

WEEK 4



EFL

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE



2022

How sweet it is!

October 30, 2022

FOR Z WIN!



*Greg Zuerlein
Pickering Spartans*

Spartans' kicker *Greg Zuerlein* celebrates after kicking a 55-yard field goal at the sound of the final gun to give Pickering a 33-31 victory over Viriden in Week Four. The dramatic kick was the climax of a grueling final quarter as the Violators came from behind, down 10 points, to take a 31-30 lead with just 0:25 left. In a defining moment for a young quarterback, *Jalen Hurts* led the Spartans back to put his kicker in position to be a hero. (Story inside)

EAST



CENTRAL



WEST



NORTH



COASTAL



SOUTH



*Who was slick
in Week Four?*

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

OFFENCE



Jonathan Taylor
RB
Sebastian
Swordfish

24 Car., 150 Yds, 3 TDs. Took game over in 2nd half to lead comeback.

DEFENSE



Cole Holcomb
LB
York
Excaliburs

6T, 1 PD, 1 FF, 1 INT-27 Yds, 1 FR-51 Yds TD. Total 2nd half game-wrecker.


29
21

Matthew Stafford hit **Keenan Allen** over the middle in stride for a 13-yard TD pass to give the Wrecking Balls a 26-21 lead with 4:31 left in the 4th quarter. The New Jersey defence was able to hang on to the lead, stopping the Blue Eagles on their two final series to secure the win. The Blue Eagles took the lead early in the 4th quarter on an 18-yard TD pass from **Joe Burrow** to **Jahan Dotson**, Burrow's third TD pass of the game, as well as Scarborough's third lead of the day. **David Montgomery** was steady in an up-and-down game, gaining 81 scrimmage yards and rushing for 2 TDs.

10-30-2022 The Eagle's Nest Temp:54 Wind:0-5 None Line:NJ by 9 MVP:Stafford HFA:0

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 New Jersey (4-0)	0	14	6	9	29
2022 Scarborough (0-4)	7	7	0	7	21

Passing

 NJ: Stafford 38/25 267 Yds 2 TDs
 SBE: Burrow 37/24 280 Yds 3 TDs Int

Rushing

 NJ: Montgomery 11/55 2 TDs, Robinson 9/47, Samuel 2/10
 SBE: Johnson 15/66, Gaskin 4/2, Perine 1/1

Receiving

 NJ: Allen 8/89 2 TDs, McLaurin 6/73, Montgomery 4/26, Samuel 4/60, McKissic 2/19
 SBE: Crowder 4/47 TD, Uzomah 4/53, Johnson 4/38, Robinson 3/39, Arnold 3/33 TD

Defense

 NJ: Hughes 2-Sks FF 8-Tk, Armstrong 2-Sks 4-Tk, Armstead 2-Sks 4-Tk, Milano 12-Tk
 SBE: Bosa Sk FF 2-Tk

Injuries

 NJ: Alexander 2, Adams 2, Risner 1
 SBE: Jones 1

Misc

 NJ: Boswell 1/1 FG 43 Lg
 SBE: Dallas 3 KR 102 Yds, Crosby 0/1 FG

0
34

Tight end **Dawson Knox** got the party started early in Durham with a 72-yard catch-and-run TD on the Lizards' second play from scrimmage to open the scoring. That began 60 minutes of total control by the home team as Buffalo's **Lamar Jackson** was held in total check. Jackson was intercepted twice in the 1st half and was stoned on 4th down to set up a short Durham TD drive in the 2nd quarter. The Derailers had no answer for **Josh Allen**, who threw 4 TD passes, 3 to **Cooper Kupp**, and ran for another to earn the Game MVP. A late 4th down stop in the red zone preserved the shutout.

10-30-2022 Jurassic Park Temp:82 Wind:Calm None Line:DTL by 12 MVP:Allen HFA:ON

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Buffalo (1-3)	0	0	0	0	0
2022 Durham (4-0)	13	14	7	0	34

Passing

 BUF: Jackson 22/16 121 Yds 2 Int
 DTL: Allen 28/22 287 Yds 4 TDs

Rushing

 BUF: Dillon 12/69, Davis 3/2, Jackson 8/1
 DTL: Mattison 10/45, Allen 7/41 TD, Allgeier 8/30, Gibson 3/9, Edmonds 2/5

Receiving

 BUF: Woods 7/78, Gage 4/21, Fant 4/21, Dillon 1/1
 DTL: Kupp 11/154 3 TDs, Edmonds 4/4, Knox 3/94 TD, Boyd 3/31, Mattison 1/4

Defense

 BUF:
 DTL: Burns Sk FF 8-Tk, Campbell Int 6-Tk, Moore II Int 6-Tk, Hendrickson Sk 3-Tk

Injuries

 BUF: Flowers 8, Horn 8, Toney 5, Greenard 2
 DTL: Powers 2, Reed 1

Misc

 BUF: 1/11 3rd Dn, Elliott 0/1 FG
 DTL:



12



14

Ryan Tannehill flared a short out to **Brandin Cooks**, who shook off **Carlton Davis** and raced to the end zone for a 35-yard TD. The play snapped the Coyotes scoring drought and put them in front 7-6 in the 3rd. On their next drive, **Pierre Strong** busted a 26-yard run and Tannehill completed passes of 9 and 14 yards to overcome a 1st & 20 hole and set up **James Cook's** 8-yard TD run to make it 14-6. **Jimmy Garoppolo** came on in the 4th in relief of an ineffective **Davis Mills** and found **Mike Evans** for an 18-yard TD, but the two-pointer failed and Cobb County held on for the upset.

10-28-2022 Coyote Field Temp:-11 Wind: None Line:COW by 5 MVP:Tannehill HFA:ON(

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Cowtown (2-2)	0	6	0	6	12
2022 Cobb County (1-3)	0	0	14	0	14

Passing

COW: Garoppolo 12/6 81 Yds TD, Mills 19/11 76 Yds Int
CB: Tannehill 34/23 230 Yds TD

Rushing

COW: Williams 9/52, Booker 7/31, Bourne 1/22
CB: Cook 18/71 TD, Strong Jr. 6/33, Snell 2/15, Tannehill 1/7, Hasty 6/4

Receiving

COW: Bourne 4/56, Cephus 4/38, Evans 4/36 TD, Booker 2/6, Williams 2/13, Lewis 1/8
CB: Pittman Jr. 8/84, Parker 6/57, Cooks 3/54 TD, Robinson 2/20, Cook 2/5

Defense

COW: Chinn 16-Tk, Smith Sk 8-Tk, Woods 10-Tk, Peterson 10-Tk
CB: Basham Sk 5-Tk, Jones Int 5-Tk, Payne Sk 4-Tk, Phillips Sk 3-Tk

Injuries

COW: Hicks 4
CB: Turner 8, Lawrence 6

Misc

COW: Slye 2/2 FG 53 Lg
CB:



23



22

Gardner Minshew fired long to **Michael Gallup** for a 32-yard gain then **Jonathan Taylor** ran it in for a TD from 13 yards on the next play to give the Swordfish a 23-22 lead early in the 4th. Minshew had come into the game on the opening drive of the 2nd half with Bruxelles leading 16-3, after **Kirk Cousins** had been ineffective. However, in the end it was Taylor who moved the rock for Sebastian, racking up 107-yards rushing and 3 TDs in the 2nd half to finish with 150 yards on the day. With a chance to take the lead late, **Matt Prater** missed a 36-yard attempt then Sebastian ran out the clock.

10-30-2022 The Fortress Temp:2 Wind: None Line:BRX by 8 MVP:Taylor HFA:ON(1)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Sebastian (2-2)	0	3	14	6	23
2022 Bruxelles (2-2)	10	6	6	0	22

Passing

SS: Minshew 10/8 119 Yds, Cousins 22/10 93 Yds Int
BRX: Goff 29/18 185 Yds

Rushing

SS: Taylor 24/150 3 TDs, Chubb 2/8, Cousins 1/5
BRX: Mitchell 27/150 TD, Williams 3/6

Receiving

SS: Gallup 4/60, Green 4/80, Schultz 3/23, Taylor 2/11, Chubb 1/7, Jones 1/8
BRX: Claypool 4/76, Godwin 4/42, Juszczyc 2/21, Mitchell 2/14, Williams 2/3

Defense

SS: Schobert Sk 10-Tk, Edmunds 11-Tk
BRX: Wilson Int 5-Tk, Quinn Sk 4-Tk, Smith 9-Tk

Injuries

SS: Vickers 10
BRX: Myers 8, Anderson 7, Ragnow 6, Walker 2

Misc

SS: Richard 5 KR 138 Yds, Carlson 1/1 FG 45 Lg
BRX: Roberts 4 KR 120 Yds, Prater 5/6 FG 44 Lg



Tom Brady started the 2nd half with a 49-yard bomb to **Mike Williams** on the first snap. That set up a 13-yard TD pass to **Amon-Ra St. Brown** to put the Excaliburs in front 27-20 and ignite a 31-point onslaught that buried the Patriots in the 2nd half. The game did not look so lop-sided in the 1st half. A 102-yard kickoff return for a TD and a pick of Brady by **Isaiah Rodgers** propped up a 20-point effort by the Pats that had them deadlocked at 20. But after York had taken a 34-20 lead on a **Derrick Henry** TD, **Kenny Pickett** threw 3 INTs in 3 drives, including a pick-six, to end hope of a comeback.

