

WEEK 9



EFL

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

2023

We're Number 1!

December 3, 2023

PEG CITY TRIUMPH!

EAST

CENTRAL

WEST

Jalen Ramsey *Peg City Crusaders*

NORTH

COASTAL

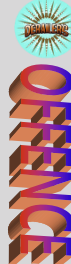
SOUTH

Crusaders' star cornerback *Jalen Ramsey* knocks the ball loose from *Trevor Lawrence* as the Triumph QB attempts to scramble for a first down in Week Nine action at Wilhalla Stadium in Minneapolis. Ramsey would bounce up and corral his own forced fumble to set up his team in great field position to launch a final, game-clinching touchdown drive in a convincing 26-13 Peg City win. The Crusaders now lead the Pacific Conference wildcard race. *(Story inside)*



*Who was slick
in Week Nine?*

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



Lamar Jackson
QB
Buffalo
Derailers

31 of 36, 288 yds, 2 TDs, 20 R, 100 yds, 1 TD. One-man offence in win.



Jonathan Jones
CB
Brooklin
Hawks

5 Tk, 2 PD, 1 INT (77 yds). Pick in red zone turned game around in Hawks win.


20
9

With the score tied at 3 early in the 2nd quarter, **Trent Taylor** returned a punt 31 yards, setting up a short field for the game's first TD; a 6-yard pass from **Daniel Jones** to **Keenan Allen** to put NJ in front 10-3. Chino chipped away at that lead with a pair of **Harrison Butker** FGs but could not get even as the Wrecking Balls put together an 18-play drive that covered 71 yards in 9:23 and ended with Jones keeping it for a 6-yard TD run to make it 17-9. The Convicts turned the ball over on downs on their next series, setting up a **Chad Ryland** FG to cap the scoring and secure NJ the win.

12-03-2023 The Big House Temp:76 Wind:5-15 None Line:CHI by 5 MVP:Jones HFA:ON(

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 New Jersey (5-4)	0	10	0	10	20
2023 Chino (6-3)	3	3	3	0	9

Passing

NJ: Jones 27/22 135 Yds TD Int

CHI: Goff 45/27 238 Yds 2 Int

Rushing

NJ: Jones 10/62 TD, Robinson Jr. 14/39, Montgomery 10/27

CHI: McCaffrey 7/37, Jones 11/24, Goff 1/8

Receiving

NJ: Allen 6/48 TD, Samuel 4/27, McKinnon 4/7, McLaurin 3/31, Montgomery 2/1

CHI: Boyd 9/113, McCaffrey 5/13, Flowers 4/41, Mooney 3/18, Campbell 3/27, Jones 3/26

Defense

NJ: Milano Int 5-Tk, Diggs Int 5-Tk, Stevenson 9-Tk

CHI:

Injuries

NJ: Awuzie 6

CHI: Miller 4, Jackson 3

Misc

NJ: Tyler 1/31 PR, Ryland 2/2 FG 40 Lg

CHI: Butker 3/3 FG 27 Lg


17
31

After falling behind 10-0 the Derailers got on track by stringing together three TDs on a 1-yard run by **Tank Bigsby** in the 2nd quarter followed by back-to-back TD passes of 9 and 31 yards from **Lamar Jackson** to **Noah Fant** on their first two series of the third. **Russell Wilson** answered for the Cubs with a 33-yard TD pass to **Christian Kirk**, but then Jackson finished off a 75-yard drive with a 4-yard TD run to make it 28-17 Buffalo in the 4th. The Derailers' defence stopped the explosive Cubs' offence three times in the 4th while the offence added a FG to give Buffalo a second straight win.

12-03-2023 Highmark Stadium Temp:43 Wind:0-5 None Line:ICC by 4 MVP:Jackson HFA:

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Iowa City (4-5)	7	3	7	0	17
2023 Buffalo (3-6)	0	7	14	10	31

Passing

ICC: Carr 21/14 161 Yds TD, Wilson 15/9 157 Yds TD

BUF: Jackson 36/31 288 Yds 2 TDs

Rushing

ICC: Carter 7/24, Miller 3/20, Kirk 1/8, Carr 1/4, Evans 2/4, Johnson 1/4

BUF: Jackson 20/100 TD, Dillon 13/70, Bigsby 4/20 TD, Abdullah 1/2

Receiving

ICC: Brown 6/142, Jones 4/57, Moore 3/14 TD, Palmer 3/15, Njoku 2/27, Kirk 2/39 TD

BUF: Gage 10/75, Fant 6/76 2 TDs, Reynolds 4/32, Bigsby 3/17, Toney 2/17, Woods 2/25

Defense

ICC: Jewell Sk FF 9-Tk, Key Sk 6-Tk, Johnson Jr. 8-Tk

BUF: Wilson 2-Sks 4-Tk, Granderson Sk 6-Tk, Horn FF 5-Tk

Injuries

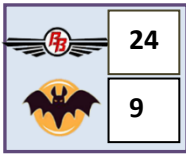
ICC: Brown 8, Hooker 4, Noteboom 3, Smith 1

BUF: Robinson 3, Jackson 3

Misc

ICC: Brown F-L, Tucker 1/1 FG 48 Lg

BUF: Chubb FR, Elliott 1/1 FG 40 Lg



24

9

Harrison Smith picked off **Justin Herbert** and returned it to the Bats' 26 mid-way in the 3rd. From there, **Leonard Fournette** carried it in on four straight run plays, the last from 2 yards, to give the Bombers a 17-9 lead from which they would never look back. Billtown had hung in through the first half thanks to 3 **Ka'imi Fairbairn** FGs and a defence that confined Bruxelles to slow-developing run-focused drives. But the Bats' offence fell asleep in the 2nd half while the Bombers iced the game in the 4th when **Khalil Herbert** broke a 25-yard run to set up his second TD run of the day.

12-03-2023 Veteran Field Temp:52 Wind:5-15 None Line:BRX by 10 MVP:Herbert HFA:ON

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Bruxelles (7-2)	0	10	7	7	24
2023 Billtown (1-8)	3	6	0	0	9

Passing

BRX: Fields 16/11 124 Yds
BB: Herbert 43/23 175 Yds 2 Int

Rushing

BRX: Herbert 20/108 2 TDs, Fields 11/74, Fournette 11/37 TD
BB: Harris 10/33, Breida 4/17, Herbert 3/11

Receiving

BRX: Wilson 4/42, Collins 3/41, Herbert 2/30, Fournette 1/-2, Godwin 1/13
BB: Watkins 6/44, Harris 5/36, Jeudy 3/26, Hodgins 2/22, Thomas 2/11, Alie-Cox 2/13

Defense

BRX: Smith Int 9-Tk, Wilson FF 9-Tk, Browning 2-Sks 2-Tk, Okoronkwo Sk FF 2-Tk
BB: McDuffie 9-Tk

Injuries

BRX:
BB: Hodgins 6, Leonard 4, Fuller 4, Hardman 4, Ezeudu 3

Misc

BRX: Slay F-L, Nixon 4/110 KR 35 Lg, Maher 1/1 FG 54 Lg
BB: Thuney FR, Fairbairn 3/3 FG 54 Lg



34

24

The Pilots used 3 QBs and got it right when **Carson Wentz** came in late in the 3rd with Seattle trailing 24-10. He engineered three TD drives and a FG drive to spur the comeback with 24 unanswered points. The Coyotes led early, 10-0, with the help of a **Jessie Bates** pick of **Gardner Minshew** setting up the first of two **Bryce Young** TD passes to **Jordan Addison**. They made it a two-score lead after a pick of Wentz set up a 1-yard TD run by **Travis Etienne**. Wentz roared back with 3 TD passes to 3 different receivers in a 5-minute span while the 'D' picked off Young 3 times to preserve the win.

