

# WEEK 14



# EFL

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

# 2023

## We're Number 1!

January 7, 2024

# FROM LAMB TO RAM!



## Ceedee Lamb Seattle Pilots

Seattle wide receiver **Ceedee Lamb** hurtles over two Hawks defenders and into the end zone to complete a 46-yard score in first quarter action at Hawkeye Park in Brooklin. Lamb finished with 6 catches for 187 yards and a touchdown to lead the Pilots to an upset 24-12 win over Brooklin. Lamb has been one of the league's hottest receivers the past seven weeks, contributing to four wins in that stretch that has the Pilots in playoff contention. *(Story inside)*

EAST



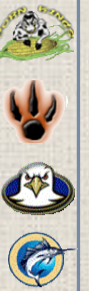
CENTRAL



WEST



NORTH



COASTAL



SOUTH



Who was slick  
in Week  
Fourteen?

“Brylcreem” THE  
EFL'S FIRST SPONSOR



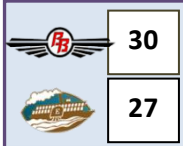
Bryce Young  
QB  
Cobb County  
Coyotes

20 of 26, 287 yds, 4TDs, 0INTs, 151.8  
QB Rating. Mastered tough D in win.



DaRon Bland  
CB  
East Elmhurst  
Irish

10 T, 3 PD, 1 INT (3 yds), 1 FR TD (31  
yds). Total dominant performance in win


**30**
**27**

**Nyheim Hines** returned the game's opening kickoff for a TD to give Erieau the very early lead. The Bombers spent over half the game trying to catch up but finally took a 24-21 lead on the opening drive of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half with a 9-yard **Elijah Mitchell** TD run. **Nathan Peterman**, replacing an injured **Kyler Murray**, finished off the second of two comeback FG drives in the 4<sup>th</sup> to give Erieau a late 27-24 lead. **Brett Maher** tied the game with 0:11 left then gave the Bombers the win in OT with a 23-yard FG, set up by a 40-yard Mitchell run. Bruxelles as a team rushed for 332 yards on 46 carries.

01-21-2024 Kelly-Burke Field Temp:21 Wind:5-15 None Line:BRX by 3 MVP:Mitchell HFA

	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
2023 Bruxelles (10-4)	3	14	7	3	3	30
2023 Erieau (5-9)	14	7	0	6	0	27

**Passing**

BRX: Fields 25/14 135 Yds TD

ERI: Murray 21/16 155 Yds TD, Peterman 7/4 37 Yds

**Rushing**

BRX: Mitchell 23/180 2 TDs, Fields 17/138, Fournette 6/14

ERI: Pierce 6/56, Murray 6/38 TD, Harris 9/35, Michel 1/4, Hines 1/3

**Receiving**

BRX: Wilson 4/48, Godwin 4/43 TD, Fournette 3/17, Collins 2/27, Juszczuk 1/0

ERI: Andrews 6/48, Waddle 5/60, Harris 4/22, Higgins 2/16 TD, Henry 1/7, Pierce 1/8

**Defense**

BRX: Grant 9-Tk, Campbell 8-Tk, Ebukam Sk 3-Tk

ERI: Garrett Sk 5-Tk, Crosby 10-Tk, McLeod 8-Tk

**Injuries**

BRX: Dulcich 3, Maye 2, Herbert 1, Collins 1, Ebukam 1, Hopkins 1

ERI: Holtz 5, Robinson 2, Pierce 1, Murray 1

**Misc**

BRX: Nixon 5/120 KR 28 Lg, Maher 3/3 FG 42 Lg

ERI: Hines 3/143 KR 89 Lg TD, Myers 2/2 FG 41 Lg


**31**
**6**

**Tyler Bass** kicked 5 FGs, **Marcus Mariota** threw 2 TD passes, and **Jermaine Johnson II** sacked Buffalo starter **Tanner McKee** for a safety to tally 31 points in Georgia's trampling of Buffalo. The Derailers started by turning over the ball on 4<sup>th</sup> & 11 from their own 24 and went nowhere but down from there. Two turnovers on downs, a lost fumble by **Treyveon Williams**, and 2 picks of McKee set up all 5 Bass FGs. Mariota connected on TD passes of 23 yards to **Diontae Johnson** and 44 yards to **Amari Cooper**, his league-high 18<sup>th</sup>. It was Buffalo's first game without **Lamar Jackson**.

01-21-2024 Highmark Stadium Temp:35 Wind:0-10 Heavy Snow Line:GEO by 9 MVP:Mariota HFA:

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Georgia (10-4)	13	8	3	7	31
2023 Buffalo (3-11)	0	0	0	6	6

**Passing**

GEO: Mariota 21/13 205 Yds 2 TDs

BUF: McKee 27/12 105 Yds 2 Int

**Rushing**

GEO: Jacobs 20/64, Stevenson 10/19, Mariota 6/16

BUF: Bigsby 10/42, Dillon 12/35 TD, Johnson 2/11, McKee 6/5, Abdullah 1/4, Fant 1/1

**Receiving**

GEO: Johnson 3/42 TD, Jacobs 3/26, Cooper 3/71 TD, Stevenson 2/35, Smith-Njigba 2/31

BUF: Gage 6/50, Robinson 4/37, Abdullah 1/6, Woods 1/11, Bigsby 1/6

**Defense**

GEO: Bell Int 5-Tk, Johnson II Sk 4-Tk, Kelly FF 6-Tk, Nichols Sk 3-Tk

BUF: Evans 16-Tk, Madubuike Sk 6-Tk, Granderson Sk 4-Tk, Donald 9-Tk

**Injuries**

GEO: Jones 1

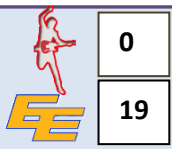
BUF: Toney 5, Jackson 4

**Misc**

GEO: Jacobs F-L, Pratt FR, Johnson II Sk S, Bass 5/5 FG 43 Lg

BUF: Williams F-L, Chubb FR





0

19

Corner, **DaRon Bland** had an interception and recovered a fumble for the game's only TD to lead a shutout effort by the Irish 'D' in the rain at East Elmhurst. Bland was also credited with 3 pass break-ups and 10 tackles to earn the game ball. With the Irish in front 9-0 after a **Trent Taylor** fumbled punt had set up **Eddie Pineiro's** third of 4 FGs on the day, **Micah Parsons** blindsided **Daniel Jones** and the ball popped into the arms of Bland, who returned it 31 yards for the score. The Wrecking Balls turned to **Matt Stafford** to spark a comeback, but he proved ineffective in relief.

01-21-2024 Mgr.McClancy Mem St Temp:36 Wind:Calm Rain Line:NJ by 1 MVP:Bland HF

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 New Jersey (6-8)	0	0	0	0	0
2023 East Elmhurst (6-8)	3	0	3	13	19

Passing

NJ: Jones 34/23 162 Yds Int, Stafford 18/12 89 Yds  
EE: Brissett 20/8 169 Yds

Rushing

NJ: Montgomery 6/19, Jones 5/18, Robinson Jr. 5/14, Stafford 1/3  
EE: Brown 14/43, Huntley 3/21, Brissett 5/13, Williams 6/7

Receiving

NJ: McLaurin 10/99, Doubs 8/74, McKinnon 8/35, Hooper 4/20, Wilson 2/14, McBride 1/1  
EE: Metcalf 3/95, Jones 2/21, Brown 1/8, Skowronek 1/38, Johnston 1/7

Defense

NJ: Heyward 2-Sks 10-Tk, Hughes Sk 8-Tk, Armstrong Sk 4-Tk, Floyd Sk 4-Tk  
EE: Bland Int FF 10-Tk, Allen 2-Sks 5-Tk, Ogunjobi Sk 6-Tk, Parsons Sk FF 2-Tk

Injuries

NJ: Allen 2, Awuzie 1  
EE: Moore 1

Misc

NJ: Taylor F-L, Jones F-L, McLaurin F-L  
EE: Jones FR, Bland FR TD, Porter Jr FR, Pineiro 4/4 FG 45 Lg



21

31

In the battle of first round rookie quarterbacks, **Bryce Young** emerged victorious, throwing for 287 yards and 4 TD passes to 4 different receivers in a 442-yard offensive team effort against the Braves defence. His opponent, **C.J. Stroud** was not far behind, with 277 yards and 3 TD passes, but failed to catch up after Young completed TD passes to **Michael Pittman** and **Brandin Cooks** to cap Cobb County's first two drives of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half and take a 31-13 lead. A fumbled punt return by **Braxton Berrios** put LaPlata on its heels early, setting up a 6-yard TD pass to **Jordan Addison** to start the scoring.

