

WEEK 6



EFL

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

2023

We're Number 1!

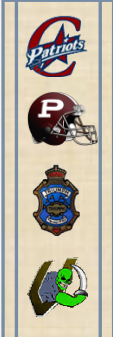
November 12, 2023

FOR THE RECORD!

EAST



CENTRAL



WEST



NORTH



COASTAL



SOUTH



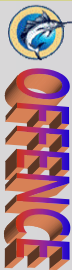
Nick Chubb
Sebastian Swordfish

Swordfish running back, **Nick Chubb** celebrates his third touchdown of the game, which turned out to be enough to give Sebastian its first win of the season, 37-30 over Scarborough. Chubb's 252-yard rushing effort set an EFL single game record, eclipsing the 249 yards of Willis McGahee of Death Valley set in 2012. *(Story inside)*



*Who was slick
in Week Six?*

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



Nick Chubb
RB
Sebastian
Swordfish

30 Car, 252 yds, 3 TDs, 36 Lg. Set a new EFL rush record in team's 1st win.



Preston Smith
OLB
Georgia
Gladiators

5 Tk, 2 Sks, 2 Hur, 1 FF. 2 sacks and FF in 2nd set Glads up for big win.


26
7

Daniel Jones hit **Terry McLaurin** on a crossing pattern for a 40-yard TD pass with 1:05 left in the 3rd to give the Wrecking Balls a two-score lead, 19-7. That would prove more than enough to secure New Jersey's fourth win of the year. **Quandre Diggs** picked off **Lamar Jackson** with 3:13 left and returned it 58 yards to the Buffalo 2, from where **David Montgomery** bought some extra insurance with a TD run. The Derailers' offense stumbled after opening the game with a 73-yard catch-and-run by **Noah Fant** for an early 7-0 lead. They gained 153 yards and 9 1st downs the rest of the way.

11-12-2023 Highmark Stadium Temp:55 Wind:10-20 Rain Line:NJ by 4 MVP:Jones HFA:0

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 New Jersey (4-2)	0	10	9	7	26
2023 Buffalo (1-5)	7	0	0	0	7

Passing

NJ: Jones 22/16 192 Yds 2 TDs

BUF: Jackson 31/19 214 Yds TD Int

Rushing

NJ: Jones 11/65, Robinson Jr. 11/40, Montgomery 7/17 TD, Brightwell 4/10, McKinnon 4/10

BUF: Dillon 12/26, Jackson 7/22

Receiving

NJ: Allen 6/94 TD, McLaurin 3/53 TD, McKinnon 3/34, Doubs 2/13, Montgomery 1/-2

BUF: Woods 5/39, Fant 4/101 TD, Toney 3/27, Dillon 3/19, Reynolds 2/13, Rice 2/15

Defense

NJ: Campbell 2-Sks 6-Tk, Hughes Sk 9-Tk, Floyd Sk FF 6-Tk, Diggs Int 3-Tk

BUF: Evans 13-Tk, Thibodeaux Sk 6-Tk, Williams 9-Tk

Injuries

NJ: Winfield Jr. 2, Bakhtiari 1

BUF: Robinson 6, Jackson 6, Donald 2

Misc

NJ: Ryland 2/2 FG 54 Lg

BUF:


21
27

Travis Etienne took a screen from **Bryce Young** 22 yards for a TD with 4:34 left in the 4th for the winning score, as the Coyotes handed Bruxelles its first loss. The game was back-and-forth, with the lead changing hands five times. It looked like the Bombers might run away with it early after TDs on consecutive drives, including a 43-yard TD pass from **Justin Fields** to **Nico Collins**, made it 14-6 in the 2nd quarter. But the Coyotes reclaimed the lead on a TD run by Young and a FG by **Jake Moody**. Fields scored on a 10-yard run in the 4th to make it 21-16, but Bruxelles did not hang on.

11-12-2023 Coyote Field Temp:74 Wind:0-5 None Line:BRX by 11 MVP:Young HFA:ON(

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Bruxelles (5-1)	0	14	0	7	21
2023 Cobb County (2-4)	3	10	0	14	27

Passing

BRX: Fields 29/15 134 Yds TD Int

CB: Young 29/17 269 Yds TD

Rushing

BRX: Fields 17/102 TD, Fournette 7/27, Foreman 10/23 TD, Gainwell 1/2

CB: Etienne 17/56, Young 8/39 TD, Cook 5/23

Receiving

BRX: Godwin 5/40, Wilson 3/23, Fournette 3/5, Collins 2/57 TD, Dulcich 2/9

CB: Pittman Jr. 5/82, Etienne 3/39 TD, Cooks 3/27, Musgrave 3/48, Addison 2/21

Defense

BRX: Ebukam 2-Sks 3-Tk, Okoronkwo Sk 4-Tk, Reed 8-Tk

CB: Omenihu Sk 7-Tk, Bates FF 7-Tk, Graham 9-Tk

Injuries

BRX: Smith 1

CB: Adams 7, Allen 7, White 3, Jones 2

Misc

BRX: Fields F-L, Campbell FR

CB: Kancey FR, Etienne F-L, Moody 4/4 FG 50 Lg



27

3

Chris Jones stuffed **Aaron Jones** for a loss on 4th & 1 at mid-field and five plays later, **Ryan Tannehill** hooked up with **Brandon Aiyuk** for a 21-yard TD to give the Crusaders a 13-0 lead for halftime. **Jeff Okudah** intercepted **Jared Goff** in Chino territory on the first series of the 2nd half and Tannehill took advantage with a 12-yard TD pass to **Jakobi Meyers** to make it 20-0. The Convicts fell deeper into a hole when a botched punt snap by **Aaron Brewer** set up a **Saquon Barkley** TD run to give the Pegs a commanding 27-0 lead. **Harrison Butker** broke the shutout with a late FG.

11-12-2023 The Big House Temp:90 Wind:0-10 None Line:PCC by 3 MVP:Tannehill HFA:ON(

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Peg City (5-1)	3	10	14	0	27
2023 Chino (4-2)	0	0	0	3	3

Passing

PCC: Tannehill 17/14 176 Yds 2 TDs, Jones 2/2 20 Yds

CHI: Goff 35/21 164 Yds Int

Rushing

PCC: Kamara 8/40, Barkley 9/22 TD, Hubbard 4/14, Tannehill 2/8, Hasty 1/3

CHI: McCaffrey 9/26, Campbell 1/16, Jones 8/16, Ahmed 2/9

Receiving

PCC: Kamara 5/54, Meyers 4/46 TD, Sutton 3/43, Barkley 2/18, Aiyuk 2/35 TD

CHI: McCaffrey 4/8, Jones 4/16, Flowers 4/39, Mooney 3/23, Campbell 3/29, Boyd 3/49

Defense

PCC: Okudah Int 7-Tk, Jones Sk 5-Tk, Hutchinson 9-Tk

CHI: Miller Sk 7-Tk, Anudike-Uzomah Sk 3-Tk, Franklin 8-Tk

Injuries

PCC: Whitehair 2

CHI: Gardner-Johnson 1, Terrell 1

Misc

PCC: Rapp FR, Koo 2/2 FG 29 Lg

CHI: Brewer F-L, Butker 1/2 FG, 32 Lg



0

40

Trevor Lawrence tossed TD passes of 8 yards to **Tyler Lockett** and 15 yards to **Alec Pierce**. **Jeff Wilson** and **Darrel Henderson Jr** each ran it TDs from 2 yards out, and **Dustin Hopkins** and **Brandon McManus** combined for 4 FGs to give the Triumph a runaway away. The home team was equally dominant on the defensive side, intercepting **Carson Wentz** three times and holding the Pilots a meagre 28 rush yards and just 129 total yards. The final turning point for Seattle came with **Jaire Alexander's** pick and 34-yard return at the end of the 1st quarter that set up the Triumph for their third TD.

11-12-2023 Wilhalla Stadium Temp:83 Wind:Calm None Line:TCT by 10 MVP:Lawrence HFA

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Seattle (1-5)	0	0	0	0	0
2023 Twin Cities (4-2)	14	13	10	3	40

Passing

SEA: Wentz 28/18 109 Yds 3 Int

TCT: Lawrence 21/16 132 Yds 2 TDs, Haener 1/1 11 Yds

Rushing

SEA: Walker III 7/11, Hunt 2/10, Lamb 1/6, Wentz 1/2

TCT: Abanikanda 10/70, Henderson Jr. 16/63 TD, Wilson 3/44 TD

Receiving

SEA: Renfrow 6/34, Lamb 5/40, Walker III 4/22, Dell 1/6, St. Brown 1/2, Deguara 1/4

TCT: Higbee 4/30, Duvernay 3/20, Bryant 2/16, Moore 2/26, Pierce 2/21 TD, Lockett 2/16 TD

Defense

SEA: Joseph-Day FF 9-Tk, White 10-Tk, McDonald IV Sk 5-Tk, Elliott Sk 4-Tk

TCT: Alexander Int 6-Tk, Clark Sk 6-Tk, Wagner Int 6-Tk, Brooks 10-Tk, Stingley Jr. FF

Injuries

SEA: Washington 10, Sermon 8, Lattimore 6

TCT: Moseley 5, Maddox 2

Misc

SEA: Dell F-L

TCT: Skoronski FR, Hopkins 3/3 FG 34 Lg, McManus 1/1 FG 50 Lg



31



25

With the Cubs in front 14-13 after two quarters, **Juju Brents** intercepted **Kenny Pickett** to start the 2nd half, setting up an 8-yard TD run by **Russell Wilson** to put Iowa in front, 21-13. Wilson added to that lead late in the 3rd with a 9-yard checkdown to **Michael Carter** for a TD, and **Justin Tucker** added a FG after the Pats turned the ball over on downs at their own 25-yard line to make 31-13. The Pats answered with a FG then recovered an onside kick, which led to a 4-yard TD by **Devin Singletary**. **Wil Lutz** added a FG with 3:03 left to close within 6 but the Pats did not get the ball back.