10-30-2022 Patriot Place Temp:75 Wind:Calm Line:YOR by 10 MVP:Holcomb HFA:ON

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 York (2-2)	10	10	14	17	51
2022 Charleswood (0-4)	7	13	0	0	20

Passing

YOR: Brady 29/19 308 Yds 2 TDs Int
 CHP: Pickett 29/14 184 Yds 3 Int

Rushing

YOR: Henry 25/83 2 TDs, Williams 5/14, Brady 1/1
 CHP: Singletary 12/48 TD, Pickett 2/16, Peterson 3/14, Kamara 7/12, Mostert 2/4

Receiving

YOR: Williams 6/112, St. Brown 4/95 2 TDs, Henry 3/26, Davis 2/36, Williams 2/12
 CHP: Meyers 5/68, Singletary 3/16, Bell 3/24, Beckham 2/66, Kelce 1/10

Defense

YOR: Holcomb Int FF 6-Tk, Guy Sk 5-Tk, Byard Int(TD) Tk, Ojulari Sk 3-Tk, Douglas Int
 CHP: Queen 15-Tk

Injuries

YOR: Zuniga 10, Douglas 4, Scherff 3
 CHP: Ojemudia 10, Stanley 9, Tunsil 7, Samuel Jr. 1

Misc

YOR: Holcomb FR 51 Yds TD, Gould 3/3 FG 52 Lg
 CHP: Rodgers 4 KR 173 Yds TD, Pickett F-Lost, Folk 2/2 FG 38 Lg



Greg Zuerlein booted a 55-yard FG with no time left to give the Spartans the victory. It was a dramatic finish to a madcap 4th quarter that saw Pickering take a 10-point lead only to see it wiped out by a 49-yard TD run by **Ezekiel Elliott** and a 22-yard TD pas from **Patrick Mahomes** to **Ja'Marr Chase**, the last coming with 0:25 remaining. **Jalen Hurts** took over at his 25 and proceeded to connect on his next 4 passes to get into FG range. Other big plays included a 75-yard bomb for a TD to Chase, a 52-yard pass to **DK Metcalf** and a 43-yard run by **Miles Sanders** to set up a FG.

10-30-2022 TERRORDOME Temp:80 Wind:Calm None Line:VV by 13 MVP:Sanders HFA:ON(5)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Pickering (2-2)	7	10	7	9	33
2022 Virden (3-1)	7	7	3	14	31

Passing

PIC: Hurts 20/17 245 Yds
 VV: Mahomes 33/20 300 Yds 3 TDs Int

Rushing

PIC: Sanders 14/125 TD, Swift 19/62 2 TDs, Hurts 3/21
 VV: Elliott 18/168 TD, Mahomes 3/17

Receiving

PIC: Brown 4/93, Smith 3/29, Freiermuth 3/50, Shepard 2/14, Pickens 2/24, Ricard 2/10
 VV: Metcalf 6/109 TD, Chase 6/148 2 TDs, Hockenson 4/29, Olave 3/6, Elliott 1/8

Defense

PIC: Keke Sk 6-Tk, Woolen Int 4-Tk, Dunlap Sk 4-Tk
 VV: Mosley 9-Tk, Williams Sk 3-Tk

Injuries

PIC: Shepard 9, Ridley 9, Okwara 7, Gay 2
 VV: Barr 2

Misc

PIC: Zuerlein 4/4 FG 56 Lg
 VV: Badgley 1/1 FG 25 Lg



13



27

Clinging to a 14-13 lead early in the 3rd, **Aaron Rodgers** hooked up with **Stefon Diggs** for a 41-yard TD pass to give the Stars some breathing room. The lead stayed at 7 points after the blocked extra point, giving the Crusaders a chance to tie it on 4th & goal at the 2, but **Mac Jones** was stopped trying to run it up the gut and the Stars took over at their 1-yard line. From there, they drove 99 yards in 18 plays, grabbing some insurance with a 3-yard TD run by **Cordarrell Patterson** with 3:48 left. The Budapest 'D' took over, denying Peg City twice on 4th down to secure the win.

10-30-2022 Ferenc-Liszt Intl A Temp:61 Wind:10-20 None Line:BUD by 13 MVP:Diggs

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Peg City (1-3)	7	6	0	0	13
2022 Budapest (4-0)	7	7	6	7	27

Passing

PCC: Jones 33/21 213 Yds TD

BUD: Rodgers 33/25 277 Yds 3 TDs Int

Rushing

PCC: Barkley 11/72, Jones 5/31, Hubbard 8/25, Drake 5/6, Ingold 1/4

BUD: Patterson 9/40 TD, Ford 5/22, Johnson 3/17, Patterson 6/8

Receiving

PCC: Sutton 7/78, Shenault 4/23, Aiyuk 4/82, Barkley 2/5, Pitts 2/13, Drake 1/7 TD

BUD: Diggs 5/93 2 TDs, Jefferson 4/46 TD, Patterson 4/35, Brown 4/21, Thornton 3/37

Defense

PCC: Jones 2-Sks FF 2-Tk, Okereke 13-Tk, Thompson Int 6-Tk, Godchaux FF 5-Tk

BUD: David 11-Tk, Fitzpatrick 8-Tk, Jordan Sk 3-Tk

Injuries

PCC: Ingold 6

BUD: Reynolds 8, Jenkins 5, Ramczyk 4

Misc

PCC: Jones F-Lost, Okereke FR, Koo 2/2 FG 53 Lg

BUD: Rodgers 2F 1-Lost, David FR



27



14

Trevor Lawrence, stepping in for an injured **Jameis Winston**, drilled a pass to **DJ Moore** for a 2-yard TD to give the Triumph a 17-7 lead with 1:12 left in the 1st half. That proved to be the winning score, as the Triumph 'D' held Brooklin to one TD the rest of the way. The Lawrence-to-Moore connection combined for 9 catches, 128 yards and 1 TD, while **Darrel Henderson Jr** carried the load on the ground with 121 yards rushing and a 1-yard TD run that gave them a 13-point cushion. **Jordan Love** saw game action in the 4th, throwing 2 picks trying to rally his team from behind.

10-30-2022 Hawkeye Park Temp:49 Wind:Calm None Line:TCT by 9 MVP:Moore HFA:ON(4)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Twin Cities (3-1)	7	10	3	7	27
2022 Brooklin (1-3)	0	7	7	0	14

Passing

TCT: Lawrence 14/12 130 Yds TD, Winston 9/5 72 Yds TD

BRH: Carr 35/22 234 Yds 2 TDs Int, Love 14/10 68 Yds 2 Int

Rushing

TCT: Henderson Jr. 21/110 TD, Hall 9/32, Winston 3/25, Lawrence 2/13, Moore 1/11

BRH: Ekeler 9/28, Carr 1/9

Receiving

TCT: Moore 9/126 TD, Bateman 4/48 TD, Hall 2/16, Bryant 1/6, Henderson Jr. 1/6

BRH: London 8/74 TD, Ekeler 8/22 TD, Hopkins 5/56, Gronkowski 4/47, Jefferson 3/46

Defense

TCT: Wagner FF 9-Tk, Maddox Int 6-Tk, Stingley Jr. Int 5-Tk

BRH: Vander Esch 8-Tk

Injuries

TCT: Hunter 9, Alexander 9, Winston 9, Brown 9, Moseley 3, Brown 1

BRH: Elliott 8, Al-Shaair 1

Misc

TCT: Hopkins 2/2 FG 29 Lg

BRH:



30

27

On 3rd & goal, **Kyler Murray** scrambled 10 yards for the game-winning TD with just 0:11 remaining to wrap up a thrilling 2-minute drive. In a tightly-contested match, turnovers played a key role. Erieau LB, **Neville Hewitt** picked up a **Dak Prescott** fumble and returned it 59 yards for a TD in the 2nd, and **Graham Glasgow** recovered a **Jakeem Grant** fumble to set up a short FG to create the difference in the score. Chino had battled back in the 4th with a 17-yard TD to **Tim Patrick** and a **Harrison Butker** FG to put them in a winning position before Murray's heroics turned the tables.

10-30-2022 The Big House Temp:91 Wind:0-5 None Line:ERI by 2 MVP:Murray HFA:ON(

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Erieau (3-1)	3	17	0	10	30
2022 Chino (2-2)	7	7	3	10	27

Passing

ERI: Murray 35/23 254 Yds

CHI: Prescott 34/24 280 Yds 3 TDs

Rushing

ERI: Murray 10/70 2 TDs, Pierce 8/30, Harris 4/26

CHI: Jones II 14/54, Jackson 6/19, Prescott 4/2

Receiving

ERI: Waddle 7/88, Andrews 6/76, Higgins 3/36, Hines 3/33, Harris 2/9, Henry 1/8

CHI: Patrick 10/145 2 TDs, Abdullah 5/48 TD, Jones 4/45, Jones II 2/13, Jackson 2/22

Defense

ERI: Van Noy Sk FF 4-Tk, Garrett Sk FF 4-Tk, McLeod 9-Tk

CHI: Miller 2-Sks FF 2-Tk, White 11-Tk

Injuries

ERI: Glasgow 9, Pierce 8, Gilmore 4, Houston 1

CHI: Smith 8, McCaffrey 8

Misc

ERI: Hewitt FR 59 Yds TD, Robinson FR, Glasgow FR, Myers 3/3 FG 34 Lg

CHI: Prescott 2F-Lost, Grant F-Lost, Butker 2/2 FG 51 Lg



40

27

With the Cubs holding onto a 23-21 lead in the 4th, **Russell Wilson** found **AJ Brown** on a go-route for 34 yards then 2 plays later targeted a wide-open **David Njoku** for a 12-yard TD pass to make it 30-21 with 6:15 left. **Matt Ryan** was subsequently picked off by **Nick Cross** and **Julian Okwara** on back-to-back plays, setting up 10 Cubs points, turning this once close game into a laughter. Oshawa held a one-point lead after 3 quarters on a 16-yard TD pass from Ryan to **Braxton Berrios** with 2:55 left in the 3rd. The Cubs controlled the ball for 35:19 due to **Joe Mixon's** 112 yds & 28 carries.

