

WEEK 2

WEEK 2

2012 EFL 2012

October 21, 2012



EAST			WEST			NORTH			SOUTH		
Virden	2	0 0	Chino	2	0 0	Pickering	2	0 0	Scarborough	2	0 0
York	2	0 0	Death Valley	2	0 0	Cowtown	1	1 0	Garland	1	1 0
Commonwealth	1	1 0	Los Angeles	1	1 0	Durham	1	1 0	South Carolina	1	1 0
Charleswood	0	2 0	Iowa City	0	2 0	Markham	1	1 0	Gwinnett	0	2 0
Mohave	0	2 0	Mission Viejo	0	2 0	Twin Cities	1	1 0	Sebastian	0	2 0

TAKE-AWAY!

Cowtown safety **Sean Jones** levels Durham's **Vernon Davis** late in the 3rd quarter, causing a fumble that turned the tide against Durham. The Corn Kings went on to tie the game and force two more turnovers to complete a 30-23 comeback victory in their home opener. In other Week Two action, Markham topped Garland at home; Death Valley shellacked the expansion Monarchs as Drew Brees threw another 7 TD passes; and LA got back on the winning track in Iowa. (More Inside)



Who was slick in Week Two?

"BRYLCREEM" THE EFL'S FIRST SPONSOR



Drew Brees
QB
Death Valley
Undertakers

30 of 40, 384 yds, 7 TDs, 144.2 Rating. 2nd 7-TD pass game.



Julius Peppers
DE
Chino Convicts

7 tackles, 3 sacks, 3 QB Pressures, 2 TFLs, 2 FFs in win over Mohave.



1-1

23



GAME OF THE WEEK



1-1

30

DINOS FITZ TO BE TIED!

7 CATCHES BY FITZGERALD, 4 TURNOVERS DOWN DURHAM!

LIZARD OF THE GAME

Philip Rivers

25 of 37, 330 yds, 2 TDs, 1 INT

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
DURHAM	3	14	3	3	-	23
COWTOWN	0	6	6	18	-	30

CORN KING OF THE GAME

Larry Fitzgerald

7 receptions, 134 yds, 1 TD

GAME SUMMARY: With their nos. 2 and 3 wide receivers injured, the Corn Kings needed a big game from their no. 1, and he delivered. **Larry Fitzgerald** caught 7 passes for 134 yards and a TD, keying an offence that took advantage of four 2nd half Durham turnovers to upset the favoured Thunder Lizards 30-23 at Tillman Field. Before the rash of miscues, Durham appeared to be in control of the game. Passes of 43 and 53 yards from **Philip Rivers** to **Vernon Davis** were the key plays in two 2nd-quarter Durham drives that ended in TD passes of 5 yards to **Toby Gerhart** and 3 yards to **Dwayne Bowe**, staking the T-Lizards to a 17-6 halftime lead. But the Durham drive to victory took a wrong turn on their first possession of the 2nd half, when a scrambling Rivers was stripped of the ball by lineman **Justin Smith** and Cowtown recovered at the Durham 43 yard line. Three consecutive completions of 8, 18 and 17 yards to Fitzgerald covered the distance to the end zone and the Corn Kings were suddenly back in it, trailing 17-12 after a failed 2-point convert attempt. The Dinos countered with a **Mason Crosby** field goal to take an 8-point lead and then forced a Corn Kings' punt that gave them the ball back at their 17. It appeared that the momentum had switched back to the visitors, but on the very next play Cowtown safety **Sean Jones** delivered a stunning hit on 1st-half hero **Vernon Davis** to force a fumble that the Kings recovered inside the Durham red zone. A 17-yard pass to Fitzgerald brought the ball to the 1 yard line, where **Maurice Jones-Drew** pounded it through the Durham line on the next play for a TD, then followed up with the 2-point conversion. With the game tied 20-20, the Thunder Lizards ground out a 14-play, 60 yard drive that was stopped at the Cowtown 20 when Rivers bounced a ball to **Michael Bush** on 3rd and 1. The Lizards settled for a field goal and a 3-point lead, only to see it disappear after Cowtown replied with a 37-yard **John Kasay** field goal. With less than 3 minutes left, Durham appeared to have last crack at breaking the deadlock in regulation, but **Devin Hester** fumbled the kick-off return, giving the ball away at his own 19. Seconds later, **Kevin Walter** grabbed a short slant from **Joe Flacco** and took it 19 yards to the house for the game-winning score.