01-21-2024 Coyote Field Temp:67 Wind:0-5 None Line:CB by 8 MVP:Young HFA:ON(2)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 LaPlata (7-7)	0	13	0	8	21
2023 Cobb County (7-7)	10	7	7	7	31

Passing

LPB: Stroud 37/26 277 Yds 3 TDs  
CB: Young 26/20 287 Yds 4 TDs

Rushing

LPB: Gibbs 9/51, Boone 2/22, Stroud 2/2  
CB: Etienne 16/61, Young 5/49, Cook 9/29, Hill 8/16

Receiving

LPB: Adams 8/118 TD, Thielen 7/85 TD, Smith 4/33, Goedert 3/27, Gibbs 3/5, Allen 1/9 TD  
CB: Parker 4/56, Cooks 4/75 TD, Pittman Jr. 3/29 TD, Etienne 2/20, Cook 2/11

Defense

LPB: Walker 16-Tk  
CB: Oluokun FF 8-Tk

Injuries

LPB:  
CB: Turner 2, Jones 1, Uche 1, Addison 1

Misc

LPB: Berrios 2/61 KR 32 Lg F-L  
CB: Wirffs FR, Moody 1/2 FG 55 Lg



37



27

Patrick Mahomes threw 3 TD pass to T.J. Hockenson to ignite a 24-point 2nd-quarter explosion that turned the momentum and carried Virden to its 13th win of the season. Hockenson started his natural hattrick with a 65-yard catch-and-run on a short hitch and followed up with TD catches of 16 and 19 yards on consecutive series, turning the tables on a 13-0 Cowtown lead after one quarter. The Corn Kings started well, scoring a TD on the opening drive and adding another after TJ Watt intercepted Mahomes at his 15-yard line. But once the Violators finally got going, they could not be stopped.

01-20-2024 Tillman Field Temp:34 Wind:10-20 None \*Internet\* Line:WV by 13 MVP:Mahomes H

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Virden (13-1)	0	24	10	3	37
2023 Cowtown (7-7)	13	0	7	7	27

Passing

WV: Mahomes 35/21 347 Yds 3 TDs Int  
COW: Dalton 24/16 176 Yds 2 TDs Int

Rushing

WV: Conner 24/105 TD, Mahomes 4/26  
COW: Murray 7/63, Williams 9/43 2 TDs, Benjamin 5/35, Dalton 3/1

Receiving

WV: Chase 8/122, Hockenson 5/112 3 TDs, Olave 5/81, Hill 2/23, Conner 1/9  
COW: Lazard 6/70 TD, Evans 3/57, McKenzie 2/21, Carter 2/8 TD, Murray 2/15

Defense

WV: Judon 2-Sks 2-FF 6-Tk, Hargrave 2-Sks 5-Tk, James Int 5-Tk, Clark Sk 4-Tk  
COW: Watt Int 3-Tk, Gross-Matos 8-Tk, Smith 8-Tk

Injuries

WV: Mitchell 3, Peters 3, Oliver 2, Mills 2, Morse 1  
COW: Ngakoue 2, Ioannidis 2, Chinn 1, Pierce 1, Cole 1

Misc

WV: Johnson FR, Prater 3/3 FG 42 Lg  
COW: Carter F-L



10



41

Four Pats' QBs threw 5 picks, one of them a pick-six to Tyrann Mathieu in the 3rd, to fuel a lop-sided Thunder Lizards' win. Josh Allen had this game under control early, with a 19-yard TD pass to Cooper Kupp on the game's opening drive and back-to-back TD passes of 31 yards to Dawson Knox and 65-yards to Marquez Valdes-Scantling late the 1st half. After Kenny Pickett threw his second pick early in the 3rd, the Pats turned to Will Levis and DeShaun Watson, who each threw interceptions on their first pass attempts of the year. Hendon Hooker mopped up for the Pats n the 4th.

01-21-2024 Jurassic Park Temp:69 Wind:Calm Rain Line:CHP by 2 MVP:Allen HFA:ON(

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Charleswood (4-10)	0	0	0	10	10
2023 Durham (11-3)	7	17	17	0	41

Passing

CHP: Pickett 24/11 64 Yds 2 Int, Hooker 16/6 48 Yds Int, Watson 1/0 0 Yds Int, Levis 1/0 0 Yds Int  
DTL: Allen 23/16 280 Yds 4 TDs Int, Mayfield 3/2 19 Yds

Rushing

CHP: Singletary 19/113 TD, Hooker 9/49, Pacheco 8/32, Pickett 1/1  
DTL: Allgeier 9/34, Allen 4/32, Mattison 9/13, Mayfield 1/1

Receiving

CHP: Kelce 8/64, Singletary 5/32, Boutte 2/9, Smith-Schuster 1/6, Pacheco 1/1  
DTL: Kupp 8/122 TD, Scott 3/38 TD, Samuel 2/18, Knox 2/35 TD, Valdes-Scantling 1/65 TD

Defense

CHP: Carter II Sk FF 2-Tk, Sweat Sk 4-Tk, Phillips Sk 4-Tk, Holland Int 3-Tk  
DTL: Simmons Int 10-Tk, Mathieu Int(TD) 4-Tk, Barton Int 5-Tk, Jones Sk 5-Tk, Warner Int 4-Tk, Gonzalez Int 1-Tk

Injuries

CHP: Ojabo 2, Rodgers 1  
DTL: Penny 1

Misc

CHP: Lutz 1/2 FG 38 Lg  
DTL: Santos 2/2 FG 39 Lg



21

After 5 straight punts **DaQuon Jones** sacked **Kirk Cousins** in the end zone for a safety to open the scoring. **Daniel Carlson** would make it a hockey score with a 35-yard FG to give the Swordfish a 3-2 lead. **Mac Jones** got hot on the final two Crusader drives of the 1<sup>st</sup> half with a 15-yard TD pass to **Courtland Sutton** and a 23-yard TD pass to **Alvin Kamara** to it 15-3 at halftime. A punt-filled 3<sup>rd</sup> gave way to a Swordfish TD drive to open the 4<sup>th</sup> with **Zay Jones** scoring on a 13-yard pass. The Peg City 'D' held up the rest of the way and Younghoe Koo added insurance with 45 & 43-yard FGs.



10

01-21-2024 The Fish Tank Temp:76 Wind:Calm Line:PCC by 4 MVP:Jones HFA:ON(

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Peg City (10-4)	2	13	0	6	21
2023 Sebastian (3-11)	0	3	0	7	10

Passing

PCC: Jones 34/23 261 Yds 2 TDs  
SS: Cousins 33/20 145 Yds TD Int

Rushing

PCC: Barkley 13/43, Kamara 8/26, Jones 5/7  
SS: Chubb 22/91, Moss 2/9

Receiving

PCC: Aiyuk 6/87, Sutton 5/51 TD, Barkley 3/23, Pitts 3/41, Meyers 2/22, Kamara 2/18 TD  
SS: Jones 9/65 TD, Johnson 5/26, Peoples-Jones 3/40, Moore 1/4, Marshall Jr. 1/7

Defense

PCC: Jones 2-Sks 6-Tk, Hutchinson Sk 10-Tk  
SS: Hicks Sk 10-Tk, Singleton Sk 7-Tk, Jenkins 11-Tk, Fuller 8-Tk, Barr Sk 3-Tk

Injuries

PCC:  
SS: Taylor 3, Witherspoon 2, Vickers 1

Misc

PCC: Koo 2/2 FG 45 Lg  
SS: Carlson 1/1 FG 35 Lg



41

**Tyler Lockett's** fumble on the game's first play set up a quick Scarborough TD on a 10-yard scramble by **Joe Burrow** to give the Blue Eagles a 7-0 lead. They would not score again until after the Triumph had piled up 38 points on a 1-yard TD run by **Jeff Wilson**, TD runs of 13 yards and 1 yard by **Clyde Edwards-Helaire**, a pair of 5-yard TD passes from **Trevor Lawrence** to **Tyler Higbee** and **Darrel Henderson Jr.**, and a 49-yard **Brandon McManus** FG. The Triumph offence racked up 575 total yards, 282 rushing, and the defence picked off Burrow twice, leading to 10 points in the rout.



14

01-21-2024 The Eagles Nest Temp:41 Wind:0-5 None Line:TCT by 5 MVP:Edwards-Hela HFA:0

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Twin Cities (10-4)	3	21	14	3	41
2023 Scarborough (2-12)	7	0	0	7	14

Passing

TCT: Lawrence 26/20 239 Yds 2 TDs Int, Haener 4/2 55 Yds  
SBE: Burrow 26/13 184 Yds TD 2 Int

Rushing

TCT: Edwards-Helaire 16/110 2 TDs, Wilson 11/92 TD, Henderson Jr. 10/54, Lawrence 3/14  
SBE: Perine 4/35, Burrow 3/26 TD, Cook 13/26

Receiving

TCT: Lockett 10/186, Duvernay 3/32, Higbee 3/23 TD, Wilson 2/10, Moore 2/35  
SBE: Cook 4/69 TD, Cobb 3/74, Landry 2/14, Dotson 2/20, Perine 1/5, Zaccheaus 1/2

Defense

TCT: Hunter Sk 9-Tk  
SBE: Davis FF 7-Tk, Jackson Int 4-Tk

Injuries

TCT: Stingley Jr. 1  
SBE: Schobert 6

Misc

TCT: Lockett F-L, McManus 1/1 FG 49 Lg, Hopkins 1/1 FG 35 Lg  
SBE: Hufanga FR



31



10

**Raheem Mostert** broke a 76-yard run and 3 plays later **Cordarrell Patterson** plunged in from 2-yards to give Budapest a 7-0 lead. The North Stars controlled the rest of the 1st half, adding TD runs of 1 yard by Patterson and 8 yards by Mostert and a **Nick Folk** FG to take a 24-0 lead into the locker. The Convicts got a spark when **Christian McCaffrey** busted loose for a 52-yard TD run in the 3rd. Trailing now 24-10, Chino fired an onside kick, but it was recovered by Budapest. The Stars proceeded to drive 73 yards to Patterson's third TD run of the game to finish the scoring and ensure the win.