10-30-2022 GM Megadome Temp:72 Wind:Calm Line:ICC by 4 MVP:Mixon HFA:ON(0)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Iowa City (3-1)	0	13	7	20	40
2022 Oshawa (0-4)	7	7	7	6	27

Passing

ICC: Wilson 34/20 316 Yds 3 TDs Int

OSH: Ryan 32/22 309 Yds 4 TDs 2 Int

Rushing

ICC: Mixon 28/112 TD, Carter 6/14, Wilson 3/10

OSH: Gordon 20/86, Ryan 3/29, Boone 1/8

Receiving

ICC: Mixon 5/53 TD, Brown 5/155 TD, Kirk 3/43, Moore 2/23, Njoku 2/18 TD, Carter 1/7

OSH: Adams 8/96, Thielen 6/97 2 TDs, Goedert 3/38, Gesicki 2/53 TD, Gordon 1/4

Defense

ICC: Hooker 2-FF 7-Tk, Okwara Int 5-Tk, Cross Int 4-Tk, Hall 8-Tk, Hill Sk 3-Tk

OSH: Kendrick 13-Tk, Walker 8-Tk, Ward Int 3-Tk

Injuries

ICC: Brown 6, Smith 4

OSH: Cominsky 10, McCourty 9, Watt 7, Davenport 4, Harris 3

Misc

ICC: 35:19 TOP, Chenal FR, Andersen FR, Tucker 4/4 FG 51 Lg

OSH: Goedert F-Lost, Ryan F-Lost



31



6

After a scoreless 1st quarter, **Tremaine Edmunds** knifed through the line to stuff **Justin Herbert** on a 4th & inches near mid-field to set up the Glads in their best field position to that point. **James Robinson** then finished off the 51-yard drive with a 7-yard run to put the Glads up 7-0. Georgia would add to that with a 12-yard TD pass from **Tua** to **Byron Pringle** to make it 14-0 at the half. The Bats' offence was stymied trying to finish drives, with Herbert getting picked off 3 times in Georgia territory, twice inside the red zone. **Diontae Johnson** hauled in a 49-yard bomb in the 3rd for the Glads' third TD.

10-30-2022 Assassin's Den Temp:74 Wind:Calm

Line:BB by 4 MVP:Johnson

HFA:ON(

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Georgia (2-2)	0	14	14	3	31
2022 Billtown (2-2)	0	0	0	6	6

Passing

GEO: Tagovailoa 20/15 194 Yds 2 TDs Int

BB: Herbert 34/21 211 Yds 3 Int

Rushing

GEO: Robinson 16/42 TD, Jacobs 11/18, Tagovailoa 2/8, Agnew 1/5

BB: Cook 13/37, Herbert 4/25, Conner 5/8 TD, Harris 1/1

Receiving

GEO: Johnson 5/111 TD, Pringle 4/52 TD, Jacobs 2/-1, Jones 2/14, Robinson 1/4

BB: Beasley 9/88, Jeudy 4/47, Hardman 3/40, Cook 2/20, Watkins 1/3, Conner 1/4

Defense

GEO: Brown Int 4-Tk, Johnson III Int 3-Tk, Jones Sk 3-Tk, Tomlinson Sk 3-Tk

BB: Surtain II Int 3-Tk, Cox Sk 3-Tk

Injuries

GEO: Fulton 1

BB:

Misc

GEO: Agnew 1 KR 80 Yds TD, Bass 1/1 FG 45 Lg

BB:



30



24

Leading 20-17 with 6:58 left in the 4th quarter, Pilots QB, **Drew Lock** completed three straight passes of 20 yards or more, the third covering 28 yards to **Hunter Renfrow** for a TD to give Seattle a two-score lead. The Irish responded with a 6-yard TD pass from **Carson Wentz** to **Khalif Raymond** to pull within a FG, but the Pilots caught the Irish off guard with a 52-yard bomb to **Ceedee Lamb** to set up the third FG of the day for **Evan McPherson** to make it 30-24. In addition to 2 TD passes, Lock scrambled for a TD on 4th down to tie the game at 10 in the 2nd to earn Game MVP in this big upset.

10-30-2022 Msgr McClancy Mem.

Temp:56 Wind:5-15 None

Line:EE by 6 MVP:Lock

HFA

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Seattle (1-3)	3	10	7	10	30
2022 East Elmhurst (3-1)	10	0	0	14	24

Passing

SEA: Lock 34/18 297 Yds 2 TDs

EE: Wentz 50/26 307 Yds 3 TDs Int

Rushing

SEA: Walker III 14/41, Lock 8/31 TD, Hunt 2/10, Anderson 1/4, Lance 1/4

EE: Jones 11/52, Wentz 4/21, Michel 8/18, Hill 1/3

Receiving

SEA: Renfrow 8/122 2 TDs, Lamb 4/98, Moreau 3/29, Walker III 2/23, Cole 1/19

EE: Lockett 8/129, Hill 8/110 2 TDs, Raymond 4/37 TD, Everett 3/24, Jones 2/0

Defense

SEA: White Sk 8-Tk, McDuffie Int 6-Tk, Lattimore 8-Tk

EE: Hyder Sk 6-Tk, Baker 9-Tk

Injuries

SEA: Akers 11, Mack 8, Joseph-Day 7

EE: Griffen 6

Misc

SEA: McPherson 3/3 FG 56 Lg

EE: Blankenship 1/1 FG 47 Lg



WEEK FOUR

STANDINGS & STATS

EFL 2022 - Week 4 Standings

East	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
New Jersey	4	0	0	1.000	W4	109	27.3	66	16.5	10.8	1 0 0	1 0 0	3 0 0
Bruxelles	2	2	0	.500	L2	86	21.5	92	23.0	-1.5	1 2 0	1 0 0	2 1 0
Buffalo	1	3	0	.250	L1	53	13.3	103	25.8	-12.5	0 2 0	0 1 0	1 2 0
Cobb County	1	3	0	.250	W1	68	17.0	100	25.0	-8.0	1 2 0	0 1 0	0 3 0
Central	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Viriden	3	1	0	.750	L1	112	28.0	80	20.0	8.0	1 1 0	2 0 0	3 0 0
Twin Cities	3	1	0	.750	W2	105	26.3	52	13.0	13.3	0 1 0	1 1 0	2 1 0
Peg City	1	3	0	.250	L2	65	16.3	79	19.8	-3.5	0 2 0	1 1 0	1 2 0
Charleswood	0	4	0	.000	L4	57	14.3	154	38.5	-24.3	0 2 0	0 2 0	0 3 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Iowa City	3	1	0	.750	W3	141	35.3	111	27.8	7.5	1 1 0	1 1 0	2 1 0
Billtown	2	2	0	.500	L1	74	18.5	94	23.5	-5.0	1 1 0	2 0 0	2 1 0
Chino	2	2	0	.500	L2	104	26.0	86	21.5	4.5	0 2 0	1 1 0	2 1 0
Seattle	1	3	0	.250	W1	89	22.3	114	28.5	-6.3	0 2 0	0 2 0	0 3 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham	4	0	0	1.000	W4	137	34.3	41	10.3	24.0	3 0 0	1 0 0	3 0 0
Cowtown	2	2	0	.500	L1	90	22.5	91	22.8	-0.3	1 1 0	1 0 0	2 1 0
Sebastian	2	2	0	.500	W2	90	22.5	95	23.8	-1.3	0 1 0	0 1 0	1 2 0
Scarborough	0	4	0	.000	L4	63	15.8	132	33.0	-17.3	0 2 0	0 1 0	0 3 0
Coastal	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Budapest	4	0	0	1.000	W4	121	30.3	52	13.0	17.3	3 0 0	2 0 0	3 0 0
York	2	2	0	.500	W1	118	29.5	94	23.5	6.0	1 0 0	1 1 0	1 2 0
Pickering	2	2	0	.500	W2	107	26.8	99	24.8	2.0	1 0 0	0 2 0	1 2 0
Brooklin	1	3	0	.250	L3	55	13.8	100	25.0	-11.3	1 2 0	1 1 0	1 2 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
East Elmhurst	3	1	0	.750	L1	105	26.3	81	20.3	6.0	2 1 0	2 0 0	3 0 0
Erieau	3	1	0	.750	W3	104	26.0	68	17.0	9.0	1 0 0	1 1 0	2 1 0
Georgia	2	2	0	.500	W1	65	16.3	86	21.5	-5.3	0 1 0	1 1 0	1 2 0
Oshawa	0	4	0	.000	L4	70	17.5	118	29.5	-12.0	0 3 0	0 2 0	0 3 0

EFL 2022 - Week 4 Passing Leaders

		Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Wilson	ICC	116	76	65.5	1043	2	1.7	62	10	8.6 115.7
2	Rodgers	BUD	120	86	71.7	1022	2	1.7	52	9	7.5 115.3
3	Allen	DTL	124	83	66.9	1059	0	0.0	72	8	6.5 115.0
4	Prescott	CHI	123	95	77.2	1104	2	1.6	40	6	4.9 113.3
5	Hurts	PIC	71	44	62.0	588	0	0.0	57	4	5.6 107.0
6	Stafford	NJ	139	94	67.6	1139	1	0.7	51	7	5.0 106.4
7	Murray,K	ERI	120	87	72.5	1048	2	1.7	51	5	4.2 105.8
8	Mahomes	VV	149	92	61.7	1246	3	2.0	75	10	6.7 102.4
9	Lock	SEA	92	58	63.0	768	1	1.1	52	3	3.3 95.7
10	Brady	YOR	144	97	67.4	1183	5	3.5	90	7	4.9 94.2
11	Jones,M	PCC	124	75	60.5	837	0	0.0	62	5	4.0 94.1
12	Wentz	EE	151	88	58.3	964	3	2.0	55	10	6.6 91.0
13	Goff	BRX	106	67	63.2	725	1	0.9	44	3	2.8 88.8
14	Tannehill	CB	162	100	61.7	1060	3	1.9	45	6	3.7 85.4
15	Ryan	OSH	156	95	60.9	1123	5	3.2	54	7	4.5 84.4
16	Garoppolo	COW	120	74	61.7	859	3	2.5	43	4	3.3 84.0
17	Winston	TCT	91	49	53.8	630	3	3.3	79	5	5.5 80.4
18	Burrow	SBE	153	101	66.0	981	7	4.6	29	7	4.6 80.0
19	Carr	BRH	139	90	64.7	973	5	3.6	48	4	2.9 79.8
20	Cousins	SS	141	81	57.4	898	2	1.4	51	3	2.1 77.7
21	Tagovailoa	GEO	50	32	64.0	407	4	8.0	49	3	6.0 76.0
22	Herbert	BB	121	71	58.7	800	3	2.5	48	2	1.7 73.7
23	Jackson.L	BUF	114	79	69.3	607	4	3.5	37	2	1.8 73.2
24	Darnold	SEA	54	34	63.0	321	2	3.7	24	1	1.9 70.1
25	Pickett	CHP	124	74	59.7	848	8	6.5	54	3	2.4 61.5