12-03-2023 Coyote Field Temp:72 Wind:0-5 None Line:CB by 10 MVP:Lamb HFA:ON(2)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Seattle (2-7)	3	7	7	17	34
2023 Cobb County (3-6)	10	7	7	0	24

Passing

SEA: Minshew 19/10 113 Yds TD Int, Wentz 12/10 101 Yds 3 TDs Int, Lance 4/1 12 Yds
CB: Young 44/23 249 Yds 2 TDs 3 Int

Rushing

SEA: Walker III 17/72, Hunt 3/13, Lamb 1/8, Lance 3/1
CB: Etienne 14/67 TD, Cook 5/23, Hill 2/3

Receiving

SEA: Lamb 7/125 2 TDs, Renfrow 5/38 TD, Dell 3/23 TD, Mingo 2/11, St. Brown 1/5
CB: Addison 9/109 2 TDs, Pittman Jr. 6/58, Musgrave 3/45, Etienne 2/12, Parker 1/14

Defense

SEA: McDonald IV Sk 8-Tk, Nwosu Sk FF 4-Tk, Baker Int 5-Tk, Taylor 8-Tk
CB: Bates Int 8-Tk, Kancey Sk FF 5-Tk

Injuries

SEA: Washington 6, Renfrow 6, Sermon 5, McDuffie 5, Lattimore 1
CB: Turner 6, Adams 5, Allen 4, Cooks 2

Misc

SEA: Jackson FR, McPherson 2/3 FG 46 Lg
CB: Cook F-L, Moody 1/1 FG 49 Lg



34



10

Patrick Mahomes threw 4 TD passes, 3 to Ja'Marr Chase, to lead the Violators to a plain sailing win over Central basement dwelling Charleswood. It was the fifth time this season that the Virden QB has thrown 4 or more TD passes in a game, giving him 33 on the year. Chase's 3 TDs were set up on passes of 44, 43, and 43 yards to Tyreek Hill, who finished with 157 yards on 5 catches. The Pats were never in the game. Virden struck early and often, stacking a 24-0 lead by halftime. Kenny Pickett has harried in the pocket, getting sacked 6 times and picked off by safety Derwin James.

12-03-2023 Patriot Place Temp:75 Wind:Calm

Line:W by 4 MVP:Mahomes

HFA:ON(2

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Virden (9-0)	10	14	7	3	34
2023 Charleswood (2-7)	0	0	3	7	10

Passing

WV: Mahomes 34/21 302 Yds 4 TDs Int

CHP: Pickett 30/18 124 Yds TD Int

Rushing

WV: Akers 17/45, Conner 4/18, Mahomes 3/4

CHP: Pacheco 11/48, Dobbins 5/35, Singletary 3/30, Gibson 6/15

Receiving

WV: Chase 9/93 3 TDs, Hill 5/157, Olave 3/27, Hockenson 2/18 TD, Conner 1/4

CHP: Smith-Schuster 5/39, Singletary 4/7, Chark 4/42, Agholor 2/19 TD, Gibson 2/6

Defense

WV: Mosley 15-Tk, Tuttle 2-Sks 5-Tk, Clark Sk 5-Tk, Judon Sk 5-Tk

CHP: Samuel Jr. Int 5-Tk, Queen FF 6-Tk, Davis 8-Tk

Injuries

WV: Mills 6, Humphries 4

CHP: Ojabo 7, Cushenberry 3, Darby 3

Misc

WV: Sims F-L, Prater 2/2 FG 28 Lg

CHP: Queen FR, Lutz 1/2 FG 39 Lg



26



13

With the Triumph trailing 16-7 in a tight defensive contest, Jalen Ramsey stripped the ball from Trevor Lawrence as he tried to scramble for a first down and recovered at the 43. Saquon Barkley then converted a 4th & 1 with a 24-yard run and Ryan Tannehill found Brandon Aiyuk for a 12-yard TD pass to put Peg City in front 23-7 to start the 4th. A 44-yard pass to Alec Pierce set up Breece Hall's second TD run to bring Twin Cities to within 10, but they would get no closer. Younghoe Koo added his fourth FG, and the Peg City 'D' forced a turnover on downs at their 4 to seal the game.

12-03-2023 Wilhalla Stadium Temp:62 Wind:Calm None

Line:PCC by 4 MVP:Tannehill

HFA:

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Peg City (7-2)	3	10	3	10	26
2023 Twin Cities (6-3)	0	7	0	6	13

Passing

PCC: Tannehill 36/22 226 Yds 2 TDs, Jones 3/1 15 Yds

TCT: Lawrence 36/23 268 Yds

Rushing

PCC: Barkley 17/47, Kamara 7/21, Tannehill 1/13, Hasty 2/9, Hubbard 3/7

TCT: Hall 21/64 2 TDs, Lawrence 5/44

Receiving

PCC: Everett 7/81, Kamara 5/29 TD, Barkley 4/38, Meyers 3/39, Aiyuk 2/27 TD

TCT: Bateman 7/99, Moore 4/64, Pierce 4/64, Lockett 4/30, Hall 2/5, Higbee 2/6

Defense

PCC: Jones Sk 10-Tk, Lawrence Sk 4-Tk, Okudah FF 6-Tk, Ramsey FF 5-Tk

TCT: Hunter Sk 11-Tk, Love 9-Tk, Wagner 9-Tk

Injuries

PCC:

TCT: Stingley Jr. 6, Moseley 2

Misc

PCC: Powers FR, Ramsey FR, Koo 4/4 FG 53 Lg

TCT: Lawrence F-L, Duvernay F-L



14

17

Kyler Murray hit **Tee Higgins** on the sideline for a 16-yard TD pass early in the 4th quarter to provide the difference-maker in Erieau's third win of the season. With two TD hook-ups, Murray and Higgins made the most of their chances on a day when the Cowtown defence played well enough to win, but their offence struggled to score points. The Corn Kings lost their two top receivers early in the 2nd quarter, but still managed to mount two TD drives, and led 14-10 early in the 4th quarter. **Joey Slye** missed two FG attempts, including a 39-yarder late in the 4th that would have tied the game.

12-01-2023 Kelly-Burke Field Temp:49 Wind:15-25 None Line:COW by 2 MVP:Murray HFA

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Cowtown (4-5)	0	7	7	0	14
2023 Erieau (3-6)	10	0	0	7	17

Passing

COW: Dalton 41/21 274 Yds TD
 ERI: Murray 27/20 182 Yds 2 TDs

Rushing

COW: Williams 18/79 TD, Benjamin 6/17, Dalton 4/12, Bourne 1/8
 ERI: Murray 7/31, Pierce 10/23, Harris 7/21

Receiving

COW: Watson 5/57, Bourne 4/83, McKenzie 3/27, LaPorta 3/21 TD, Evans 2/33, Benjamin 2/21
 ERI: Waddle 5/87, Higgins 5/37 2 TDs, Hines 3/39, Harris 2/10, Pierce 2/8, Jennings 2/4

Defense

COW: Smith Sk 10-Tk, Chinn 11-Tk
 ERI: Crosby Sk FF 6-Tk, Takitaki 10-Tk, Jones Sk 3-Tk

Injuries

COW: Pierce 5, Lazard 1, Watt 1, Evans 1
 ERI: Robinson 7, Bosa 2

Misc

COW: Williams F-L, Slye 0/2 FG
 ERI: Takitaki FR, Myers 1/1 FG 49 Lg



24

17

On the 4th & 1 at the Georgia 4, Sebastian rolled the dice on the game's first series, and it paid off with a TD pass from **Kirk Cousins** to **Zay Jones** for the opening score. Adopting an aggressive posture on fourth down, with mixed results, the Swordfish defence stayed in full control throughout, holding the Glads' offence to 3 points until the final two minutes. **Marcus Mariota**, starting in place of Tua, threw two late TD passes to **Amari Cooper** to bulk up the losing effort. Sebastian possessed the ball for 35 minutes and got big plays from **Donovan Peoples-Jones** to set up their 3 TDs.

