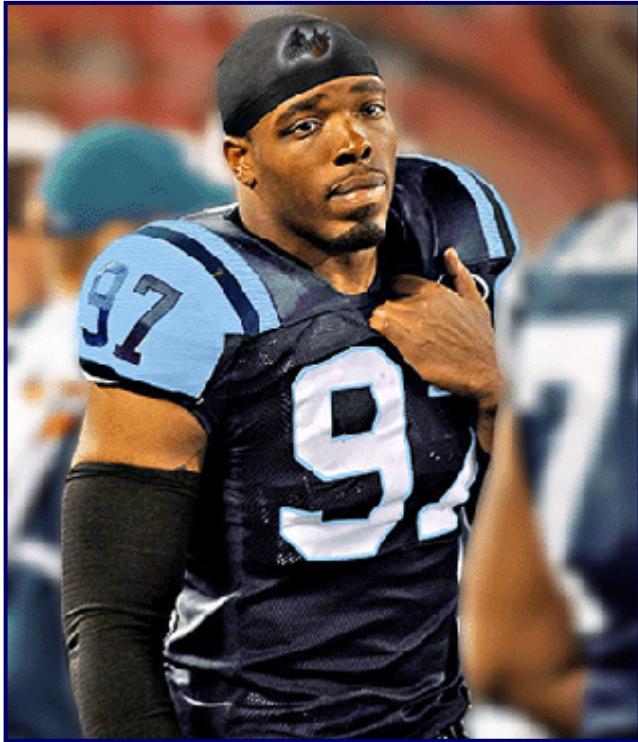




2009

# PLAYOFF EDITION QUARTER FINALS

February 7<sup>th</sup>. 2010



Calvin Pace remains focused on the sideline as he and the rest of the “Blue Shield” take a breather. His 10-tackle performance led a superlative effort by the LA defense as they held on to a 1-point lead for almost a quarter-and-a-half to beat the Cubs 14-13 in quarter final playoff action.

## PACIFIC-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

### KNIGHTS HANG ON, ADVANCE TO CONFERENCE FINAL

*L.A. DEFENSE CLINGS TO ONE-POINT LEAD AS PUNTERS GET WORKOUT IN SECOND HALF*



IOWA CITY

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LOS ANGELES

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LOS ANGELES – The Cubs had to be inside the Knights’ heads. Two losses to Iowa City this year, both of the haunting kind, must have been playing on the mind of Coach **Jeff Dohrn** as he prepared his team to face its nemesis for the second straight week. The bookmakers, out of duty to the statistical record, had pegged the Knights at 5-point favourites early in the week. By mid-week that number had fallen to 3 points as superstitious bettors made intangibles the deciding factor in placing their money down against the Knights and their top-rated “Blue Shield” defense. It was less about the defense, and more about a turnover prone offence that made LA a risky bet. Five turnovers last week, and a fateful turnover in Week One as they were driving to an apparent last minute victory, had cost them two games against these same Cubs. Then, of course, there was the impact of the unpredictably emotional Cubs players to consider. Last week they had looked perfectly comfortable in enemy territory and, with the decisiveness of their victory, had turned portions of the crowd against the home team. Would the home field be an advantage or a disadvantage for the Knights? Then there was the simmering QB controversy in Tinseltown to consider. Was either QB equipped mentally to deal with the pressure – when one seemingly could not finish and the other apparently not good enough to start?

The Knights got the ball first and **Jason Campbell** got the offence moving with precision. Two key third down conversions on passes to **Todd Heap** and a perfect pass to **Steve Smith** in double coverage, helped sustain a drive that brought LA all the way to the Cubs 8 yard line, where they faced 2<sup>nd</sup> down and 5. But on the next play, Campbell looked over the middle for Smith and did not see **Ike Taylor** sitting in the zone underneath. Taylor stepped in front of the pass for an easy interception and a touchback, killing the Knights’ scoring threat.

Iowa City took over at their 20 with the crowd at Round Table Stadium adding the strength of their voices to the strength of the Knights’ top ranked defense. But the roar of the crowd wavered uncertainly as **Trent Edwards** boldly attacked the strength of the LA secondary. A string of three straight completions to **Larry Fitzgerald** in front of elite corner, **Nnamdi Asomugha** netted

45 yards and brought Iowa City to the LA 32 yard line. Two more completions, one to **Lee Evans** and another to Fitzgerald, brought the ball inside the red zone and had the crowd at Round Table Stadium suddenly sitting on their hands. But as the Knights defense finally stiffened, the Cubs' offensive line got edgy. A false start penalty and a holding call against Ben Grubbs squelched the momentum and forced Iowa City to settle for a **Neil Rackers** 39 yard field goal to open the scoring, 3-0 for the visitors.

On the Knights' next possession, Campbell went right back to the attack. After taking a late hit from Defensive MVP candidate, **Mario Williams**, that handed the Knights 15 free yards, Campbell completed 6 out of 7 passes to lead his team to their first major score, a 3-yard TD pass to Heap to make it 7-3 for LA. But the Cubs answered in kind, feigning sudden respect for the Knights' pass defense by turning to the running game. Eventually they drew the Knights' 'D' into the box and that's when Edwards struck with a 39-yard TD pass to Fitzgerald that regained the Cubs' 3-point advantage, 10-7. Seemingly tuckered out by the intensity of the effort to move the ball against two tough defenses, both offences fell into a funk for the remainder of the first half, sending the Cubs into the locker room with a 10-7 lead.