QUOTE OF THE GAME

"After Kevin crossed the goal line, the first thing I did was look around for a naked fan." – *Cowtown coach, Jim Coghlin.*

"Larry was just great today. Everyone had a hand in this, but Larry was special. He found a way to get open against a great cornerback. He gets my game ball." – *Cowtown QB, Joe Flacco.*

"I think I'd rather be shot than have to watch this kind of loss again." – *Durham coach, George Kaldis.*



FANS' THUMB UP

Clutch performance by Fitzgerald

FANS' THUMB DOWN

Durham fumblyitis



FAN RATING



10-16-2012 Tillman Field Temp: 76 Wind: 5-15 None MVP: Larry Fitzgerald

1 5:07	Durham	FG Crosby 39 (8-54-3:03)	3-0
2 12:07	Cowtown	FG Kasay 22 (17-72-7:51)	3-3
2 6:46	Durham	TD Rivers 5 pass to Gerhart (Crosby) (6-67-2:19)	10-3
2 3:11	Cowtown	FG Kasay 26 (9-72-3:31)	10-6
2 0:15	Durham	TD Rivers 3 pass to Bowe (Crosby) (7-71-1:00)	17-6
3 13:00	Cowtown	TD Flacco 17 pass to Fitzgerald (2 - failed) (4-43-1:31)	17-12
3 4:54	Durham	FG Crosby 35 (14-51-7:55)	20-12
4 14:07	Cowtown	TD Jones-Drew 1 run (2 - Jones-Drew) (4-19-1:11)	20-20
4 8:10	Durham	FG Crosby 38 (14-60-5:53)	23-20
4 2:51	Cowtown	FG Kasay 37 (10-49-5:10)	23-23
4 2:28	Cowtown	TD Flacco 19 pass to Walter (Kasay) (2-19-0:15)	23-30

	DTL	COW
First Downs	21	20
Rushes	29-78	26-113
Passes	37-25-330	37-20-257
Sacked	1-5	4-36
Fumble	3	1
Penalties	4-25	4-26
Turnovers	4	0
Bad Passes	2	2
Blitzes	7	16
Time	26:51	33:09
Third Down	8-14	8-17
Fourth Down	1-1	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	4/2/2	6/3/3
Net Offense	403	334



QUICK COUNTS!!

Blue 35, Blue 35, hut, hut hut! Red 23, 3, Red 23, 3, hut, hut, hut! Green 49, hut!



KNIGHTS

1-1-0

7

6

7

7

0

27

OT

Alex Smith
22 of 29, 276 yards, 2 TDs



CUBS

0-2-0

3

3

3

6

0

15

Mike Wallace
10 Receptions, 164 yards

The Cubs controlled the ball for 23 minutes in the first half but came away with only 6 points on two field goals and trailed by 7 heading into the locker room. The Knights' offence struck quickly as QB, **Alex Smith** went 4 for 4 for 63 yards, including a 20-yard TD strike to **Steve Smith** on the Knights' first possession. LA pulled away early in the 3rd quarter, marching 63 yards in 7 plays to take a 20-6 lead on a 3-yard TD run by **Darren Sproles**. Iowa continued to possess the ball, but could not break into the end zone. **Greg Zuerlein** kicked 5 field goals for all of the Cubs' scoring.