11-12-2023 Patriot Place Temp:75 Wind:Calm Line:ICC by 4 MVP:Wilson HFA:ON(

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Iowa City (3-3)	7	7	14	3	31
2023 Charleswood (1-5)	7	6	0	12	25

Passing

ICC: Wilson 20/16 282 Yds 2 TDs Int

CHP: Pickett 41/27 218 Yds Int

Rushing

ICC: Miller 10/27, Johnson 3/13, Carter 6/11 TD, Wilson 1/8 TD, Evans 1/4

CHP: Singletary 12/79 TD, Pacheco 11/62, Dobbins 6/29 TD, Pickett 3/17, Gibson 3/11

Receiving

ICC: Brown 5/141 TD, Njoku 4/28, Kirk 3/53, Palmer 2/42, Carter 1/9 TD, Miller 1/9

CHP: Chark 7/81, Smith-Schuster 7/56, Kelce 5/52, Gibson 3/5, Singletary 2/3

Defense

ICC: Brents Int 7-Tk, Johnson FF 8-Tk, Murphy Sk 4-Tk, Anderson Jr. 8-Tk

CHP: Queen Int 5-Tk, Davis Sk 4-Tk

Injuries

ICC: Hooker 7, Noteboom 7, Smith 2, St-Juste 1, Jewell 1

CHP: Ojabo 9, Cushenberry 6, Darby 6

Misc

ICC: Tucker 1/1 FG 34 Lg

CHP: Lutz 4/4 FG 41 Lg



48



17

Patrick Mahomes threw 5 TD passes in the 1st half, two to **T.J. Hockenson** and one each to **Chris Olave**, **Tyreek Hill** and **Ja'Marr Chase** to put the Violators in control at the halfway point, 34-17. The Bats battled hard on both sides early, with **BJ Ojulari** picking up a Mahomes fumble and returning it 32 yards for a TD and **Matt Breida** capping a 75-yard drive with a 3-yard TD run. But in the 2nd half Billtown was shut down as Virden controlled the ball on the ground offensively, tacking on TDs by **Cam Akers** and **Keaton Mitchell** and held **Justin Herbert** in check thru the air to finish the blowout.

11-12-2023 Veteran Field Temp:56 Wind:5-15 None Line:VV by 17 MVP:Mahomes HFA:ON(

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Virden (6-0)	14	20	7	7	48
2023 Billtown (1-5)	3	14	0	0	17

Passing

VV: Mahomes 35/25 387 Yds 5 TDs

BB: Herbert 27/15 88 Yds

Rushing

VV: Akers 11/59 TD, Conner 9/28, Mitchell 4/16 TD, Mahomes 3/13

BB: Harris 15/96, Spears 5/58, Breida 3/20 TD, Herbert 5/4, Beck 1/1

Receiving

VV: Hill 7/146 TD, Chase 7/79 TD, Olave 7/106 TD, Hockenson 4/56 2 TDs

BB: Hodgins 6/40, Jeudy 3/25, Kincaid 2/8, Hardman 2/10, Watkins 1/6, Harris 1/-1

Defense

VV: James 10-Tk, Bolton FF 5-Tk

BB: Wise Jr. Sk 12-Tk, Gipson Sk FF 5-Tk

Injuries

VV: Williams 3

BB: Leonard 8, Fuller 7, Hardman 7, Williams 2

Misc

VV: Mahomes F-L, Moehrig FR

BB: Ojulari FR-TD, Hardman F-L, Fairbairn 1/2 FG 51 Lg



37



16

Josh Allen lofted a 45-yard bomb for a TD to Marquez Valdes-Scantling with 0:39 left in the 1st half to erase a 6-3 Cowtown lead. The big score was the first of three straight TDs, rounded out by a 38-yard TD pass to Darren Waller and a 28-yard designed run by Allen himself, to put Durham in front, 24-6. Over their next two series, the Corn Kings clawed back to within one score on a FG and a 7-yard TD by Jamaal Williams to make it 24-16. Durham answered with a 16-yard TD by Tyler Allegier then Jimmy G was picked off on the next possession to set up the Lizards' final TD.

11-12-2023 Tillman Field Temp:59 Wind:5-15 *Internet* Line:COW by 6 MVP:Allen HFA:ON(4)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Durham (4-2)	3	7	14	13	37
2023 Cowtown (4-2)	0	6	3	7	16

Passing

DTL: Allen 29/18 260 Yds 2 TDs Int
COW: Garoppolo 36/27 274 Yds TD 2 Int, Mills 8/4 25 Yds

Rushing

DTL: Allgeier 11/69 TD, Allen 7/67 TD, Penny 5/28, Mattison 4/12 TD
COW: Williams 12/45 TD, Murray 8/38, Benjamin 2/9, Mills 1/8

Receiving

DTL: Knox 5/48, Samuel 4/35, Valdes-Scantling 3/82 TD, Waller 3/66 TD, Palmer 2/28
COW: Evans 11/156 TD, LaPorta 6/32, Benjamin 6/51, Bourne 2/23, Lazard 2/16

Defense

DTL: Hendrickson 2-Sks FF 4-Tk, Witherspoon Int FF 3-Tk, Simmons 11-Tk, Gonzalez Int
COW: Smith 10-Tk, Peterson Int 4-Tk

Injuries

DTL: Ruckert 1
COW: Pierce 6

Misc

DTL: Santos 1/1 FG 45 Lg
COW: Slye 1/1 FG 42 Lg



37



30

Nick Chubb set an individual single game EFL rushing record with 255 yards on 30 carries and scored the game-winning TD on a 2-yard run with 2:42 left in the 4th quarter to lead the Swordfish to their first win of the season. In total, Sebastian rushed for 320 yards, only 33 yards off the record set last week by Bruxelles. Joe Burrow hurled 4 TD passes trying to keep pace for Scarborough, all 4 going to Jahan Dotson, two of them deep strikes from 65 and 40 yards but was picked off with 0:20 left trying for his fifth. The Fish rolled the dice successfully on 4th down 3 times in their own territory.

11-12-2023 The Eagles Nest Temp:65 Wind:Calm None Line:SBE by 8 MVP:Chubb HFA:0

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Sebastian (1-5)	10	10	10	7	37
2023 Scarborough (1-5)	0	20	7	3	30

Passing

SS: Cousins 30/17 179 Yds TD
SBE: Burrow 27/19 291 Yds 4 TDs Int

Rushing

SS: Chubb 30/252 3 TDs, Taylor 10/55, Moss 1/7, Cousins 2/6
SBE: Cook 17/84, Burrow 5/30, Perine 4/20

Receiving

SS: Jones 8/77 TD, Peoples-Jones 4/65, Schultz 2/12, Chubb 1/4, Marshall Jr. 1/14
SBE: Dotson 6/155 4 TDs, Cobb 5/42, Perine 3/35, Uzomah 1/13, Mims Jr. 1/21

Defense

SS: Jenkins 13-Tk, Street Sk 7-Tk, Wallace Int 4-Tk
SBE: Speed Sk 6-Tk, Walker Sk 4-Tk, Hufanga 8-Tk, Davis 8-Tk

Injuries

SS: Tuipulotu 3, Johnson 3
SBE: Robinson 5, Smith-Williams 2

Misc

SS: Carlson 3/3 FG 44 Lg
SBE: Crosby 1/1 FG 31 Lg



7

35

A fumble lost by **Sam Darnold** near the end of the 1st set up a 28-point explosion in the 2nd quarter that all but sealed the game for the Spartans in the heavy rain. **Jalen Hurts** powered over the line on 4th & goal from the 1 to get the scoring started; back-to-back TD passes to **Pat Freiermuth** and **Marquise Brown**, followed by a 9-yard fumble return for a TD by **Tariq Woolen** off a strip-sack by **Denico Autry** finished off the burst. **Quentin Johnston** caught an 18-yard TD pass to get the Irish on the board before halftime. Hurts added a second 1-yard TD run in a slow-paced 2nd half.

11-12-2023 Thermopylae Stadium Temp:41 Wind:0-10 Heavy Rain Line:PIC by 15 MVP:Hurts

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 East Elmhurst (3-3)	0	7	0	0	7
2023 Pickering (6-0)	0	28	7	0	35

Passing

EE: Darnold 46/26 248 Yds TD 2 Int
 PIC: Hurts 13/11 150 Yds 2 TDs

Rushing

EE: Darnold 6/46, Charbonnet 6/14, Ingram 4/11, Williams 3/8
 PIC: Sanders 16/82, White 14/41, Hurts 5/6 2 TDs, Swift 1/6

Receiving

EE: Metcalf 6/65, Johnston 5/69 TD, Jones 4/35, Charbonnet 4/42, Williams 2/9
 PIC: Brown 6/103 TD, Smith 3/28, Swift 1/0, Freiermuth 1/19 TD, James Jr. 1/7

Defense

EE: Walker 7-Tk
 PIC: Autry 2-Sks FF 7-Tk, Woolen Int 6-Tk

Injuries

EE:
 PIC: Clowney 3, Kearse 2

Misc

EE: Darnold 2F-2L,
 PIC: Woolen FR-TD, Carter II FR,



13

16

Nick Folk drilled home a 52-yard FG with 1:21 left in the 3rd quarter to provide the margin of victory for Budapest in a hard-fought contest against Erieau. The Caddies got to within 3 points on a 6-yard TD run by **Najee Harris**, trailing 16-13 with 3:28 left. The Caddies got a stop but ended up turning the ball over on downs at their own 34. Budapest was unable to capitalize with a score, and Erieau got one more last gasp that ended when **Teddy Bridgewater** was picked off with 0:10 left. **Aaron Rodgers** threw a 41-yard TD pass to **George Kittle** in the 3rd to earn Game MVP honours.

11-12-2023 Ferenc-Liszt Int'1 Temp:63 Wind:0-5 None Line:BUD by 6 MVP:Rodgers HF

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Erieau (2-4)	0	6	0	7	13
2023 Budapest (4-2)	0	6	10	0	16

Passing

ERI: Bridgewater 32/14 122 Yds 2 Int
 BUD: Rodgers 40/27 262 Yds TD Int

Rushing

ERI: Pierce 7/88, Harris 12/46 TD, Hines 1/4
 BUD: Mostert 9/47 TD, Patterson 9/20, Jones II 3/7, Achane 3/4

Receiving

ERI: Andrews 5/55, Harris 4/19, Waddle 3/32, Higgins 1/13, Hines 1/3
 BUD: Jefferson 10/117, Diggs 5/45, Kittle 5/72 TD, Patterson 3/8, Brown 2/5

Defense

ERI: Pace Jr. Sk 7-Tk, Diggs Int 5-Tk, Houston Sk 4-Tk
 BUD: Smith Sk 8-Tk, Stewart 2-Sks 2-Tk, Luvu Sk 3-Tk

Injuries

ERI: Robinson 10, Bosa 6
 BUD: Barno 4

Misc

ERI: Hines 5/96 PR 30 Lg, Myers 2/2 FG 45 Lg
 BUD: Folk 1/2 FG 52 Lg



17

24

Quay Walker stripped the ball from **Derrick Henry**, **Chuck Clark** recovered and six plays later **CJ Stroud** shovelled a pass to **Jahmyr Gibbs** for an 8-yard TD with 2:08 left to lift the Braves over York, 24-17. Turnovers hurt the Excaliburs in an otherwise even game. Clark intercepted **Tom Brady** and returned it to the 7, setting up Gibbs for the Braves' first TD in the 1st quarter. Gibbs' 2 TDs and his 110 rushing yards earned him player of the game. Stroud got his second start of the year. He managed the game while the Braves' defence had two takeaways and held York in check when needed.