The second half could not have started off better for the Knights. Asomugha, targeted by Edwards with some success during the first half, stuck to Fitzgerald like glue on the first play from scrimmage and picked the ball off at the Iowa City 25 yard line. Campbell and Smith seized the opportunity, hooking up for pass plays of 15 yards and 10 yards for a touchdown to give them a 14-10 lead. It felt like a turning point at the time, but nobody expected that it would represent *the* turning point. The Knights offence had done all it would do. Fittingly, the fate of their team would now rest in the hands of their defense.

The "Blue Shield" proved up to the task of holding on, but their test would become more difficult after punter **Steve Weatherford** fumbled the snap on an attempted punt and was stuffed for a 13-yard loss on the Knights' 20 yard line. The Cubs could not move the ball, but they did not have to in order to make LA pay for their mistake. **Neil Rackers** booted the ball home from 30 yards away to bring the Cubs to within 1 point, trailing 14-13.

The Knights seemed determined to put more pressure on their own defense. After **Yamon Figurs** busted free for a nice 41-yard punt return, Campbell threw away the good field position by rifling a pass into the hands of diving Cubs linebacker, **Patrick Willis**, giving Iowa City the ball at their 36 yard line. But **Jason Ferguson**, substituting for injured **Kevin Williams**, stepped up and stuffed **Brandon Jacobs** for a 1-yard loss on third down and 3 to force another **Adam Podlesh** punt. **Tarvaris Jackson** entered the game at QB for LA in an attempt to spark some movement but, apart from holding on to the ball, the Jackson-led Knights could not generate any scoring. The Cubs, meanwhile, created one more chance to score early in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter after Edwards engineered a modest 35 yard drive, aided by a 5-yard offsides penalty against **Joey Porter**, to give Rackers a shot from 50 yards out to take the lead. His attempt had enough leg but veered off line. After an exchange of punts, the Cub's last gasp came with 1:30 left, starting at their 12 yard line. They moved the ball, but too slowly. With 9 seconds left and needing a pass downfield to get into field goal range, **Chris Kelsay** batted up Edwards' pass at the line and snared it on the way down to ice the game.

\* Playoff \* 02-06-2010 Round Table Stadium. Temp: 47 Wind: 0-10 MVP: **Jason Campbell**

2008 Iowa City (0-1) 3 7 3 0 - 13  
 2008 Los Angeles (1-0) 0 7 7 0 - 14

1 1:11 Iowa City FG Rackers 39 (12-58-6:46) 3-0  
 2 10:14 Los Angeles TD Campbell 3 pass to Heap (Brown,K) (11-70-5:46) 3-7  
 2 3:57 Iowa City TD Edwards 39 pass to Fitzgerald (Rackers) (10-80-6:17) 10-7  
 3 14:00 Los Angeles TD Campbell 10 pass to Smith (Brown,K) (2-25-0:51) 10-14  
 3 9:07 Iowa City FG Rackers 30 (3-7-1:26) 13-14

< Iowa City >

< Los Angeles >

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	25	In	Td	Rate
Edwards	33	24	230	0	2	2	1	76.6

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	25	In	Td	Rate
Campbell	23	17	142	0	0	2	2	82.2
Jackson	10	5	44	3	0	0	0	62.1

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	10	Lg	TD
Jacobs	20	66	3.3	4	1	12	0
Brown	4	15	3.8	2	0	5	0
Evans	1	6	6.0	1	0	6	0
Edwards	2	4	2.0	0	0	2	0
Williams	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	10	Lg	TD
Charles	7	29	4.1	1	1	12	0
Jackson	5	15	3.0	1	0	7	0
Greene	3	6	2.0	0	0	4	0
Benson	2	5	2.5	0	0	5	0
Jackson	5	2	0.4	0	0	3	0
Bell	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Weatherford	1	-13	-13.0	0	0	0	0

Receiving	No	Dp	Yds	Ave	FD	25	Lg	TD
Fitzgerald	7	0	112	16.0	4	2	39	1
Evans	6	0	52	8.7	3	0	11	0
Brown	5	0	26	5.2	1	0	9	0
Winslow	2	0	15	7.5	1	0	11	0
Jacobs	2	0	12	6.0	0	0	7	0
Hartsock	1	0	5	5.0	0	0	5	0

Receiving	No	Dp	Yds	Ave	FD	25	Lg	TD
Smith	8	0	66	8.3	6	0	15	1
Heap	7	0	53	7.6	5	0	11	1
White	4	0	41	10.3	2	0	14	0
Greene	1	0	11	11.0	1	0	11	0
Sears	1	0	9	9.0	0	0	9	0
Jackson	1	1	6	6.0	0	0	6	0

Fumbles	No	Rec	TD
Jacobs	1	0	0
Edwards	1	0	0
Fitzgerald	0	1	0

Fumbles	No	Rec	TD
Figurs	1	1	0
Weatherford	1	0	0
Woodson	0	1	0
Sears	0	1	0

	ICC	LAK
First Downs	16	17
Rushes	28-91	24-44
Passes	33-24-230	33-22-186
Sacked	0-0	3-16
Fumble	2	2
Penalties	7-58	4-34
Turnovers	3	2
Time	27:03	32:57
Third Down	7-14	9-15
Fourth Down	0-0	1-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/0/2	3/2/0
Net Offense	321	214