12-03-2023 DeepWoods Off Col. Temp:62 Wind:0-10 None Line:SS by 4 MVP:Cousins HFA

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Sebastian (2-7)	7	10	0	7	24
2023 Georgia (5-4)	0	0	3	14	17

Passing

SS: Cousins 36/23 282 Yds TD
 GEO: Mariota 27/16 248 Yds 2 TDs Int

Rushing

SS: Chubb 22/50 TD, Taylor 8/50 TD, Moss 3/22, Cousins 3/17
 GEO: Stevenson 9/45, Mariota 7/26, Jacobs 7/11

Receiving

SS: Peoples-Jones 6/150, Jones 5/34 TD, Schultz 4/29, Johnson 4/31, Chubb 2/12
 GEO: Johnson 5/56, Cooper 5/159 2 TDs, Stevenson 3/16, Smith-Njigba 2/12, Otton 1/5

Defense

SS: Jenkins Int 8-Tk, Street Sk 6-Tk, Reid Sk 4-Tk, Hicks Sk 3-Tk
 GEO: Bell 2-FF 15-Tk, Collins Sk FF 5-Tk, Smith Sk 4-Tk

Injuries

SS: Vickers 7, Deablo 4, Perryman 4
 GEO:

Misc

SS: Johnson F-L, Carlson 1/1 FG 28 Lg
 GEO: Bell FR, Bass 1/1 FG 23 Lg



10

17

Rookie QB, **CJ Stroud** scrambled 25 yards on 3rd & 8 and scrambled for a 10-yard TD 5 plays later to open the scoring in the 1st quarter. The Braves would maintain the lead for the remainder of the game, as the Blue Eagles pressed to move the ball against the stout LaPlata defence. Stroud, making his fifth start of the season, got help from the determined running of **Joe Mixon** and **Jahmyr Gibbs**, who combined for 185 yards on 39 carries. **Mike Boone**'s 1-yard TD run late in the 4th gave the Braves a two-TD edge and made moot **Joe Burrow**'s late TD pass to **Marvin Mims Jr**

12-03-2023 St. Charles Stadium Temp:72 Wind:Calm Line:LPB by 7 MVP:Stroud H

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Scarborough (1-8)	0	3	0	7	10
2023 LaPlata (4-5)	7	0	0	10	17

Passing

SBE: Burrow 30/15 138 Yds TD
LPB: Stroud 20/12 123 Yds

Rushing

SBE: Burrow 6/30, Cook 12/24, Perine 5/9
LPB: Mixon 23/93, Gibbs 16/92, Stroud 5/62 TD, Boone 1/1 TD

Receiving

SBE: Landry 3/50, Cobb 3/21, Reed 3/36, Mims Jr. 2/16 TD, Perine 2/1, Uzomah 1/7
LPB: Mixon 5/60, Thielen 4/37, Adams 2/20, Gibbs 1/6

Defense

SBE: Roberts 11-Tk, Speed 11-Tk, Fowler Jr. Sk 5-Tk, Delpit 10-Tk
LPB: Simmons Sk 10-Tk, Watt Sk 3-Tk

Injuries

SBE: Dotson 4, Robinson 2
LPB: Vera-Tucker 5, Stanley 1

Misc

SBE: Crosby 1/1 FG 37 Lg
LPB: Joseph 1/2 FG 26 Lg



24

10

Josh Allen scrambled for a 14-yard TD run with 1:22 left in the 2nd quarter to break a 7-7 1st half deadlock and set in motion a winning effort for the visiting Thunder Lizards. After surrendering an opening drive TD to Durham on a 5-yard **Alexander Mattison** TD run, the Irish tied the game on a 1-yard TD run by **Derek Watt** early in the 2nd quarter. But Durham's defence shut the door in the 2nd half, sacking **Jacoby Brissett** 5 times and forcing the game's only takeaway when **Jalen Pitre** caused a **Kylen Granson** fumble that set up a 3-yard TD run by **Tyler Allgeier**, making it 24-7 in the 3rd.

12-03-2023 Mgr.McClancy Mem St Temp:58 Wind:Calm None Line:DTL by 4 MVP:Allen H

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Durham (6-3)	7	7	10	0	24
2023 East Elmhurst (4-5)	0	7	0	3	10

Passing

DTL: Allen 33/18 195 Yds
EE: Brissett 39/28 252 Yds

Rushing

DTL: Allgeier 10/61 TD, Allen 6/50 TD, Mattison 5/10 TD, Tucker 3/7, Mayfield 2/2
EE: Knight 13/60, Brissett 7/12, Charbonnet 2/10, Williams 2/8

Receiving

DTL: Samuel 4/85, Knox 3/31, Tucker 3/23, Valdes-Scantling 2/2, Palmer 2/29
EE: Jones 9/55, Granson 6/95, Metcalf 4/49, Knight 4/22, Moore 3/30, Watt 1/1

Defense

DTL: Burns 2-Sks 6-Tk, Hendrickson Sk FF 5-Tk, Oliver Sk 5-Tk, Pitre FF 7-Tk
EE:

Injuries

DTL:
EE:

Misc

DTL: Davis FR, Santos 1/1 FG 50 Lg
EE: Granson F-L, Pineiro 1/1 FG 47 Lg



6



31

Jalen Hurts rushed for 52 yards, including a 14-yard bootleg TD, and passed 22 yards to Marquise Brown for another TD to spearhead a 28-point 1st half that buried the Excaliburs. The game did not start well for the Spartans. Kevin Byard picked off Hurts on their first possession and returned it to the Pickering 18. But Derrick Henry was stoned for no gain on 4th & 1 at the 9 to turn York away, no damage done. The Spartans did not look back. Henry was later injured in the 2nd quarter, forcing Tom Brady to the air, where he struggled, passing for just 137 yards against the fine Spartan secondary.

12-03-2023 Thermopylae Stadium Temp:47 Wind:5-15 None Line:YOR by 4 MVP:Hurts H

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 York (5-4)	0	6	0	0	6
2023 Pickering (9-0)	7	21	3	0	31

Passing

YOR: Brady 39/21 137 Yds TD Int, Richardson 2/1 10 Yds
PIC: Hurts 18/14 249 Yds TD Int, Wilson 2/1 10 Yds

Rushing

YOR: Scott 7/54, Burton 1/8, Richardson 1/4, Brady 4/4, Henry 4/4, St. Brown 1/1
PIC: Sanders 28/101 2 TDs, Hurts 6/55 TD, Wilson 5/13, White 3/10

Receiving

YOR: St. Brown 7/39, Williams 5/62 TD, Kmet 4/28, Scott 2/5, Davis 2/7, Henry 1/3
PIC: Brown 5/70 TD, Smith 4/73, Pickens 3/50, James Jr. 2/47, Ricard 1/19

Defense

YOR: Byard Int FF 9-Tk, Buckner 12-Tk, Ojulari Sk 3-Tk
PIC: Lawrence 2-Sks 7-Tk, Carter II Int 4-Tk

Injuries

YOR: Mathis 6, Zuniga 6, Williams 4, Holcomb 3, Gary 3, Burks 2
PIC: Graham 5

Misc

YOR:
PIC: Zuerlein 1/1 FG 52 Lg



35



32

With Budapest trailing 28-25 but driving in Brooklin territory, Jonathan Jones picked off Aaron Rodgers at the 6-yard line and returned it 77 yards to the North Stars' 17. Two plays later, Geno Smith found Drake London for a 9-yard TD pass to give Brooklin a commanding 35-25 lead with 2:58 remaining. After an opening FG by Nick Folk, the first of 4 on the day, Brooklin responded with an 8-yard TD pass to Evan Engram after a 75-yard drive and stayed in front of Budapest the rest of the way. Austin Ekeler ran in 3 TDs and converted a vital 4th & inches to seal the game with 1:32 left.

12-03-2023 Ferenc-Liszt Int'1 Temp:50 Wind:0-5 None Line:BUD by 9 MVP:Ekeler HF

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Brooklin (4-5)	7	14	7	7	35
2023 Budapest (6-3)	3	12	3	14	32

Passing

BRH: Smith 26/19 177 Yds 2 TDs
BUD: Rodgers 44/21 315 Yds 3 TDs 2 Int

Rushing

BRH: Ekeler 22/79 3 TDs, Robinson 8/76, Smith 3/17
BUD: Patterson 13/114, Mostert 10/43, Rodgers 2/19, Jones II 2/11

Receiving

BRH: London 9/94 TD, Engram 4/39 TD, Ekeler 2/12, Claypool 1/8, Hyatt 1/9, Hollins 1/11
BUD: Jefferson 7/142 TD, Diggs 5/42 TD, Kittle 4/58, Thornton 2/35 TD, Raymond 2/31

Defense

BRH: Jones Int 5-Tk, Brisker 9-Tk, Simmons Int 4-Tk, Tranquill 8-Tk
BUD: David FF 7-Tk, Yeboah FF 6-Tk, Stewart Sk 3-Tk, Harris Sk 3-Tk

Injuries

BRH: Bolles 7, Clark 6, Vander Esch 1
BUD: Barno 1

Misc

BRH: Elliott F-L, Washington 5/84 KR 25 Lg
BUD: Fitzpatrick FR, Folk 4/5 FG 51 Lg



