toughie! I am confident that **Jay Cutler** will play like an ass and will probably end up feigning injury by Week Ten, placing Chino at the bottom of the pile unless their defence can perform a major miracle and hold opponents to a season total of 100 points or less. Iowa City and Death Valley are a toss-up and I don't care what my editor says, I am not going to make this process any more humiliating by pretending to know who will gain the upper hand between these two very different but equally strong teams. That leaves Los Angeles as the team to beat in the West; but given **Jeff Dohrn's** track record when the Knights are the team to beat, that puts them in a virtual underdog position. To resolve this dilemma I put out four litter boxes in my bathroom for my cat and labelled each one after one of the West division teams. The first one that *Mr. Abbott* (my cat) defecated in would be my choice. I added some oat bran and petroleum jelly to his dinner and waited for the results. That night he dropped a runny black turd in the Death Valley box. The next morning he plopped a harder brown one in the Knights' box. Therefore, based on *Mr. Abbott's* projections, the Undertakers will surprise as Division winners and the Knights will finish close behind as the first wildcard, but beat all comers in the playoffs leading up to the final.

**NORTH DIVISION:** No team is actually going to "win" this Division. Certainly not Markham, despite their predictable Week One upset of undeservedly favoured Durham. There will, however, be a team that loses less than the other three and that team will be Pickering. This despite a rubber-armed quarterback and a defence that looks exhausted from playing over their heads last year. The Spartans will get through on swagger, bluster and sheer will. Choosing a second place finisher from this group is just as difficult, but not as interesting, as picking the West Division winner. So I'm not going to bother; sorry for the inconvenience.

**SOUTH DIVISION:** The two best teams, possibly in the league, share the South Division and the battle between them will be titanic. Count me among the minority who believe Gwinnett will topple Scarborough in the Conference Final and go on to the Championship game. After sharing drinks with the new coach of the newly-christened Blue Eagles, "Jonesy," in the owner's box while his team played on the field below, I have to believe that inexperience will bring the talented Eagles down a peg.

So, it looks to me as if it will be a LA-Gwinnett final. Who will win that contest? Sorry, I will go no further with my predictions. My regular readers will know that I have never shied away from predicting a playoff game, let alone a final. You will have to wait patiently for February, folks. *The Great Spatskin* now removes his turban and re-enters the real world.

### **REJECTED BY HELL**

Long time readers will recall that I broke the story of **Chris Worthley's** deal with the Devil that enabled him to buy, and soon lose, the team that later became the Pickering Spartans. Worthley was consumed by a supernatural fire and consigned to Hell after a Week Two loss to Los Angeles during the 2008 season as part of an ill-conceived deal he made with the Dark One.

Well, it appears that Satan himself has had enough of Worthley and made another deal with him just to get him out of Hell and back on Earth for a second chance. There is nothing the EFL Dictatorship can do about it – their power, which they've been abusing lately, trumped by the timeless authority of 'The King of This World.' So Worthley is back as owner of **Death Valley Undertakers II**, and making the league pay for his exile by trading his players faster than the league can track it. Am I the only one who thinks there is actually a method to Worthley's madness? After all, I put *Mr. Abbott* in a position to pick his team to win the West Division – he must be doing something right!

### **THE STORY OF PHILIP RIVERS**

What's the story with **Philip Rivers**? By "story," I *don't* mean anything like "issue," "deal," or "problem." I mean it literally: *what is the story?*

Is the thing that keeps **Philip Rivers** in the news public interest in the plight of an immensely talented young quarterback who continues to fail tragically to live up to his own and other's expectations? Are those expectations Rivers' *hamartia*, compelling him to play the role of a modern Greek tragic hero on the EFL's stage? Or is the real story rooted in how so many pundits, scouts, coaches and GMs have been fooled by this clumsy, ineffectual choke artist each year? You would think that by now, Rivers' body of work would speak for itself. But no, the usual suspects dutifully went on the record after pre-season predicting another "breakthrough year" for the beleaguered Durham quarterback.