Injuries: Raji (LAK-4), K. Williams (LAK-0)



**GAME MVP**  
**JASON CAMPBELL**  
**LOS ANGELES**

**AFTER THE GAME**

"It's a team effort like it was all year. We pick each other up. Am I upset that coach pulled me out again? I'm a competitor, I want the ball. I think all of our team wants the ball – that's the way it should be. I wanted to stay in the game, but everyone wants that. That's why the coach is the coach. He makes decisions for the team, not for any individual. I respect that. But if he does it again I want a trade." – **Jason Campbell**

# 'De' and 'D' SPELL "DOOM" FOR CORN KINGS

## CAN-AM CONFERENCE



COWTOWN

15



FLORIDA

30

### DeANGELO WILLIAMS RUNS FOR 2 TDS, FLORIDA DEFENSE DOMINATES IN EASY WIN

FLORIDA – Cowtown's playoff fantasy world vanished in a puff of magic dragon smoke almost as soon as it began. After Will Demps returned the opening kickoff 36 yards from 4 yards deep in the end zone, the mythical Dragons became all too real a force with the first play from scrimmage. **Brandon Marshall** easily got behind a short zone defense and snagged **Aaron Rodgers'** opening pass for a 32-yard gain. Then, with the Corn Kings backing off, Rodgers hit **TJ Houshmandzadeh** underneath for an 11-yard catch-and-run and another first down. With the Corn Kings moving to a pass defense, **DeAngelo Williams** ripped off a 10-yard run off tackle to bring the ball into the red zone. It was a brilliant 1-2-3 play combo that appeared to mesmerize Cowtown's defense. Two plays later, Williams was in the end zone for the first of two touchdowns he would score in the game and a quick 7-0 Florida lead.

The Corn Kings tried to make a statement of their own on their first possession with **Chad Pennington** throwing long, and errantly, to **Kevin Walter** for an incomplection. The Florida defense set their tone for the game two plays later when, after **Santana Moss** made a terrific catch in traffic on third down, **Darrelle Revis** wrappd him up and threw him back one yard short of the first down, forcing a punt. The opening drives for both teams would be a reliable indicator of things to come, with a few little twists thrown in to give pause to the Dragons Faithful and offer false hope to Corn Kings fans.

After their opening scoring drive, Florida gave up two first quarter turnovers – one in the Cowtown red zone to snuff out a drive, and the other at midfield that led to a Cowtown field goal. But the Florida defense, as they did last week against Gwinnett, put a clamp on Pennington and the offence for the first three quarters until, down 20-3 and desperate, Coach Coghlin inserted **Joe Flacco** into the line-up for his first meaningful game action of the year. Flacco's appearance lit a tiny fire under the Corn King attack, and soon they were in the end zone after a 40-yard run by **Donnie Avery** set up **Marion Barber's** 2-yard TD plunge. But **Jason Hanson** missed the extra point and Florida roared back with a no-nonsense ball control drive that ate up 7 minutes and ended in a 4-yard TD run by Williams to make the score 27-9. Both teams went through the motions after that as Florida fans partied in the stands and looked forward to their Conference Final match-up against Durham.

\* Playoff \* 02-03-2010 Dragonmount. Temp: 76 Wind: 0-10 \*Internet\* MVP: **D. Williams**

2008 Cowtown (0-1)	0	3	0	12	-15
2008 Florida (1-0)	7	10	3	10	-30

1 11:50 Florida	TD Williams 4 run (Elam,J) (5-68-3:10)	0-7
2 14:22 Cowtown	FG Hanson 47 (3-6-1:09)	3-7
2 5:09 Florida	TD Stewart 10 run (Elam,J) (8-76-4:54)	3-14
2 0:45 Florida	FG Elam 32 (5-43-1:06)	3-17
3 1:33 Florida	FG Elam 41 (5-27-3:04)	3-20
4 12:39 Cowtown	TD Barber 2 run (no good) (6-61-3:50)	9-20
4 5:39 Florida	TD Williams 4 run (Elam,J) (8-62-7:00)	9-27
4 2:31 Cowtown	TD Flacco 9 pass to Avery (2 - failed) (9-68-3:08)	15-27
4 0:56 Florida	FG Elam 31 (6-27-1:34)	15-30

< Cowtown >

< Florida >

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	25	In	Td	Rate
Pennington	20	12	98	1	0	2	0	32.9
Flacco	10	6	77	0	1	0	1	117.5

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	10	Lg	TD
Graham	10	43	4.3	1	0	8	0
Avery	1	40	40.0	1	1	40	0
Barber	11	36	3.3	3	0	7	1
Moore	2	2	1.0	0	0	2	0

Receiving	No	Dp	Yds	Ave	FD	25	Lg	TD
Miller	6	0	64	10.7	4	0	18	0
Avery	5	0	40	8.0	2	0	10	1
Moss	4	0	49	12.3	2	1	26	0
Barber	2	1	17	8.5	0	0	10	0
Walter	1	0	5	5.0	0	0	5	0

	COW	FLD
First Downs	15	22
Rushes	24-121	28-131
Passes	30-18-175	29-20-325
Sacked	1-7	1-8
Fumble	1	1
Penalties	4-35	5-35
Turnovers	2	2
Challenges	0-0	0-1
Time	27:45	32:15
Third Down	4-13	2-8
Fourth Down	1-4	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/2/0	10/3/2
Net Offense	289	448