11-12-2023 St. Charles Stadium Temp:72 Wind:Calm Line:YOR by 10 MVP:Gibbs

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 York (4-2)	7	3	0	7	17
2023 LaPlata (2-4)	7	3	6	8	24

Passing

YOR: Brady 35/21 220 Yds TD Int
 LPB: Stroud 15/10 115 Yds TD Int

Rushing

YOR: Henry 27/96 TD, Scott 2/7
 LPB: Gibbs 17/110 TD, Stroud 7/44, Mixon 13/36 TD

Receiving

YOR: Williams 7/90, Kmet 6/62 TD, Burks 3/20, Henry 3/19, Davis 1/14, St. Brown 1/15
 LPB: Mixon 4/53, Thielen 2/16, Gibbs 2/13 TD, Goedert 1/1, Adams 1/32

Defense

YOR: Poyer Int 4-Tk, Rousseau 9-Tk, Tonga Sk 4-Tk, Buckner Sk 4-Tk, Smith Sk 4-Tk
 LPB: Reddick Sk FF 4-Tk, Simmons Sk 5-Tk, Clark Int 3-Tk, Walker FF 5-Tk

Injuries

YOR: Mathis 10, Zuniga 9, Williams 9, Gary 6, Holcomb 5, Burks 5, Ojulari 4
 LPB: Vera-Tucker 8, Stanley 4

Misc

YOR: Henry F-L, Gould 1/2 FG 46 Lg
 LPB: Clark FR, Joseph 1/1 FG 22 Lg



7

21

Marcus Mariota, making his first start of the season, threw a TD pass of 26 yards to **Amari Cooper** and ran for two more scores, including a 64-yarder on a quarterback draw to lead the Gladiators to a much-needed win. All Georgia's scoring came in the 2nd quarter. Mariota's first TD run was sparked by a 64-yard run by **Josh Jacobs** to the Brooklin 3 and his TD pass came after **Austin Ekeler** fumbled the ball away at his own 26. Despite possessing the ball for over 36 minutes and running 82 plays, the Hawks found the end zone only once, on a 16-yard TD pass from **Geno Smith** to **Bijan Robinson**.

11-12-2023 DeepWoods Off Col. Temp:75 Wind:Calm None Line:GEO by 12 MVP:Mariota H

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Brooklin (1-5)	0	0	7	0	7
2023 Georgia (3-3)	0	21	0	0	21

Passing

BRH: Smith 59/38 301 Yds TD
 GEO: Mariota 14/7 85 Yds TD

Rushing

BRH: Ekeler 11/46, Robinson 6/36, Smith 2/4
 GEO: Mariota 8/99 2 TDs, Jacobs 14/90, Agnew 2/31, Stevenson 4/12, Vaughn 1/2

Receiving

BRH: London 7/77, Ekeler 7/36, Ingram 6/47, Robinson 6/26 TD, Hyatt 4/24, Hollins 4/44
 GEO: Stevenson 2/9, Cooper 2/53 TD, Robinson 1/16, Johnson 1/6, Jacobs 1/1

Defense

BRH: Tranquill 8-Tk
 GEO: Smith 2-Sks FF 5-Tk, Bell 12-Tk, Pratt Sk 7-Tk

Injuries

BRH:
 GEO: Davis 1

Misc

BRH: Ekeler F-L
 GEO: Pratt FR, Bass 0/1 FG



WEEK SIX

STANDINGS & STATS

2023 EFL - Week 6 Standings

East	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Bruxelles	5	1	0	.833	L1	199	33.2	122	20.3	12.8	2 0 0	2 1 0	4 1 0
New Jersey	4	2	0	.667	W3	112	18.7	77	12.8	5.8	1 2 0	1 2 0	3 2 0
Cobb County	2	4	0	.333	W1	130	21.7	166	27.7	-6.0	1 2 0	2 1 0	2 3 0
Buffalo	1	5	0	.167	L5	72	12.0	158	26.3	-14.3	1 3 0	1 2 0	1 4 0
Central	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Virden	6	0	0	1.000	W6	232	38.7	77	12.8	25.8	3 0 0	2 0 0	5 0 0
Peg City	5	1	0	.833	W1	148	24.7	123	20.5	4.2	2 1 0	1 1 0	4 1 0
Twin Cities	4	2	0	.667	W4	170	28.3	105	17.5	10.8	3 1 0	1 1 0	3 2 0
Charleswood	1	5	0	.167	L2	113	18.8	166	27.7	-8.8	1 3 0	0 2 0	0 5 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Chino	4	2	0	.667	L1	139	23.2	116	19.3	3.8	3 1 0	1 1 0	3 2 0
Iowa City	3	3	0	.500	W1	169	28.2	180	30.0	-1.8	1 1 0	2 0 0	3 2 0
Seattle	1	5	0	.167	L4	45	7.5	158	26.3	-18.8	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 4 0
Billtown	1	5	0	.167	L1	84	14.0	175	29.2	-15.2	0 4 0	0 2 0	1 4 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham	4	2	0	.667	W2	167	27.8	160	26.7	1.2	2 1 0	2 1 0	4 1 0
Cowtown	4	2	0	.667	L1	139	23.2	126	21.0	2.2	1 1 0	2 1 0	4 1 0
Sebastian	1	5	0	.167	W1	111	18.5	184	30.7	-12.2	0 2 0	1 2 0	1 4 0
Scarborough	1	5	0	.167	L3	142	23.7	165	27.5	-3.8	0 3 0	1 2 0	1 4 0
Coastal	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Pickering	6	0	0	1.000	W6	212	35.3	98	16.3	19.0	4 0 0	2 0 0	5 0 0
York	4	2	0	.667	L1	173	28.8	118	19.7	9.2	1 1 0	2 0 0	3 2 0
Budapest	4	2	0	.667	W1	118	19.7	98	16.3	3.3	3 0 0	0 2 0	3 2 0
Brooklin	1	5	0	.167	L3	102	17.0	147	24.5	-7.5	1 2 0	0 2 0	1 4 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Georgia	3	3	0	.500	W1	156	26.0	146	24.3	1.7	2 2 0	2 0 0	3 2 0
East Elmhurst	3	3	0	.500	L1	118	19.7	163	27.2	-7.5	2 0 0	1 1 0	2 3 0
LaPlata	2	4	0	.333	W1	101	16.8	124	20.7	-3.8	2 2 0	1 1 0	2 3 0
Erieau	2	4	0	.333	L1	133	22.2	133	22.2	0.0	0 2 0	0 2 0	1 4 0

Passing		G	Att	Cmp	C%	Yds	Y/C	Lg	25	50	In	I%	Td	Td%	Sk	Rate	
1	Mahomes	WV	6	205	137	66.8	1991	14.5	75	17	0	3	1.5	21	10.2	4	126.3
2	Hurts	PIC	6	123	84	68.3	1161	13.8	32	8	0	1	0.8	10	8.1	3	122.0
3	Tannehill	PCC	4	108	72	66.7	916	12.7	57	6	0	1	0.9	7	6.5	7	110.7
4	Garoppolo	COW	6	175	116	66.3	1368	11.8	57	8	1	4	2.3	11	6.3	10	101.3
5	Fields	BRX	6	132	88	66.7	1117	12.7	52	11	0	4	3.0	7	5.3	7	97.9
6	Goff	CHI	6	228	155	68.0	1413	9.1	29	4	0	2	0.9	8	3.5	5	92.6
7	Brissett	EE	5	135	87	64.4	887	10.2	44	7	0	3	2.2	7	5.2	9	91.2
8	Jones	NJ	6	170	117	68.8	973	8.3	54	4	0	2	1.2	6	3.5	16	90.1
9	Burrow	SBE	6	187	118	63.1	1223	10.4	65	10	0	6	3.2	12	6.4	7	89.9
10	Lawrence	TCT	6	195	125	64.1	1261	10.1	34	9	0	3	1.5	8	4.1	8	89.7
11	Carr	ICC	5	93	52	55.9	795	15.3	66	10	0	4	4.3	6	6.5	1	87.9
12	Tagovailoa	GEO	5	179	103	57.5	1394	13.5	45	14	0	10	5.6	15	8.4	4	87.1
13	Young	CB	6	203	126	62.1	1621	12.9	52	10	0	8	3.9	9	4.4	18	85.4
14	Allen	DTL	6	206	120	58.3	1531	12.8	54	13	0	9	4.4	13	6.3	9	84.4
15	Brady	YOR	6	217	136	62.7	1516	11.1	66	7	0	7	3.2	9	4.1	8	83.8
16	Murray	ERI	4	148	100	67.6	884	8.8	28	4	0	3	2.0	3	2.0	9	81.6
17	Ryan	LPB	5	118	73	61.9	915	12.5	62	8	0	4	3.4	3	2.5	4	80.3
18	Smith	BRH	6	239	151	63.2	1350	8.9	47	7	0	4	1.7	6	2.5	10	79.7
19	Rodgers	BUD	6	203	121	59.6	1311	10.8	74	8	0	7	3.4	8	3.9	9	77.4
20	Herbert	BB	6	211	134	63.5	1149	8.6	72	6	0	5	2.4	5	2.4	10	75.7
21	Jackson	BUF	6	192	110	57.3	977	8.9	73	3	0	3	1.6	4	2.1	20	71.5
22	Cousins	SS	6	238	149	62.6	1397	9.4	34	8	0	10	4.2	6	2.5	14	69.6
23	Pickett	CHP	6	191	114	59.7	1130	9.9	45	5	0	8	4.2	5	2.6	15	67.7
24	Wentz	SEA	6	155	93	60.0	815	8.8	46	4	0	8	5.2	1	0.6	13	54.6