01-21-2024 The Big House Temp:72 Wind:Calm None Line:BUD by 2 MVP:Mostert HFA:ON(

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Budapest (11-3)	7	17	0	7	31
2023 Chino (7-7)	0	0	10	0	10

Passing

BUD: Rodgers 26/17 221 Yds Int

CHI: Goff 28/17 126 Yds Int

Rushing

BUD: Mostert 12/105 TD, Patterson 8/39, Patterson 10/24 3 TDs, Achane 2/18

CHI: McCaffrey 11/69 TD, Jones 9/41, Jackson 2/3, Mullens 1/1

Receiving

BUD: Diggs 8/86, Jefferson 3/48, Kittle 3/47, Mostert 1/25, Achane 1/3, Raymond 1/12

CHI: Campbell 4/47, Flowers 4/32, McCaffrey 3/8, Boyd 3/19, Jones 2/21, Hurst 1/-1

Defense

BUD: Jordan Sk FF 3-Tk, Fitzpatrick Int 4-Tk

CHI: Gholston Sk 7-Tk, Gardner-Johnson Int 5-Tk, Terrell FF 7-Tk

Injuries

BUD:

CHI: Shepard 3, Mooney 2, Igwebuike 2

Misc

BUD: Folk 1/2 FG 42 Lg

CHI: Butker 1/2 FG 34 Lg



24



12

**Ceedee Lamb** caught a deep slant from **Garnder Minshew** for a 46-yard TD to open the scoring and had a key catch on each of his team's four other scoring drives to star for the Pilots as they doubled up the Hawks 24-12. Lamb hauled in a 49-yard bomb to set up the first of **Evan McPherson's** 3 FGs, and generated chunk plays of 24, 25 and 29 yards to set up two more and a 25-yard TD pass to **Tank Dell**. Meanwhile, Seattle's defence proved resilient in overcoming key injuries in the secondary. They sacked **Geno Smith** 4 times and held the Hawks to 242 total yards and 1 TD on the day.

01-21-2024 Hawkeye Park Temp:31 Wind:Calm None Line:BRH by 6 MVP:Lamb HFA:ON(2

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Seattle (5-9)	7	3	6	8	24
2023 Brooklin (7-7)	6	0	0	6	12

Passing

SEA: Minshew 13/10 242 Yds 2 TDs

BRH: Smith 25/16 161 Yds TD

Rushing

SEA: Walker III 24/79, Lance 2/9, Hunt 1/3, Minshew 3/2, Deguara 1/1

BRH: Ekeler 17/60, Robinson 9/22, Smith 5/21

Receiving

SEA: Lamb 6/187 TD, Dell 3/38 TD, Hunt 1/11, Mayer 1/10

BRH: London 4/89 TD, Ekeler 4/21, Engram 3/18, Claypool 2/15, Hollins 2/17

Defense

SEA: White Sk 7-Tk, Mack 10-Tk

BRH: Highsmith Sk FF 5-Tk, Elliott 8-Tk

Injuries

SEA: Farrell Jr. 4, Wentz 1, Taylor 1, Smoot 1, Renfrow 1

BRH: McKinney 3, Jackson 3, Bolles 3, Brisker 1, Clark 1

Misc

SEA: McPherson 3/3 FG 53 Lg

BRH: Bullock 2/2 FG 49 Lg



24

**Tom Brady's** third TD pass of the game, an 11-yard hitch to **Cole Kmet** followed by a controversial 2-point convert, proved to be the difference as York held on to defeat the Cubs 29-24. After falling behind to the visitors 7-0 on a **Derek Carr** to **David Njoku** 6-yard scoring hook-up, the Excaliburs erased the lead and went in front with the help of back-to-back 23 and 27-yard punt returns by **Britain Covey**, that set up short fields for two York TD drives. **Russell Wilson** took over for Carr and was picked off in the red zone before the half. Later he led two 4<sup>th</sup> quarter TD drives that came too little too late.



29

01-21-2024 Camelot Temp:38 Wind:0-5 None Line:YOR by 5 MVP:Brady HFA:ON(3)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Iowa City (4-10)	7	0	3	14	24
2023 York (7-7)	0	14	7	8	29

Passing

ICC: Wilson 38/21 217 Yds TD Int, Carr 13/9 84 Yds TD

YOR: Brady 23/18 186 Yds 3 TDs

Rushing

ICC: Miller 12/44 TD, Johnson 7/37, Wilson 5/21, Carter 1/2

YOR: Henry 17/89 TD, Scott 4/17, Williams 3/15, Brady 7/3

Receiving

ICC: Brown 14/188 TD, Kirk 10/86, Carter 4/14, Njoku 2/13 TD

YOR: St. Brown 7/75 TD, Kmet 4/53 TD, Davis 3/32 TD, Scott 1/2, Burks 1/11

Defense

ICC: Jewell 2-FF 8-Tk, Key 10-Tk, Anderson Jr. Sk 3-Tk, Murphy Sk 3-Tk

YOR: Douglas Int 12-Tk, Holcomb 12-Tk, Gary Sk 4-Tk, Apple 9-Tk

Injuries

ICC: Brown 3, Johnson 2, Paschal 1, Njoku 1

YOR: Thomas 4, Tonga 2, Mathis 1, Zuniga 1, Williams 1

Misc

ICC: Tucker 1/2 FG 53 Lg

YOR: Covey 2/50 PR 27 Lg



41

**Jalen Hurts** connected downfield with **George Pickens** for a 45-yard TD pass to start the 2<sup>nd</sup> half and give the Spartans a commanding 27-9 lead. The Spartans' defence then shut down the Bats' last big push to get back in the game, stopping them on downs at the Pickering 10-yard line after a 16-play drive. Hurts' fourth TD pass, a 12-yarder to **Pat Freiermuth**, and a 62-yard scoop-and-score by **Carlos Dunlap** rounded out the scoring. **Richie James Jr** and **DeVonta Smith** caught the other 2 TD passes from Hurts. Billtown gave a good effort in the 1<sup>st</sup> half but settled for 3 long FGs instead of TDs.



9

01-21-2024 Veteran Field Temp:25 Wind:0-5 Light Snow Line:PIC by 13 MVP:Hurts HFA:ON

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Pickering (12-2)	7	13	7	14	41
2023 Billtown (1-13)	3	6	0	0	9

Passing

PIC: Hurts 26/15 254 Yds 4 TDs

BB: Herbert 35/24 165 Yds Int

Rushing

PIC: Sanders 13/79, Swift 5/41, Hurts 6/21, White 3/7

BB: Brown 13/48, Breida 10/44, Herbert 2/12

Receiving

PIC: Pickens 4/104 TD, Smith 3/60 TD, Freiermuth 3/30 TD, James Jr. 3/43 TD

BB: Brown 6/45, Kraft 6/45, Alie-Cox 6/44, Dulin 3/20, Breida 2/3, Brown 1/8

Defense

PIC: Lawrence Sk FF 7-Tk, Dugger 10-Tk, McCourty 8-Tk

BB: Williams 10-Tk, Davis 9-Tk, Stone FF 5-Tk

Injuries

PIC: Brown 2, Kinlaw 1

BB: Thomas 6, Bryant 4, Hardman 2, Harris 1, Adams 1, Elliss 1

Misc

PIC: Dunlap FR (TD), Ferguson F-L, Zuerlein 2/2 FG 52 Lg

BB: Brown F-L, McDuffie FR\*, Fairbairn 3/3 FG 52 Lg





WEEK FOURTEEN

## STANDINGS & STATS

### 2023 EFL - Week 14 Standings

East	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Bruxelles	10	4	0	.714	W2	360	25.7	271	19.4	6.4	5 2 0	3 1 0	7 3 0
Cobb County	7	7	0	.500	W3	350	25.0	353	25.2	-0.2	4 3 0	3 1 0	5 5 0
New Jersey	6	8	0	.429	L1	235	16.8	272	19.4	-2.6	2 5 0	1 3 0	5 5 0
Buffalo	3	11	0	.214	L5	223	15.9	387	27.6	-11.7	2 5 0	1 3 0	3 7 0
Central	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
z-Virden	13	1	0	.929	W1	493	35.2	194	13.9	21.4	6 0 0	3 1 0	9 1 0
Peg City	10	4	0	.714	W1	303	21.6	262	18.7	2.9	4 3 0	2 2 0	8 2 0
Twin Cities	10	4	0	.714	W3	393	28.1	269	19.2	8.9	5 3 0	2 2 0	7 3 0
Charleswood	4	10	0	.286	L1	259	18.5	381	27.2	-8.7	1 6 0	1 3 0	2 8 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Chino	7	7	0	.500	L2	269	19.2	313	22.4	-3.1	4 3 0	3 1 0	5 5 0
Seattle	5	9	0	.357	W3	254	18.1	368	26.3	-8.1	2 5 0	2 2 0	4 6 0
Iowa City	4	10	0	.286	L6	363	25.9	454	32.4	-6.5	1 5 0	3 1 0	4 6 0
Billtown	1	13	0	.071	L9	206	14.7	387	27.6	-12.9	0 8 0	0 4 0	1 9 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
y-Durham	11	3	0	.786	W6	416	29.7	274	19.6	10.1	5 2 0	3 1 0	8 2 0
Cowtown	7	7	0	.500	L2	318	22.7	292	20.9	1.9	3 4 0	3 1 0	6 4 0
Sebastian	3	11	0	.214	L1	259	18.5	396	28.3	-9.8	1 6 0	1 3 0	3 7 0
Scarborough	2	12	0	.143	L3	299	21.4	401	28.6	-7.3	0 7 0	1 3 0	1 9 0
Coastal	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
z-Pickering	12	2	0	.857	W1	437	31.2	178	12.7	18.5	6 1 0	4 0 0	8 2 0
z-Budapest	11	3	0	.786	W5	354	25.3	245	17.5	7.8	5 1 0	1 3 0	7 3 0
York	7	7	0	.500	W1	315	22.5	340	24.3	-1.8	3 4 0	2 2 0	4 6 0
Brooklin	7	7	0	.500	L1	307	21.9	340	24.3	-2.4	4 4 0	1 3 0	5 5 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Georgia	10	4	0	.714	W5	412	29.4	311	22.2	7.2	4 3 0	4 0 0	7 3 0
LaPlata	7	7	0	.500	L1	273	19.5	270	19.3	0.2	5 2 0	3 1 0	6 4 0
East Elmhurst	6	8	0	.429	W1	256	18.3	345	24.6	-6.4	4 3 0	1 3 0	2 8 0
Erieau	5	9	0	.357	L3	303	21.6	354	25.3	-3.6	2 5 0	0 4 0	3 7 0