WEEK NINE

STANDINGS & STATS

2023 EFL - Week 9 Standings

East	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Bruxelles	7	2	0	.778	W1	260	28.9	172	19.1	9.8	3 0 0	2 1 0	5 2 0
New Jersey	5	4	0	.556	W1	163	18.1	141	15.7	2.4	1 3 0	1 2 0	4 3 0
Buffalo	3	6	0	.333	W2	154	17.1	230	25.6	-8.4	2 3 0	1 2 0	3 4 0
Cobb County	3	6	0	.333	L2	218	24.2	247	27.4	-3.2	1 3 0	2 1 0	2 5 0
Central	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Viriden	9	0	0	1.000	W9	330	36.7	103	11.4	25.2	4 0 0	3 0 0	7 0 0
Peg City	7	2	0	.778	W2	198	22.0	172	19.1	2.9	3 1 0	2 1 0	6 1 0
Twin Cities	6	3	0	.667	L1	240	26.7	181	20.1	6.6	4 2 0	1 2 0	4 3 0
Charleswood	2	7	0	.222	L2	170	18.9	241	26.8	-7.9	1 5 0	0 3 0	0 7 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Chino	6	3	0	.667	L1	199	22.1	176	19.6	2.6	3 2 0	2 1 0	4 3 0
Iowa City	4	5	0	.444	L1	258	28.7	295	32.8	-4.1	1 2 0	3 0 0	4 3 0
Seattle	2	7	0	.222	W1	117	13.0	258	28.7	-15.7	1 3 0	1 2 0	2 5 0
Billtown	1	8	0	.111	L4	129	14.3	255	28.3	-14.0	0 6 0	0 3 0	1 6 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham	6	3	0	.667	W1	243	27.0	207	23.0	4.0	3 2 0	2 1 0	5 2 0
Cowtown	4	5	0	.444	L4	192	21.3	197	21.9	-0.6	1 3 0	2 1 0	4 3 0
Sebastian	2	7	0	.222	W1	178	19.8	267	29.7	-9.9	0 3 0	1 2 0	2 5 0
Scarborough	1	8	0	.111	L6	185	20.6	250	27.8	-7.2	0 4 0	1 2 0	1 6 0
Coastal	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Pickering	9	0	0	1.000	W9	305	33.9	123	13.7	20.2	5 0 0	3 0 0	7 0 0
Budapest	6	3	0	.667	L1	233	25.9	193	21.4	4.4	3 1 0	0 3 0	4 3 0
York	5	4	0	.556	L1	224	24.9	192	21.3	3.6	2 2 0	2 1 0	4 3 0
Brooklin	4	5	0	.444	W3	208	23.1	221	24.6	-1.4	3 2 0	1 2 0	3 4 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Georgia	5	4	0	.556	L1	253	28.1	226	25.1	3.0	2 3 0	3 0 0	4 3 0
LaPlata	4	5	0	.444	W2	169	18.8	164	18.2	0.6	3 2 0	2 1 0	4 3 0
East Elmhurst	4	5	0	.444	L2	187	20.8	260	28.9	-8.1	3 2 0	1 2 0	2 5 0
Erieau	3	6	0	.333	W1	173	19.2	215	23.9	-4.7	1 4 0	0 3 0	2 5 0

Passing		G	Att	Cmp	C%	Yds	Y/C	Lg	25	50	In	I%	Td	Td%	Sk	Rate
1 Hurts	PIC	9	187	130	69.5	1845	14.2	50	15	1	3	1.6	16	8.6	5	123.0
2 Mahomes	VV	9	317	202	63.7	2835	14.0	75	25	0	7	2.2	33	10.4	5	117.9
3 Tagovailoa	GEO	7	240	147	61.3	2120	14.4	49	22	0	11	4.6	23	9.6	4	102.8
4 Tannehill	PCC	7	197	126	64.0	1488	11.8	57	8	0	3	1.5	11	5.6	12	99.1
5 Garoppolo	COW	8	259	172	66.4	1955	11.4	57	11	1	5	1.9	13	5.0	14	97.6
6 Brissett	EE	7	215	140	65.1	1391	9.9	44	10	0	3	1.4	11	5.1	14	94.5
7 Fields	BRX	9	191	125	65.4	1498	12.0	52	14	0	4	2.1	7	3.7	14	92.8
8 Jones	NJ	9	263	183	69.6	1484	8.1	54	6	0	3	1.1	9	3.4	21	90.2
9 Smith	BRH	9	328	218	66.5	2035	9.3	47	12	0	7	2.1	15	4.6	16	89.7
10 Burrow	SBE	9	273	172	63.0	1671	9.7	65	12	0	7	2.6	15	5.5	11	87.7
11 Lawrence	TCT	9	298	187	62.8	1972	10.5	44	16	0	4	1.3	10	3.4	12	87.5
12 Rodgers	BUD	9	308	189	61.4	2159	11.4	74	19	0	10	3.2	17	5.5	11	87.3
13 Goff	CHI	9	336	222	66.1	2052	9.2	56	8	0	5	1.5	11	3.3	7	87.3
14 Murray	ERI	6	203	135	66.5	1257	9.3	69	6	0	3	1.5	6	3.0	12	87.0
15 Carr	ICC	8	158	85	53.8	1218	14.3	75	14	0	8	5.1	12	7.6	3	83.3
16 Jackson	BUF	9	289	187	64.7	1698	9.1	73	6	0	7	2.4	11	3.8	27	83.1
17 Allen	DTL	9	304	174	57.2	2231	12.8	54	17	0	12	3.9	17	5.6	13	82.6
18 Brady	YOR	9	321	201	62.6	2042	10.2	66	10	0	9	2.8	11	3.4	11	80.5
19 Young	CB	9	314	180	57.3	2283	12.7	52	13	0	12	3.8	15	4.8	23	80.1
20 Herbert	BB	9	344	224	65.1	1912	8.5	72	8	0	9	2.6	8	2.3	20	76.4
21 Pickett	CHP	9	258	157	60.9	1571	10.0	45	11	0	9	3.5	9	3.5	25	75.3
22 Cousins	SS	9	346	223	64.5	2124	9.5	62	13	0	13	3.8	10	2.9	21	75.3
23 Wentz	SEA	8	221	142	64.3	1215	8.6	46	8	0	10	4.5	8	3.6	15	71.7

Kick Returns		G	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	Td	Punt Returns		G	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Lg	Td
1 Jackson	CHI	9	16	475	29.7	50	0	1 Covey	YOR	9	33	5	445	13.5	86	1
2 Williams	BUF	9	17	400	23.5	36	0	2 Turpin	BRX	9	23	9	370	16.1	52	0
3 Berrios	LPB	9	13	360	27.7	47	0	3 Washington	CB	9	28	4	297	10.6	91	1
4 Rodgers	CHP	9	12	356	29.7	51	0	4 Duvernay	TCT	9	23	7	284	12.3	19	0
5 Powell	PCC	9	15	328	21.9	38	0	5 McCloud	PCC	9	23	8	256	11.1	23	0
6 Agnew	GEO	9	13	301	23.2	45	0	6 Carter	COW	9	22	5	242	11.0	18	0
7 Duvernay	TCT	9	10	300	30.0	101	1	7 Hines	ERI	9	22	10	223	10.1	30	0
8 Nixon	BRX	9	10	284	28.4	38	0	8 Raymond	BUD	9	11	13	187	17.0	63	1
9 Haskins	SBE	9	12	281	23.4	32	0	9 Williams	SS	9	17	7	177	10.4	19	0
10 Hines	ERI	9	9	251	27.9	34	0	10 Taylor	NJ	9	16	7	161	10.1	31	0
11 Carter	COW	9	11	239	21.7	35	0	11 Dell	SEA	9	20	4	158	7.9	29	0
12 Washington	BRH	9	13	239	18.4	41	0	12 Woods	BUF	9	24	4	153	6.4	28	0
13 Scott	DTL	9	10	237	23.7	37	0	13 Agnew	GEO	9	17	7	139	8.2	16	0
14 Brightwell	NJ	9	10	223	22.3	29	0	14 Reed	SBE	9	13	6	129	9.9	35	0
15 Sims	VV	9	8	209	0.0	44	0	15 Smith	CHI	9	13	4	99	7.6	21	0
16 Gray	PIC	9	8	185	0.0	42	0	16 Jones	ICC	9	12	3	98	8.2	12	0
17 Washington	CB	9	11	183	16.6	24	0	17 Berrios	LPB	9	11	12	98	8.9	16	0
18 Williams	SS	9	8	156	0.0	27	0	18 Sims	VV	9	13	16	94	7.2	16	0
19 Jones	ICC	9	5	152	0.0	35	0	19 Rodgers	EE	9	7	7	73	0.0	16	0
20 Patterson	BUD	7	6	151	0.0	35	0	20 Gray	PIC	9	9	11	71	7.9	15	0
21 Covey	YOR	9	7	145	0.0	27	0	21 Milne	BUD	7	8	2	69	0.0	16	0
22 Johnston	EE	9	10	138	13.8	22	0	22 Holland	CHP	9	11	3	66	6.0	16	0
23 Scott	YOR	9	4	120	0.0	32	0	23 Palmer	DTL	9	6	23	64	0.0	22	0
24 Mingo	SEA	9	8	106	0.0	27	0	24 Washington	BRH	9	11	3	48	4.4	14	0
25 Spears	BB	9	7	102	0.0	25	0	25 King II	NJ	9	3	0	41	0.0	17	0