Kick Returns		G	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	Td	Punt Returns		G	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Lg	Td		
1	Williams	BUF	6	15	352	23.5	36	0	1	Covey	YOR	6	26	5	372	14.3	86	1
2	Jackson	CHI	6	11	333	30.3	50	0	2	Turpin	BRX	6	13	7	277	21.3	52	0
3	Haskins	SBE	6	11	255	23.2	32	0	3	Carter	COW	6	15	2	171	11.4	18	0
4	Agnew	GEO	6	9	238	26.4	45	0	4	Hines	ERI	6	15	5	164	10.9	30	0
5	Powell	PCC	6	10	218	21.8	38	0	5	Duvernay	TCT	6	12	5	155	12.9	18	0
6	Rodgers	CHP	6	7	206	29.4	51	0	6	Taylor	NJ	6	15	6	130	8.7	17	0
7	Berrios	LPB	6	8	204	25.5	40	0	7	Agnew	GEO	6	14	4	123	8.8	16	0
8	Hines	ERI	6	7	196	28.0	34	0	8	McCloud	PCC	6	13	4	118	9.1	15	0
9	Scott	DTL	6	7	173	24.7	37	0	9	Reed	SBE	6	11	4	116	10.5	35	0
10	Carter	COW	6	8	165	20.6	35	0	10	Dell	SEA	6	15	3	108	7.2	29	0
11	Williams	SS	6	6	127	21.2	27	0	11	Williams	SS	6	11	4	105	9.5	19	0
12	Jones	ICC	6	4	120	0.0	35	0	12	Washington	CB	6	12	3	101	8.4	16	0
13	Patterson	BUD	4	5	116	0.0	34	0	13	Raymond	BUD	6	8	9	100	12.5	63	0
14	Nixon	BRX	6	4	109	0.0	36	0	14	Woods	BUF	6	15	3	100	6.7	28	0
15	Brightwell	NJ	6	5	109	0.0	29	0	15	Rodgers	EE	6	7	4	73	10.4	16	0
16	Scott	YOR	6	3	104	0.0	32	0	16	Jones	ICC	6	8	2	73	9.1	12	0
17	Spears	BB	6	7	102	14.6	25	0	17	Holland	CHP	6	9	3	61	6.8	16	0
18	Covey	YOR	6	5	94	0.0	24	0	18	Milne	BUD	4	6	0	53	8.8	15	0
19	Duvernay	TCT	6	5	92	0.0	26	0	19	Smith	CHI	6	7	3	52	7.4	16	0
20	Sims	WV	6	4	78	0.0	28	0	20	Berrios	LPB	6	6	5	48	8.0	16	0
21	Washington	CB	6	5	76	0.0	19	0	21	King II	NJ	6	3	0	41	0.0	17	0
22	Gray	PIC	6	4	74	0.0	28	0	22	Palmer	DTL	6	3	14	39	0.0	22	0
23	Mingo	SEA	6	5	72	0.0	27	0	23	Washington	BRH	6	8	2	36	4.5	14	0
24	Johnston	EE	6	4	66	0.0	22	0	24	Sims	WV	6	7	12	31	4.4	10	0
25	Abanikanda	TCT	6	3	60	0.0	22	0	25	Gray	PIC	6	4	7	27	0.0	12	0

		G	Att	Yds	Avg	Gain	10	25	50	FD	Lg	Td	Att/G	Yds/G	
1	Henry	YOR	6	165	700	4.2	81.8	13	0	0	32	79	7	27.5	116.7
2	Jacobs	GEO	6	114	567	5.0	82.5	14	0	0	22	68	1	19.0	94.5
3	Chubb	SS	6	110	554	5.0	82.7	19	0	0	30	36	5	18.3	92.3
4	Cook	SBE	6	111	541	4.9	81.1	11	0	0	26	64	4	18.5	90.2
5	Fields	BRX	6	74	518	7.0	83.8	25	0	0	40	56	9	12.3	86.3
6	Sanders	PIC	6	112	512	4.6	81.3	14	0	0	28	21	6	18.7	85.3
7	Wilson	TCT	6	70	496	7.1	78.6	15	0	0	23	52	5	11.7	82.7
8	Foreman	BRX	6	88	429	4.9	78.4	10	0	0	16	58	2	14.7	71.5
9	Johnson	ICC	6	61	406	6.7	90.2	12	0	0	19	53	3	10.2	67.7
10	Walker III	SEA	6	94	396	4.2	76.6	13	0	0	18	40	1	15.7	66.0
11	McCaffrey	CHI	6	89	387	4.3	78.7	8	0	0	24	46	7	14.8	64.5
12	Jones	NJ	6	70	374	5.3	81.4	15	0	0	34	24	2	11.7	62.3
13	Jackson	BUF	6	62	349	5.6	79.0	12	0	0	20	28	3	10.3	58.2
14	Conner	VV	6	82	326	4.0	79.3	6	0	0	21	23	4	13.7	54.3
15	Williams	COW	6	96	324	3.4	75.0	7	0	0	17	38	3	16.0	54.0
16	Barkley	PCC	6	89	304	3.4	83.1	5	1	0	14	35	4	14.8	50.7
17	Robinson	BRH	6	58	300	5.2	84.5	7	0	0	20	53	2	9.7	50.0
18	Etienne	CB	6	71	293	4.1	67.6	11	0	0	15	45	0	11.8	48.8
19	Gibbs	LPB	6	51	288	5.6	78.4	9	0	0	11	49	2	8.5	48.0
20	Kamara	PCC	5	50	281	5.6	84.0	9	0	0	12	27	1	10.0	56.2
21	Mostert	BUD	6	53	280	5.3	84.9	7	0	0	14	46	2	8.8	46.7
22	Murray	COW	5	49	279	5.7	85.7	8	0	0	10	61	1	9.8	55.8
23	Allen	DTL	6	45	278	6.2	71.1	14	1	0	17	28	1	7.5	46.3
24	Dillon	BUF	6	85	275	3.2	75.3	6	0	0	16	26	1	14.2	45.8
25	Montgomery	NJ	6	73	258	3.5	84.9	4	0	0	10	29	1	12.2	43.0
26	Allgeier	DTL	5	61	254	4.2	77.0	4	0	0	9	16	2	12.2	50.8
27	Fournette	BRX	5	50	253	5.1	90.0	6	0	0	12	22	2	10.0	50.6
28	Pickett	CHP	6	31	246	7.9	93.5	9	0	0	16	24	2	5.2	41.0
29	Pacheco	CHP	6	62	242	3.9	80.6	3	0	0	8	22	1	10.3	40.3
30	Mixon	LPB	6	75	237	3.2	82.7	2	0	0	17	14	3	12.5	39.5
31	Pierce	ERI	6	54	235	4.4	75.9	5	0	0	10	78	1	9.0	39.2
32	Harris	BB	6	39	229	5.9	89.7	7	0	0	14	15	0	6.5	38.2
33	Jones	CHI	6	52	226	4.3	61.5	8	0	0	14	27	1	8.7	37.7
34	White	PIC	6	49	223	4.6	71.4	6	0	0	10	29	1	8.2	37.2
35	Dobbins	CHP	6	42	211	5.0	78.6	6	0	0	9	44	2	7.0	35.2
36	Hurts	PIC	6	41	208	5.1	80.5	10	0	0	19	32	4	6.8	34.7
37	Ekeler	BRH	6	49	204	4.2	83.7	5	0	0	11	16	3	8.2	34.0
38	Harris	ERI	6	59	201	3.4	78.0	5	0	0	13	16	3	9.8	33.5
39	Mahomes	VV	6	28	200	7.1	89.3	9	0	0	9	20	0	4.7	33.3
40	Spears	BB	6	36	199	5.5	80.6	7	0	0	13	30	1	6.0	33.2
41	Brissett	EE	5	25	191	7.6	88.0	7	0	0	11	41	2	5.0	38.2
42	Patterson	BUD	4	35	178	5.1	80.0	2	0	0	7	39	2	8.8	44.5
43	Huntley	EE	3	37	174	4.7	89.2	5	0	0	13	17	2	12.3	58.0
44	Young	CB	6	23	172	7.5	78.3	7	0	0	13	25	4	3.8	28.7
45	Akers	VV	6	39	161	4.1	84.6	5	0	0	13	22	1	6.5	26.8

Receiving		G	No	Dp	Att	Rac	Yds	Avg	25	50	FD	Lg	Td	Rec/G	Yds/G
1 Adams	LPB	6	43	0	65	109	681	15.8	6	0	27	62	1	7.2	113.5
2 Jefferson	BUD	6	41	3	72	70	502	12.2	4	0	25	38	2	6.8	83.7
3 Hill	VV	6	41	3	63	196	825	20.1	9	0	29	75	9	6.8	137.5
4 Metcalf	EE	6	37	2	54	64	463	12.5	3	0	26	30	2	6.2	77.2
5 Jones	SS	6	36	1	59	88	348	9.7	2	0	16	34	2	6.0	58.0
6 Godwin	BRX	6	36	1	44	152	501	13.9	6	0	23	52	4	6.0	83.5
7 Andrews	ERI	6	35	3	46	115	388	11.1	2	0	18	43	2	5.8	64.7
8 Gage	BUF	6	35	1	57	50	285	8.1	0	0	20	19	2	5.8	47.5
9 Allen	NJ	6	33	0	45	96	319	9.7	2	0	16	54	3	5.5	53.2
10 Flowers	CHI	6	33	1	49	49	351	10.6	0	0	24	21	2	5.5	58.5
11 Cooks	CB	6	33	5	57	111	476	14.4	5	0	25	48	2	5.5	79.3
12 Ekeler	BRH	6	33	0	48	254	180	5.5	0	0	7	20	2	5.5	30.0
13 Peoples-Jones	SS	6	32	0	51	47	441	13.8	4	0	21	32	1	5.3	73.5
14 Moore	TCT	6	32	3	52	76	412	12.9	4	0	26	34	3	5.3	68.7
15 Jeudy	BB	6	32	3	48	106	363	11.3	1	0	19	72	0	5.3	60.5
16 Chase	VV	6	31	4	50	61	407	13.1	2	0	26	28	3	5.2	67.8
17 McCaffrey	CHI	6	31	2	45	287	200	6.5	1	0	13	26	3	5.2	33.3
18 Waddle	ERI	6	31	3	52	59	478	15.4	5	0	20	29	2	5.2	79.7
19 London	BRH	6	31	5	56	91	435	14.0	4	0	25	47	1	5.2	72.5
20 Williams	YOR	6	30	1	51	95	393	13.1	2	0	23	39	2	5.0	65.5
21 Pittman Jr.	CB	6	30	0	44	47	399	13.3	1	0	21	28	0	5.0	66.5
22 Hodgins	BB	6	30	2	45	45	278	9.3	2	0	9	29	0	5.0	46.3
23 Lamb	SEA	6	29	1	48	71	375	12.9	2	0	19	46	0	4.8	62.5
24 Kelce	CHP	6	29	3	49	64	300	10.3	0	0	22	18	1	4.8	50.0
25 Kmet	YOR	6	29	0	45	95	319	11.0	2	0	19	39	3	4.8	53.2
26 Higbee	TCT	6	29	4	45	53	275	9.5	1	0	19	26	2	4.8	45.8
27 Evans	COW	6	29	6	49	87	383	13.2	3	1	16	51	3	4.8	63.8
28 Johnson	GEO	6	28	2	51	87	388	13.9	3	0	24	33	4	4.7	64.7
29 Diggs	BUD	6	27	2	55	65	266	9.9	1	0	16	46	2	4.5	44.3
30 Lazard	COW	6	26	3	38	173	413	15.9	4	0	16	57	2	4.3	68.8
31 Brown	ICC	6	26	2	50	184	682	26.2	12	0	25	66	6	4.3	113.7
32 Smith	PIC	6	26	5	38	65	431	16.6	4	0	22	30	3	4.3	71.8
33 Burks	YOR	6	26	1	37	202	382	14.7	3	0	14	66	2	4.3	63.7
34 Woods	BUF	6	25	5	45	87	271	10.8	2	0	13	49	1	4.2	45.2
35 Stevenson	GEO	6	25	3	39	284	263	10.5	3	0	9	43	0	4.2	43.8
36 Thielen	LPB	6	25	0	38	36	227	9.1	0	0	13	24	3	4.2	37.8
37 Dotson	SBE	6	25	1	39	183	396	15.8	4	0	19	65	6	4.2	66.0
38 Chark	CHP	6	24	1	41	102	359	15.0	2	0	19	45	3	4.0	59.8
39 Boyd	CHI	6	24	1	33	28	303	12.6	1	0	17	25	1	4.0	50.5
40 Smith-Schuster	CHP	6	24	2	38	56	242	10.1	1	0	12	34	1	4.0	40.3
41 Samuel	DTL	6	24	2	36	52	278	11.6	1	0	19	25	3	4.0	46.3
42 Kirk	ICC	6	24	2	38	60	336	14.0	3	0	17	31	2	4.0	56.0
43 Schultz	SS	6	24	2	45	25	177	7.4	0	0	6	16	1	4.0	29.5
44 Conner	VV	6	24	3	30	159	161	6.7	0	0	7	22	2	4.0	26.8
45 Cobb	SBE	6	23	0	29	17	223	9.7	1	0	14	36	2	3.8	37.2