Injuries: Kalil-(FLD-2)



**GAME MVP**  
**DEANGELO**  
**WILLIAMS**  
**FLORIDA**

#### AFTER THE GAME

"Man, they wanted me dead but, hey, bring it on! Which way you want it? You want me beating you down or you want Marsh cutting you up? We did both. It feels good." – **DeAngelo Williams**





CHINO

7



CHARLESWOOD

23

# PETERSON CARRIES PATS TO VICTORY!

**LEAGUE'S RUSHING LEADER BREAKS GAME OPEN WITH 64-YARD TD RUN, CUTLER THROWS 2 PICKS**

CHARLESWOOD – This was a game that will not appear on either starting quarterback’s resume or personal highlight reel. With two of the league’s top defenses vying against the other to make a difference, both **Jay Cutler** and **Peyton Manning** fell victim to charging lines, swarming linebackers and buzzing secondaries. The result was a game dominated by defense and critical turnovers, where only one offensive player rose to prominence. **Adrian Peterson** battled through determined Chino opposition, led by linebacker **James Harrison**, to post big rushing numbers and account for over half of the Patriot’s offence.

Chino, urgently in need of somebody or something to spark their stagnant offence, targeted the sole chink in the armour of Charleswood’s defense by running the ball on their first five plays from scrimmage. A 25-yard gain on an end-around by **Joshua Cribbs** propelled them across midfield, but when Cutler finally went to the air on third down he was forced to toss the ball too far for **Anquan Boldin** due to tight coverage by **Asante Samuel**. **Jeff Reed** missed the 48-yard field goal attempt and the Pats took over. Two big runs of 16 and 17 yards by Peterson keyed a 58 yard field goal drive and the first points of the game. The Convicts replied with 3-and-out, but gained an edge in field position on a punt by **Shane Lechler** that went out of bounds at the Charleswood 10 yard line. That set up the first big defensive play of the day. Manning, looking for **Tony Gonzalez** on a hitch route, instead found Chino linebacker **D’Qwell Jackson**, who returned the interception uncontested for a TD and a 7-3 lead.

The Chino “Lockdown Crew” continued to swarm ferociously, locking down the Pats’ offence for the rest of the opening quarter. It was now time for the Pats’ ‘D’ to make a play to bolster their offence. **Jon Beason**, sitting back in coverage, picked off **Jay Cutler** and returned it 20 yards to the 19 yard line, setting up a **Stephen Gostkowski** field goal to make it 7-6. After another 3-and-out by Chino, the Pats got the play of the game from the star of the game. With **James Harrison** taking a needed break on the sidelines, Peterson swept to the left and got around the corner just beyond the reach of **Michael Boley**. Nobody was going to catch him after that and he carried it 64 yards to pay dirt for the first and only offensive touchdown of the afternoon and a 13-7 lead that his team would not relinquish. The Convicts were unable to mount an effective offensive attack, going three-and-out four more times before Samuel put an exclamation mark on the Pats victory with a 69-yard interception return to close out the scoring.

\* Playoff \* 02-06-2010 Patriot Place . Temp: 75 Wind: MVP: **Adrian Peterson**

2008 <b>Chino</b> (0-1)	7	0	0	0	-	7
2008 <b>Charleswood</b> (1-0)	3	10	3	7	-	23

1 6:31 <b>Charleswood</b>	FG Gostkowski 21 (9-58-4:29)	0-3
1 4:33 <b>Chino</b>	TD Jackson 25 interception return (Reed,J) (0-0-0:00)	7-3
2 11:06 <b>Charleswood</b>	FG Gostkowski 30 (3-6-1:19)	7-6
2 6:41 <b>Charleswood</b>	TD Peterson 64 run (Gostkowski) (4-77-2:08)	7-13
3 6:06 <b>Charleswood</b>	FG Gostkowski 34 (13-62-8:54)	7-16
4 0:49 <b>Charleswood</b>	TD Samuel 69 interception return (Gostkowski) (0-0-0:00)	7-23

< **Chino** >

< **Charleswood** >

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	25	In	Td	Rate
Cutler	34	14	116	0	0	2	0	26.1

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	10	Lg	TD
White	15	47	3.1	1	0	9	0
Cribbs	4	32	8.0	1	1	25	0
Goodson	4	11	2.8	0	0	4	0
Cutler	1	4	4.0	1	0	4	0
Ginn Jr.	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	10	Lg	TD
Peterson	26	179	6.9	7	5	64	1
Norwood	7	19	2.7	1	1	11	0
Berrian	2	14	7.0	1	1	14	0
Mughelli	1	3	3.0	1	0	3	0
Manning	2	-2	-1.0	0	0	0	0

Receiving	No	Dp	Yds	Ave	FD	25	Lg	TD
Tomlinson	4	0	31	7.8	2	0	18	0
Boldin	3	0	26	8.7	1	0	12	0
Ward	3	1	23	7.7	1	0	11	0
Moss	3	1	29	9.7	2	0	16	0
Ginn Jr.	1	0	7	7.0	1	0	7	0

Receiving	No	Dp	Yds	Ave	FD	25	Lg	TD
Berrian	3	0	31	10.3	2	0	13	0
Gonzalez	3	0	39	13.0	3	0	13	0
Witten	2	0	19	9.5	2	0	13	0
Norwood	2	0	18	9.0	1	0	12	0
Peterson	1	0	5	5.0	0	0	5	0
Holt	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0