			G	Att	Yds	Avg	Gain	10	25	50	FD	Lg	Td	Att/G	Yds/G
Rushing															
1 Henry	YOR	9	220	959	4.4	82.3	23	0	0	51	79	10	24.4	106.6	
2 Fields	BRX	9	115	830	7.2	83.5	37	0	0	56	56	11	12.8	92.2	
3 Chubb	SS	9	184	809	4.4	83.2	27	0	0	50	36	7	20.4	89.9	
4 Sanders	PIC	9	169	720	4.3	80.5	18	0	0	37	23	9	18.8	80.0	
5 Cook	SBE	9	156	711	4.6	78.8	15	0	0	33	64	4	17.3	79.0	
6 Wilson	TCT	8	103	709	6.9	82.5	19	1	0	31	52	7	12.9	88.6	
7 Jacobs	GEO	9	156	661	4.2	79.5	16	0	0	30	68	2	17.3	73.4	
8 Jackson	BUF	9	104	609	5.9	74.0	19	0	0	35	74	5	11.6	67.7	
9 Gibbs	LPB	9	95	534	5.6	77.9	16	0	0	24	62	3	10.6	59.3	
10 McCaffrey	CHI	9	120	532	4.4	76.7	11	0	0	32	54	8	13.3	59.1	
11 Dillon	BUF	9	130	529	4.1	80.8	14	0	0	31	26	1	14.4	58.8	
12 Williams	COW	9	138	520	3.8	78.3	12	0	0	26	38	6	15.3	57.8	
13 Walker III	SEA	9	118	508	4.3	78.8	17	0	0	22	40	1	13.1	56.4	
14 Jones	NJ	9	100	504	5.0	78.0	20	0	0	50	24	3	11.1	56.0	
15 Johnson	ICC	9	85	501	5.9	85.9	14	0	0	24	53	4	9.4	55.7	
16 Mixon	LPB	9	133	497	3.7	81.2	10	0	0	29	19	4	14.8	55.2	
17 Foreman	BRX	8	107	494	4.6	76.6	11	0	0	19	58	3	13.4	61.8	
18 Robinson	BRH	9	82	490	6.0	84.1	11	0	0	27	58	3	9.1	54.4	
19 Etienne	CB	9	100	472	4.7	70.0	15	0	0	22	88	2	11.1	52.4	
20 Allen	DTL	9	71	470	6.6	77.5	21	1	0	26	31	3	7.9	52.2	
21 Jones	CHI	9	90	428	4.8	66.7	16	0	0	28	35	3	10.0	47.6	
22 Barkley	PCC	9	132	424	3.2	80.3	8	1	0	19	35	5	14.7	47.1	
23 Conner	VV	9	103	416	4.0	81.6	7	0	0	27	23	4	11.4	46.2	
24 Patterson	BUD	7	75	409	5.5	84.0	11	0	0	20	39	4	10.7	58.4	
25 Harris	BB	9	70	397	5.7	87.1	12	0	0	24	15	0	7.8	44.1	
26 Allgeier	DTL	8	96	391	4.1	78.1	7	0	0	16	27	3	12.0	48.9	
27 Kamara	PCC	8	75	378	5.0	82.7	10	0	0	17	27	1	9.4	47.3	
28 Hurts	PIC	9	58	363	6.3	84.5	17	0	0	29	32	6	6.4	40.3	
29 Pacheco	CHP	9	90	362	4.0	77.8	5	0	0	13	36	2	10.0	40.2	
30 Ekeler	BRH	9	87	346	4.0	83.9	10	0	0	25	17	8	9.7	38.4	
31 Mostert	BUD	9	70	342	4.9	81.4	8	0	0	17	46	2	7.8	38.0	
32 Fournette	BRX	8	72	320	4.4	83.3	7	0	0	18	22	4	9.0	40.0	
33 Montgomery	NJ	8	90	315	3.5	82.2	5	0	0	13	29	1	11.3	39.4	
34 Pickett	CHP	9	38	309	8.1	94.7	11	0	0	20	29	2	4.2	34.3	
35 Murray	COW	6	56	306	5.5	87.5	8	0	0	11	61	1	9.3	51.0	
36 Harris	ERI	9	83	301	3.6	81.9	6	0	0	18	22	3	9.2	33.4	
37 Pierce	ERI	9	75	295	3.9	78.7	5	0	0	11	78	1	8.3	32.8	
38 Dobbins	CHP	8	59	294	5.0	74.6	9	0	0	13	44	2	7.4	36.8	
39 Stevenson	GEO	9	64	284	4.4	71.9	7	0	0	13	35	1	7.1	31.6	
40 White	PIC	9	59	254	4.3	72.9	7	0	0	11	29	1	6.6	28.2	
41 Akers	VV	9	67	250	3.7	82.1	5	0	0	22	22	1	7.4	27.8	
42 Mahomes	VV	9	37	225	6.1	86.5	9	0	0	10	20	0	4.1	25.0	
43 Spears	BB	9	46	224	4.9	80.4	7	0	0	16	30	1	5.1	24.9	
44 Young	CB	9	33	223	6.8	78.8	8	0	0	16	31	4	3.7	24.8	
45 Lawrence	TCT	9	42	216	5.1	88.1	7	0	0	22	24	3	4.7	24.0	