y-Clinched Division

z-Clinched Wildcard



Passing		G	Att	Cmp	C%	Yds	Y/C	Lg	25	50	In	I%	Td	Td%	Sk	Rate
1 Hurts	PIC	14	302	196	64.9	2822	14.4	50	27	1	4	1.3	24	7.9	9	116.1
2 Mahomes	VV	14	500	314	62.8	4319	13.8	75	37	1	10	2.0	45	9.0	9	112.1
3 Tagovailoa	GEO	10	325	206	63.4	2948	14.3	49	31	0	11	3.4	30	9.2	5	109.4
4 Stroud	LPB	12	280	192	68.6	2213	11.5	43	12	0	8	2.9	18	6.4	18	101.7
5 Wilson	ICC	12	235	147	62.6	1967	13.4	67	22	0	5	2.1	15	6.4	15	101.5
6 Tannehill	PCC	9	249	162	65.1	1954	12.1	57	12	0	5	2.0	15	6.0	21	100.7
7 Garoppolo	COW	8	259	172	66.4	1955	11.4	57	11	1	5	1.9	13	5.0	14	97.6
8 Burrow	SBE	14	403	269	66.7	2604	9.7	67	17	0	11	2.7	26	6.5	18	94.8
9 Allen	DTL	14	417	244	58.5	3358	13.8	65	30	0	14	3.4	29	7.0	19	93.6
10 Lawrence	TCT	14	451	284	63.0	3213	11.3	47	27	0	9	2.0	23	5.1	15	92.9
11 Young	CB	14	466	284	60.9	3591	12.6	52	22	0	13	2.8	27	5.8	26	92.7
12 Murray	ERI	10	311	211	67.8	2046	9.7	69	11	0	5	1.6	11	3.5	18	91.1
13 Rodgers	BUD	14	447	278	62.2	3276	11.8	74	27	0	12	2.7	22	4.9	17	89.7
14 Smith	BRH	14	476	317	66.6	3077	9.7	50	20	0	11	2.3	21	4.4	27	89.6
15 Goff	CHI	14	479	309	64.5	2938	9.5	57	13	0	7	1.5	16	3.3	14	86.4
16 Jones	NJ	14	388	264	68.0	2227	8.4	54	10	0	6	1.5	10	2.6	41	84.8
17 Brady	YOR	14	495	316	63.8	3170	10.0	66	15	0	12	2.4	19	3.8	16	84.7
18 Jackson	BUF	13	409	270	66.0	2405	8.9	73	10	0	9	2.2	15	3.7	47	84.7
19 Brissett	EE	12	364	228	62.6	2282	10.0	79	16	0	7	1.9	13	3.6	34	84.3
20 Fields	BRX	13	283	176	62.2	2055	11.7	52	18	0	10	3.5	10	3.5	22	81.2
21 Wentz	SEA	12	292	193	66.1	1829	9.5	74	14	0	12	4.1	13	4.5	17	81.0
22 Carr	ICC	13	272	157	57.7	2047	13.0	77	18	0	15	5.5	17	6.3	8	79.4
23 Pickett	CHP	14	407	245	60.2	2355	9.6	49	12	0	12	2.9	17	4.2	34	78.0
24 Cousins	SS	14	523	334	63.9	3149	9.4	62	18	0	16	3.1	14	2.7	42	76.6
25 Herbert	BB	14	537	340	63.3	2940	8.6	72	12	0	13	2.4	14	2.6	39	76.3

Kick Returns	G	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	Td	Punt Returns	G	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Lg	Td		
1 Hines	ERI	14	17	697	41.0	104	3	1 Covey	YOR	14	39	8	569	14.6	86	1
2 Williams	BUF	14	29	598	20.6	36	0	2 Turpin	BRX	14	35	16	489	14.0	52	0
3 Powell	PCC	14	27	585	21.7	38	0	3 Washington	CB	14	38	8	408	10.7	91	1
4 Jackson	CHI	14	20	582	29.1	50	0	4 Carter	COW	14	31	9	382	12.3	27	0
5 Nixon	BRX	14	21	572	27.2	39	0	5 Duvernay	TCT	14	35	12	344	9.8	20	0
6 Berrios	LPB	14	20	553	27.7	47	0	6 Hines	ERI	14	32	14	314	9.8	30	0
7 Rodgers	CHP	14	17	510	30.0	51	0	7 McCloud	PCC	14	27	17	306	11.3	23	0
8 Carter	COW	14	21	478	22.8	36	0	8 Raymond	BUD	14	20	22	290	14.5	63	1
9 Haskins	SBE	14	19	467	24.6	61	0	9 Williams	SS	14	28	14	289	10.3	20	0
10 Agnew	GEO	14	19	466	24.5	45	0	10 Taylor	NJ	14	26	13	247	9.5	31	0
11 Scott	YOR	14	14	455	32.5	70	0	11 Dell	SEA	14	33	8	226	6.8	29	0
12 Scott	DTL	14	17	424	24.9	40	0	12 Berrios	LPB	14	19	20	191	10.1	17	0
13 Brightwell	NJ	14	18	398	22.1	35	0	13 Agnew	GEO	14	25	13	190	7.6	16	0
14 Duvernay	TCT	14	14	397	28.4	101	1	14 Reed	SBE	14	19	9	168	8.8	35	0
15 Sims	VV	14	14	382	27.3	48	0	15 Woods	BUF	14	34	7	167	4.9	28	0
16 Gray	PIC	14	15	368	24.5	42	0	16 Sims	VV	14	19	25	161	8.5	25	0
17 Jones	ICC	13	12	327	0.0	35	0	17 Smith	CHI	14	24	5	135	5.6	21	0
18 Washington	BRH	14	18	303	16.8	41	0	18 Gray	PIC	14	17	20	131	7.7	15	0
19 Williams	SS	14	14	299	21.4	32	0	19 Jones	ICC	13	15	4	122	8.1	12	0
20 Patterson	BUD	11	8	280	0.0	98	1	20 Palmer	DTL	13	11	33	98	0.0	22	0
21 Washington	CB	14	15	262	17.5	29	0	21 Washington	BRH	14	21	10	91	4.3	16	0
22 Mingo	SEA	14	15	188	12.5	27	0	22 Milne	BUD	11	10	3	90	0.0	16	0
23 Covey	YOR	14	9	172	0.0	27	0	23 Holland	CHP	14	19	5	90	4.7	16	0
24 Spears	BB	14	10	167	0.0	27	0	24 Rodgers	EE	13	9	13	88	0.0	16	0
25 Johnston	EE	14	11	147	0.0	22	0	25 Bryant	BB	14	13	12	79	0.0	15	0