	CHI	CHP
First Downs	10	18
Rushes	25-94	38-213
Passes	34-14-116	27-11-112
Sacked	0-0	2-12
Fumble	0	1
Penalties	8-50	2-10
Turnovers	2	1
Time	24:16	35:44
Third Down	1-14	5-14
Fourth Down	2-3	0-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	0/0/0	4/0/3
Net Offense	210	313



**GAME MVP**  
**ADRIAN PETERSON**  
**CHARLESWOOD**

**AFTER THE GAME**

“I’m definitely a threat. I know the guys look to me to make that type of play. I knew they [Convicts] would be coming after me so I went after them. They’re tough but when I see daylight I’m tougher.” – **Adrian Peterson**

# TURNER TAKES OFF AS DINOS DUMP GLADS

## 81-YARD TD RUN SETS PLAYOFF RECORD, KICK-STARTS BIG WIN FOR LIZARDS



**GWINNETT 10**



**DURHAM 31**

DURHAM – The longest scoring play from scrimmage in EFL playoff history roused the Durham offence out of an early funk and touched off a burst of scoring that quickly put the Lizards in control of the game. With the Gwinnett safeties helping out in double coverage after a 15-yard pass to **Dwayne Bowe** brought Durham out from the shadow of their own goal line, **Michael Turner** broke through the Glad’s front four and got to the second level only to find nobody there. With open space in front of him, Turner turned on the afterburners to race 81 yards for the opening score of the game with just under than 6 minutes remaining in the first quarter.

Turner’s ice-breaker run instilled a sense of urgency in the Gladiators. **Matt Cassel** struck sharply on 3<sup>rd</sup> down and 8, going long to **Braylon Edwards** for 22 yards to jump start the offence. They carried it all the way to the Durham 9 yard line where they faced 3<sup>rd</sup> down and 5. The Lizards played the short pass and when Cassel could not find **Reggie Wayne** in the end zone, he tried to dump it off in the flat to Edwards but the pass was tipped by **Jared Allen**. The Glads had to settle for a field goal. As it would turn out, field goals would not be nearly enough to keep pace with the red hot Durham offence on this day.

**Ellis Hobbs** fronted his team 45 yards on the ensuing kickoff return, shortening the field for their second touchdown drive. After **Kevin Faulk** took the ball 16 yards off right tackle to the 1, **Michael Bush** powered it through the center of the Gwinnett line into the end zone. The Lizards were up 14-3 and were not finished yet. **Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie** picked off Cassel in Glads’ territory with less than two minutes remaining, setting up a 30-yard **Mason Crosby** field goal to end the first half.

Coach **Dave Birdsall** made a decision at half time to attempt to keep the ball out of Durham’s hands and gain some ground in the process. But **Josh Brown’s** onside kickoff was recovered by Durham back-up linebacker, **Quincy Black** at the Gwinnett 47 yard line. Five and one half minutes later, the league’s top offence was in the end zone for the third time when Turner, carrying the ball inside for the fourth straight time, stormed through a stacked line from 1 yard away. The score seemed to sink the Gladiators. Although Gwinnett would capitalize on a Bush fumble and find the end zone in the third quarter, the game played itself out without much drama as the Gwinnett offence repeatedly misfired in the final quarter.

\* Playoff \* 02-06-2010 Jurassic Park. Temp: 69 Wind: Calm None MVP: **Michael Turner**

2008 <b>Gwinnett</b> (0-1)	3	0	7	0	-10
2008 <b>Durham</b> (1-0)	7	10	7	7	-31

1 5:59 <b>Durham</b>	TD Turner 81 run (Crosby) (4-96-1:07)	0-7
1 0:53 <b>Gwinnett</b>	FG Brown 26 (11-51-5:06)	3-7
2 10:43 <b>Durham</b>	TD Bush 1 run (Crosby) (9-57-5:07)	3-14
2 0:09 <b>Durham</b>	FG Crosby 30 (5-29-1:27)	3-17
3 9:22 <b>Durham</b>	TD Turner 1 run (Crosby) (9-47-5:38)	3-24
3 4:56 <b>Gwinnett</b>	TD Jones 6 run (Brown,J) (4-63-2:06)	10-24
4 12:52 <b>Durham</b>	TD Rivers 17 pass to Bowe (Crosby) (3-39-1:36)	10-31

< **Gwinnett** >

< **Durham** >

<u>Passing</u>	<u>Att</u>	<u>Cmp</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Sk</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>In</u>	<u>Td</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Cassel	34	13	167	2	1	3	0	17.6

<u>Passing</u>	<u>Att</u>	<u>Cmp</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Sk</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>In</u>	<u>Td</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Rivers	25	16	208	0	0	0	1	103.4

<u>Rushing</u>	<u>Att</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Ave</u>	<u>FD</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>Lg</u>	<u>TD</u>
Jones	11	49	4.5	3	1	15	1
Cassel	3	14	4.7	0	0	7	0
McKie	1	2	2.0	1	0	2	0
Washington	2	0	0.0	0	0	3	0

<u>Rushing</u>	<u>Att</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Ave</u>	<u>FD</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>Lg</u>	<u>TD</u>
Turner	21	135	6.4	5	1	81	2
Bush	11	49	4.5	3	2	16	1
Faulk	6	32	5.3	3	1	16	0
Rivers	1	2	2.0	0	0	2	0