Well, Rivers will have to show me that he deserves to be mentioned in the same company as **Peyton Manning** and **Aaron Rodgers** before I stand up and say he is not a vaudeville freak masquerading as an EFL quarterback. Based on his performance in Week One at the Dawg Pound in Markham I won't be frittering away my time searching for proof. Rivers hit a new low – playing so poorly that even the **Fat Lady in Row 54** toned down her bellowing by the fourth interception. She looked at the opponent and no longer found her team's defensive stand as impressive as she first thought. It's sad and embarrassing to watch and even more so because you know that there is nobody behind Rivers to rescue him. **John Skelton**? I shudder at the thought. **Tim Tebow**? Bring out the clowns!

## AROUND THE EFL IN WEEK ONE

It was a great week for close games. I wish I had seen more of them when they were happening but the wonders of digital TV mean they are still accessible to me.

The possibility that **Tom Brady** is abusing substances remains open for consideration after watching him vapour-lock against the Violators at **TERRORDOME** this week. Brady was indecisive in the face of an unthreatening defence in Virden and botched both two-minute drills at the end of the first half and, more critically, at the end of the game when a field goal would have tied it.

The Spartans are on notice that the North Division will not be the complete cakewalk it was in 2010 after Cowtown's defence gave **Chris Johnson** and **Matt Cassel** fits. The defensive display wasn't enough to make up for Joe Flacco's maddening inaccuracy, but the Spartans did not win convincingly against a team that just one year ago finished 3-13.

**Josh Freeman** looked impressive against a good Cubs defence in the Knights' home opener. The thought that **Jeff Dohn** might have found a legitimate franchise quarterback all on his own sits uncomfortably in my head despite my favourable first impression. I hate such clichés but it fits here: *only time will tell*.

The South Carolina Regulators officially entered the race for the top pick in the draft after expansion when **Tony Romo** went down with broken ribs trying to tackle **Richard Marshall**. Romo also has a really sore throat after screaming in pain for an hour as trainers attended to him. Finally, everyone had enough of it and Romo was sedated by injection. Even with Romo, the Regulators were clearly no match for Scarborough, a team they face twice along with the Eagles' main rival Gwinnett. It was going to be a long year anyway, but now it will be longer.

Charleswood handled Mohave without difficulty but are concerned that **Adrian Peterson** may have lost as much as 15 pounds carrying the load in the blistering heat of the Fiery Depths. **Coach Findlay** has not ruled out the possibility of lining Peterson up at wide receiver if he fails to put the weight back on by Week Two.

Gwinnett coach, **Dave Birdsall** is taking a disciplinarian's approach to managing his team in 2011. After what he called a "soft performance" by his squad in 2010, the 2011 edition of the team is paying the price, but also poised to reap the rewards. Birdsall followed through on a promise to strictly enforce a curfew for his team when he deactivated **Big Ben** for the team's home opener for sneaking into the team's hotel at 3:00 a.m. Vince Young got the start and the Glads survived it in a 25-17 win against Garland at the Corral but hope that Roethlisberger will never miss curfew again.

The Death Valley Undertakers made **Jay Cutler** look like....well, **Jay Cutler**. They squeaked by the Convicts 17-15 in a defensive struggle at the Big House. With Cutler as their target, this is probably not the best week to crow about the amazing line-backing crew in Death Valley.