AROUND THE



With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – There are a lot more teams playing badly than I had expected. After six weeks, seven teams have one win apiece. Almost 30% of the league is one victory away from being win-less. I can be a pessimistic snark, but on my crankiest hungover morning before my coffee I could not have conjured up enough mental bile to envision that seven teams would be 1-5 in Week Six.

Of all of them, only Seattle is outpacing my expectations, as I thought they would be win-less for much longer, perhaps the entire season. But thankfully for them they drew Billtown in Week Two, a team that I did not buy into during the pre-season but which I did not expect to be the big steaming pile of dog poo that they are. As things look right now, with a bit of luck the Pilots could finish ahead of the Bats in the division, which would be a shocking disappointment for fans in Williamsport, who thought they were inheriting a winner.

So, the upshot of all this is that almost a third of the league already has no realistic shot at a playoff berth and the cage match for the fourth-worst record in the league will be more crowded and chaotic than anticipated. Don't be surprised if the race to four-from-the-bottom turns out to be more complicated and interesting than the playoff races.

On rating scale of 1 to 10, with '1' being unbearable/would rather watch *Lifetime Real Women Network*, and '10' being riveting, steady "quad-screen" on *EFL Red Zone* football bliss, Week Six was a '2.' Watching **Nick Chubb** dodge, cut and power his way through the gossamer web in the shape of 11 defenders that is the Scarborough defence, and watching **Bryce Young** engineer a comeback against the hitherto invincible Bombers, saved my respect for a league that has suddenly, unexpectedly, strayed off the path to general parity and become infected at the bottom end with an unapologetic tanking mindset.

At the top end of the league, it is no longer too early to start speculating on the chances of both Virden and Pickering going undefeated, especially if, in Virden's case, the Violators' main competitors elect not to even try to mount a challenge and instead preserve their best players for some imaginary future showdown. 'Bookgate' will forever tarnish the reputation of the Crusaders for as long as they exist – and no playoff appearance this year, with **Ryan Tannehill** healthy as a horse, will change that.

In the steadily dwindling middle slice of the league's hierarchy, close games make a big difference, with head-to-head outcomes being the prime tie-breaking determinator. If LaPlata ever gets its act together, **Quay Walker** stripping the ball from York's **Derrick Henry** in the dying minutes of the 4th quarter and **C.J. Stroud** executing the short game under pressure to complete the winning touchdown pass to **Jahmyr Gibbs** could play large in determining which of these teams lives up to the expectations of it. These types of matchups were not common this week, however. For the most part, Week Six was feasting time for the league's rich and upper middle class against the league's wretches. While I will touch on all of them – even the lowliest game of all at Wilhalla Stadium – I will devote my energies to the few games and events of significance this week.

A NEW DAY...A NEW WAY

For the past four and a half years, there has been no outward indication that Sebastian coach, **Russ Lemmon** has been, is, or will be prepared to change his primarily losing ways. This week's Swordfish win over the Blue Eagles unfolded in a way that at least temporarily challenges the above assumptions.

Possibly the sight of the Blue Eagles' defence and its understaffed, underfed line and linebacking corps was too tantalizing for even a stuck-in-his-ways coach to resist. Perhaps somebody in the finance department of the Swordfish franchise pointed out how much Lemmon was paying his top two running backs to watch **Kirk Cousins** throw interceptions. Or, more likely, "Old Lemmie" noticed that his opponent, **Kyle Shanahan** (after extensive consultations with Scarborough owner, **Chris Dickinson**) was substituting in a fifth defensive back against a conventional pro set, lightening the weight on the back side to increase speed against what he expected would be another obsessive-compulsive effort from the Sebastian coach to re-create the aerial dynamism of the Swordfish of 2018, when **Drew Brees** was at the helm a quarterback.

Certainly, sneaking in an extra defensive back for good measure when one expects the offence to pass from a two-wide set can be a neat trick on occasion, especially on third down in a passing situation, but when one stays in that posture on every down it invites what the Swordfish did in response – they hustled to the line and handed the ball off, sending fullback **Zander Horvath** to deal with the linebacker and letting Chubb worry about the lighter safeties and defensive backs. It was a mismatch – Chubb is good in almost any situation but put him up against the light Blue Eagle front seven backed up by five defensive backs and it was a no-contest. Chubb rushed for 252 yards and three touchdowns on 230 carries. The rushing yardage total is a single game EFL record, breaking the previous mark of 249 yards set by **Willis McGahee** of Death Valley against the Cubs in 2012. McGahee only rushed for

one touchdown in that game, making Chubb's single game achievement more pivotal to his team's success, leading directly to their first win of the year, by the gawdy score of 37-30.

Lemmon's decision to get away from the Cousins Conundrum (the problem of centering an offence around a faltering quarterback) did not appear pre-planned. The Fish led with the long pass and followed up with the short pass, punctuating the changing pass patterns with a single pseudo-run – a quick pitch, with the tempo and feel of a pass but backwards – to get in position for an early field goal on their first possession. To the shock of all, the Sebastian coach passed up a 4th & 4 opportunity at the Scarborough 15-yard line to give **Daniel Carlson** a rare field goal try.

On their next possession, the Fish started with a simple off tackle run with Chubb that went for just 2 yards. **E.J. Speed** made a deft shoestring tackle to prevent a breakaway, and the Blue Eagles' owner, standing close to the action on the sideline, wrongly interpreted that that small setback would be enough to push the Fish to re-commit to their typical pass-with-Chubb-as-decoy strategy. Dickinson rushed over to his "head coach" and made urgent exhortations. Ten seconds later, safety **Adrain Amos** rushed on to the field as linebacker **Elandon Roberts** ambled off. The Sebastian offence remained in a "twenty-two" set and proceeded to send Chubb into the line four straight times for a total of 36 yards. This prompted a hurried attempt by the Blue Eagles to stop the Sebastian running back, only to see Cousins take to the air again on the next play. For all his pathologies, **Russ Lemmon**'s intuitive play-calling sometimes hits the mark precisely, as it did for the most part in this game. Cousins promptly put the Fish in the end zone with a 10-yard pass to **Zay Jones** to make it 10-0.

On the other side of the field, another highly paid star running back in a less than optimal situation waited for his turn, likely fearing that the game was already going in a direction that would turn him into a mere token once again. **Dalvin Cook** had come to Scarborough in the off-season as one of the first casualties of Billtown's "restructuring" of their roster, to fill a hole at the running back position that had not been properly filled since **Chris Carson**'s glory year in 2020. Cook had made a significant impact in Scarborough's only win of the season, a stunning upset over Durham in Week Three. But on an average game day, the Blue Eagles found themselves playing catch-up most of the time, forcing the plan to move away from Cook – sometimes prematurely. Cook's numbers were fine, but as the best offensive player on the team after **Joe Burrow**, his impact was far being enough to give Scarborough that hoped for power-punch and decent shot at the playoffs. **Derrick Henry** he was not.

With Cook still in the game plan, the Scarborough offence began to click on their third series, with Chubb contributing 4 touches for 22 yards. But the star of the drive was second-year wide receiver **Jahan Dotson**, who caught two Burrow passes for 32 yards, the second a 20-yard scoring strike to pull within 3 points, trailing 10-7.

The Swordfish charged right back. Chubb opened the drive with a 36-yard run and finished it with a 4-yard touchdown to make it 17-7, but the Blue Eagles responded right away with 65-yard touchdown pass to Dotson to make it 17-14. The Fish followed with a punt that gave Scarborough very good field position at their own 41. The Blue Eagles drove to the Sebastian 18-yard line in five plays where they faced 4th & 1 with a chance to tie the game with a field goal. They turned their beaks up at it, going for it on 4th down (believing their opponent would have done the same) and **Samaje Perine** was stoned for no gain on a great individual play by Swordfish defensive tackle **Kentavius Street**.

The game was heating up. The red zone stand by the Fish defence fired up their sideline but a sturdy effort by the Blue Eagles' defence slowed the counterattack, holding the Fish to nine yards to bring up 4th & 1 at their own 27. This set up the first made to order "blow it" moment of the game for Reckless Russ. With his eyes still glazed over in rapture at his team's defensive stop, Lemmon giddily ordered his offence to stay on the field. Far away on Florida's east coast, those who still cared to watch and root for the Swordfish let out a collective groan. They had seen this gambit before, and it rarely ended well. But this time, facing a Blue Eagles all-out run blitz, Chubb followed Horvath through a small opening in the line, shook off the corner, **Dane Jackson** and burst to the second level. He might have been gone, but safety **Talanoa Hufanga** cut him down at the knees with a diving lunge to limit him to 15 yards.