<u>Receiving</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Dp</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Ave</u>	<u>FD</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>Lg</u>	<u>TD</u>
Wayne	7	1	104	14.9	5	1	37	0
Edwards	2	1	31	15.5	1	0	22	0
Clark	1	1	7	7.0	0	0	7	0
Washington	1	0	9	9.0	0	0	9	0
Doucet	1	0	11	11.0	1	0	11	0
Maclin	1	0	5	5.0	0	0	5	0

<u>Receiving</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Dp</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Ave</u>	<u>FD</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>Lg</u>	<u>TD</u>
Faulk	4	0	42	10.5	2	0	15	0
Johnson	4	0	62	15.5	2	0	18	0
Bowe	4	1	62	15.5	4	0	17	1
Gates	2	0	11	5.5	1	0	6	0
Bush	1	0	20	20.0	1	0	20	0
Turner	1	0	11	11.0	1	0	11	0

	<b>GWG</b>	<b>DTL</b>
First Downs	11	22
Rushes	17-65	39-218
Passes	34-13-167	25-16-208
Sacked	2-11	0-0
Fumble	0	2
Penalties	8-50	5-30
Turnovers	3	2
Time	22:56	37:04
Third Down	4-13	6-12
Fourth Down	0-0	0-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/1	4/3/1
Net Offense	221	426



**GAME MVP**  
**MICHAEL TURNER**  
**DURHAM**

**AFTER THE GAME**

“We’re not done, we’re not done. We’re coming around, we’re coming around. We have two more games to go, we have two more games to go. Let’s get this done! Let’s get this done!” – **Michael Turner**



# AROUND THE EFL With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – It's the playoffs and for me that means stepping out of my office and heading out to Mickey Mantle's Sports Bar to take in the games in the company of the world's most lucid sports commentators – the drunken football fan. There is something about the interaction of beer, the playoffs, and football fans in a public forum that distills football down to its essence. Many a precious gem of insight into the nuances of the game has been granted me by tuning out the network commentary and tuning in to the bar stool banter that tells it like it really is. Whether it is the spontaneous rant of the frenzied super fan yelling at the TV or the dry observations of the jaded sports bettor who knows all the angles but still bets on a hunch, I always learn something new about the game I think I know, by listening to them.

## ***RUNNING BACKS STEP UP, QUARTERBACKS STEP BACK IN ROUND ONE***

The Quarter Final Round of the EFL playoffs featured 3 virtuoso performances by the top 3 running backs to enter post-season play. A thrilling 64-yard touchdown run by **Adrian Peterson** put Charleswood ahead to stay in the second quarter against the Convicts. In a game dominated by the defenses, Peterson defined “superstar” with his 179 yards of rushing against a revved-up “Lockdown Crew.” Peterson simply made plays. With his offensive line getting pushed around by the likes of **Haloti Ngata** and a possessed **James Harrison**, Peterson broke tackles, dodged, and weaved his way to big chunks of yardage. At one point early in the fourth quarter, Coach **Jason Findlay** called Peterson's number 6 straight times. He delivered with 43 yards and, although the Pats did not score on the drive, they burned up precious minutes before punter **Craig Hentrich** served up a direct hit on the 5 yard line to put Chino in a virtually impossible position, down 9 points with under 5 minutes remaining.

**DeAngelo Williams**, who is starting to gain MVP voting interest after the elimination of **Matt Ryan's** Mustangs from post-season play, made another solid contribution to the Dragons' cause with 110 rushing yards and 2 touchdowns in a 30-15 victory over Cowtown. Incredibly, with those scores Williams has scored a touchdown in every game he has appeared in this season, including one in a Week Ten match-up against Pickering in which he gained only one yard – that yard for a touchdown. Williams was not spectacular, but he was effective when called upon and played a key role in the Florida victory. The Corn Kings were clearly distracted by Big De's presence and that opened up more room for **Brandon Marshall**, who gained 154 yards on 7 catches. The Florida offence is a machine and the biggest cog in it has to be the guy on the ground – he makes everything else possible.

**Michael Turner** set the stage for a Durham victory over the Gladiators with a record 81-yard touchdown run in the first quarter. Turner holds the regular season record for longest rushing gain with an 85-yard TD run and now he owns the EFL record for longest touchdown run from scrimmage in the playoffs. Turner went on to score another touchdown in the game and collect 135 yards on the ground on 21 carries. The run on its own was impressive to watch, but the impact it had on the game was even more so. It loosened up **Philip Rivers** and put the pressure on **Matt Cassel** and Gwinnett to make up the difference in urgent, if not equally dramatic, style. The Gladiators' offence is anything but dramatic or urgent, and their attempts to keep up with Durham's attack just got them into more trouble.

Few of the eight starting quarterbacks this week distinguished themselves. Those who did step up got a lot of help from their supporting casts. **Philip Rivers** deserves credit as much for what he did not do to hurt his team as for what he did to help it. He played well I guess, but he can thank **Michael Turner** for taking the heat off against a good defense. **Aaron Rodgers** continued to benefit from the most complete array of offensive tools available on a single team while **Jason Campbell** engineered the two touchdown drives that nudged the Knights past Iowa City. All three of these performances fall into the “Game Manager” category of achievement and do not remotely echo any heroic Hall of Fame-type efforts.