UNDERTAKERS

2-0-0

7

6

14

21

0

48

OT

Drew Brees
30 of 40, 384 yards, 7 TDs



MONARCHS

0-2-0

0

10

7

0

0

17

DeMarco Murray
14 carries, 89 yards, 1 TD

The expansion Monarchs fought valiantly for one half of their home opener; at one point taking a 10-7 lead in the 2nd quarter on a 16-yard TD run by **DeMarco Murray**. But the high-powered Undertakers kept pouring it on under the hot hand of **Drew Brees'** 384 yards passing and 7 TD passes, turning the contest into a full-fledged rout in the 4th quarter. **Rob Gronkowski** caught 11 passes for 216 yards and 2 TDs, and fullback **Owen Marecic** caught 3 outlet passes for TDs to lead the scoring. It was the second consecutive 7-TD pass game for Brees, giving him 14 two weeks into the season.



EXCALIBURS

2-0-0

3

17

3

10

0

33

OT

Michael Turner
30 carries, 223 yards, 3 TDs



PATRIOTS

0-2-0

0

0

7

7

0

14

Deion Branch
4 receptions, 124 yards, 1 TD

Michael Turner broke a 34-yard run on York's first play from scrimmage to set up a **Blair Walsh** FG to open the scoring and set the stage for a 200+ yard rushing performance. The Pats held the Excaliburs at bay for a quarter, but early in the 2nd, **Jason Babin** sacked **Michael Vick** and forced a fumble, recovered by **Brain Urlacher** at the Charleswood 22 yard line. Four plays later, Turner was in the end zone on a 7-yard sweep for his first of 3 TDs on the day. York led 20-0 at the half and went on to control the game the rest of the way, overcoming token resistance from the Pats in the 2nd half.



QUICK COUNTS!!

Blue 35, Blue 35, hut, hut hut! Red 23, 3, Red 23, 3, hut, hut, hut! Green 49, hut!



MUSTANGS

1-1-0

3	7	3	10	0	23
				OT	

Matt Ryan
23 of 44, 375 yards, 1 TD, 3 INTs



NORTH STARS

1-1-0

10	10	7	3	0	30
				OT	

Jonathan Stewart
19 carries, 102 yards, 1 TD

Markham safety **Ed Reed** picked off **Matt Ryan** in the 1st quarter, setting up a 33-yard TD pass from **Eli Manning** to **Jordy Nelson** that broke a 3-3 tie. Markham added to the lead with a 4-yard run off tackle for a TD by **DeAngelo Williams**, but the Mustangs jumped right back with an 81-yard TD pass from Ryan to **Darrius Heyward-Bey** to pull within a TD. The Stars added a FG to lead 20-10 at half time. In the 3rd quarter, **Joe McKnight** sparked the Markham finish with an 82-yard kickoff return, setting up an 8-yard TD run by **Jonathan Stewart** to give them firm control, 27-13.



COLONIALS

1-1-0

3	10	0	7	0	20
				OT	

Fred Jackson
22 Carries, 141 yards, 1 TD



VIOLATORS

2-0-0

7	10	24	0	0	41
				OT	

Matthew Stafford
25 of 32, 326 yards, 3 TDs

A close, error-free battle in the first half quickly turned ugly for Commonwealth in the 3rd quarter when Virden corner **Tramon Williams** picked off **Josh Freeman** and returned it 66 yards to set up an 11-yard TD pass from **Matt Stafford** to **Fred Davis**, making the score 31-13 for the Violators. A failed 4th down convert attempt by the Colonials in their own territory led to a Virden FG then **Nick Barnett's** 35-yard pick-six on the next possession turned the game into a blowout. **Fred Jackson** added a 35-yard TD run for Commonwealth in the 4th quarter but it failed to spark a last ditch rally.



CONVICTS

2-0-0

14	3	14	10	0	41
				OT	

Cam Newton
19 of 24, 255 yards, 4 TDs



HELLFIRE

0-2-0

7	3	0	7	0	17
				OT	

Hakeem Nicks
7 Receptions, 148 yards, 1 TD

Cam Newton was involved in all 5 Chino TDs, scoring on a 20-yard run up the middle to open the scoring and throwing 4 TD passes, 3 of them to WR **James Jones**, to lead the Convicts to their second win of the season. Hellfire rookie QB, **Andrew Luck** was knocked out of the game in the 1st quarter, replaced by **Blaine Gabbert**, who got the Hellfire on the board for the first time on a 10-yard TD pass to **Jimmy Graham** that tied it at 7. But the Hellfire would not stay in it for long; Newton responded with an 80-yard TD drive on their next possession and the offence never looked back.