As deflating and perilous as it is to fail on 4th down from deep in one's own territory, when such a stunning success is achieved in the face of a determined opponent, it can light a fire under the team. Chubb ripped off additional runs of 13 and 24 yards before Lemmon abruptly switched gears, calling three consecutive pass plays to **Zay Jones**. Cousins' timing was a bit off; the coverage by corner **Michael Davis** was excellent; Jones ran lazy routes – pick your favourite reason (all three apply to a degree). The result was a net of 6 yards on one completion, bringing up 4th & 4 at the Scarborough 13. On the Swordfish 'Go-For-It' Chart, this scenario is marked with a heavy green check mark. But Lemmon crossed up everyone again by *not* going for it. Instead, **Daniel Carlson** made his second appearance count with a 31-yard field goal to make it 20-14. (Perhaps the brains behind the only win-less team in the league through five weeks had been humbled enough by the experience to somewhat come to appreciate the value of a field goal early in a close game).

The Blue Eagles still had a strong wind under their wings, however. Burrow engineered an efficient nine-play, 69-yard drive, distributing the ball to four different receivers and finally tying the game on a 5-yard touchdown pass to Dotson, his third TD of the game. The score remained 20-20, however, when **Mason Crosby** missed his third extra point of the season. With only 0:22 left, **Zack Moss** came in for the Fish to run out the clock and send the teams into the locker at halftime tied at 20.

Watching this energetic back-and-forth between two teams going nowhere, I was reminded of last year's Week Five overtime classic between these same teams that ended in the most exciting tie in history, 42-42. Both coaches entered their personal crazy zone in that game. This time, however, there was a measure of restraint and lucidity on the Sebastian sideline. Even the fourth down gamble from their own 27 had had some logic to it – the Eagles had five defensive backs in the game, the Fish had their fullback Horvath and a heavier set supporting one of the best running backs in the league at their command, the hurry-up pace did not permit Scarborough to



In a Week Six game against a division rival empty seats and bags on heads can already be spotted at Highmark Stadium in Buffalo. After striking early with an exciting 73-yard touchdown pass to *Noah Fant*, *Lamar Jackson* fell out of rhythm and the Derailers went off the rails for another loss. Buffalo fans have already given up on the season and some are calling on **Darryl Brothers** to fire himself.

substitute personnel, and the play was executed perfectly. The situation called for it. I cannot really criticize it without undermining my own argument that every situation is unique and must be measured against the numbers in that context. Glancing at a chart to decide is lazy, irresponsible coaching. Glancing at a chart while also taking stock of the condition of your players, condition of your opponent, the formation, the risk based on the game situation, the weather, and potentially dozens of other variables, is using the numbers to assist, not to dictate. And, of course, the actual play-call matters as well. A risk/reward decision on fourth down can be repudiated or validated by the play-call, which is subject to the same factors as the decision to go for it. The bottom line: Sebastian 4th & 1 from own 27 in 2nd quarter was a good call. Take note – you are not likely to see such approval of a dangerous Lemmon gambit from me again soon.

The pace in the second half slowed while passing quickly in real time. The Swordfish opened with possession and subjected the Eagles' defence to an oppressive 18-play, 75-yard drive that consumed nine and a half minutes of clock. Sebastian converted a key fourth down at their own 43 and went on to convert four third downs, including a Chubb dive into the end zone on 3rd & goal to finish off the push and put them back in the lead, 27-20. The Scarborough fixation on taking away the pass left it exposed to the strength of the Sebastian attack. Cousins, who almost sank the drive before it got rolling with three jittery attempts from his own 35, made two excellent throws on the drive; one to Jones to convert 4th & 2 and a 14-yard strike to *Terrace Marshall Jr* on 3rd & 12. The rest was Chubb, spelled occasionally by *Jonathan Taylor*, moving the chains and sapping the energy from the lightweight Scarborough defence. Chubb had already racked up 172 yards rushing on 19 carries and scored two touchdowns by this point.

The Blue Eagles had an arguably equally devastating weapon working on this day, but of a different kind. Burrow-to-Dotson was firing just as effectively as the historically unparalleled Twin Cities combo of *Carson Palmer-to-Antonio Brown* in 2016. The pair struck again at the perfect moment, with the Sebastian defence taking aim at Cook. Burrow dropped back, rolled to his right, and delivered a perfect bullseye twenty yards downfield to Dotson, who shook off *Divine Deablo* and scooted the rest of the distance for a 40-yard scoring strike. This was the Burrow everyone in Scarborough was desperate to see. The crowd at the Eagle's Nest, all 15,452 of them (attendance was dropping like a stone), jumped to their feet and roared their approval. The Eagles had tied the game at 27.

The pressure of being the last win-less team in the league must have had a sobering effect on the Sebastian coach, because when his offence answered the quick Scarborough score with a drive to the 26-yard line of his opponent, facing 4th & 4, he sent in his kicker again. Responding to the unprecedented third opportunity in a game, Carlson booted home a 44-yarder to give the Fish a 30-27 lead. Likewise, the pressure of potentially losing to the league's only win-less team, at home, must have had a sobering effect on the puppeteer of Coach Shanahan. When his offence responded to the Sebastian field goal with a drive to the 13-yard line of his opponent, facing a more makeable 4th & 1, Dickinson ran over to his coach, whispered in his ear, and soon after Crosby appeared. He kicked it true to tie the game at 30 with over 10 minutes left to play in the 4th quarter.

All this action I have meticulously chronicled was a mere prelude to the defining drive of the game that followed. I would like to credit the new single-game rushing yards record holder solely with this achievement, but the sad fact is that Chubb was helped to his

record-setting day by the curiously intransigent Scarborough defensive game plan that saw it deploy in dime and nickel against a '22' set and get ground into dust by no less than 14 running plays in a 16-play drive. Of those, Chubb carried the rock 8 times for 38 yards, the last a 2-yard touchdown run, putting him into the record books and putting his team in front, 37-30.

The Sebastian drive had covered 78 yards and chewed up almost eight minutes of precious clock time. Burrow took over at his own 13-yard line with just 2:32 remaining to try and bring the contest even once again. There was a moment in the attempted rally when fans in the stands believed they were about to watch something special. On 3rd & 20, Burrow threw a rope off his back foot to **Marvin Mims Jr** for a 21-yard gain and a first down at the Sebastian 37. But three plays later, Burrow underthrew a double-covered Dotson and his pass was intercepted by **Levi Wallace** at the Swordfish 9-yard line with 0:20 left, sealing the win for the visitors.

This was as close to a glorious contest as two 1-5 teams can get, but in the end, it was just another unsatisfactory loss for Scarborough fans, while Swordfish fans hoping for a long-term turnaround in their team's fortunes due to a change in coaching philosophy might have been dismayed by **Russ Lemmon's** postgame comments.

"I wouldn't characterize this game as signalling a change in our approach," Lemmon responded to a reporter who had asked if the season-low three fourth down conversions signaled a more cautious approach. "I have confidence in my players. We will continue to utilize all the downs available to us to put us in the best position to win games, as we always have."

The problem is: The Swordfish have not won many games.

AROUND THE EFL

I realize that I have spent more column-space than necessary on a clash between two one-win teams. But with an important record set the game takes on a level of historic importance that transcends the irrelevance of the teams involved. It is also very likely I will not deal with either squad in significant detail again until the race for fourth-worst overall takes clearer shape in the season's final weeks. Now, on to the rest of the week's "action."

In the most noteworthy other game of Week Six, at Coyote Field in Marietta, GA, **Bryce Young** and the Coyotes upended the previously undefeated Bombers, 27-21. The no.1 pick in the draft delivered in the fourth quarter, connecting deep to **Michael Pittman** for 23 yards and showing nice touch on a screen pass to **Travis Etienne** for a 22-yard score. With the successful two-point conversion it put Cobb County in front 24-21 with 4:34 left in the final frame. The Coyote's defence, after having wavered the drive prior (resulting in a **Justin Fields** 10-yard TD run), regrouped for the Bombers' attempted pushback, with rookie **Calijah Kancey** administering the death-stroke with a fumble recovery and 23-yard return on 4th & 12 deep in Bombers' territory, to set up the last of **Jake Moody's** four field goals on the afternoon. Starting at his own 25, with 1:32 left, down by 6 points with no timeouts, Fields was placed in the unusual position of having to pass the ball into a sea of seven defensive backs. Progress was slow, and the game ended with the Bombers hustling to the line on 4th down at the Coyote 25 and Fields throwing incomplete into the end zone with 0:05 left. **Adoree' Jackson** tipped the ball away after some hand-fighting with **Chris Godwin**, but the flags stayed in the zebras' pockets to the outrage of coach, **Kenny Main**. I did not see the Bombers' taking their first loss of the season against the rookie, Young. Nor did I see coming the humbling of Fields. The Coyotes' game plan was counter-intuitive, focusing primarily and unwaveringly on the Bombers' passing attack. Given the Bombers have run the ball more than any other team, this was a strange strategy and clearly caught Bruxelles off guard, as they had little success after a 43-yard TD pass to **Nico Collins** in the second quarter. Fields had his poorest outing of the year, completing just 15 of 29 for 134 yards, 1 TD and 1 interception. Young outplayed him decisively, finishing 17 of 29 for 269 yards and a 1 TD. He also rushed for the other Cobb County touchdown. The Coyotes have a good defence, as today's game against one of the better offences in the league attests. If the rookie QB keeps improving, this could be a team to watch in the second half of the season.

At St. Charles Stadium near LaPlata, the Braves made their two takeaways count to the max as they eked out a 24-17 win over York. The first and last touchdowns of the game were both set up by York miscues: In the first quarter, **Tom Brady** was intercepted by **Chuck Clark**, who returned it to the Excalibur 7-yard line to set up a TD run by **Jahmyr Gibbs** on the next play for the opening score; and with LaPlata trailing 17-16 in the fourth quarter, Clark struck again, recovering a **Derrick Henry** fumble and returning it 15 yards to set up a **CJ Stroud** touchdown pass to Gibbs for the winning touchdown. The Braves' defence is playoff calibre, but the offence has yet to hit a consistent forward stride. The rookie Stroud comes away with the 'W', but the best that can be said is that he managed the game, barely. Gibbs was the offensive star, with two touchdowns – one through the air – and 110 yards rushing. **Davante Adams**, the league's leading receiver, was targeted only once in the game, but it was a good one, covering 32 yards. A rumour coming out of LaPlata claims Adams is unhappy with the situation, as the team has failed so far to flourish under new coach **Stanley Milton**. Reclaiming the franchise's traditional position at the top of the league was not going to happen overnight, though. Give it time – the Braves are heading in the right direction.