As for the remainder, it was a shabby lot of performances; ranging from the mediocre to the awful. Iowa City's **Trent Edwards** showed signs of life and probably deserves credit for tallying 230 yards through the air on the road against a tough Los Angeles defense. But the fact that he showed he *could* do it early in the game played harder against him later when he failed to do it when the game was on the line. It became obvious to the sports drunks at Mickey Mantles, if not to the rest of the world, that the Knights had no intention of scoring again after finding the end zone early in the second half to take a 14-10 lead. All Edwards had to do was complete one little 3-yard pass on 3<sup>rd</sup> down early in the fourth quarter and maybe, that much closer and with another set of downs, he moves into more comfortable field goal range and **Neil Rackers** makes that kick to take the lead that he missed from 50 yards. In the harsh judgment of the beer-sodden football fanatic, the Cubs lost because Edwards "sucks." Sometimes it's that simple.

Moving to the awful, there was plenty of that on display at the QB position in this first round of the playoffs. Surprisingly, **Peyton Manning** was one of the worst, completing less than 50% of his passes, throwing a pick that was returned for Chino's only touchdown, and failing to throw a TD pass on the way to logging a game day QB rating of 37.9. As bad as it was, it was better than his opponent, **Jay Cutler**. The Convicts' QB did all those bad things Peyton did, but threw *two* interceptions instead of one to finish with a QB rating of 26.1. **Chad Pennington** was pulled late in the third quarter in favour of rookie **Joe Flacco** when it finally dawned on Coach Coghlin that his team was not going to score a touchdown against Florida with Chad leading the charge. Had the Corn Kings' coach been in contact with patrons at Mickey's he could have confidently made that call much earlier – like right after Chad missed a wide open **Marion Barber** in the flat near the end of the first quarter with the game still well within reach. That errant pass screamed 'fear' and all of Mickey's patrons saw it! Finally, there was the abysmal showing by Gladiators QB, **Matt Cassel**. Playing from behind most of the game, the Glads' 2009 rental quarterback was harassed continually in the backfield by **Jared Allen** and Co. and completed only 38% of his passes while tossing 3 picks and no TDs for a booby prize winning QB rating of 17.6.

#### ***QUARTERBACK SHUFFLE STACKING DECK AGAINST KNIGHTS?***

The tag team QB system in Los Angeles looked like it was approaching the point of diminishing returns heading into the playoffs. Put me down as one of those who expected that it would be the downfall of the Knights – when one quarterback can't finish the big games and the other isn't considered good enough to start, you have a building crisis of confidence that is bound to affect both quarterbacks. Don't let the happy outcome of the game mislead you. All is not blissful in the Knights' camp. Someone in the Press Box may have been sending Coach **Jeff Dohrn** a message by naming **Jason Campbell** the MVP of LA's quarter final win over Iowa City. Despite being yanked again in favour of closer, **Tarvaris Jackson**, Campbell gave his team just enough offence to get by, despite throwing two costly interceptions. The game ball belongs to the "Blue Shield" as a group, not one player in particular. But if you have to single out one player for recognition, it would have to be the guy who had a hand in your only two scores of the game.

#### ***PICKETT'S CHARGE?***

There is aggression and then there is just plain crazy. Gwinnett coach, **Dave Birdsall**, a patient and conservative coach for 16 games in the regular season, let the gas from the swamp around Jurassic Park get into his head this week. To be fair to him, maybe he saw the writing on the wall and thought he had nothing to lose, but his decision, trailing 17-3, to launch the second half with an onside kick was a huge gamble and not even a clear case of all or nothing. In my opinion, the reward was not in line with the risk. Sure, the league's lowest ranked offence might benefit from a shortened field and score a touchdown if they recover the ball. But aren't they more likely to hit a wall after modest gains and have to settle for a field goal? Or worse, not even get a first down? Meanwhile, the league's top rated offence (Durham) is just as likely to jam the ball into the end zone with a shortened field as the Gladiators are likely to kick that field goal with the same advantage. The denial of weakness in the face of a superior force had almost a 'Pickett's Charge' futility about it.

Having watched Durham get in their own way too often this year despite their impressive numbers, if I am coaching Gwinnett I prefer the chances of the "*Tortoise*" forcing a turnover in Durham territory over the chances of my team moving the ball in for a major score after recovering an onside kick. But that's just me, and I'm half drunk most of the time when I watch these games. Hindsight is 20-20, of course, but at least I can say that when I saw it happen I didn't like it at the time. When the Lizards marched down the field, all 47 yards of it, and hit pay dirt to put a stranglehold on the Gladiators, I turned to the guy next to me in the bar and said, "See, I told you so!" The fact that he was too drunk to remember is irrelevant.

#### ***WHAT'S WITH THE DERBY DUDES?***

After the Thunder Lizards scored to make it 24-3 early in the second half, the TV camera panned on a group of particularly bizarre fans celebrating in the stands at Jurassic Park. The camera did not focus on them



for long, but just long enough for me and my fellow Mantles customers at the main bar to notice and ask each other the same question: “what’s up with those derby dudes?” There were maybe a half dozen of them, but they weren’t the usual shirtless, face-painted, cape-wearing, placard-waving drunk kind of fans in full-throated frolic. (Well, they *may* have been drunk). They appeared to range in age from their early 20’s to perhaps early 60’s and it looked like at least a couple of them had some kind of formal dance training. Together they hopped, swished, fist-pumped and chanted in a ragged chorus line. They all wore variations of brightly coloured grass skirts, white button shirts and ties, tartan-style waistcoats or fur vests, and big brown derby hats. No dinosaur paraphernalia or uniform sports gear to be seen, but their obvious glee after a Durham touchdown suggested they were fans of the home team. If you have the game taped, take a look. You have to see it yourself – they’re...*different!*

### **NEW YORK GRIPES**

I’m all griped out after reviewing the pitiful performance of EFL quarterbacks in the first playoff round. My only remaining gripe is that I do not have enough space in this column to properly iterate how bad it all was to those of you who may not have watched the games live.