QUICK COUNTS!!

Blue 35, Blue 35, hut, hut hut! Red 23, 3, Red 23, 3, hut, hut, hut! Green 49, hut!



TRIUMPH
1-1-0

0	3	7	14	0	24
				OT	

Jay Cutler
20 of 28, 221 yards, 2 TDs



SPARTANS
2-0-0

0	10	7	10	0	27
				OT	

Percy Harvin
12 carries, 107 yards, 2 TDs

The Spartans turned a failed 4th down conversion attempt and a lost fumble by the Triumph into 10 2nd quarter points to build a 10-3 lead going into half time. But an injury to **Robert Griffin III** in the 3rd quarter seemed to breathe life into Triumph QB, **Jay Cutler**, who tossed a pair of TD passes to tie the game up twice in the 2nd half. **Josh Scobee** put the Spartans ahead to stay with a 31-yard FG then **Percy Harvin** busted a 44-yard run to set up an 8-yard TD run with 2:36 left. **Tim Tebow** led a late 70-yard TD drive, running it in from 3 yards to bring the Triumph close, but not close enough.



BLUE EAGLES
2-0-0

7	17	0	10	0	34
				OT	

Aaron Rodgers
23 of 32, 293 yards, 2 TDs



SWORDFISH
0-2-0

0	0	6	0	0	6
				OT	

Pierre Thomas
6 Carries, 64 yards, 1 TD

Rolling up 500 yards on offence while controlling the ball for 41 minutes and playing a stifling defence, Scarborough made it look easy in a 28-point victory over expansion Sebastian. **Aaron Rodgers** opened the scoring with his 1st TD pass of the season, an 18-yard quick flare that **Brandon Marshall** carried in along the sidelines. The Blue Eagles added 17 points in the 2nd quarter on a 2-yard bootleg by Rodgers and Marshall's 2nd TD catch of the game. Fish RB **Pierre Thomas** broke a 31-yard TD run in the 3rd quarter to break the shutout, but the Eagles soon regained control, adding 10 points.



GLADIATORS
0-2-0

0	0	7	10	0	17
				OT	

Jeremy Maclin
11 Receptions, 119 yards, 1 TD



REGULATORS
1-1-0

10	6	0	3	0	19
				OT	

Tony Romo
30 of 42, 294 yards, 1 TD, 2 INTs

The Regulators dominated in the 1st half, with **Tony Romo** throwing a TD pass on the opening drive and **Ryan Longwell** kicking 3 FGs, while their defence did not allow a Gladiator 1st down until there was 1:18 left the 2nd quarter, to lead 16-0 at half time. The fortunes of both teams reversed in the 2nd half as the Glads' offence got in gear with 17 unanswered points on 2 TD passes from **Big Ben** and a 32-yard FG by **Josh Brown** to give them a 17-16 lead. But a late SC comeback saw Romo go 6 of 8 for 68 yards on their final possession to set-up Longwell for the game-winning 30-yard FG.



BODY COUNT



WEEK TWO INJURY REPORT



CHARLESWOOD

Sidney Rice, WR – OUT (8 games); Shaun Phillips, LB – OUT (4 games); Barrett Ruud, LB – OUT (7 games); Jon Beason, ILB – OUT (Season)



CHINO

Legedu Naanee, WR – DOUBTFUL.