Receiving		G	No	Dp	Att	Rac	Yds	Avg	25	50	FD	Lg	Td	Rec/G	Yds/G
1 Jefferson	BUD	9	63	3	103	105	841	13.3	9	0	44	42	5	7.0	93.4
2 Hill	VV	9	58	4	99	243	1161	20.0	14	0	43	75	10	6.4	129.0
3 Metcalf	EE	9	56	4	87	150	742	13.3	5	0	39	37	5	6.2	82.4
4 McCaffrey	CHI	9	55	4	76	509	366	6.7	2	0	21	30	3	6.1	40.7
5 Adams	LPB	9	55	0	81	182	899	16.3	8	0	37	62	2	6.1	99.9
6 Jones	SS	9	53	2	81	180	553	10.4	4	0	21	62	4	5.9	61.4
7 Lamb	SEA	9	52	2	85	121	659	12.7	6	0	37	46	3	5.8	73.2
8 Chase	VV	9	51	7	80	111	657	12.9	3	0	41	28	8	5.7	73.0
9 Gage	BUF	9	51	1	77	65	402	7.9	0	0	23	19	2	5.7	44.7
10 Jeudy	BB	9	50	8	76	128	575	11.5	2	0	26	72	1	5.6	63.9
11 St. Brown	YOR	9	49	0	75	122	474	9.7	1	0	23	56	2	5.4	52.7
12 Ekeler	BRH	9	49	0	67	351	269	5.5	0	0	11	20	2	5.4	29.9
13 Moore	TCT	9	48	4	80	110	644	13.4	7	0	37	34	4	5.3	71.6
14 London	BRH	9	47	5	78	152	691	14.7	7	0	37	47	7	5.2	76.8
15 Williams	YOR	9	46	3	78	162	562	12.2	4	0	33	39	3	5.1	62.4
16 Allen	NJ	9	46	0	65	129	438	9.5	2	0	22	54	5	5.1	48.7
17 Cooks	CB	9	45	8	76	187	679	15.1	7	0	35	52	3	5.0	75.4
18 Evans	COW	9	44	6	71	190	610	13.9	6	1	26	51	4	4.9	67.8
19 Johnson	GEO	9	44	6	78	169	632	14.4	6	0	35	45	6	4.9	70.2
20 Brown	ICC	9	44	4	84	271	1026	23.3	16	0	37	67	11	4.9	114.0
21 Diggs	BUD	9	42	2	84	94	436	10.4	3	0	25	46	5	4.7	48.4
22 Waddle	ERI	9	42	4	71	139	718	17.1	8	0	29	69	3	4.7	79.8
23 Godwin	BRX	9	42	3	57	162	572	13.6	6	0	28	52	4	4.7	63.6
24 Pittman Jr.	CB	9	41	0	66	69	537	13.1	2	0	29	30	1	4.6	59.7
25 Flowers	CHI	9	41	3	64	104	488	11.9	2	0	29	56	4	4.6	54.2
26 Hodgins	BB	9	41	3	62	57	371	9.0	2	0	15	29	0	4.6	41.2
27 Samuel	DTL	9	40	4	63	121	504	12.6	2	0	34	51	5	4.4	56.0
28 Smith	PIC	9	40	5	57	101	630	15.8	6	0	33	30	5	4.4	70.0
29 Lazard	COW	9	40	4	58	187	546	13.7	4	0	25	57	2	4.4	60.7
30 Boyd	CHI	9	39	1	57	47	475	12.2	2	0	24	29	1	4.3	52.8
31 Thielen	LPB	9	39	0	54	81	392	10.1	1	0	25	33	5	4.3	43.6
32 Kelce	CHP	9	38	3	68	107	434	11.4	2	0	28	29	2	4.2	48.2
33 Peoples-Jones	SS	9	38	0	58	71	591	15.6	7	0	27	45	1	4.2	65.7
34 Stevenson	GEO	9	37	4	54	418	373	10.1	4	0	15	43	1	4.1	41.4
35 Higbee	TCT	9	37	8	61	69	327	8.8	1	0	24	26	3	4.1	36.3
36 Cooper	GEO	9	37	2	68	158	912	24.6	16	0	36	58	13	4.1	101.3
37 Woods	BUF	9	36	5	57	107	412	11.4	3	0	21	49	1	4.0	45.8
38 Andrews	ERI	7	36	3	48	115	395	11.0	2	0	18	43	2	5.1	56.4
39 Engram	BRH	9	36	3	60	89	368	10.2	1	0	20	32	3	4.0	40.9
40 Kamara	PCC	8	36	2	51	347	293	8.1	1	0	15	25	2	4.5	36.6
41 Kmet	YOR	9	36	0	60	100	373	10.4	2	0	23	39	3	4.0	41.4
42 McKinnon	NJ	9	35	0	42	330	252	7.2	2	0	11	38	2	3.9	28.0
43 Dotson	SBE	9	34	1	50	203	507	14.9	4	0	25	65	7	3.8	56.3
44 Lockett	TCT	9	34	0	55	81	381	11.2	3	0	23	32	2	3.8	42.3
45 Schultz	SS	9	33	2	56	33	245	7.4	0	0	9	16	1	3.7	27.2



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TUESDAY MORNING QUARTERBACK



By PETER PRINCE AND THE TMQB STAFF

HERE ARE THE ROOKIES WITH THE INSIDE TRACK IN THE RACE FOR ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

WIN OR LOSE, THESE ARE THE ROOKIES WHO ARE HAVING A BIG IMPACT ON THEIR TEAMS IN 2023

Is it too early to bet on Rookie of the Year in the EFL? The Staff here at TMQB don't think so. The 2023 EFL draft has been under review from the moment Cowtown anointed quarterback Clayton Tune, "Mr. Irrelevant." Whether Tune will stay irrelevant remains to be seen. For this year, at least, it is an apt monicker. The fate of 194 other rookies claimed in the draft is not so easily tracked. Like Tune, most will have to wait their turn. Some will disappear. Some have already disappeared. There are future stars on EFL rosters today who will not make an impression on the fans in 2023. They are buried in depth charts, still learning their trade, injured, or overlooked for a variety of reasons. Others for a variety of reasons are destined to be no more than footnotes in draft history. A select few rookies will make an immediate impact on their teams. While the race for the title of Rookie of the Year is far from over, after nine weeks several are beginning to separate themselves from the pack. I asked the TMQB staff who they thought was the best rookie so far. The question ignited a hot debate.

Bryce Young thrown in the fire

It has been an up and down season for the first pick in the draft. The downs have been more frequent, but the ups have been very promising. Learning the game while being studied like a lab rat brings pressure, no matter how

much the rookie may downplay it to the media. The expectations are high for Young and higher than they should be for the team he plays for. The Coyotes hoped the number one pick in the draft would punch their ticket to contention in his first year. At 3-6 it looks like the Coyotes will have to wait another season to compete for a playoff spot. The good news is that his win over Bruxelles shows that Young has the talent to get them there if he can grow and improve this season. He is currently surviving his public trial by fire. If he is still intact with a few more wins under his belt eight weeks from now he will be in the mix for rookie of the year.

CJ Stroud ahead of his time

I remember going to training camp last summer. Veteran and future hall-of-fame center Jason Kelce, who centered for Matt Ryan in Rich Liotta's final season as coach of the Mustangs, told me to watch out for C.J. Stroud this year. I was surprised to hear that. Matt Ryan is the heart and soul of the team. "If we start slow, just watch." After two losses and a terrible start for Ryan against New Jersey, the Braves' new coach did not hesitate to put Stroud in ahead of his time. After a shaky start the following week in Cowtown, the rookie has shown why he was picked number nine overall. He has led the Braves to three wins in their last four games. In doing so he has completed over 70% of his passes and his 101.0 passer rating is better than 20 other starters. He appears to have lock on the starting job as new management in LaPlata looks to the future. If Stroud keeps producing, the future for him looks bright and he might just be rookie of the year.

Jahmyr Gibbs has limitless potential

His 62-yard touchdown run to clinch a win against Erieau is all you need to see to understand why the Braves selected the dynamic Alabama running back in the second round. His 5.6 rushing average is third best among running backs. He has moves on top of moves and a burst of speed that surprises. He is the right hook in the one-two punch of the Braves backfield with Joe Mixon. He is not a workhorse, which could hurt him in the voting, but his presence must be accounted for, which can only help fellow rookie Stroud.

Calijah Kancey looks a lot like Aaron Donald

He leads all rookies in sacks, and he plays an interior line position. Sound Familiar? Kancey is a defensive coordinator's dream. After nine games he has produced numbers, 5 sacks, 40 tackles, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery, that would make a nice season for a second-round defensive tackle. He is raising the level of defence and making it respectable. He doesn't play a glamorous position, but if he continues this pace, he will be hard to ignore when voting time comes.

Will Anderson Jr is a force

He only has 3 sacks but the Cubs' top edge rusher is still a force to be reckoned with. Selected number two overall, expectations are high and Anderson is delivering in ways that are not obvious on the stat sheet. He is ranked second in the league in quarterback pressures with 16 and is subject to routine double teams on passing downs. Defences must account for him. It is not hard to imagine his production going way up on a better defence, where he is not the focus of attention. "Will's just getting his feet under him and he's already scaring people," Cubs defensive quality control consultant Norm Parker told me when I visited the Cubs' training facility this fall. This is a young defence and Anderson is the stud it is being built around.

Bijan Robinson victim of expectations

It is hard to stand out when sharing a backfield with Austin Ekeler but the Hawks' first-rounder is starting to earn

recognition for helping to turn around his team's fortunes. Was more expected of the number eight overall pick? Certainly! But the offensive game plan in Brooklin calls for a dynamic run threat to be always fresh and available to set up the pass. Bijan is one of two heads on a beast created to intimidate opponents. He is playing his role to a 'T.' He just needs more opportunities, and those will come as the Hawks become more competitive.

Devon Witherspoon filling big shoes

The Thunder Lizards place a premium on excellent play in the secondary and proved it by selecting cornerbacks at number three and number six overall in the draft. The second of those two, Witherspoon, is making an early splash, with three interceptions, a forced fumble and a touchdown. Like all rookies, he has had his share of struggles, but nobody will blame him for struggling against Stefon Diggs in their loss to Budapest. Corner is a tough position to break into in the pros. That is the reason the number six overall pick from Illinois will get some votes if he keeps playing as he is and taking the ball away.

Zay Flowers making the case for wide receivers

The eleventh overall pick in the draft has been a rock of consistency on the outside for Chino and has flashed unexpected big play ability. In a rookie class full of unrealized potential at the position, Flowers is making a big impact in the Chino passing attack and causing heads to turn. Second on the team to MVP Christian McCaffrey in pass catches, the Boston College star is tied with Cobb County's Jordan Addison for the rookie wide receiver lead in touchdowns with four. Unlike Addison, Flowers is a major part of the offence. "I don't want to think about where our pass game would be without Zay," Chino wide receivers coach Ray Carruth told me when I visited Chino Penitentiary last week. Flowers is on pace for almost 80 catches, which will put him in good stead when it is time to vote.