EFL 2022 - Week 4 Kick Return Leaders

		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Rodgers	CHP	8	283	35.4	102 1
2	Moore	EE	6	200	33.3	92 0
3	Dallas	SBE	8	241	30.1	43 0
4	McCloud	PCC	12	350	29.2	37 0
5	Roberts	BRX	11	293	26.6	37 0
6	Carter	BUF	7	186	26.6	39 0
7	Richard	SS	6	154	25.7	42 0
8	Pringle	GEO	6	151	25.2	31 0
9	Smith,T	CHI	8	189	23.6	28 0
10	Phillips	VV	5	118	23.6	31 0
11	McKenzie	COW	5	92	18.4	33 0
12	Dulin	BB	7	121	17.3	30 0
13	Hasty	CB	11	186	16.9	30 0
14	Cole	SEA	5	63	12.6	21 0
15	Rountree	ERI	5	63	12.6	15 0
16	Agnew	GEO	4	139	34.8	80 1
17	Patterson	BUD	1	31	31.0	31 0
18	Pierce	TCT	1	29	29.0	29 0
19	Ballentine	YOR	1	28	28.0	28 0
20	Hines	ERI	1	28	28.0	28 0
21	Walker	SEA	1	27	27.0	27 0
22	Berrios	OSH	4	105	26.3	32 0
23	McFarland	SS	1	26	26.0	26 0
24	Spencer,D	NJ	3	68	22.7	27 0
25	Tremble	ICC	1	22	22.0	22 0

EFL 2022 - Week 4 Punt Return Leaders

		No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Jones,V	PIC	5	2	110	22.0	76 1
2	Duvernay	TCT	8	5	123	15.4	23 0
3	Harris	COW	5	4	73	14.6	20 0
4	McCloud	PCC	5	3	65	13.0	19 0
5	Hines	ERI	9	5	101	11.2	20 0
6	Renfrow	SEA	6	3	64	10.7	15 0
7	Dotson	SBE	10	2	104	10.4	18 0
8	Peoples-Jo	SS	9	1	78	8.7	14 0
9	Grant	CHI	10	0	81	8.1	18 0
10	Erickson	VV	6	3	44	7.3	13 0
11	Berrios	OSH	7	3	51	7.3	13 0
12	Carter	BUF	9	3	65	7.2	12 0
13	Roberts	BRX	8	5	46	5.8	11 0
14	Shakir	GEO	5	4	28	5.6	8 0
15	Robinson	CB	18	0	24	1.3	8 0
16	Philips	ICC	2	1	68	34.0	52 0
17	Holland	CHP	4	1	68	17.0	36 0
18	Spencer,D	NJ	3	2	47	15.7	26 0
19	McKenzie	COW	4	0	42	10.5	13 0
20	Swain	YOR	3	4	25	8.3	10 0
21	Hardman	BB	4	5	29	7.3	16 0
22	Agnew	GEO	4	0	25	6.3	7 0
23	Moore	EE	3	3	17	5.7	13 0
24	Gray	DTL	4	14	20	5.0	9 0
25	Rodgers,Am	BUD	2	3	8	4.0	7 0

EFL 2022 - Week 4 Rushing Leaders

		Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	Mixon	ICC	92	495	5.4	30	5
2	Elliott	VV	71	422	5.9	49	2
3	Sanders	PIC	66	388	5.9	43	1
4	Henry	YOR	85	386	4.5	63	3
5	Taylor	SS	83	362	4.4	40	5
6	Henderson	TCT	77	344	4.5	19	2
7	Mitchell	BRX	61	341	5.6	45	2
8	Montgomery	NJ	64	331	5.2	46	3
9	Fournette	BRX	54	300	5.6	62	3
10	Cook	BB	68	275	4.0	30	4
11	Gibson	DTL	46	273	5.9	17	0
12	Cook	CB	50	257	5.1	37	2
13	Singletary	CHP	47	239	5.1	52	1
14	Ekeler	BRH	49	236	4.8	27	0
15	Gordon	OSH	52	230	4.4	26	1
16	Jones,A	EE	47	223	4.7	50	1
17	Michel	EE	47	211	4.5	26	0
18	Robinson,J	GEO	43	206	4.8	38	2
19	Williams,J	COW	40	198	5.0	17	1
20	Walker	SEA	50	196	3.9	33	1
21	Allen	DTL	30	195	6.5	28	7
22	Jacobs	GEO	48	192	4.0	28	0
23	Johnson,D	SBE	40	191	4.8	30	0
24	Jackson.L	BUF	50	184	3.7	29	2
25	Barkley	PCC	48	182	3.8	30	0
26	Murray,K	ERI	36	177	4.9	37	4
27	McCaffrey	CHI	42	177	4.2	23	3
28	Patterson	BUD	32	176	5.5	19	4
29	Pierce	ERI	37	169	4.6	31	0
30	Dillon	BUF	39	166	4.3	24	1
31	Booker	COW	26	144	5.5	22	2
32	Hurts	PIC	25	115	4.6	17	2
33	Conner	BB	33	113	3.4	22	3
34	Carter	ICC	27	112	4.1	35	0
35	Harris	ERI	29	112	3.9	17	0
36	Chubb	SS	27	110	4.1	24	2
37	Ford	BUD	17	108	6.4	17	0
38	Herbert	BB	13	106	8.2	22	0
39	Strong Jr.	CB	20	105	5.3	26	0
40	Tannehill	CB	10	105	10.5	23	0

EFL 2022 - Week 4 Receiving Leaders

		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	Kupp	DTL	38	566	14.9	66	6
2	Pittman Jr	CB	34	372	10.9	29	2
3	Patrick,T	CHI	32	467	14.6	40	4
4	Adams	OSH	30	464	15.5	54	2
5	Hill	EE	28	402	14.4	55	5
6	Renfrow	SEA	28	369	13.2	28	2
7	Beasley	BB	28	343	12.3	30	1
8	Ekeler	BRH	28	216	7.7	48	1
9	Lamb	SEA	27	421	15.6	52	1
10	Allen	NJ	27	356	13.2	51	3
11	Cooks	CB	24	314	13.1	45	3
12	Andrews	ERI	24	310	12.9	51	1
13	Moore	TCT	24	334	13.9	30	3
14	Johnson,D	GEO	23	276	12.0	49	1
15	Chase	VV	23	464	20.2	75	3
16	Hopkins	BRH	22	292	13.3	28	1
17	Green	SS	22	372	16.9	51	0
18	Metcalfe	VV	22	430	19.5	57	4
19	Meyers	CHP	21	219	10.4	21	0
20	Jefferson	BUD	21	338	16.1	52	4
21	Kmet	YOR	21	159	7.6	15	0
22	Samuel	NJ	20	304	15.2	41	2
23	Diggs	BUD	20	312	15.6	41	2
24	Uzomah	SBE	20	211	10.6	26	1
25	Gage	BUF	20	165	8.3	28	0
26	St. Brown	YOR	20	317	15.9	47	2
27	Waddle	ERI	19	299	15.7	48	1
28	London	BRH	19	215	11.3	37	1
29	McLaurin	NJ	19	243	12.8	29	0
30	Hockenson	VV	19	166	8.7	14	0
31	Thielen	OSH	19	226	11.9	42	2
32	Lockett	EE	19	278	14.6	32	1
33	Bourne	COW	18	275	15.3	43	1
34	Burks	YOR	18	296	16.4	90	3
35	Jacobs	GEO	18	99	5.5	24	0
36	Godwin	BRX	17	192	11.3	25	1
37	Jones,M	CHI	17	242	14.2	38	1
38	Schultz	SS	17	126	7.4	12	0
39	Fant	BUF	17	165	9.7	37	1
40	Parker	CB	16	188	11.8	34	1



AROUND THE



With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – The purist in me flinched when I heard the news. The pragmatist in me applauded. My inner child wept as profusely as when I found out there was no Santa.

No, I am *not* talking about the news of two more EFL franchises, Peg City and Erieau, unveiling a third ‘black’ jersey to be worn for prime-time games (as if either team is playing in prime time any time soon, lol!) ...

BACK IN BLACK

...but while I am on the subject of black jerseys, this pandering to gangsterism is getting tiresome. Remember when the Pittsburgh Steelers, Oakland Raiders and New Orleans Saints were the only “black” teams in football? (No, the Bears did *not* wear black – they wore navy blue – and the Falcons of 1966 to 1970 don’t count, because nobody cared) Those jerseys stood out as a result. They *meant* something! Now everybody wants to be ‘Back in Black.’ (credit to AC/DC) This is not primarily for aesthetic reasons, but mostly to boost jersey sales, especially to thugs and gangsters.

The Gwinnett Gladiators were the first black-jerseyed team in the EFL – taking Pittsburgh’s place in the historical black jersey hierarchy. The Convicts did not adopt their “Raiders throwback” look until their second year in the league. Prior to that the Convicts wore all-grey prison garb at home and white with grey trousers on the road. Then came, and went, the Winnemucca Outlaws, a team as laughable as those early Saints teams, who wore black to underscore their “black hat” status as outlaws. They vanished and became the green-clad Excaliburs. One year later, the Death Valley Undertakers joined as no.3 in the Black Jersey Brigade. They wore the “Devil’s colours,” black and red, and earned the right to do so up until the real Devil claimed their owner, **Chris Worthley**. In 2012, the Cubs wore the black & gold of the Iowa Hawkeyes. It was a kind of underscore for their worst season ever, as if they did not want to associate the *real* Cubs with that dreadful campaign. They flipped back to blue and red the next year.