	Rushing		G	Att	Yds	Avg	Gain	10	25	50	FD	Lg	Td	Att/G	Yds/G
1	Henry	YOR	14	315	1395	4.4	82.9	33	0	0	74	79	13	22.5	99.6
2	Chubb	SS	14	284	1261	4.4	82.4	38	0	0	77	44	11	20.3	90.1
3	Sanders	PIC	14	249	1156	4.6	83.9	31	0	0	55	32	11	17.8	82.6
4	Jacobs	GEO	14	261	1117	4.3	81.6	26	0	0	59	68	6	18.6	79.8
5	Fields	BRX	13	163	1070	6.6	80.4	46	0	0	71	56	13	12.5	82.3
6	Cook	SBE	14	237	1011	4.3	78.9	21	0	0	47	64	4	16.9	72.2
7	Wilson	TCT	13	154	988	6.4	81.2	27	1	0	47	52	11	11.8	76.0
8	Williams	COW	14	221	953	4.3	82.8	23	2	1	46	55	15	15.8	68.1
9	Jackson	BUF	13	145	841	5.8	72.4	30	0	0	52	74	6	11.2	64.7
10	Gibbs	LPB	14	151	830	5.5	78.8	25	0	0	40	62	5	10.8	59.3
11	McCaffrey	CHI	14	176	830	4.7	72.2	17	0	0	43	54	10	12.6	59.3
12	Etienne	CB	14	174	814	4.7	68.4	21	0	0	36	88	3	12.4	58.1
13	Ekeler	BRH	14	166	808	4.9	80.7	24	0	0	49	67	10	11.9	57.7
14	Dillon	BUF	14	197	795	4.0	81.7	19	0	0	50	27	5	14.1	56.8
15	Robinson	BRH	14	139	781	5.6	83.5	16	0	0	41	63	5	9.9	55.8
16	Walker III	SEA	13	173	766	4.4	81.5	24	0	0	36	40	3	13.3	58.9
17	Allgeier	DTL	13	169	732	4.3	79.3	17	0	0	35	27	3	13.0	56.3
18	Foreman	BRX	12	167	731	4.4	77.2	18	0	0	33	58	3	13.9	60.9
19	Jones	NJ	14	133	729	5.5	79.7	28	0	0	66	26	6	9.5	52.1
20	Barkley	PCC	14	215	717	3.3	79.1	14	1	0	27	39	5	15.4	51.2
21	Pacheco	CHP	14	160	696	4.4	81.9	15	0	0	33	36	3	11.4	49.7
22	Allen	DTL	14	105	665	6.3	79.0	29	1	0	39	36	6	7.5	47.5
23	Johnson	ICC	14	119	648	5.4	86.6	16	0	0	33	53	4	8.5	46.3
24	Patterson	BUD	11	124	644	5.2	81.5	19	0	0	40	39	9	11.3	58.5
25	Mostert	BUD	13	108	591	5.5	84.3	13	0	0	28	76	4	8.3	45.5
26	Mixon	LPB	12	155	587	3.8	77.4	13	0	0	33	44	4	12.9	48.9
27	Murray	COW	11	111	585	5.3	88.3	17	1	0	24	61	1	10.1	53.2
28	Conner	VV	11	142	578	4.1	84.5	10	0	0	37	23	6	12.9	52.5
29	Jones	CHI	14	128	546	4.3	64.1	20	0	0	34	35	3	9.1	39.0
30	Kamara	PCC	12	99	494	5.0	82.8	14	0	0	22	27	3	8.3	41.2
31	Pierce	ERI	13	112	486	4.3	79.5	10	0	0	21	78	1	8.6	37.4
32	Stevenson	GEO	14	99	463	4.7	75.8	13	0	0	22	35	1	7.1	33.1
33	Harris	ERI	14	123	447	3.6	82.9	9	0	0	24	22	3	8.8	31.9
34	Hurts	PIC	14	87	432	5.0	83.9	19	0	0	37	32	9	6.2	30.9
35	Fournette	BRX	13	110	417	3.8	78.2	8	0	0	23	22	4	8.5	32.1
36	Harris	BB	10	77	417	5.4	87.0	12	0	0	24	15	0	7.7	41.7
37	Singletary	CHP	14	85	409	4.8	82.4	14	0	0	19	27	3	6.1	29.2
38	Mahomes	VV	14	61	399	6.5	86.9	19	0	0	25	20	3	4.4	28.5
39	Hall	TCT	4	69	398	5.8	81.2	14	0	0	21	58	3	17.3	99.5
40	Montgomery	NJ	13	120	394	3.3	82.5	5	0	0	17	29	1	9.2	30.3
41	Pickett	CHP	14	58	382	6.6	87.9	12	0	0	22	29	2	4.1	27.3
42	Murray	ERI	10	61	359	5.9	78.7	17	0	0	32	28	4	6.1	35.9
43	Spears	BB	14	71	356	5.0	76.1	12	0	0	23	31	2	5.1	25.4
44	Young	CB	14	53	353	6.7	79.2	11	0	0	26	31	5	3.8	25.2
45	Akers	VV	12	88	342	3.9	83.0	7	0	0	28	22	1	7.3	28.5
46	Brissett	EE	12	56	337	6.0	87.5	14	0	0	22	41	2	4.7	28.1
47	Dobbins	CHP	9	63	323	5.1	76.2	11	0	0	15	44	2	7.0	35.9
48	Charbonnet	EE	11	86	320	3.7	77.9	6	0	0	22	15	3	7.8	29.1
49	White	PIC	14	82	315	3.8	72.0	8	0	0	13	29	2	5.9	22.5
50	Huntley	EE	7	61	313	5.1	86.9	11	0	0	24	19	2	8.7	44.7

	Receiving	G	No	Dp	Att	Rac	Yds	Avg	25	50	FD	Lg	Td	Rec/G	Yds/G	
1	Jefferson	BUD	14	88	4	136	238	1275	14.5	11	0	66	64	8	6.3	91.1
2	Adams	LPB	14	87	2	133	254	1348	15.5	10	0	60	62	3	6.2	96.3
3	St. Brown	YOR	14	87	2	133	168	825	9.5	2	0	41	56	3	6.2	58.9
4	Brown	ICC	14	85	7	149	431	1744	20.5	24	0	70	77	16	6.1	124.6
5	Lamb	SEA	14	84	4	134	250	1248	14.9	16	0	59	49	7	6.0	89.1
6	Metcalf	EE	14	82	4	134	351	1183	14.4	9	0	53	79	6	5.9	84.5
7	Hill	VV	14	82	6	142	327	1592	19.4	19	0	61	75	13	5.9	113.7
8	Jones	SS	14	78	5	120	219	797	10.2	5	0	36	62	5	5.6	56.9
9	Ekeler	BRH	14	75	2	106	478	401	5.3	0	0	17	20	3	5.4	28.6
10	McCaffrey	CHI	14	71	5	100	623	477	6.7	3	0	24	38	3	5.1	34.1
11	Williams	YOR	13	70	3	115	248	868	12.4	7	0	49	39	5	5.4	66.8
12	Johnson	GEO	14	67	6	113	250	967	14.4	9	0	50	45	9	4.8	69.1
13	Diggs	BUD	14	67	4	128	144	706	10.5	5	0	38	46	6	4.8	50.4
14	Pittman Jr.	CB	14	66	0	104	97	813	12.3	2	0	49	30	3	4.7	58.1
15	Chase	VV	11	66	8	99	162	883	13.4	5	0	54	29	8	6.0	80.3
16	Kelce	CHP	14	66	6	120	152	682	10.3	2	0	46	29	7	4.7	48.7
17	London	BRH	14	66	5	104	203	1049	15.9	13	0	53	50	10	4.7	74.9
18	Cooper	GEO	14	65	3	104	275	1456	22.4	23	0	59	58	18	4.6	104.0
19	Smith-Schuster	CHP	14	65	4	104	110	599	9.2	1	0	37	34	4	4.6	42.8
20	Moore	TCT	14	62	5	105	140	888	14.3	12	0	48	34	7	4.4	63.4
21	Lockett	TCT	14	62	0	98	237	805	13.0	6	0	42	47	4	4.4	57.5
22	Godwin	BRX	13	62	4	97	222	815	13.1	8	0	40	52	6	4.8	62.7
23	Evans	COW	13	62	7	96	212	804	13.0	7	1	37	51	4	4.8	61.8
24	Kirk	ICC	14	61	4	98	120	765	12.5	7	0	37	33	4	4.4	54.6
25	Andrews	ERI	12	61	5	84	131	583	9.6	2	0	26	43	3	5.1	48.6
26	Jeudy	BB	12	60	9	93	213	770	12.8	3	0	34	72	2	5.0	64.2
27	Waddle	ERI	14	59	4	97	211	1004	17.0	10	0	41	69	5	4.2	71.7
28	Samuel	DTL	14	58	5	92	196	777	13.4	4	0	48	58	6	4.1	55.5
29	Thielen	LPB	14	58	0	82	129	605	10.4	2	0	36	33	6	4.1	43.2
30	Smith	PIC	14	58	7	97	150	903	15.6	8	0	47	35	6	4.1	64.5
31	McLaurin	NJ	14	58	4	95	140	603	10.4	2	0	32	80	2	4.1	43.1
32	Gage	BUF	11	57	1	87	71	452	7.9	0	0	25	19	2	5.2	41.1
33	Stevenson	GEO	14	57	5	82	627	532	9.3	5	0	22	43	2	4.1	38.0
34	Higbee	TCT	14	57	9	93	121	508	8.9	1	0	38	26	8	4.1	36.3
35	Peoples-Jones	SS	14	56	0	84	143	899	16.1	10	0	42	45	1	4.0	64.2
36	McKinnon	NJ	14	56	0	73	539	418	7.5	4	0	21	38	3	4.0	29.9
37	Kmet	YOR	14	55	1	87	175	573	10.4	3	0	31	47	6	3.9	40.9
38	Flowers	CHI	13	54	5	88	211	710	13.1	5	0	39	57	6	4.2	54.6
39	Cooks	CB	11	54	8	88	264	872	16.1	10	0	43	52	6	4.9	79.3
40	Boyd	CHI	14	53	1	86	63	599	11.3	2	0	32	29	2	3.8	42.8
41	Woods	BUF	14	53	8	88	155	588	11.1	4	0	28	49	4	3.8	42.0
42	Engram	BRH	14	53	3	79	104	513	9.7	1	0	29	32	3	3.8	36.6
43	Schultz	SS	13	51	6	87	58	381	7.5	0	0	14	19	2	3.9	29.3
44	Lazard	COW	12	51	6	74	215	675	13.2	5	0	34	57	3	4.3	56.3
45	Addison	CB	14	50	6	79	93	612	12.2	1	0	37	41	7	3.6	43.7
46	Olave	VV	14	50	3	85	133	728	14.6	7	0	35	34	5	3.6	52.0
47	Kamara	PCC	12	50	3	73	516	430	8.6	2	0	23	29	3	4.2	35.8
48	Barkley	PCC	14	48	1	78	506	374	7.8	1	0	17	41	1	3.4	26.7
49	Aiyuk	PCC	14	47	1	81	100	672	14.3	5	0	38	40	7	3.4	48.0
50	Higgins	ERI	14	47	3	85	75	491	10.4	1	0	28	33	4	3.4	35.1





# AROUND THE



# With Spats McChad

DUE TO ONGOING LITIGATION, 'AROUND THE EFL WITH SPATS McCHAD' IS TEMPORARILY UNAVAILABLE. IN ITS PLACE, EFL NEWSLETTER BRINGS YOU 'TUESDAY MORNING QUARTERBACK' BY PETER PRINCE, COURTESY OF NORTH AMERICA TODAY.