## BUG THE BOOKIE!

### JIMMY THE GEEK GIVES YOU HIS PICKS FOR WEEK TWO EFL ACTION

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## JIMMY'S Week TWO PICKS

### VIRDEN @ CHARLESWOOD (line – PATRIOTS by 8)

It's only Week Two and the Violators are already suffering key injuries. They have lost an explosive option out of the backfield in LeGarrette Blount as well as their top pass-catching tight end in Owen Daniels. A bad defensive line becomes a little more questionable with major injuries to Albert Haynesworth and Jared Odrick. All this adds up to a little bigger blowout than originally anticipated as Peyton Manning and Adrian Peterson celebrate their home opener at Patriot Place with a whipping of their cross-Provincial rivals. **PICK:**

**CHARLESWOOD**

### MOHAVE @ YORK (line –EXCALIBURS by 9)

Tom Brady didn't do the little things right against Virden in Week One and it cost the Excaliburs one of the



games they were supposed to win in pre-season projections. In the Pacific-Atlantic Conference there aren't many easy games for York but fortunately this week brings another one of them. They are also at home and get to take aim at a Mohave offence missing running back Daniel Thomas and top wide receiver Hakeem Nicks. Matt Schaub can still do something against a defence missing Alphonso Smith and Cullen Jenkins, but expect Brady to do more. **Pick: YORK**

### **CHINO @ IOWA CITY (line – CUBS by 3)**

The Convicts' offensive line took a hit a double hit with starting left tackle Marcus McNeill and starting right guard, Robert Gallery falling to injury last week against Death Valley. That is bad news for Jay Cutler, who has trouble staying upright with the first string help. The Cubs are healthy but still face a major challenge to establish the run against the Convicts' line. If they cannot, it will put the game in Sam Bradford's hands and make for an interesting day. **Pick: CHINO**

### **LOS ANGELES @ DEATH VALLEY (line – UNDERTAKERS by 2)**

Both teams are healthy for the Undertakers' home opener at the Graveyard, the first game to be played there since 2008. Unfortunately, their "Fantastic Four" line-backers are not in an ideal situation against a team that does not need to pass to move the ball. Jamaal Charles will find space and Josh Freeman will find holes in the secondary with the linebackers frozen in place. **Pick: LOS ANGELES**

### **PICKERING @ DURHAM (line – SPARTANS by 6)**

The Spartans' offence did not impress against Cowtown and will need to improve this week against a Durham team facing severe scrutiny from fans and coaches alike. The good news is that Chris Johnson should find room against a mediocre defensive line recently bolstered in the pass rush with the addition of Lamarr Houston but still lacking a run-stopper. Philip Rivers once again faces a "test of leadership" – a test he is used to facing and failing. Still, it's too early for Durham to give up and I expect them to take control. **Pick: DURHAM**

### **MARKHAM @ COWTOWN (line – NORTH STARS by 4)**

This game will say a lot about where both teams really are in the North Division pecking order. Markham comes off an upset win while Cowtown feels they deserved better against Pickering. It's a close match-up but Markham does not have a definable strength offensively which, unless the defence can score some points, will tip the balance in the home team's favour. **Pick: COWTOWN**

### **SCARBOROUGH @ GWINNETT (line – BLUE EAGLES by 1)**

Here it is, the 'Game of the Week.' Ben Roethlisberger gets his first start as a Gladiator and the team is healthy which means the Blue Eagles will likely face their sternest test this year. The game will hinge on the play of both quarterbacks. Aaron Rodgers will be picking on the newest Gladiator, corner Dunta Robinson because the other target, Asante Samuel could make him pay. The Scarborough defence is elite, but even they can be had when not knowing what will be coming at them from play-to-play. I think the Blue Eagles will struggle to move the ball and the Glads will struggle less on their home turf. **Pick: GWINNETT**

### **GARLAND @ SOUTH CAROLINA (line – MUSTANGS by 2)**

This is a big day for South Carolina as they open in Columbia for the first time. Unfortunately, a big part of their offence will be on the sideline for this momentous game. Tony Romo is out for a while, as is Austin Collie, which means bad news for the offence – no disrespect to journeyman Jason Campbell. The Mustangs have some offensive bite with two good running backs and Wes Welker at wide receiver. If Romo was still in the picture, I'd probably take the Regulators, but without him it's Garland's day. **Pick: GARLAND**