For a few years, from 2014 to 2016, the Glads and Convicts held the fort for black. Coincidentally – or as a result of the missing third – this is when a number of non-black teams filled the black vacuum by introducing “alternate” black jerseys to be worn in prime-time, or just for the hell of it. Los Angeles was the first, followed quicky by Charleswood, South Carolina (remember the Regulators?), Mohave, Mission Viejo and Virden. All of these teams played at least one game wearing black.

In 2017, the Cannibals moved to Bruxelles and adopted black as the primary home jersey colour of the Bombers. However, they also had a red home jersey and a bright yellow home jersey, reflecting the colours of the Belgian flag. Officially, the Bombers became the third black-jerseyed team. For four years, the historical balance was restored, but this did not stop other teams from adding “alternate” black jerseys to their merchandise catalogue. Scarborough, Brooklin, Toronto and New Jersey all joined in with black alternates, although **JC Cohen** insisted on calling the Wrecking Balls’ version his “onyx” jersey.

As silly as I found this black jersey marketing ploy, it was generally harmless, in the sense that no animals were harmed during the production and wearing of these jerseys, and they were almost exclusively made in peanut-free facilities, using environmentally-friendly, organic synthetic materials. But the situation began to get out of hand when the Chargers moved to Las Vegas and became the Assassins. This upset the historical black jersey triumvirate and caused a panic in Chino, where **Rob Nazar** felt he owned the exclusive western “rights” to wear black. The infamous “Blackout Game” between Chino and Las Vegas, chronicled in depth in this column, actually posed the threat of seizures to fans who tried to watch it, and injury to players who participated. To make things worse, it prompted another wave of “alternate” black jerseys, with Cobb County, York, Twin Cities and Seattle adding their versions to the mix, and Scarborough actually re-issuing a “blacker” version of their first black jersey, in a vain attempt by **Chris Dickinson** to get fans to take him and his team seriously as the Blue Eagles struggled through a second consecutive 2-14 season. It is likely not a coincidence, then, that the latest additions to the black “alternate” jersey ranks are teams that have an image problem that make them the punchline of jokes – although the Cadillac appear to be on the cusp of ending the joke.

So, who *doesn’t* have an “alternate” black jersey, or has never worn black in a game? The teams that are left are in the minority: Cowtown, Durham, Pickering, Budapest, Sebastian, Buffalo, and Oshawa have so far resisted the fad, although there are apparently emergency plans in Oshawa to introduce a black version of the Pink Panthers jersey as soon as possible in an attempt to shore up the players’ declining self-image. That does not mean that these franchises are not susceptible to the “third” or even “fourth” jersey marketing ploy. The Corn Kings sported a ‘Niblet Gold’ silkscreen jersey in 2010 that damaged the eyesight of thousands. The Thunder Lizards still market a rarely-worn bright orange jersey with sky blue numbers, which is actually a ‘retro’ jersey from their 2011 season; as well as a dark green jersey similar to the one they wore in the league’s inaugural season. Pickering

unveiled and occasionally wore a ceremonial bronze jersey to celebrate its 2010 Championship team, while Budapest has no less than ten versions of its standard brown, orange and white (sometimes black, sometimes yellow) colour scheme, dating back to its Markham days. Only the Swordfish and the Derailers have no official “alternate” versions of their jerseys, although in the case of **Daryl Brothers** it was simply because he “hadn’t thought of it,” but now thinks it’s a “good idea.” The Swordfish have tinkered with their official jerseys, of course, but the little changes over the years have all been woven into the standard home ‘Blue’ (which they almost never wear) and the standard road ‘White,’ which they wear at home over 90% of the time. **Russ Lemmon** may be a maverick play-caller, but he is conservative in his dress, and that includes his team’s uniforms.

Anyway, the addition of Peg City and Erieau into the ranks of the teams with “alternate black” jerseys, while lamentable, is *not* why my inner child weeps....

WHY I WEEP

...I weep because the EFL is introducing a DRAFT LOTTERY to take effect in 2024! I never thought it would come to this, but one of the last sacred bastions of draft purity has fallen. I don’t like it, but I understand the league’s rationale behind it.

I have never supported a draft lottery because I believe that, in principle, the worst team every year should get the most help to get back into a competitive state. Having non-competitive teams is not good for any league. The draft is one step to remedy that – in fact the rookie draft and waiver draft order is the only officially-sanctioned help a bad team gets. It won’t fix a basket case franchise, but at least it prevents the rich from getting instantly richer by acquiring the draft’s top talent – barring a trade. But I digress.

Ironically, it is the recent proliferation of what appear to be deliberately engineered non-competitive teams that is forcing the league to compromise the core principle that the worst team should get the first pick in order to help make that team competitive. Manufacturing a bad team from the material of a competitive team is more damaging to the league’s competitive balance than simply having a bad team. That is because it involves unloading talent somewhere, and that somewhere is usually a team, or teams, that can afford the price, i.e., the “haves” looking for that missing piece of the puzzle to put them over the top. Nobody can blame the haves for wanting to stay on top – that’s what sports is all about. But when that talent is channeled to them, sometimes in bulk, as part of a *quid pro quo* to help the better team dominate and the lesser team get the first overall pick, that disrupts the competitive balance of the league in an artificial and, frankly, unethical way.

Now, I am not saying that a weak team with a desirable asset or assets should never trade those assets in order to rebuild the roster. That is a legitimate part of rebuilding. If there are a couple of stars nearing the end of their contracts who are not going to make much difference in the short-term bottom line, then it makes sense to move them in favour of youth. It is when *competitive* teams trade away their assets that make them competitive in bulk because being merely competitive is not enough – one has to either have a roster that can win it all, or a roster that can’t win a game. What kind of league would this be if every team took that approach?

The scourge of outright tanking will likely never be eradicated. It is next to impossible to “prove” but everyone can see it when it’s happening. Setting up a roster to fail is not a difficult thing to do. Sometimes it happens anyway, even if a team is trying to rise from the basement – just look at Scarborough. How it is done is what matters. And giving all that you have on any given Sunday is what the sport should be all about.

The EFL Draft Lottery will only affect the bottom four teams. Picks no.5 and up are unaffected. This makes it a much more limited lottery than in the NBA or NHL. The other, really interesting, and key difference is that the weighted chances of landing the top pick are inversely proportional to the team’s finish. For example, the chance of landing the first pick overall is just 15% for the team that finishes with the worst record (no.24) and as high as 40% for the team that finishes with the fourth worst record (no.21). As each pick is awarded, the chances among the teams remaining in the pool increase the better the record until the first four picks are awarded. Only the bottom four teams participate in the lottery to ensure that only the worst teams are involved in the race to be number twenty-one. The idea is to compel the worst teams to try to win up until the end, thus creating the best possible competition in the waning weeks of the season, when playoff spots are on the line.

Critics have pointed out this creates a potential classic “tank” scenario centered around the fourth-lowest rank, with teams just above that rank potentially hoping to lose in order to “fall into it.” True enough, but the line has to be drawn somewhere and the benefit of drawing it at the fourth-worst is that it becomes progressively harder, as teams rise up the ladder, for those teams to discreetly engineer a loss than it is for the bottom four. Recent history has shown that the EFL has attained relative parity among the middle two-thirds of the league. The competitive line between no.20 and the edge of the playoffs is thinner than you think. Keeping the lottery to the bottom four teams ensures that playoff races are less likely to be affected by tanking, while it incentivizes winning for those teams that find themselves at the bottom of the barrel in the season’s final weeks.

No doubt teams determined to land the next **Trevor Lawrence** will attempt to devise a method to maximize their chances of landing the no.1 overall pick by finishing at no.21. However, now such a task will be much harder than it was and will involve the need to win at least some games in order to achieve it. The alternative – tearing down a team to make it unwatchable and non-competitive from week-to-week – is too brutal, too easy, and too detrimental to the league to allow it to continue.

HURTS SO GOOD

The Pickering Spartans in their glory years of 2010 and 2011 were a running team. **Chris Johnson** still holds the single-season rushing records of 2,156 rushing yards and 27 rushing touchdowns set in 2010, the year the Spartans won the EFL Championship. There was nothing more representative of a Spartan warrior’s mental and physical toughness than a punishing, smashmouth running game and a

defence that attacked the football and swarmed the ball-carrier like a pack of wild dogs. Sadly, that fortitude and killer instinct had been sorely lacking in the Pickering teams ever since. Even the playoff teams of 2011, 2014, 2019 and 2021, all one-and-done in the post-season, lacked something, that razor sharp edge essential to realizing the Spartans ethos on the field. Maybe, as some critics have argued since, it was all **Brett Favre** in that glorious championship year of 2010; he was the only true Spartan.

In 2022, the Spartans entered uncharted waters with a new quarterback at the helm. **Jalen Hurts** could do everything a modern quarterback needed to be able to do to excel in the evolving game: Throw deep, throw from the pocket, extend plays outside the pock, run if needed, run when confused by the defence, and avoid sacks. At least, he could do all these things in theory. The small sample size of game play prior to this season offered no reassurance that he could do any of these things effectively. Rather, it was an article of faith that Hurts could, and would, do these things when given control of the offence. But just in case he couldn't, the team had drafted **Zach Wilson** in the first round of the 2021 EFL Draft. No pressure.

Through three weeks of the 2022 season, Hurts had shown limited passing capabilities in, not-so-much guiding, but more like being pulled along by the team to a 1-2 record. On the plus side, he had not thrown an interception and had thrown four TD passes. However, he had attempted only 51 passes – lowest among all three-game starters, and had completed only 52.9% of his attempts, also a league low. Although coach **Gus Konstantakos** expressed the utmost confidence in Hurts and spoke glowingly of his work ethic and practice habits, on the field, *in games*, he clearly did not trust him to put the team on his shoulders. He had attempted just 14 passes in each of his last two starts, a remarkably low number in the modern era.