N.AMERICA  
TODAY

## TUESDAY MORNING QUARTERBACK



By PETER PRINCE AND THE TMQB STAFF

### INSIDE MY ALL-PRO NOTEBOOK – DEFENSIVE LINE AND LINEBACKER

### INSIDE WEEK 14, PLAYOFF RACES SHAPING UP

It is a sign of how the game has evolved over the past decades that traditional set defensive prototypes based on four or three down linemen and three or four linebackers have become more fluid within a “box” concept, where defensive ends are often indistinguishable from outside linebackers and 1 technique and 3 technique defensive tackles can be called upon to line up as five technique defensive ends. Inside linebacker positions can be substituted with hybrid “box” safeties and outside linebackers can play safety roles in coverage. The front seven are becoming faster and the few big men left are asked to absorb two or even three blockers so that their teammates can move around and react better to today’s faster and more complex offences. These changes are now visible in the All-Pro voting. We no longer vote for the best base defence – two interior tackles, two defensive ends, a Wil, Mike and Sam linebacker, two cornerbacks and two safeties. Today we vote for “edge rushers,” “interior linemen,” and simply “linebacker,” a position that is harder to define as teams move to nickel base packages and draft so-called “hybrids,” players who can easily move from linebacker to safety as needed. The beauty of football is that it never stands still. We, the All-Pro voters of the Affiliated Press, must adapt.

#### Edge Rusher

In this category the staff at TMQB and I look at what would be traditionally known as right defensive ends in the



old 4-3 base defence and outside linebackers in the traditional 3-4 base defence. This is our starting point. Players in this category play the most potent role on any defence – disrupting the passer in the pocket and the RPO.

### **Matt Judon**

Acquiring Judon from the Bats was a masterstroke. In one transaction, which included acquiring Fletcher Cox in the same deal, the Virden defence went from good to elite. Judon is like a reaper drone surveilling and attacking his prey, usually the quarterback, but could be anyone with the ball. Second in sacks and leader in forced fumbles, this veteran is playing inspired football in what looks like a championship run for Virden.

### **Haason Reddick**

The top pass rusher on the Braves and third-ranked in the league in sacks, Reddick plays under the radar on a Braves team still finding its way. Yet, people who follow the team claim he is having a Judon-type season. “It’s amazing how hard he goes on every play,” a colleague of mine with a NA Today affiliate in St. Charles told me when I visited there recently. “He’s the difference-maker on this defence and an All-Pro, no question about it.”

### **Micah Parsons**

His numbers are down compared with last year, but that is because offences are going to absurd lengths to track his movements on or off the line and slide protection his way. Parsons still finds a way to influence the play in ways that are not captured on the stat sheet. Pro Football Focal Point approximates this impact with the second highest defensive rating in the league. There are times when the Irish defence looks awesome. Parsons is why.

### **Myles Garrett**

Controversy exists around who is the superior edge rusher on the Cadillac, Garrett or Maxx Crosby. Their sack numbers are close, and Crosby keeps appearing in highlights forcing fumbles at big moments. Those who watch the film for a living have no doubt that Garrett is the primary stud off the edge. “He’s double-teamed and held on almost every pass play. Maxx has more freedom because of Myles,” a source on the Erieau staff confided to me.

### **Nick Bosa**

In the end, sacks matter to the voters, which is why Scarborough’s best defensive player will most likely be relegated to Second Team this year. All the challenges faced by Parsons in East Elmhurst are amplified for Bosa in Scarborough. He is the only player on the Blue Eagles defence opposing offences adjust for, giving them the luxury of over-adjusting. His mere presence still spooks quarterbacks into rushing and throwing interceptions.

### **Interior lineman/Defensive Tackle**

To be honest, the TMQB staff and I are not sure what kind of interior lineman we are voting for here. Is it a 1 technique, a 3 technique, a 3-5 technique, or a 0 technique? The committee may need to reexamine this voting category in the future. As it stands, the big men with the versatility to move outside are getting all the attention.

### **Chris Jones**

We placed the top defender in the game in this category due to his origins and reputation as an interior pass rusher and run stopper. He plays predominantly rush end in Peg City’s base 4-3 scheme this year, but his versatility to play inside if needed makes him far more than an edge rusher. Jones is an elite player having a Defensive MVP calibre season. If he is not an All-Pro then nobody is.

### **Dexter Lawrence**

Capable of playing nose tackle, and sometimes called upon to do that in goal line and nickel packages, Lawrence plays both 1 and 3 technique on the left side in the Crusaders 4-3 base scheme. He is a monster at the position and

is certainly one of the reasons teammate Chris Jones is having such a great year. With nine sacks and 16 official quarterback pressures recorded, he is one of the top interior pass rushers in the game.

### **Quinnen Williams**

With Aaron Donald in and out of the lineup, Williams has quietly taken leadership of the Buffalo defence. His sack numbers are modest, but his pressure rate is impressive, and he can penetrate double teams to stuff runs in the backfield. His knack for popping the ball loose has provided some rare happy moments for Derailers fans. “Q is the only guy I think Buffalo fans would be upset about if they traded him,” a Buffalo source told me recently.

### **Javon Hargrave**

Like Chris Jones has in Dexter Lawrence, Matt Judon has Javon Hargrave as his silent partner working the middle to help stimulate production. It works both ways of course. Hargrave already has eight sacks and 16 quarterback pressures to go with four run stuffs and four passes defended working with Judon and next to veteran Fletcher Cox. The synergy on the Virden defence is awe-inspiring and elevates a great talent like Hargrave.

### **Linebacker**

With this category offering no distinction between middle linebacker and the other types, comparing apples with oranges is a possibility. In practice, voters, me included, tend to focus on what would be considered the ‘Mike’ or middle linebacker, the captain of the defence.

### **C.J. Mosley**

Mosley is both the brain and the brawn of the Virden defence. His vision and instincts, combined with his experience make him as dangerous a signal caller as he is a playmaker. On pace for over 150 tackles with six passes defended and two interceptions, he is adept at defending the run and the pass. “He brings a calm to us, we know what we have to do each play,” teammate Devin Lloyd told me during a visit to Virden early this year.

### **Roquan Smith**

With T.J. Watt sidelined for seven weeks, Smith quietly emerged as the undisputed leader of the Corn King defence. Still learning to be a signal-caller, Smith makes up for his relative inexperience with phenomenal instincts and natural talent as a tackler and pass defender. He leads the league in tackles and tackles for loss, with 138 and 17 respectively. He also has 3 sacks and two interceptions to support his do-it-all credentials.

### **Fred Warner**

The water cooler at TMQB head office is the source of lively debate about Warner’s status in the league’s crowded pool of star linebackers. The statistics do not support placing Durham’s venerable defensive captain on the first team, but since my staff has a say on this topic, here he is for discussion. As an intimidating presence and signal-caller, only Bobby Wagner rivals him, which is probably good enough to place him high in the running.

### **Bobby Wagner**

He was supposed to be over the hill two years ago, but here he is again in the discussion for first team All-Pro. The Triumph have had a good defence almost from the day Wagner arrived back in 2012, a fresh-faced fifth round draft pick out of Utah State. His Hall-of-Fame pedigree is a priceless asset on the field. His knack for being in the right place at the right time doesn’t hurt either. His value grows the closer the Triumph get to the playoffs.

There are certainly more players worthy of consideration than the ones I have listed above. Without taking anything away from the likes of Erieau’s Maxx Crosby, East Elmhurst’s Jonathan Allen, the Coyotes’ Daron Payne, New Jersey’s Matt Milano, Budapest’s Frankie Luvu, and Sebastian’s monstrous Christian Wilkins, all of

who are having great seasons, First Team All-Pro distinction must be reserved for those very special players who transcend the statistical limitations of football and make a universal impression on all the seasoned eyes who watch them. Those are who I have attempted to capture on my short lists, understanding it is only my opinion.

## **Reflection on perfection and Takeaways from Week 14**

One of my confidential sources in the league's head office confided to me last week that more than a few members of The Committee were privately pleased that Twin Cities defeated Virden's bid for a perfect season. Why is that? The league wants an undisputed winner each year, but they don't want it to be an uncontested victory. For a league that emphasizes competitive balance in its constitution and approach to rules changes, there have already been far too many perfect seasons in the league's seventeen years. Four is four too many as far as many members of The Committee are concerned.

There is also the bit about ratings. The league's ratings went up this week following the flurry of upsets in Week 13. When outcomes are in doubt and more teams stand a chance, more people tune in. It is all about maintaining interest in as many fan centers as possible for as long as possible. As we approach the final three-game stretch of the season, playoff scenarios are on the edge of being resolved, leading to some exciting matches.