## **BUG THE BOOKIE!**

**JIMMY THE GEEK GIVES YOU HIS PICKS FOR  
CONFERENCE FINAL EFL ACTION  
YOUR SOURCE FOR FANTASY AND ON-LINE BETTING SOLUTIONS**



## **JIMMY'S CONFERENCE FINAL PICKS**

### **CAN-AM CONFERENCE FINAL**

#### **DURHAM @ FLORIDA (LINE – DRAGONS BY 7)**

WHEN DURHAM HAS THE BALL: The Lizards have a balanced attack and will try to maintain that balance with a good mix of runs and passes over the course of the game. They tend to call their plays in streaks but cannot afford to get too repetitive against the dangerous Florida “Firewall” that forced a league-high 34 turnovers. The Dragons have stars at each level of the defense but the Lizards have the stars on the offensive line to match and a good trio of wide receivers to compliment an explosive running back.

WHEN FLORIDA HAS THE BALL: The Dragons have the capability of adjusting their offensive style on the fly to suit their opponent’s strategy as they too possess a balanced attack with multiple weapons in all phases. Look for them to take a few early shots downfield to Brandon Marshall against a relatively weak Durham secondary to try to get the first score and put the Lizards back on their heels. If they get the early lead, they will test the line with DeAngelo Williams and try to control the ball.

OVERVIEW: On paper these teams have similar strengths – both have strong and balanced offensive attacks and ball-hawking defenses. The Florida defense has more talent, which tilts the overall projection in the Dragons’ favour, but that could turn around if the relatively green Aaron Rodgers finds himself having to challenge the Durham defense late in a close game. When these two teams met in Week Five the Durham offence could not run the ball effectively in 3-wide receiver sets and their passing attack became a sitting duck. They need to find a way to move the ball on the ground, even if it means deploying a full back in a Pro Set on first and second downs. In Week Five, the Dragons moved the ball effectively both on the ground and through the air and scored enough points to get the job done. They employed a simple defensive strategy that dared Durham to run the ball while taking away the pass. The key to the game for Durham will be the ground game – if they can run the ball, they will score on Florida. The key to the game for Florida will be to get the early lead to avoid pressure on their quarterback. Could the result of the coin toss loom larger as a factor in the game than it normally does? If Durham can keep it close, they win.

**INJURIES:** Durham – None. Florida – R. Kalil (OUT)

**PICK: DURHAM**



## **PACIFIC-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE FINAL**

### **LOS ANGELES @ CHARLESWOOD (LINE – PATRIOTS BY 6)**

WHEN LOS ANGELES HAS THE BALL: The Knights have a stable of young horses out of the backfield that should see a lot of action as long as the score remains close. When the Knights go to the air, it will be quick slants underneath to playmakers Steve Smith and Roddy White in the hope that one of them to breaks a long run. The Pats’ ‘D’ is vulnerable to the run, but strong against the pass with Asante Samuel and game-breaker Ed Reed patrolling the skies behind the front seven. Jason Campbell will start but Tarvaris Jackson will appear at the first sign of trouble.

WHEN CHARLESWOOD HAS THE BALL: Can you say, “Adrian Peterson?” The Pats wide receivers look over-matched against Nnamdi Asomugha and Charles Woodson and Tony Gonzalez will face a challenge trying to get away from safety Chris Hope. Kevin Williams fills the center of the D-line, but the Knights’ favoured 3-4 alignment looks invitingly open to attack on the edges with Jason Taylor and BJ Raji out of play due to injuries. Charleswood will serve the LA “Blue Shield” a steady does of Adrian Peterson and sprinkle in some Peyton Manning passes to the tight ends, Gonzalez and Jason Witten.

OVERVIEW: When these two teams met in the regular season at Charleswood, the Pats won a grinder 14-6 after surrendering 3 turnovers and gaining almost one hundred fewer yards than the Knights. A 79-yard kickoff return by Jerious Norwood and one good prolonged drive that lasted more than 10 minutes and featured 9 consecutive hand-offs to Peterson was all the Pats needed to score 2 TDs and win the game. It wasn’t much, but it was enough. The Knights did not get much support from Steven Jackson and the ground game and as a result they could not get into the end zone. This is going to be another grinding, low-scoring contest that the Knights will be very hard-pressed to win. Simply stopping the Pats on most series will not be enough. Scoring on a turnover is a must.

INURIES: Los Angeles – BJ Raji (OUT); Jason Taylor (OUT). Charleswood – None.

**PICK: CHARLESWOOD**

**SHOULD YOU LISTEN TO A THING I SAY??????**  
**HOW I’M DOING AGAINST THE SPREAD**

**LAST WEEK: 4-0-0**

**OVERALL: 88-42-2**