What Hurts had displayed a great knack for in the early weeks of the season was running the ball himself and handing the ball off to **Miles Sanders**, who came into this week's game against Virden at **TERRORDOME** having carried the ball 52 times for 263 yards – one more carry than Hurts had pass attempts. The Spartans of 2022 were shaping up to be a smashmouth running football team – they just needed to smash a good team hard in the mouth, a team a little more intimidating than the Scarborough team they had



The Peg City Crusaders, coming off a one-win season in 2021 and sitting at 1-3 so far in 2022, unveiled their new “alternate” black jersey, to be worn at home on ‘Crusader Day.’ In a league-wide trend, the Erieau Cadillac also introduced their “alternate” blacks.

mauled last week, in order to gain the confidence a true smashmouth team needs to beat the league's powerhouses. The Virden game would be a good test of whether this Pickering team really had that kind of nasty inside them.

The Violators entered Week Four with a 3-0 record that they had built on the carcasses of teams that had gone a combined 3-6 through the first three weeks. They sat at no.3 in the *AP Power Rankings*, which was more a vote of confidence in the ability of **Patrick Mahomes** to beat any opponent than an endorsement of what his team had looked like to that point. They had had to come from behind in two of those games and the sense that they were taking opponents lightly did not sit well with at least one analyst in the media.

On ‘Mimms and the Mad Cat’ on *EFL Sirius Network Radio*, the Saturday before the game, **Phil Mimms** was characteristically blunt: “Patrick Mahomes has every reason to be confident, but he’s playing like a guy who’s a little too confident. That’s going to get you bitten in this league eventually,” Mimms began. “If you’re waiting until the fourth quarter to get serious, one day you’re going to run out of time in the EFL. This is also on the coach. He’s got to get that run game going and not put everything on his quarterback’s shoulders. The Violators are favoured by more than a touchdown and they’re probably thinking they’re good for more if they want it. I’m telling you right now, Mad Cat, I think the Spartans are going to win this game!”

“What!? Not just cover – you’re saying win outright?” reacted **Chris ‘The Mad Cat’ Russo** in astonishment.

“I’m saying win outright, Mad Cat!” Mimms replied confidently. “This is going to be a wake-up call for Virden.”

I have to listen more to **Phil Mimms** when he’s not on the network broadcast. He doesn’t pull punches on these talk shows and presents shrewd and often withering analysis. He’s respectful, but he has no sacred cows. Mahomes is a bit of a sacred cow in the national media. By that, I mean he does not get called out on his mistakes. He’s either doing amazing things or we’re not talking about him. Mimms all but called him cocky, which he is, and probably has to be to succeed at his level. Still, it’s pretty amazing to hear a

true, I refuse to pander to the ADHD generation and conform to the Twitter word limit. Here we go with a shorter, but still too-long tour.

Monsignor McClancy Memorial Stadium in Queens was the scene of the first big upset of Week Four. In another sign that the EFL is closing in on a new parity paradigm everywhere but in Budapest or Durham, the 0-3 Pilots, under the guiding hand of the unheralded **Drew Lock**, knocked off the 3-0 Irish by the surprisingly high score of 30-24. This result, like Georgia eviscerating Billtown in Las Vegas under the savage mitt of **Tua Tagovailoa**, was another one that I (and most of the serious football world) did not see coming. But then, nobody saw Coach **Archbishop Thomas Molloy** of the Irish letting **Jalen Ramsey** and **Andrew Whitworth** skip the game for “personal reasons” either. I’m seeing more and more of this term in official team reports: *personal reasons*. They are never explained, because they are “personal,” but they are definitely getting more common. It could be a cover term for just about anything or it could actually be for personal reasons. All I know, is that I am suspicious of this trend. It did, however, allow us to see what Ramsey and Whitworth mean to this team. Without Ramsey's uncanny ability to cover two or more receivers at the same time, it seems that even Lock can throw for almost 300 yards against this Irish defence. That does not excuse the lacklustre play of the other star Irish defenders, all of whom played well below usual expectations. **Micah Parsons** did force a fumble, but he was not the all-around menace we have come to expect. It was a flat Irish defensive performance throughout. Were they taking an informal “breather” themselves? Resentful, perhaps, that Jalen was getting the day off? Or could it be that Lock has been underrated all along? Nah...I don't think so, although in one short but brilliant stretch of play, Lock hit on 3 consecutive passes of 20 yards or more – each one traveling at least 20 yards – with the third one finding **Hunter Renfrow** for a 28-yard TD to give his team a two-score lead. The 52-yard bomb from Lock to **Ceedee Lamb** to set up a field goal was another impressive play. Who knew? This was a game that East Elmhurst may look back on as a careless stumble that put the division in jeopardy, as the Cadillac seem to be revving up their engines – finally – to take a good run at them.

At the Assassin's Den in Las Vegas, the visiting Gladiators pulled off the second big upset of the week by shellacking Billtown, 31-6. When I see a score like this in favour of a road underdog, I immediately suspect that turnovers must be at play. Sure enough, they were. Bats' QB, **Justin Herbert** was picked off 3 times, twice inside the red zone, and was stuffed for a loss on 4th & inches near mid-field to set up the Glads' first TD. Those were the base ingredients for an upset. The icing on the upside-down cake was an 80-yard kick return for a touchdown by **Jamal Agnew** to start the second half, which gave the Glads a 21-0 lead before the Bats had touched the ball, and set them back of their heels. It would be misleading to suggest that the turnovers played the only role. The Glads' defence played well, holding the Billtown offence to just 3 of 11 on 3rd down and 271 yards from scrimmage. **Tua Tagovailoa** improved on last week's poor performance against Erieau by completing 15 of 20 for 194 yards and 2 TDs, including well-placed 49-yard bomb to **Diontae Johnson** on play-action to make it 28-0. He threw just one interception, which led to Billtown's only score. Otherwise, this would have been a shutout on top of a blowout. This all made for a depressing afternoon for **Stephen Michael** and the surrogate home town crowd at Las Vegas, which sounded more well-disposed toward Georgia – at least they when gained the clear upper hand. Everyone loves an underdog – except for that person who wagered the mortgage on what appeared to be, at Billtown -4, a lock of a bet.

At GM Megadome in Oshawa, the “West Division-leading Iowa City Cubs” (yes, read it again and let it sink in) won their third game after taking charge in the 4th quarter to upend Oshawa 40-27 in a game much closer than the score indicates. Trailing 21-20 in the 4th quarter, the Cubs scored 20 points on four consecutive series, with 10 points coming off back-to-back interceptions of **Matt Ryan**. Several names that showed up favourably in the box score for the Cubs I hardly know: **Leo Chenal**, **Troy Andersen**, **Nick Cross**, **Julian Okwara**...who are these guys? Three of them are part of the army of young linebackers the Cubs are carrying on their roster. It's like an extended pre-season in Iowa, with many of these young faces snatching the opportunity to show what they can do for the Cubs-of-the-Future. The only hitch is, they are doing it now, on the Cubs-of-the-Present, a team that coach **Deron Redding** might have expected would take him not to the playoffs, but to one of the top five spots in the 2023 draft. One thing about Redding: He has a track record of developing young players. Is he developing them too fast this year? On the other side, the track record being established by beleaguered Oshawa coach, **Scott Dennis**, is one of coming off the rails. While Dennis still maintains his poise and his dry sense of humour during his increasingly shorter and shorter public appearances, the lines under his bloodshot eyes and his ashen complexion betray the lack of sleep brought on by his public vow after last week's mess at East Elmhurst to “not sleep until this team is back in the win column.”

At The Fortress in Bruxelles, the Swordfish saddled up and rode **Jonathan Taylor** to an oddly dull 23-22 victory over the Bombers. Unpacking this game in detail would require me to conduct another forensic review of the fourth-down excursions of **Russ Lemmon**, something I do not have the will or energy to do. I will just say it was the same sh*t, different day, and it would have cost them the game if not for the inability of the Bombers to convert red zone opportunities into touchdowns. A rare mid-drive switch at QB sent **Gardner Minshew** in for **Kirk Cousins** to face 2nd & 10 on Sebastian's opening drive of the 2nd half. The Swordfish trailed 16-3 at the time and the situation looked bleak. Cousins had not been able to get anything going offensively, and a pair of turnovers on downs in their own end had set up 10 Bruxelles points. The switch to Minshew changed the dynamic of the game, partly because he was more effective and partly because the Bombers' defence was confused by it. It turned out to be the Sebastian coach's best decision of the game. For some reason, **Jonathan Taylor** responded to the switch and proceeded to finish off the next three Sebastian drives with TD runs of 13, 12 and 13 yards, to cap the scoring. He delivered the death blow with a 40-yard scamper on 3rd down in the final two minutes to deny the Bruxelles another opportunity, after **Matt Prater** had had missed a 36-yard field goal attempt minutes earlier that would have given them the lead. It was the second win in a row for the Swordfish and the second loss in a row for Bruxelles.

At The Big House in Chino, the revved-up Cadillac dumped the hometown Convicts 30-27 on a touchdown run by **Kyler Murray** in the game's dying seconds to register their third consecutive win. On 3rd & goal at the Chino 10, trailing by 4, with 0:18 left

and no timeouts, Murray showed why his legs are so valuable, as he evaded the rush, escaped the pocket, ran away from a spying **Tyus Bowser**, and broke a tackle near the goal to score the decisive points. The play found a prominent place in evening highlight reels across the continent and only bolstered the image of Murray as a budding leader and a possible MVP candidate down the road. However, it was the hard-hitting Erieau defence that truly put Murray in position to lead his team to victory. They forced three fumbles, the first a strip-sack of **Dak Prescott** by **Kyle Van Noy** that was picked up and returned 59 yards by **Neville Hewitt** for a touchdown; the second a special-teams play by **Jojo Domann**, popping the ball loose from **Jakeem Grant** on a punt return to set up a field goal; and the third a strip-sack of Prescott by **Myles Garrett** to end the game. Had it not been for these defensive plays, the Convicts might well have won this game, as they held the edge in ball control and Prescott, with three TD passes, was displaying a hot hand. Chino is now 2-2 after a 2-0 start, with an angry Virden on the schedule for next week. Their chance to gain some separation at the top as the Bats slump is slipping away from them.