...still time for these top picks to make their mark...

Tyree Wilson (EDGE)

The fifth overall pick in the draft has 3 sacks, the same as Anderson, but is still developing as a consistent force in the pass rush. Shows flashes of the elite talent expected of his draft pedigree. With Aaron Donald as his mentor, he could be special before the season ends.

Quentin Johnston (WR)

It appears the Irish are taking the go-slow approach with their stud. The first wide receiver picked in the draft is seeing the field only in three or four-wide sets. He is slotted below Marvin Jones in the depth chart. Receivers can take time to adjust to EFL schemes and game speed and maybe that is the reason Johnston is only averaging 12 snaps per game. The kid oozes big play potential. It is only a matter of time.

Jaxon Smith-Njigba (WR)

Selected by the Gladiators three picks after Johnston and in front of Flowers, Smith-Njigba finds himself fighting for targets with accomplished vets, Diontae Johnson and Amari Cooper. He is still learning to mesh with Tua, but his three touchdowns and fifteen-yard average in thirteen catches shows he is already a great third option.

Dalton Kincaid (TE)

Michael Mayer was picked ahead of him, but this kid is arguably the top tight end talent in the draft. Justin Herbert is trying to weave him into the game plan. He is tied with Sam LaPorta for most receptions for a rookie tight end, with 27. If he can improve on his sub-par 6.5 yards per catch average, he could breakout before the season ends, which would be great news for Bats fans already looking forward to next year.

Week Nine tidbits

After a period of adjustment Geno Smith keeps getting better. His passer rating in the last three games of Brooklin's resurgence is 116.5. This week he sent a message to the North Stars that the Hawks are back and in contention. They still have work to do to recover from a 1-5 start, but they are heading in the right direction and teams reaming on their schedule should not take them lightly.

The Crusaders passed a severe test in Minneapolis this week with a 26-13 win over the Triumph. It is not the end of the story between these teams, but it is a good first chapter for Peg City, as their divisional foe was widely favoured to get one leg up on them in the first round of the wildcard showdown. This Crusader defence is really good, and the offence is good enough. The Triumph are hoping for more from their quarterback when they face off again in the final week of the season.

The Braves are another team on the rebound. I am not surprised. The personnel are too strong on defence. The offence has the tools at the skill positions. The rookie quarterback is quickly learning how to avoid rookie mistakes. They beat the Blue Eagles the way they were supposed to, with defence and a heavy dose of the run. Stanley Milton makes good game plans and now the players are executing.

For the second week in a row the Pilots hung 30 or more points on their opponent. This week they got a victory for it. Carson Wentz came in as the third quarterback and showed he still has the stuff that piloted the Chargers to a championship in 2018. I am pulling for Carson Wentz. He is a fierce competitor who tries too hard sometimes.

Amari Cooper is causing debate about who is responsible for pushing the Gladiators to near the top of the offensive rankings. Is it Tua getting him the ball, or what Amari does with the ball when he gets it? He is an elite route runner and Tua has a sniper's aim, so it's a match made in football heaven. Cooper added three more touchdown receptions in Georgia's win over the Irish to bring his total to a league-leading thirteen. At that pace he will finish with 25, still short of the record of 31 set by Antonio Brown, but closer to it than anyone else.

Pat Mahomes threw four touchdown passes in Virden's win over the Patriots this week. As expected, Virden stays unblemished. In a league where it is tough to win any game, the Violators make winning look easy. They are so confident that they do not feel the need to send messages to their future challengers by running up the score against weaker opponents who have surrendered. That is class.

Is Jalen Hurts the MVP? He is the most efficient passer in the league and an accomplished runner. His team has won all their games. This week he showed off his arm and his legs in leading the Spartans to a lop-sided win over York. I am not surprised that they won. I am surprised at how effortless it seemed, thanks to Hurts. Some will argue that Jalen does what is asked of him, but not much is asked of him compared with, for example, Patrick Mahomes. I don't know how you can penalize a quarterback for doing everything that is asked of him. Yet, it's a tough call when considering Mahomes has dropped back almost twice as many times as Hurts. The remaining eight weeks might separate them more, but as of today I would not argue with the choice of either.

Lamar Jackson is the premier talent in football. He proved it again this week by single-handedly winning the game for Buffalo over the Cubs this week. I don't accept that Buffalo owner and permanent interim coach Darryl Brothers has failed to put talent around Lamar. The talent is there. The game plan though puts too much emphasis on Lamar, which negates the talent around him. I hope they figure it out soon because an MVP is being wasted.

I will end this week by saying that I really hope the Bats win a game soon. Professional football returning to the State of Pennsylvania is a great step forward for the EFL and it would be a shame if it suffered an early death.

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RECORD VS THE SPREAD AFTER WEEK 9:

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Jimmy's WEEK TEN PICKS

CHINO @ VIRDEN (line – VIOLATORS by 15)

INJURIES: Chino – Von Miller (OUT), Eddie Jackson (OUT); Virden – Leonard Williams (PROBABLE), Jalen Mills (OUT), D.J. Humphries (OUT).

Take a good look at this line, let it sink in, and don't forget it if you're a trivia buff. One would have to go back to 2008, year of the infamous "expansion division," to see a double-digit line for one division leader over another this far into the season. This speaks to the current dominance of the Violators and the questionable credentials of the West-leading Convicts, who are coming off a flat performance against the Wrecking Balls in a loss. Chino is 1-2 against winning teams and is the lowest ranked of all teams currently in a playoff position if the season were to end today. Virden knocked the Patriots off easily last week. The only red flag on their side is that they have not had to play many 60-minute games this year, as they effectively win in the first half and guard their gains in the second half. The Convicts, for all their flaws, play 60 minutes every week and have gamers to keep it close. **PICK: CHINO**

CHARLESWOOD @ SEATTLE (line – PATRIOTS by 2)

INJURIES: Charleswood – De'Vondre Campbell (DOUBTFUL), Lloyd Cushenberry (OUT), Ronald Darby (OUT), Paris Johnson Jr. (OUT), David Ojabo (OUT); Seattle – Marshon Lattimore (OUT), Trent McDuffie (OUT), Hunter Renfrow (OUT), Trey Sermon (OUT), Ar'Darius Washington (IR).

The Pilots have the least efficient offence in the league and the Patriots are not much better, but Seattle has a respectable defence ranked 6th in takeaways with 14, for an average of almost two per game. With their top two cornerbacks out, however, the back end of the defence will be more vulnerable on the edges, providing a rare opportunity for Kenny Pickett to break the 200-yard passing barrier that he has failed to breach in the last three games. Although comparatively healthy, the Charleswood secondary has been the weak link in the defence, and it's not a strong defence to begin with. Whoever starts or finishes at quarterback for Seattle should be able to find Cedee Lamb for big plays. Expect an even contest with the Pats eking out a win on a late field goal. **PICK: CHARLESWOOD**

BILLTOWN @ PEG CITY (line – CRUSADERS by 15)

INJURIES: Billtown – Jason Pierre-Paul (DOUBTFUL), Joshua Ezeudu (OUT), Jordan Fuller (OUT), Mecole Hardman (OUT), Isaiah Hodgins (OUT), Shaquille Leonard (OUT); Peg City – None.

If the Bats were looking for a pick-me-up opportunity, they won't get it this week against a Crusaders team basking in the glow of a no-doubter "triumph" over their main division rival. With the Violators seemingly untouchable, the Pegs are aiming for the top wildcard position and have a strong grip on it at present. The Bats are not a threat to them but given the Crusader coach's propensity to rest key players proactively in games were seemingly pre-determined outcomes, there is no guarantee this will be a blowout. The defence is the strength of the Crusaders, with the offence leaching off it. The Bats have the better quarterback, even if the offensive strategy and dearth of talent makes the least of him. It would not surprise me if this one comes don to the wire. **PICK: BILLTOWN**

TWIN CITIES @ IOWA CITY (line – TRIUMPH by 1)

INJURIES: Twin Cities – Emmanuel Moseley (OUT), Derek Stingley Jr. (OUT); Iowa City – Tre Brown (OUT), Amani Hooker (OUT), Joe Noteboom (OUT), Tyron Smith (OUT).