One of the success stories of the late season is the Seattle Pilots. Thought to be crashed long ago, a three-game win streak has them potentially knocking at the door of the West Division title. I admit that 5-9 is not a record associated very often with success. But in a division that runs the risk of having no winning teams by year's end, the Pilots are now just two games behind Chino after surprising the Hawks in Brooklin, 24-12.

The story of Seattle's push is wide receiver Ceedee Lamb. He caught six passes for 187 yards and a touchdown this week. Five were for twenty yards or more and two of those went for 46 yards or more, starting with a 46-yard touchdown catch to draw first blood. It does not matter who is at quarterback for Seattle; Lamb gets open.

During the six-game stretch where the Pilots started winning more than they lost, Lamb has averaged over six catches a game for an average of 18.3 yards per catch and hauled in six touchdowns. Bear in mind that in one of those games, against Billtown, he was plastered by Partick Surtain, double-covered, and caught just one pass. But the Pilots won anyway. The Bats fixated on Lamb, allowing street free agent Darrel Williams to grab the limelight. That is teamwork!

The Week 14 win was a boon for Seattle but was a sobering setback for Brooklin. They were expected to take advantage of a supposedly weaker opponent to gain the upper hand in the Atlantic wildcard race. This loss has sunk them back into a three-way tie for the last spot, with a tough final three weeks ahead.

A tried-and-true solution to fixing a quarterback struggling with his confidence, or finding chemistry with his receivers, is to run the ball. The team that does that better than any other is the Bombers. They ran for 332 yards in their 30-27 overtime win over Erieau this week. This near record setting pace is becoming commonplace for Bruxelles. They set a league record for rushing yards in a single game with 353 against the Cubs earlier this season. Their opponents know it is coming but still cannot stop it over a full sixty minutes.

Other successful teams, like Twin Cities, Pickering and Georgia have taken the same approach while nurturing the development of their quarterbacks. It will be interesting to see if the continued success of these teams leads to broader changes in offensive philosophy across the league.

The iconic coach of Iowa City is going through another bout of media dissatisfaction prompted by the Cubs' six

game losing streak. The signs always indicated that Deron Redding saw his team in a rebuilding phase. His defence was too young. There were doubts that an ageing Russell Wilson could hold up his end of the most expensive quarterback contract in football. Redding's signing of Derek Carr was obviously an experiment to see if there was a fit in his new offensive scheme. The way he alternated the two was an obvious evaluation regimen.

Despite this, the Cubs shot out of the gate with more fire than anyone expected. At one point they had the most explosive and dangerous offence in the league. Yes, more than the one led by Patrick Mahomes. In a division up for grabs they had a chance. And the fans in Iowa jumped at the hope for meaningful football in December.

Well, that has all come crashing down, and after the Cubs fell to York this week the usual media suspects in Des Moines were calling for Redding's job. It has become a yearly occurrence, even in winning seasons.

"In the end, most Cubs fans are loyal to Redding and the Alberhasky ownership," a friend of mine who covers the Iowa Cubs baseball team told me when I visited Des Moines recently. "The calls for his head every year have become a bit of a running joke. There will come a time when the football team must pony up with a championship to reward the loyalists. But I think that day is many years off."

The head-to-head match between the top two rookie quarterbacks selected in the draft did not disappoint. Bryce Young and C.J. Stroud combined for 564 yards and seven touchdown passes, completing 73% of their pass attempts with no interceptions and just one sack taken. The Coyotes won convincingly, 31-21, affirming the pecking order established by the draft position of their respective rookies. But that did not take away from the poise and craft on display from Stroud, who showed that second best is still very good. The future looks bright for both franchises as a result. And that future might be sooner than originally thought. Both the Braves and Coyotes are still in the playoff hunt with three weeks left to go in the season.

There is a rising star in the making in East Elmhurst and now everybody in the football world knows about him. Cornerback, DaRon Bland was the unanimous pick for Defensive MVP of Week 14 for almost singlehandedly winning the game for the Irish on defence and on offence. Not literally on offence, but Bland's scoop-and-score on Micah Parson's strip-sack of Daniel Jones was the only touchdown in a 19-0 shutout of the fading Wrecking Balls. Had it only been the fumble return, maybe another defender would have stood out in the voters' eyes. But Bland did much more. He also picked off Jones, deflected three other passes, and recorded ten tackles on top of playing excellent corner. It was a game to remember for the eighth-round pick of the 2022 draft as a coming out party for a future star.

### **If the Playoffs started today**

The Pacific Conference playoff picture is clear: Virden has a grip on the first overall seed, with Bruxelles and Chino following at two and three. Peg City would host Twin Cities in the wildcard game to earn a trip to Terrordome in Virden.

The Atlantic Conference is clear on the surface with respect to the top four teams, but events in the next three weeks can complicate the picture. Budapest has a shot at the Coastal Division, but they must finish strong and hope for help. The second wildcard spot is the one up for grabs and makes for an exciting stretch run for fans in Cowtown, York, Brooklin, LaPlata and East Elmhurst. But if the playoffs started today, Pickering would claim the top seed, Durham number two and Georgia number three. Budapest would host Cowtown in the wildcard game. Oddly, although currently slated at number two, Durham is the only team in the league to have clinched their division. That could easily change this week in the East, the South and the West. It's been a great season so far and it will only get better in the final three weeks.



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### *Jimmy's WEEK FIFTEEN PICKS*

#### **PICKERING @ NEW JERSEY (line – SPARTANS by 9)**

**INJURIES:** Pickering – Ta'Quon Graham (QUESTIONABLE), Willie Gay (DOUBTFUL), Marquise Brown (OUT), Javon Kinlaw (OUT); New Jersey – Arik Armstead (DOUBTFUL), Deebo Samuel (DOUBTFUL), Keenan Allen (OUT), Chidobe Awuzie (OUT).

The Spartans washed away the bad taste of their loss to Durham by pounding the Bats into submission last week. They still find themselves in a less comfortable position vis à vis holding on to the number one seed in the conference as well as the division title. Only one game separates them from both Durham and Budapest. Durham holds the tiebreaker in a conference seeding showdown and Budapest has one more shot at the Spartans in the final week that could very well be for the division depending on how things shake out between then and now. The Wrecking Balls' offensive woes fell to a new low last week against the Irish. The reinsertion of Matt Stafford has not provided the spark and confidence they had hoped for and now what little chemistry existed in the offence is out of balance. New Jersey's season is done but for draft seeding, so don't expect the effort needed to pull off an upset. **PICK: PICKERING**

#### **YORK @ BUFFALO (line – EXCALIBURS by 6)**

**INJURIES:** York – Brandon Smith (DOUBTFUL), Lawrence Guy (OUT), Derrick Henry (OUT), Mike Williams (OUT), Jabari Zuniga (OUT), Phidarian Mathis (IR), Tavierre Thomas (IR), Khyiris Tonga (IR); Buffalo – Donte Jackson (PROBABLE), Darnell Wright (PROBABLE), Lamar Jackson (OUT), Josh Reynolds (OUT), Kadarius Toney (OUT), Quinnen Williams (OUT).

The Excaliburs scored a critical win over the sagging but dangerous Cubs last week which has preserved their status as a top contender for the final wildcard spot. They continue to be plagued by injuries and this week features a big one as Derrick Henry is listed as 'out.' Defences see the King coming every game and he is logging more miles than any human being should, so keeping him out is as much preservative as it is related to the effect of the toe injury itself. That means Tom Brady must hand the ball off to Boston Scott and Javonte Williams or decide to take over the game with his arm, a tactic that is not working as well as it used to. The good news is that he faces a completely off the rails Buffalo squad led by Tanner McKee. Survival poolies, jump on this one. **PICK: YORK**

#### **BUDAPEST @ BRUXELLES (line – NORTH STARS by 2)**

**INJURIES:** Budapest – None; Bruxelles – Nico Collins (OUT), Greg Dulcich (OUT), Samson Ekubam (OUT), Khalil Herbert (OUT), DeAndre Hopkins (OUT), Marcus Maye (OUT).

Budapest can thank Durham for giving them a glimmer of hope of catching Pickering, but to have a realistic shot they need to win out the rest of the way. Travelling to The Fortress poses the first big challenge to that feat. The Bombers cannot rest either. The late season rise of the Coyotes has them in position to catch the Bombers if the latter should stumble. Last week they righted themselves with a dramatic overtime win over Erieau, but the fact it got that far is a sign that opponents are figuring out how to deal with Justin Fields and slow the offence down. Two highly respected coaches at the helm will ensure this game is tight until the end. The difference will be felt in the ability of the talented Stars' defence to handle the one-dimension Bomber offence. **PICK: BUDAPEST**

#### **BROOKLIN @ COBB COUNTY (line – COYOTES by 5)**

**INJURIES:** Brooklin – Wyatt Teller (DOUBTFUL), Jaquan Brisker (OUT), Damone Clark (OUT), Kamren Curl (OUT), Austin Jackson (OUT), Xavier McKinney (OUT), Garrett Boles (IR); Cobb County – Tre'Davious White (PROBABLE), Kader Kohou (QUESTIONABLE), Adoree' Jackson (DOUBTFUL), Jordan Addison (OUT), Brandon Jones (OUT), Payton Turner (OUT), Josh Uche (OUT).