At Coyote Field in Marietta, GA, Cobb County pulled the rug out from under a sleep-walking Corn Kings squad with a dull-as-mud, 14-12 victory. This was definitely an upset, but in no way was it thrilling, or even a particularly welcome one for a Coyote team that would prefer to limit its wins – thank-you-very-much! This peculiar loss (for it should be thought of as more of a loss than a win) was set in motion by the equally peculiar decision by the Coach **Jim Coghlin** to start **Davis Mills** at quarterback over **Jimmy Garoppolo**. While it is understood that the Corn Kings, judging from the money they are paying him, consider Mills their future, the present clearly belongs – or *should* belong – to the quarterback who gives this team the best chance to win now, and that is Jimmy G. Mills was ineffective through three quarters and by the fourth quarter he had become outright dangerous, after throwing a bad interception to a lurking **Ernest Jones**. In came Jimmy G on the next series to attempt the rescue mission, with Cowtown trailing 14-6. He did nothing in two possessions, but inherited a momentum boost after the Corn Kings stopped the Coyotes on 4th & 1 at the Cowtown 26-yard line with 3 minutes left. Jimmy G took them the length of the field, capping the drive with an 18-yard TD pass to **Mike Evans**, but they missed the two-pointer and the Coyotes wound up running out the clock. **Ryan Tannehill** won Game MVP for his play in the 3rd quarter, when he threw a 35-yard TD to **Brandin Cooks** and for sealing the win with a pair of 1st-down throws in the final two minutes.

In a tighter game than most anticipated, the North Stars got a handful of big plays from their biggest stars and out-lasted the Crusaders, 27-13 at Ferenc-Liszt International Airport Stadium in Budapest. The unrenowned offence of the Crusaders struck first for a touchdown off the game's opening drive. This may have unsettled Budapest coach **Darrin Jones**, because he went for a rare 4th & Needless (4th & 4) on his team's first possession at the Peg City 31-yard line. The Peg City 'D' was up for the challenge. The rush got through and hit **Aaron Rodgers** as he threw, causing an incompleteness. The Crusaders took over on downs and began to move, but **Markus Golden** forced a **Mac Jones** fumble four plays later that **Lavonte David** recovered to take his coach off the hook. That turnover led to the Stars' first TD, a 10-yard pass from Rodgers to **Justin Jefferson** to tie the game at 7. With the equilibrium restored, both teams went to work cautiously feeling each other out as the contest devolved into a tight defensive struggle. You know – the perfect situation for one of the least efficient offences in the league to get aggressive on 4th down against one of the best defences in the league. The Pegs attempted six 4th downs and converted only two. With a chance to tie the game early in the 4th quarter, the Pegs opted to go for it on 4th & goal at the Budapest 2-yard line. **Mac Jones** was denied with ease on a dive up the middle. They would never threaten again. While the Crusaders were breaking themselves against the Budapest wall, Rodgers was knocking big holes in the Peg City secondary, connecting with Stefon Diggs for 2 TDs, including a 41-yarder that put them up by a touchdown in the 3rd quarter. In the end they pulled away, but one has to wonder what might have happened if, again, the Crusaders had played within their offensive means and let the defence work on their opponent. That may seem like an insane strategy versus Rodgers, but the Crusaders' defence may just be good enough to pull it off.

At the Eagle's Nest in Toronto, the Wrecking Balls cut it close again, needing two scores late in the 4th quarter to come out on top of Scarborough 29-21. **Jahan Dotson** put the Eagles in front 21-20 early in the fourth, forcing **Matt Stafford** into another comeback posture. He was more than up to the task, calmly taking his squad 75 yards in 13 plays to fire the game-winning TD to **Keenan Allen**, from 13 yards away, their second scoring hook-up of the game. From there, New Jersey mopped up the little time remaining, adding a field goal to round out the score. The Balls are now 4-0 and are winning even when they are not firing on all cylinders. That is the sign of a very good team. The Blue Eagles are an alarming 0-4 after crowing about being a contender in the off-season. Panic is about to set in.

At Patriot Place in Charleswood, the visiting Excaliburs exploded for 31 points in the 2nd half to wipe out the Pats by a score of 51-20. It is hard to believe that after 30 minutes these teams were tied at 20. **Isaiah Rodgers** had a nice game for the Pats, returning a kickoff 102 yards for a TD and picking off **Tom Brady** to set up a field goal in the second. **Kenny Pickett** wasn't horrible initially, even if he had the ball knocked out of his hand and returned for a touchdown by **Cole Holcomb** late in the 2nd quarter. But this was the absolute best that Charleswood could do against a York team that was really looking for somebody to take out their early-season frustrations on. It all came undone in the 2nd half, as Pickett was picked off three times on three straight possessions, including a pick-six by **Kevin Byard**, to fuel the scoring barrage. Next week the Pats face Billtown and their dangerous defence looking for practice dummies.

And finally, at Jurassic Park in Durham, the Thunder Lizards played as complete a game as one could hope for as they dominated Buffalo, 34-0. **Josh Allen** again...not much more to say about one of the early MVP front-runners. Apparently, Allen got tired of the teasing he had received for having more rushing TDs (6) than passing TDs (4). He tossed 4 TD passes in the game, 3 of those to **Cooper Kupp**. On the other side, the Durham defence totally stifled **Lamar Jackson** in both phases of the game. Jackson was held to 121 yards passing and was picked off twice. His rushing tally of a *single yard* on 8 carries was a career low. This was due to linebacker **DeVondre Campbell** watching him like a pterodactyl from his place behind the line. The Lizards have an answer for everything

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COBB COUNTY @ NEW JERSEY (line – WRECKING BALLS by 11)

INJURIES: **Cobb County** – DeMarcus Lawrence (OUT), Payton Turner (OUT); **New Jersey** – Jamal Adams (OUT), Kwon Alexander (OUT), Dalton Risner (OUT).

The Wrecking Balls are a bit of a shaky 4-0, if there is such a thing. It takes a lot to win in the pros and, so far, New Jersey has had to give a lot to pull out two of their four wins, while slow-cooking the others, against teams near or at the bottom of the power rankings. They remain by far the best team in the East Division, however, and there is no reason to think they will not win this week against the spirited but mangy Coyotes, a team coming off an upset win. Cobb County no longer has to worry about a win-less campaign, but that such a dismal fate was even a consideration speaks to how under-manned their roster is. Ryan Tannehill caught fire just long enough last week to overcome some pathetic quarterback play on the other side. That won't happen very often and certainly will not this week.

The only question is: Will they stay close for three quarters? No reason to think they will do that either. **PICK: NEW JERSEY**

BRUXELLES @ BUFFALO (line – BOMBERS by 4)

INJURIES: **Bruxelles** – Henry Anderson (OUT), Josh Myers (OUT), Frank Ragnow (OUT), Anthony Walker (OUT), Jordan Whitehead (OUT); **Buffalo** – Trey Flowers (OUT), Jonathan Greenard (OUT), Jaycee Horn (OUT), Kadarius Toney (OUT).

The Bombers are playing much better football than the Derailers right now. They were a Matt Prater miss from extra-point range away from a good shot at victory last week versus Sebastian. Buffalo was simply outclassed by Durham in Week Four and can thank their defence for their only win to date. Lamar Jackson currently heads the least explosive offence in football, which has put pressure on the talented, but thin, Buffalo defence. If there is hope for the Derailers in this game it lies in the Bombers' reliance on moving the ball efficiently on the ground, an area of strength for the Buffalo defence. If Buffalo can contain the Mitchell-Fournette one-two punch and force Jared Goff to the air, the takeaway may come into play just enough to put the offence in a position to score. Let's not forget that Buffalo was expected to contend for the playoffs. They still can, but are running out of time to figure things out. **PICK: BUFFALO**

BILLTOWN @ CHARLESWOOD (line – BATS by 6)

INJURIES: **Billtown** – Xavier Rhodes (OUT); **Charleswood** – Michael Ojemudia (OUT), Asante Samuel Jr., (OUT), Ronnie Stanley (OUT), Laremy Tunsil (OUT).

The Bats were ambushed and wiped out by the Gladiators last week. It was their second alarming loss of the season and it featured Justin Herbert's worst start as a pro. Herbert has just 2 TD passes, tied for last among QBs with four starts. He has 3 interceptions, all of them in last week's game. This was not what was predicted for the developing star coming into the season. The lack of production is allowing teams to focus on Dalvin Cook, to the latter's detriment, although he still has 4 TDs and has been the difference-maker at times. It is not all Herbert's fault, of course. The wide receivers are not getting open and fans are wondering why Quez Watkins sits on the sidelines. The defence has been disappointing, but they remain the best hope to turn things around for Billtown. The Patriots are competing, in their own way, but remain a 50-50 bet to stay win-less. This is the Bat's "get right" game. **PICK: BILLTOWN**

CHINO @ VIRDEN (line – VIOLATORS by 7)

INJURIES: **Chino** – Christian McCaffrey (OUT), Za'Darius Smith (OUT); **Virden** – Anthony Barr (OUT).

Virden let one get away from them in the final seconds last week, after falling behind again in the first three quarters. Patrick Mahomes pulled off his usual fourth-quarter heroics, only to see them cancelled by the defence's inability to keep Jalen Hurts from completing four straight passes in 22 seconds and getting into field goal range. The concern in Virden is that they have had to go to the

Mahomes “well” too often late in games. Except for the Bruxelles game, they have been slow to start. That will not serve them well against the Convicts who, despite losing two in a row, always pose a threat due to the merciless efficiency of Dak Prescott. The loss of Christian McCaffrey for the foreseeable future will hurt, but forcing Prescott to the air is not necessarily in the Violators’ interest. The Chase-Terrell match-up will be interesting to watch. Ezekiel Elliott may be called upon again, which will slow the pace. **PICK: CHINO**

PEG CITY @ SEATTLE (line – PILOTS by 6)

INJURIES: Peg City – Alec Ingold (OUT); Seattle – Cam Akers (IR), Sebastian Joseph-Day (OUT), Khalil Mack (OUT).