At Ferenc-Liszt International Airport Stadium in Budapest, the North Stars regained a game on rival York with a 16-13 win over Erieau. **Aaron Rodgers** starred – sort of – for the North Stars, throwing the game's only touchdown pass, a go-route to **George Kittle** that the big tight end broke for a 41-yard score after swatting aside toothpick cornerback, **Emmanuel Forbes Jr**. The hook-up put Budapest in front 13-6 in the third quarter. After **Nick Folk** made it a two-score game with a 52-yard field goal, the Cadillac rounded out the scoring with a late touchdown run by **Najee Harris**. The Caddies started **Teddy Bridgewater** for the second straight game, and he pressed throughout, completing just 14 of 32 for 122 yards and 2 interceptions. He was also sacked five times as he could not escape the pocket. Despite his struggles, one must wonder how Erieau would have fared with **Kyler Murray** behind center – certainly he would have managed to run for the occasional first down rather than get taken down behind the line. In a close game such as this, some mobility could have gone a long way to frustrate a defence that was having its way against the statuesque Bridgewater. The Stars will take the

victory and the Budapest media will congratulate **Darrin Jones** for finding a way to win on a day when nothing came easy. All the same, it is concerning that a so-called aerial powerhouse can go to the air 40 times and generate just 249 yards and 16 total points.

The North Division showdown between the Thunder Lizards and the Corn Kings at Tillman Field in Cowtown turned into a bit of a chuckler with the visitors pulling away for good late in the fourth quarter to log a 37-16 victory and claim the tie-breaking edge in the fight for first place. Durham was missing **Cooper Kupp** to a legitimate injury (as opposed to the coach's discretionary pampering), but **Josh Allen** was still able to keep the Lizards' offence in high gear, launching a 45-yard bomb to **Marquez Valdes-Scantling** for a touchdown with 0:39 left in the first half that blew up a painstakingly crafted, but narrow 6-3 Corn King advantage. The late score broke the hometown spell that had the Cowtown defence overperforming without two of their top corners and **T.J. Watt** out. Although the game broke finally in the fourth quarter, it was essentially decided in the third quarter, when the Lizards opened with an Allen 38-yard touchdown pass to **Darren Waller** and followed that up with a 28-yard touchdown run by Allen coming off a **Christian Gonzalez** interception of **Jimmy Garoppolo** at the Cowtown 30, which made it 24-6 midway in the third. The Corn Kings gutted out a 10-point response to pull within a score, but collapsed soon after, with **Tyler Allgeier** running in a 16-yard touchdown and Garoppolo getting picked off on the next play from scrimmage by **Devon Witherspoon** to set up Durham's final touchdown. It was a nice start to the Corn Kings' season, but the Thunder Lizards are still the class of the North.

At Patriot Place in Charleswood, the Cubs started **Russell Wilson** and stuck with him, blasting Charleswood 31-25. I say "blasting," because Iowa City entered the fourth quarter leading 31-13 on the strength five pass plays of 25 yards or more, including a 37-yard TD pass to **A.J. Brown**, a 47-yard bomb to Brown that set up a **Michael Carter** touchdown run, and a 28-yard pass to Brown that set up Carter's second touchdown on a 9-yard pass from Wilson. Brown is ranked 30th in catches, with 26, but is second to **Tyreek Hill** in yards receiving with 682 for an average of 26.2 yards per catch! The Cubs needed the offensive shot in the arm, as their ramshackle defence and decrepit special teams allowed the Pats to possess the ball for eleven consecutive minutes in the 4th quarter (thanks to two consecutive onside kicks recovered), and post 12 points to make the final score look closer than the game was. The Cubs are not to be underestimated, nor should they be over-estimated. Their big play attack is unsustainable and, in any case, will not be enough to survive the big boys in the Pacific Conference. Living in the league's worst division, however, make them dark horses to win a playoff spot.

At DeepWoods Off Coliseum in Richmond Hill, Georgia, the Glads got back into the 'win' column after a three-game slide by taking care of the Hawks, 21-7. **Marcus Mariota** got his first start in Gladiator black-and-gold. **Tua Tagovailoa** sat out for an undisclosed reason, which may be related to the proactive *fear-of-injury-against-unworthy-opponents* bug that has infected many of the coaches in the EFL this year. Whatever the cause of Tua's absence, Mariota still had enough of the old magic he once possessed with the Bombers to earn the home team a win, making his mark with two rushing touchdowns, including a 64-yarder on a designed quarterback draw that made the national highlight reel. The old vet got the win with just 85 passing yards, attempting just 14 throws and completing exactly half of them. While these are not numbers associated with success in the modern era, they were good enough to overcome the Hawks' 59 pass attempts and 301 passing yards, which turned out to be mostly noise against the backdrop of a critical **Austin Ekeler** lost fumble that set up Mariota's only TD pass, and an inadequate 5.1 yards per pass attempt. The Hawks are 1-5 and can pretty much write themselves out of the playoff picture at this point.

At Highmark Stadium in Buffalo, the Wrecking Balls recovered from a second play-from-scrimmage 73-yard touchdown pass from **Lamar Jackson** to **Noah Fant** to erase the Derailers, 26-7. **Daniel Jones** continued his road dominance, completing 16 of 22 pass attempts for 192 yards, 2 TD passes, and no interceptions. Jones also led New Jersey in rushing with 65 yards on 11 carries. Jones is a true Jekyll & Hyde. On the road, Daniel Jekyll is 3-0 with 6 TD passes and a 113.87 passer rating. At home, Daniel Hyde is 1-2 with 0 TD passes and a 70.97 passer rating. The Derailers have now lost five in a row after winning in Week One. Fans in Buffalo are making their displeasure known through the traditional paper bag protest. The number of paper bags on fans heads this week exceeded five hundred by most estimates. It is only Week Six, remember. This kind of protest is usually reserved for the season's final weeks, but so bad is the clown show in Buffalo that the fans can only find an outlet in wearing paper bags and drinking beer.

And now come the last four barely watchable games...

At Veteran Field in Williamsport, PA, the inept Billtown Bats shocked the football world by scoring in the double digits as they fell to Virden by the lop-sided score of 48-17. Seven of the Bats' points came on a fumble return by **BJ Ojulari**, but the remaining 10 came from the actual Billtown offence. The Virden machine scored at will against the inept Billtown defence. **Patrick Mahomes** passed for 387 yards and five TD passes in essentially two quarters of serious play. It is rumoured that the league sent an urgent message to **Lance Barrate** to let up on the attack to avoid killing football forever in Pennsylvania, and the Virden coach concurred.

At Thermopylae Stadium in Pickering, the Atlantic Conference's answer to Virden dispensed with the Irish, 35-7. East Elmhurst came into the game in sole possession of first place in the South Division, but were rudely received by the Spartans, who administered a proper yet tastefully restrained beating on the pretenders to a playoff spot. A 28-point second quarter for Pickering, built on two takeaways, including **Tariq Woolen**'s fumble return for a touchdown, his third TD of the year, turned the game into a cakewalk. **Jalen Hurts** secured his fourth Game MVP, with 2 TD passes and 2 TD runs to star for the undefeated Coastal Division kings.

At the Big House in Chino, the Crusaders strangled the Convicts, 27-3. **Ryan Tannehill** was a near-perfect 14 of 17 for 176 yards and 2 TD passes in the win. There was no real turning point in this game – Peg City was in control from start to finish. The misery of the Convicts' effort was exquisitely expressed in 2 turnovers, 3 turnovers on downs, and 2 botched long snaps by **Aaron Brewer**.

And finally, at Wilhalla Stadium in Minneapolis, the Triumph destroyed Seattle, 40-0. **Trevor Lawrence** passed for just 132 yards, but the bungling Pilots were so bad that nothing more was required. It was horrible – don't look at the tape.

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GEORGIA @ NEW JERSEY (line – GLADIATORS by 1)

INJURIES: Georgia – Nate Davis (OUT); New Jersey – Arik Armstead (DOUBTFUL), David Bakhtiari (OUT), Antoine Winfield Jr., (OUT).

The Wrecking Balls cannot be looking forward to returning home, where they are averaging slightly more than 8 points per game in three home dates. The Gladiators shook things up in the quarterback room by starting Marcus Mariota against the Hawks last week. Tua Tagovailoa was not listed on the injury report, but reportedly needed a mental rest after throwing that game-killing interception against Durham two weeks ago. Word is that Tua will get the start here, despite Mariota's success as a dual threat last week. This brings the turnover into play, with Tua averaging two interceptions per game to this point. Unable to rely on Daniel Jones in front of the home crowd, takeaways will be aggressively sought after by the New Jersey defence, and they have the ballhawks to make it happen. Expect the Glads to set the tone on the ground with Josh Jacobs in a low-scoring affair. **PICK: GEORGIA**

COBB COUNTY @ ERIEAU (line – CADILLAC by 1)

INJURIES: Cobb County – J.T. Woods (PROBABLE), Jamal Adams (IR), Brian Allen (IR), Brandon Jones (OUT), Tre'Davous White (OUT); Erieau – Joey Bosa (OUT), Aaron Robinson (IR).

While the Cadillac coach avows that Kyler Murray is still his starting quarterback, it is not clear when he intends to reinsert him into the line-up. Last week versus Budapest was a no-brainer, with Teddy Bridgewater coming off a 300+ yard passing day. Last week the North Stars exposed him for the league's "best back-up" that he is. Will he get another shot here, against a out-of-conference opponent, so Murray can get ready for LaPlata? The Coyotes stunned the Bombers last week and one of the stars of their victory was Bryce Young. With the no.1 pick in the draft starting to string together good outings and limiting the interceptions that once plagued him, this Coyote team suddenly looks more dangerous. The Caddies' defence will need to step up. **PICK: COBB COUNTY**

LAPLATA @ BRUXELLES (line – BOMBERS by 14)

INJURIES: LaPlata – Ronnie Stanley (OUT), Alijah Vera-Tucker (OUT); Bruxelles – Harrison Smith (OUT).

With LaPlata coming off a big win and the Bombers coming off a stunning loss, posting a sizeable double-digit line in favour of Bruxelles seems to defy common sense. The only reasons for it that I see are that the sages of the sand dunes view last week as an anomaly for Justin Fields and don't see CJ Stroud tiptoeing around the Bombers' defence like he managed to do with York. I tend to agree with the latter point, but I don't see things getting easier for Fields against an efficient Braves defence that is lacking only takeaways from being one of the league's most impactful. To set up the Bombers' passing attack will require more run than usual to draw the linebackers and strong safety into full commitment, as even a half-attentive Braves' secondary poses a danger to a reactive passer like Fields. While Stroud could easily fatally implode, I don't see the Bombers running away with this one. **PICK: LAPLATA**

BUFFALO @ EAST ELMHURST (line – IRISH by 8)

INJURIES: Buffalo – Aaron Donald (OUT), Donte Jackson (OUT), Wan'Dale Robinson (OUT); East Elmhurst – None.