I will preface my thoughts on this game with the acknowledgement that anything can happen when you have two uniquely styled quarterbacks freely substituting with each other without apparent acrimony, throwing to a receiver with near God-like big-play capability, pitted against an offence plagued by inconsistency despite a blessing of talent. Having said that, the Triumph are leagues

above the Cubs in everything except for “explosiveness,” making this line look absurd. Injuries to Emmanuel Moseley and Derek Stingley Jr are a concern of course, but the Cubs are so bad defensively that it all evens out. Survivor Pool lock. **PICK: TWIN CITIES**

NEW JERSEY @ BRUXELLES (line – BOMBERS by 8)

INJURIES: New Jersey – Antoine Winfield Jr., (DOUBTFUL), Chidobe Awuzie (OUT); **Bruxelles** – Brian Branch (OUT).

Both teams won last week, but the bragging rights belong to the Wrecking Balls for taking care of a better opponent in Chino. The Bombers handled business against the Bats, but the case against them being a one-trick pony offensively with the run game is now stronger than ever, with Justin Fields playing the role of passing trickster in a scheme dominated by the run. This sets up a best-case scenario for New Jersey, as their defence is no.1 against the run and they are on the road, where Daniel Jones looks like a more confident quarterback. The trend is moving away from Bruxelles total supremacy in the East, opening the possibility of a Wrecking Ball challenge. Having lost at home to Bruxelles in Week One, this is a practical must-win for the Balls and they will go at it. **PICK: NEW JERSEY**

BUFFALO @ COBB COUNTY (line – COYOTES by 7)

INJURIES: Buffalo – Donte Jackson (OUT), Wan’Dale Robinson (OUT); **Cobb County** – Tre’Davious White (PROBABLE), Jamal Adams (OUT), Brian Allen (OUT), Brandin Cooks (OUT), Payton Turner (OUT).

The Derailers got a classic victory over the Cubs last week, with over 250 yards passing, 100 yards rushing and 3 touchdowns for Lamar (2 passing, 1 rushing). It is wise, however, to take everything accomplished against the Cubs’ defence with a grain of salt, as they are the worst defence in the league and proud of it. Although Buffalo and Cobb County have identical records, the Coyotes are the best three-win team in the league and boast a good defence that would be a lot better with more aggression, as last week’s limp-wristed effort against Seattle demonstrated. That loss has the Coyotes tied for the East Division basement, giving them high motivation to make it right this week. They are missing their no.1 pass-catcher in Brandin Cooks, however, which will hurt their rookie QB. **PICK: BUFFALO**

DURHAM @ SEBASTIAN (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 6)

INJURIES: Durham – Chandler Jones (QUESTIONABLE), Terron Armstead (DOUBTFUL), Cooper Kupp (DOUBTFUL); **Sebastian** – Austin Johnson (PROBABLE), Zay Jones (PROBABLE), Divine Deablo (OUT), Denzel Perryman (OUT), Kendal Vickers (OUT).

The spark of life from the Swordfish last week has apparently ignited a flame of optimism from Vegas bettors that Sebastian can hang in with the Thunder Lizards. I agree, but only if the Durham coach decides to hamstring himself by sitting many starters he wishes to save for more worthy opponents. A full-effort Durham squad will make short work of this troubled Swordfish team on both sides of the ball but taking them lightly brings a big chance of a backfire. The Fish have elite offensive skill position players, capable of beating the X’s and O’s and keeping pace with a Durham attack almost certain to make hay of the Swordfish defenders, even with Cooper Kupp sealed away inside a plastic bubble. Minus any eccentric roster moves, this light line is easily overcome. **PICK: DURHAM**

SCARBOROUGH @ COWTOWN (line – CORN KINGS by 7)

INJURIES: Scarborough – Jahan Dotson (OUT), Allen Robinson (OUT); **Cowtown** – Mike Evans (OUT), Allen Lazard (OUT), Michael Pierce (OUT), TJ Watt (OUT).

The Corn Kings have lost four in a row after misfiring against Erieau last week. Concerns that they may be falling apart are partially alleviated by the fact that their losses have been close, and the Blue Eagles are manifestly much worse, with six losses in a row and just one win so far. Still, this is not a game where Cowtown can be overconfident, even though the already weak Scarborough receiving corps is missing two of their better targets. Cowtown is missing their two top wide receivers, which evens the playing field. The result could be a game where the running backs on both sides could determine the outcome. This tends to favour the Eagles’ Dalvin Cook, but the duo of Jamaal Williams and Latavius Murray are deceptively dangerous, while Scarborough is dead last in the league against the run. A converted touchdown is a lot to give a team on a slide, but the desperate rebound should be enough to cover. **PICK: COWTOWN**

PICKERING @ ERIEAU (line – SPARTANS by 12)

INJURIES: Pickering – Jadeveon Clowney (DOUBTFUL), Ta’Quon Graham (OUT); **Erieau** – Joey Bosa (OUT), Aaron Robinson (IR).

The Cadillac won last week, which shows they have not given up, but it was an “any given Sunday” type of win over a Cowtown team that could not get out of its own way. Nobody is ready to say that Erieau is back, least of all the Denizens of the Dust Bowl, who have set this line at two unconverted touchdowns precisely because they know how fragile the scenario is where the Caddies get their act together enough to challenge one of the league’s two elite teams. The Spartans bowled over York last week and injured their iron warhorse, Derrick Henry, in the process. There is realistically nothing standing in the way of a Spartans perfect season until Durham comes to

town. So, it comes down to the spread, which seems laughably doable against the 19th ranked Erieau offence. **PICK: PICKERING**

GEORGIA @ YORK (line – GLADIATORS by 1)

INJURIES: Georgia – Nick McCloud (PROBABLE); York – Derrick Henry (QUESTIONABLE), Treyton Burks (OUT), Rashan Gary (OUT), Cole Holcomb (OUT), Javonte Williams (OUT), Jabari Zuniga (OUT), Phidarian Mathis (IR).

Both teams are coming off bad losses. York was beaten and cowed by division-rival Pickering, while the Glads were humiliated by two-win Sebastian. Although both have identical records, they enter this game on unequal footing, with Derrick Henry listed as ‘questionable’ and Treyton Burks, an early-season favourite of Tom Brady, still out. The Excaliburs are not cut out to be one-dimensional, which they proved to be last week without Henry. The Glads are healthy and if Georgia goes with Tua this week over random starter Marcus Mariota, I don’t see them having much difficulty securing a ‘W’ provided Henry is out of the mix for York. Therefore, this game comes down to the reliability of an injury designation. I’ll go with a healthy Gladiators squad in a flip of the coin. **PICK: GEORGIA**

LAPLATA @ BROOKLIN (line – BRAVES by 2)

INJURIES: LaPlata – Ronnie Stanley (OUT), Alijah Vera-Tucker (OUT); Brooklin – Damone Clark (OUT), Leighton Vander Esch (OUT), Garrett Boles (IR).

The four-win Hawks are winners of three straight and made a bold statement last week by beating Budapest on the road. Could it be that Geno Smith is finally adapting to the pace of the EFL; or was it a fluke helped along by a hot-as-hell Drake London and a script-flipping pick by veteran Jonathan Jones? Until we know the answer, Brooklin must be taken seriously again, even if bettors are slow on the uptake and have the four-win Braves favoured over them on the road. LaPlata played it uncomfortably close against Scarborough last week, despite controlling the ball for over 37 minutes and gaining almost twice as many first downs. The game plan for CJ Stroud is a slow developing one, featuring the run and the run again punctuated by the odd pass. This has me doubting their staying power in the type of shootout scenario Brooklin favours. Now, if Matt Ryan were to suit up, that would be a different story. **PICK: BROOKLIN**

BUDAPEST @ EAST ELMHURST (line – NORTH STARS by 4)

INJURIES: Budapest – Amare Barno (OUT). East Elmhurst – None.

The Irish gave it a good go in a losing effort against Durham last week but ended up shooting themselves with a pivotal turnover in the second half. The lack of premium talent on the offensive side of the ball is being felt against the better defences and, despite their embarrassment against Brooklin last week, the North Stars have one of the better defences. Budapest’s slip against their division rival may have been due to a hangover after a draining win over conference rival Durham the week before. Regardless, it was a wake-up call for the three-time EFL champions, who have thrown all their old eggs into the basket for one more championship run before the great re-tooling begins. The North Stars have bigger game to hunt, but now know they cannot take any team for granted. **PICK: BUDAPEST**



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