The surprising emergence of Drew Lock as a top-ten quarterback has pushed the Pilots into the spotlight – a spotlight on a sideshow far away from the Main Stage, perhaps, but attention-worthy all the same. Lock stunned the heavily-favoured Irish in their own house last week, showing dual-threat capability with a clutch 5-yard scramble for a touchdown. This week he faces his biggest test against the top-ranked defence in the league. Yes, for those who have not been paying attention, the Crusaders’ ‘D’ is ranked no.1 in overall efficiency, which is the only thing keeping them in games, as the offence is among the least efficient in the league. They have a window to achievement here, as the Pilots’ ‘D’ has performed dismally so far and the loss of Khalil Mack does not help. **PICK: PEG CITY**

TWIN CITIES @ IOWA CITY (line – Pick ‘Em)

INJURIES Twin Cities – Jaire Alexander (OUT), Antonio Brown (OUT), Spencer Brown (OUT), Danielle Hunter (OUT), Emmanuel Moseley (OUT), Jameis Winston (OUT); **Iowa City** – Tre Brown (OUT), Braden Smith (OUT).

This unlikely battle of division leaders has everyone confused and the networks ruing that they are not allowed to flex games to Sunday night prior to Week Six. Defying pundits who predicted a Cubs freefall in 2022, Russell Wilson is rising to the challenge and reminding people that he, too, is an elite quarterback who can carry a team. Joe Mixon, the league’s leading rusher, can rightly claim some credit as well for the Cubs hot start. However, this is all destined to come crashing down at some point unless the Cubs’ defence learns how to defend. Amani Hooker can only force so many fumbles. On the Triumph side, it looks like this is finally Trevor Lawrence’s team, barring a regressive move to Mitch Trubisky by the eccentric Triumph coach. Common sense says he has to be better than Jameis Winston, which puts the Triumph and their quietly deadly takeaway machine on ‘D’ in a good spot. **PICK: TWIN CITIES**

DURHAM @ SEBASTIAN (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 6)

INJURIES: Durham – Ben Powers (OUT), Malik Reed (OUT); **Sebastian** – Justin Reid (DOUBTFUL), Kendal Vickers (OUT).

The story in Sebastian so far this year, in addition to the effects of the unrestrained impulse by their coach to gamble boldly on fourth down, is the struggle of Kirk Cousins to distribute the ball effectively and, in particular, to get it into the hands of their new and costly acquisition, Dalton Schultz. This came to a head last week with Cousins getting benched for Gardner Minshew in mid-drive. The change provided the needed spark that helped the Swordfish edge the Bombers, but Minshew is not the long-term answer for Sebastian. They need to get Cousins back into 2021 form or they will fade quickly out of the playoff picture. It will be tough to do so against the Durham defence that ranks first in points-allowed, first in interceptions and has allowed an opposing passer rating of just 61.7. Nevertheless, expect the Swordfish coach to give it the old college try, on any down, and watch the Fish flameout. **PICK: DURHAM**

COWTOWN @ SCARBOROUGH (line – CORN KINGS by 2)

INJURIES: Cowtown – Akiem Hicks (OUT); Scarborough – Landon Collins (OUT), Dustin Jones (OUT).

I don’t think the Blue Eagles are as bad as their record, but they have not played good football so far on either side of the ball. Joe Burrow has been the biggest disappointment, having thrown 7 interceptions and been sacked 15 times, both marks “good” for second-worst in the league behind rookie Kenny Pickett. The season is slipping away, making this practically a must-win to keep any hope alive. The Corn Kings get TJ Watt back and his presence will certainly help, but the concern in Cowtown resides more with the quarterback play and the resulting sluggishness of the offence. This was the difference last week in a surprising loss to Cobb County. Scarborough typically plays the Corn Kings tough at home. They are desperate and due, while the Kings are in a dip. **PICK: SCARBOROUGH**

GEORGIA @ BUDAPEST (line – NORTH STARS by 11)

INJURIES: Georgia – Kristian Fulton (OUT); **Budapest** – Shelby Harris (DOUBTFUL), Elgton Jenkins (OUT), Ryan Ramczyk (OUT), Craig Reynolds (OUT).

The Gladiators pummelled the Bats last week, proving again that anything is possible on a given Sunday. But playing the North Stars in Budapest is not any given Sunday – it is potentially a Sunday from Hell. The book on Tua is still in the early chapters, so it is impossible to know what to expect. He was awful against Erieau in his debut as the confirmed fulltime starter, but played well against a strong Bats defence last week, one of the league’s best defences on paper. The Budapest defence, while not as imposing as last year, has been performing at a top-five level. It is hard to envision the young Glad QB getting the better of Darrin Jones and this crew often enough to keep pace with Aaron Rodgers, his All-Pro receivers, and his always fresh Running Back Committee, chaired by Cordarrell Patterson.

Kristian Fulton is out, leaving the Glads' backfield more exposed than usual. The potential for ugliness is high. **PICK: BUDAPEST**

PICKERING @ OSHAWA (line – SPARTANS by 2)

INJURIES: Pickering – Willie Gay (OUT), Romeo Okwara (OUT), Calvin Ridley (OUT), Sterling Shepard (OUT); Oshawa – John Cominsky (IR), Marcus Davenport (OUT), Erik Harris (OUT), Jason McCourty (OUT), J.J. Watt (OUT).

The tendency that I, and many in my line of business, had last year, as the Pink Panthers were falling off a cliff, was to expect them to hit a protruding branch at any moment and somehow stay alive in the playoff race or, when that possibility was lost, at least stay out of a top five draft pick position. Although I expected Oshawa to rebound from last year's disaster (how could they not?) I am now officially done with giving them the benefit of the doubt. Matt Ryan is no longer the quarterback who led this franchise to three Gale Sayers trophies and JJ Watt, when healthy, is far from being the game-wrecker he once was. This is at best an average team and, at worst, as bad as anybody. The Spartans, on the other hand, displayed the tantalizing qualities of the Jalen Hurst Offence in a thrilling road win over Virden last week. They sure can run the ball, which sets up play-action. Now, if they could only stop the run, they'd be a force. **PICK: PICKERING**

EAST ELMHURST @ YORK (line – EXCALIBURS by 4)

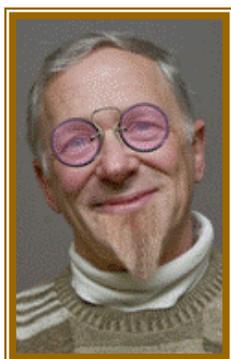
INJURIES: East Elmhurst – Everson Griffen (OUT). York – Rasul Douglas (OUT), Brandon Scherff (OUT), Jabari Zuniga (OUT).

The Irish coach is under fire for giving Jalen Ramsey the day off last week. His absence was one of the reasons that Drew Lock was "locked in" in the passing game. The loss to the Pilots is a confidence-shaker and their opponent this week is not likely to allow them to rebuild that confidence right away. Providing the York coach does not forget how to read a game clock, the Excaliburs will not be giving anything away and, as we saw two weeks ago versus Durham, they can hang with any team in the conference. The key to this game for East Elmhurst is to first dress Ramsey, and second to limit the chunk plays that Tom Brady is suddenly capable of making with his new receiver toys. The Irish run game needs to re-establish itself if Carson Wentz is to have any success this week. **PICK: YORK**

BROOKLIN @ ERIEAU (line – CADILLAC by 11)

INJURIES: Brooklin – Kwity Paye (PROBABLE), Azeez Al-Shaair (OUT), DeShon Elliott (OUT); Erieau – Stephon Gilmore (OUT), Graham Glasgow (OUT), Justin Houston (OUT), Michael Pierce (OUT).

Once one recovers from the jolt of seeing Erieau favoured by double digits, one can appreciate why the Sand Sages like this new model of the Cadillac. It boils down to Kyler Murray and the tools he brings to the offence, which have been on full display the past three weeks. It was always the offence holding the Caddies back and now that that problem is solved, no team can take them lightly, especially not one like the Hawks. After taking down York in Week One, Brooklin has looked like the team many of us thought they would be, just a little bit worse. More was expected of Derek Carr than he has shown and Austin Ekeler, for some reason, has been relegated to a change-of-pace option, rather than a go-to one. Expect the revved-up Caddies to keep driving in the fast lane. **PICK: ERIEAU**



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FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – Week Four of the EFL season saw the trend of upsets continue. First, Mohave followed up on their razing of the Hawks the week before to take down the powerful Cubs and **Russell Wilson** by the score of 34-22. **Jimmie Ward** scored on a pick-six and **KJ Wright** returned a fumble for a TD to spark the Hellfire attack, while **Ryan Fitzpatrick** rebounded from a slow start to outplay Wilson in the 4th quarter and seal the win.

At Tillman Field in Cowtown, a heavy downpour did not affect Wolverines kicker **Mike Nugent**. He kicked 3 field goals, including a 54-yarder to tie the game in the 4th

and a 40-yarder to win the game in OT as Toronto upset the Corn Kings 23-20. The play was dominated by Cowtown, but a pair of missed field goals by **Nick Novak**, including the potential game-winner from 30 yards, and a **Joe Flacco** interception proved to be fatal in turning this game against the home team.

At the Carolina Slammer, Kirk Cousins found rookie Jordan Payton open in the end zone for a 14-yard game-winning TD as the Regulators shocked Durham, 28-24. This was South Carolina's second big win in a row and prompted talk of a possible playoff berth. As it turned out, the Lizards were not as good as originally advertised, making this Regulator victory, in hindsight, less impactful than it was at the time.

Offensive Player of the Week, **Jameis Winston**, led the notable individual performances with 380 yards passing, 3 TD passes and 1 rushing TD to lead the Swordfish over Gwinnett, 38-28. Sebastian was a powerhouse and Winston played his part spot-starting behind **Andy Dalton**.

The Defensive Player of the Week was **Von Miller** of York, who had 3 sacks, 1 forced fumble and 2 fumble recoveries in a 26-21 win over New Jersey.

The surprise league-leading passer after four weeks was **Teddy Bridgewater** of LA, who boasted a 129.1 passer rating.