Take away the 31 points they scored in Week One and the Derailers are averaging slightly more than 8 points per game. It's hard to find anything good to say about this offence. One positive, Lamar Jackson's running, is mostly a by-product of their ill-equipped passing attack, which has produced the second fewest touchdowns in the league. A.J. Dillon is not making the change-of-pace impact the team had hoped for either, putting more pressure on Jackson. The problem here is that when the Irish run defence is tested it proves to be efficient. The secondary is another story, however, meaning that if the Derailers' passing attack has a breakout game in them, it

has a chance here. The Irish experimented with Sam Darnold at quarterback last week for no apparent reason. It did not go well. Should he get a second opportunity here, it may well create the opening Buffalo needs to make a game of it. **PICK: BUFFALO**

VIRDEN @ SCARBOROUGH (line – VIOLATORS by 13)

INJURIES: **Virден** – Malik Hooker (PROBABLE), Leonard Williams (OUT); **Scarborough** – Allen Robinson (OUT), James Smith-Williams (OUT).

When does a two-score line favouring the visitors not seem like nearly enough? This is one of those times. The Blue Eagles are enjoying an inflated standing in the AP power rankings at no.17, the afterglow of their win over the Thunder Lizards still burning, albeit dimly. But they just handed the 21st-ranked Swordfish their first win last week and gave up a single game, individual rushing record in the process. So, what makes the oddsmakers think they can make half a game of it against the indisputably most powerful team in the league now? It cannot simply be because the Violators don't feel compelled to run often, and therefore are unlikely to take advantage to set any new rushing records. The more Patrick Mahomes throws, the sooner the Eagles will be put out of their misery. **PICK: VIRDEN**

PEG CITY @ DURHAM (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 2)

INJURIES: **Peg City** – Cody Whitehair (OUT); **Durham** – Cooper Kupp (OUT), Jeremy Ruckert (OUT).

This line initially favoured Peg City but has moved quickly toward Durham out of fear the Crusaders will “throw the Book” at another top team to preserve their starter for a theoretical playoff game that may not happen if their nervous nelly coach keeps fearing phantom injuries and sending in back-ups. That's a long way of saying that the Crusaders can no longer be trusted. The Lizards are sitting in a more comfortable and confident position after taking out their main North Division rival, Cowtown last week. It was not an easy win, but it was decisive, and their focus can now switch to piling up wins to improve their seeding. With Cooper Kupp out, however, additional weight will fall on Josh Allen to find creative off-script ways to move the offence against one of the league's top defences (starting defence anyway). Do not expect a blowout, regardless of who starts for the Pegs, but expect the homies to cover. **PICK: DURHAM**

TWIN CITIES @ COWTOWN (line – Pick'Em)

INJURIES: **Twin Cities** – Avonte Maddox (OUT), Emmanuel Moseley (OUT); **Cowtown** – Michael Pierce (OUT), TJ Watt (OUT).

The Triumph have won four in a row, the league's longest win streak apart from undefeated Virden and Pickering. They blew away the hapless Pilots last week without attempting to go “full Chargers” on them, showing that they are certainly in the playoff class of teams. One wonders if the ease of the win might lead to a letdown here. The Corn Kings were outclassed by the Thunder Lizards last week. The game was a capsule of why their defence needs T.J. Watt on the field – they could not drive home the pass rush, allowing Allen to break away and make unscripted plays. Trevor Lawrence has some of that same smooth elusiveness in him, which could create problems when coverage breaks down. On the other hand, the Corn Kings have a lively home crowd in their corner and Jimmy Garoppolo will get a shot at a Triumph secondary missing their nickel and dime corners. The game could come down to Joey Slye. **PICK: COWTOWN**

CHARLESWOOD @ SEBASTIAN (line – PATRIOTS by 1)

INJURIES: **Charleswood** – Lloyd Cushenberry (OUT), Ronald Darby (OUT), David Ojabo (OUT); **Sebastian** – Austin Johnson (OUT), Marlon Tuipulotu (OUT).

The Swordfish may have discovered their formula for success on offence. They unleashed Nick Chubb last week and all he did was set a single game individual rushing record to power them to their first win of the season. It took ten Kirk Cousins interceptions in five games to make the Sebastian coach see the light and give his best player a shot. The question is: Will he repeat the same strategy here; or use the experience to prop up the Chubb-as-decoy strategy of the first five games? It is impossible to predict the Sebastian coach, so one must turn to the more predictable Pats to get a handle on this game. The Pats will try to run the ball early but will inevitably be forced to pass more often than they are comfortable with as they invariably fall behind. That could happen here if the Fish are successful on fourth down, as they were last week. As bad as Cousins has been, I don't see Kenny Pickett keeping up. **PICK: SEBASTIAN**

BILLTOWN @ BROOKLIN (line – HAWKS by 6)

INJURIES: **Billtown** – Jason Pierre-Paul (DOUBTFUL), Jordan Fuller (OUT), Mecole Hardman (OUT), Shaquille Leonard (OUT), Marcus Williams (OUT); **Brooklin** – Kwity Paye (PROBABLE).

The Bats never stood a chance against Virden and proved it with another haphazard offensive effort that exposed their defence to abuse. Might as well toss that game away as a barometer of what might happen to them this week against the low-flying Hawks. Brooklin was in their loss to Georgia last week – their defence fell asleep in the second quarter but otherwise they clamped down on Marcus Mariota and the Glads' passing attack. They struggled to finish drives and exhibited poor clock management at the end of the first half – all signs of an offence still finding its way under a new quarterback. Brooklin is a better team than their record, whereas the Bats are proving to be

equal to their no.23 slot in the power rankings. Unless the Hawks give it away on 4th down, expect them to cover. **PICK: BROOKLIN**

CHINO @ YORK (line – EXCALIBURS by 8)

INJURIES: Chino – Chauncey Gardner-Johnson (OUT), A.J. Terrell (OUT); York – Michael Palardy (PROBABLE), Treyton Burks (OUT), Rashan Gary (OUT), Cole Holcomb (OUT), Aziz Ojulari (OUT), Javonte Williams (OUT), Jabari Zuniga (OUT), Phidarian Mathis (IR).

When matched against sub-500 teams, the Convicts look like the class of the West Division. Last week they ran into a contender in Peg City and were manhandled. This week they face a York defence that has limited opposing quarterbacks to a sub-70 passer rating and has the top red zone defence in the league. On offence, the Excaliburs are scoring just shy of 29 points per game thanks to success in the red zone and a defence that takes the ball away at a pace of almost two turnovers per game. However, they are set back by injuries to their linebacking corps and the loss of Treyton Burks, who was a key target in three-wide sets. Chino needs to get their run game into a higher gear this week to compete with the heavy dose of Derrick Henry on the other side. Expect this to be a low scoring grind. **PICK: CHINO**

PICKERING @ SEATTLE (line – SPARTANS by 14)

INJURIES: Pickering – Jadeveon Clowney (OUT), Jayron Kears (OUT); Seattle – Marshon Lattimore (OUT), Trey Sermon (OUT), Ar'Darius Washington (IR).

My instinct is to jump all over a spread like this, but when I look at the state of the Pilots after six weeks, I cannot envision a plausible scenario where they even score, let alone keep this game close. Scoring is a real problem for Seattle as their average of 7.5 points per game attests. They were shutout by the Triumph last week and the Spartan defence is no less capable. Scoring schemes for the Pilots in this game involve the assistance of turnovers, defensive scores, and luck. Going the other way, the Spartans will get plenty of offensive opportunities. They won't need to score on half of them to easily plough through and top this spread. **PICK: PICKERING**

BUDAPEST @ IOWA CITY (line – CUBS by 2)

INJURIES: Budapest – Amare Barno (OUT); Iowa City – Amani Hooker (OUT), Josey Jewell (OUT), Joe Noteboom (OUT), Tyron Smith (OUT), Benjamin St-Juste (OUT).

The Cubs' defence is proving to be the laughingstock we thought it was, but the offence is no laughing matter. I wouldn't have predicted that the long arm of Derek Carr and the blow-up speed of A.J. Brown would turn into the most feared connection in the league, but 6 touchdowns and 26.2 yards per reception in 26 catches is scary. Add in breakaway run threat Roschon Johnson and this is an offence that can literally score from anywhere on the field and seems to prefer it that way. Surprisingly the North Stars' offence is laboring under an inefficient Aaron Rodgers, who has not yet regained his dominant form of two seasons ago when he led the league in passer rating and went on to win Gale Sayers MVP. He needs that back for this game and the Cubs defence may just help him out. **PICK: BUDAPEST**

EFL FOCUS

A weekly tour of Media from around the EFL. This week we focus on.....

BRUXELLES



THE BOMBERS ARE AIMING FOR THE STARS!

By **Faart van Wijnendaele**

The champion of American-style football in Belgium and Bomber beat writer for the Brussels Times, encapsulates the view from Kenny Main's bunker:

2022 Record: 11-6 – Wild Card entrant – lost in Divisional Round of playoffs to Virden

The Skinny – The Bombers exceeding predictions from the EFL **cognoscente** in 2022 (5 wins) by making the playoffs and stealing a wildcard game, has given hope that they can win with a better-rounded team in 2023. Record prediction: Aim for the stars will be a 12+ win

campaign if Fields shows some growth as a passer.

The Offense – Exceptional QB play has not been the Bombers method to achieving success in recent years, but they still need to create the illusion that they pose a big play threat through the air to keep defenses honest. The OL has been the engine that keeps this machine grinding, they keep QB's upright and open running lanes. There is a drop off with the tackles Mailata and Howard, but the interior boasts the of the best in the business. Helping QB Fields this year will be the best quartet of WR's the Bombers / Cannibals have ever fielded, the aging but talented Hopkins leads the youngsters in Godwin and Wilson to help prevent 8-man boxes.

The Defense – The defense has seen some turnover and questions along the defensive line, relying on DL Karlafkis to step up in year 2, rookie ILB Jack Campbell steps right into man the middle with Logan Wilson & Anzalone. Those names wont strike fear into many, but they are always around the ball and can make the occasional splash play. Slay and Harrison Smith are the lynchpins in the backfield, but they are aging, and it remains to be seen if they can keep up covering today's elite receiving talents. Look for the Bombers to mix up the fronts and coverages to keep those coordinators guessing, the hope being that taking chances will keep the team in games The downside is there will be times when things can go awry.

Special Teams – The bombers brought in veteran kicking ace Brett Maher to give them a reliable boot and paid handsomely for 2 specialist returners in Keison Nixon and KaVontae Turpin to give something extra in the return game that has been lacking in years past.

The Outlook – The Bombers always go all out to win the East title but have been blockaded in recent years (most recently by New Jersey). It maybe a bit of a rollercoaster ride with an unproven QB and some sketchy depth, but the avenue is there to reclaim the East. Above all else, we must grind out wins any way we can, as the W's will be hard to come by on any given week.



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