Five weeks into the season nobody would have predicted that in Week 15 both these teams would be playing for anything meaningful other than draft position. Brooklin went on a five-game tear that has them now neck-and-neck with three others in the wildcard race in

Atlantic. The Coyotes cannot catch the two front-runners in the Pacific wildcard race, having lost to both, but they can catch the Bombers if they win their remaining three games, and the Bombers collapse completely. Okay, those are not great odds, but don't tell that to the locker room in Cobb County – they have shown pluck and determination as their rookie quarterback progresses well in his development. Last week he dismantled a very good Braves' defence, and the Hawks should pose less of a challenge. Brooklin is coming off a demoralizing and frankly shocking loss to the Pilots last week. Is a collapse imminent? **PICK: COBB COUNTY**

### **ERIEAU @ VIRDEN (line – VIOLATORS by 17)**

**INJURIES: Erieau** – Justin Houston (QUESTIONABLE), Dre'Mont Jones (DOUBTFUL), Sione Takitaki (DOUBTFUL), J.P. Holtz (OUT), Kyler Murray (OUT), Damion Pierce (OUT), Aaron Robinson (OUT); **Virден** – Jalen Mills (OUT), Keaton Mitchell (OUT), Mitch Morse (OUT), Isaiah Oliver (OUT), Marcus Peters (OUT).

The Fat Lady isn't singing yet in Erieau, but she is warming up her voice in the wings. Their microscopic chance of making the playoffs becomes sub-atomic when one factors in the loss of Kyler Murray. The Caddies' QB1 has been inconsistent this year, but he gives his team its best chance at victory. Having said that, even Murray would stand little chance against the number one-ranked Virден defence. The case for Erieau even keeping this close lies in the defence performing pick-six and scoop-and-score miracles that have not been achieved in professional football. I am not even going to discuss the top-rated Virден offence. Bank it! **PICK: VIRDEN**

### **GEORGIA @ TWIN CITIES (line – GLADIATORS by 2)**

**INJURIES: Georgia** – D.J. Jones (OUT), Dalvin Tomlinson (OUT); **Twin Cities** – Jordyn Brooks (PROBABLE), Derek Stingley Jr. (OUT).

The Gladiators are like the Bombers in that they can clinch their division with a win in any of the season's final three weeks. However, they can still be caught and are not yet able to rest starters, especially here against a Triumph squad still strutting like a peacock two weeks after ruining the Violators' perfect season. Georgia is riding a five-game win streak padded by patsy wins but including a couple of challenging victories over York and Cobb County. With Marcus Mariota moving in and out of the lineup for a temperamental Tua, gauging the true strength of the Glads is difficult. If Tua starts, the Triumph keeping pace with a full throttle Georgia offence will depend on Trevor Lawrence staying as hot as he's been the last three weeks. Strangely, both teams play better on the road. **PICK: GEORGIA**

### **LAPLATA @ CHARLESWOOD (line – BRAVES by 3)**

**INJURIES: LaPlata** – Paulson Adebo (PROBABLE), Marcus Davenport (PROBABLE), Alijah Vera-Tucker (QUESTIONABLE); **Charleswood** – Nelson Agholor (PROBABLE), J.K. Dobbins (PROBABLE), Antonio Gibson (DOUBTFUL), David Ojabo (OUT), Isaiah Rodgers (OUT).

After almost felling the Crusaders, the Pats fell without a fight against Durham last week. An experiment in a lost cause, which saw four different quarterbacks enter the game and rookie Hendon Hooker get a long look, is as clear an indicator as any that Charleswood is officially looking to next season and that Kenny Pickett may not be the future of the franchise. This presents an opportunity for the Braves, who need to keep on winning to salvage their first season under new coach Stanley Milton. They are coming off two straight losses. Despite C.J. Stroud playing well, his offence could not keep pace with that of his rookie counterpart in last week's loss to Cobb County. Expect the promising rookie to regain his swagger against the vulnerable Pats' secondary. **PICK: LAPLATA**

### **EAST ELMHURST @ PEG CITY (line – CRUSADERS by 9)**

**INJURIES: East Elmhurst** – Shaquill Barrett (QUESTIONABLE), Christian Darrisaw (DOUBTFUL), Mike Hilton (DOUBTFUL), Rondale Moore (OUT); **Peg City** – Jakobi Meyers (OUT).

Peg City has had to grind out its last two wins against teams in the running for the rookie lottery, which is not an encouraging sign for fans hoping for a strong post-season run. The Crusaders have clinched a wildcard berth; all that remains to be seen is whether the game will take place at home or in Twin Cities. There is little pressure here and that provides an opening for the Irish to get back in the race for the last wildcard in the Atlantic, if they choose to go for it. On the surface, their shutout win over New Jersey speaks to a late season surge, but the reality of their situation, with Jacoby Brissett providing no discernible lift to the offence for weeks and D.K. Metcalf posing the only via threat, speaks louder to a late season collapse beginning here, on the road in a hostile stadium. **PICK: PEG CITY**

### **COWTOWN @ CHINO (line – Pick'Em)**

**INJURIES: Cowtown** – Jeremy Chinn (QUESTIONABLE), Dylan Cole (QUESTIONABLE), Michael Pierce (QUESTIONABLE), Matt Ioannidis (OUT); **Chino** – Felix Anudike-Uzomah (PROBABLE), Godwin Igwebuike (OUT), Darnell Mooney (OUT), Sterling Shepard (OUT).

The Convicts have faced tough competition over a rough 1-5 stretch, but one still expects better than one win from a prospective division

Winner, even one that claims the broken West as its conquered hill. The long-term trend for Cowtown since a strong first five weeks has also pointed down, as they are 3-6 in their past nine games. So, we have two of the least-inspiring potential playoff teams facing each other here looking for something to spark a reversal in fortunes. The Corn Kings are in the more precarious position; eliminated from division contention and hanging on in a three-way race for the last wildcard, a loss here could ultimately doom them. The Convicts have a two-game advantage in the division race and are being chased by two of the lamest contestants imaginable. It is more than conceivable that Chino could lose their last three games and still win the division. Expect them to put the issue to rest here. **PICK: CHINO**

### **SEBASTIAN @ SEATTLE (line – PILOTS by 5)**

**INJURIES: Sebastian** – Skyy Moore (QUESTIONABLE), Dalton Schultz (DOUBTFUL), Divine Deablo (OUT), Kristian Fulton (OUT), Jonathan Taylor (OUT), Kendal Vickers (OUT), Ahkello Witherspoon (OUT); **Seattle** – Gabe Jackson (PROBABLE), Trent McDuffie (PROBABLE), Sean Murphy-Bunting (PROBABLE), Ar'Darius Washington (QUESTIONABLE), Neil Farrell Jr. (OUT), Hunter Renfrow (OUT), Dawuane Smoot (OUT), Alontae Taylor (OUT), Carson Wentz (OUT).

Who would have thought the Pilots would be in a position in Week 15 to improve their playoff hopes with a win? Certainly not me. In keeping with their spirited approach in a lost cause, they rise when least expected and surprise an opponent, as they did against the Hawks. They did it missing many starters and with Garnder Minshew at quarterback. Ceedee Lamb is winning renown because of recent achievements. Equally spirited in lost causes, the Swordfish have taken a step back from crazy aggression and it has paid off with two good showings the past two weeks. A continuing sane game plan should be enough to shoot down the Pilots. **PICK: SEBASTIAN**

### **SCARBOROUGH @ IOWA CITY (line – CUBS by 4)**

**INJURIES: Scarborough** – Travon Walker (QUESTIONABLE), Nick Bosa (DOUBTFUL), Randall Cobb (DOUBTFUL), Joe Schobert (OUT); **Iowa City** – Roschon Johnson (PROBABLE), Josey Jewell (QUESTIONABLE), Marcus Jones (DOUBTFUL), Tre Brown (OUT), Jaylon Johnson (OUT), David Njoku (OUT), Josh Paschal (OUT).

Rumblings of another suspected tanking operation by the Cubs are getting louder each week. They enter losers of six in a row after taking the West by storm early in the season with one of the most explosive offences ever seen in the Midwest. Many consider this week a test of the tanking theory. A loss to Scarborough at home will be seen as a barometer of either how bad the Cubs really are, or how much they want to win. The Cubs are theoretically still in the hunt for the West Division and fans know this. It is hard to believe they would not go all out here. The fact is that their defence is really, *really* bad, and opponents are making adjustments to the “bombs away” offensive strategy that caught them off guard in the first half of the season. Joe Burrow can mince that defence. **PICK: SCARBOROUGH**

### **DURHAM @ BILLTOWN (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 16)**

**INJURIES: Durham** – Chase Young (PROBABLE), Zach Allen (OUT), Rashaad Penny (OUT); **Billtown** – Isaiah Hodgins (PROBABLE), Jordan Fuller (QUESTIONABLE), Myles Adams (OUT), Austin Bryant (OUT), Christian Elliss (OUT), Mecole Hardman (OUT), Damien Harris (OUT), Shaquille Leonard (OUT), Michael Thomas (IR).

Durham is the hottest team in the league, having won six in a row, while the Bats are the “nottest” team in the league, with nine straight losses and only one win. This is a large line for any team on the road, but probably not large enough if the Thunder Lizards decide to give a good effort for more than half the game. The Bats proved stubborn against the Spartans last week, but eventually crumbled completely and lost by 32 points. Durham has an interest in winning, but no interest in bullying. If things go well early, they will ease off the gas. Half speed or full speed, it is hard to imagine the Bats having any answer on either side of the ball. **PICK: DURHAM**



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