COMMONWEALTH

Lawrence Vickers, FB – OUT; Morris Claibourne, CB – OUT; Lavonte David, OLB – OUT (3 games); Marcus McNeill, T – OUT (6 games); Emmanuel Sanders, WR – OUT (6 games)



COWTOWN

Zach Miller, TE – DOUBTFUL; Santana Moss, WR – OUT (3 games); Malcolm Floyd, WR – OUT (4 games); Todd Heap, TE – OUT (6 games); D.J. Williams, OLB – OUT (4 games)



DEATH VALLEY

Janoris Jenkins, CB – QUESTIONABLE; Charles Johnson, DE – DOUBTFUL; William Moore, S – OUT (4 games); Brett Keisel, DE – OUT (2 games); Rey Mauluga, ILB – OUT (4 games)



DURHAM

Reggie Bush, RB – PROBABLE; David Reed, WR – OUT (3 games); Antonio Gates, TE – OUT (3 games); Matt Schaub, QB – OUT (4 games)



GARLAND

Arian Foster, RB – OUT (3 games); Matt Forte, RB – OUT (4 games); Joseph Addai, RB – OUT (5 games); Peyton Hillis, RB – OUT (7 games); Quinn Johnson, FB – OUT (14 games)



GWINNETT

Jim Leonhard, S – OUT (3 games); Dan Connolly, G – OUT (3 games)



IOWA CITY

Russell Wilson, QB – OUT (1 game); Trent Richardson, RB – OUT (2 games); Patrick Willis, LB – OUT (3 games); Brandon Harris, CB – OUT (8 games)



LOS ANGELES

Kevin Williams, DT – OUT (3 games); Brian Bulaga, T – OUT (4 games)



MARKHAM

James Starks, RB – OUT (4 games)



MISSION VIEJO

Chester Taylor, RB – OUT (4 games)



MOHAVE

Andrew Luck, QB – DOUBTFUL; Champ Bailey, CB – OUT (4 games)



PICKERING

Brian Dawkins, S – DOUBTFUL; Robert Griffin III, QB – OUT (1 game); Brandon Boykin, DB – OUT (2 games); Kerry Rhodes, S – OUT (7 games); Darren McFadden, RB – OUT (10 games)



SCARBOROUGH

DeVier Posey, WR – OUT (2 games)



SEBASTIAN

Chandler Jones, DE – OUT (2 games); Luke Stocker, TE – OUT (3 games); Michael Jenkins, WR – OUT (4 games); Louis Murphy, WR – OUT (6 games); Leonard Hankerson, WR – OUT (13 games)



SOUTH CAROLINA

Javier Arenas, CB – DOUBTFUL; Bradley Fletcher, CB – OUT (12 games)



TWIN CITIES

Tyrone Crawford, DL – DOUTBFUL; Albert Haynesworth, DL – OUT (4 games); Matt Roth, DE – OUT (7 games)



VIRDEN

Vontae Davis, CB – OUT (4 games); Eric Berry, S – OUT (Season)



YORK

Brandon Jacobs, RB – OUT (2 games); Oshiomogho Atogwe, S (3 games); Rashean Mathis, CB – OUT (9 games); Donald Jones, WR – OUT (9 games)



STATS



WEEK TWO

STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Virден	2	0	0	1.000	82	41	41	20.5	20.5	2 0 0	2 0 0	2 0 0
York	2	0	0	1.000	75	37.5	14	7	30.5	1 0 0	2 0 0	2 0 0
Commonwealth	1	1	0	0.500	61	30.5	58	29	1.5	1 0 0	0 1 0	1 1 0
Charleswood	0	2	0	0	35	17.5	74	37	-19.5	0 1 0	0 2 0	0 2 0
Mohave	0	2	0	0	17	8.5	83	41.5	-33.0	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 2 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Chino	2	0	0	1.000	58	29	26	13	16.0	1 0 0	1 0 0	2 0 0
Death Valley	2	0	0	1.000	97	48.5	58	29	19.5	0 0 0	2 0 0	2 0 0
Los Angeles	1	1	0	0.500	68	34	64	32	2.0	0 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Iowa City	0	2	0	0	24	12	44	22	-10.0	0 1 0	0 2 0	0 2 0
Mission Viejo	0	2	0	0	34	17	89	44.5	-27.5	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 2 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Pickering	2	0	0	1.000	44	22	38	19	3.0	2 0 0	2 0 0	2 0 0
Cowtown	1	1	0	0.500	44	22	40	20	2.0	1 0 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Durham	1	1	0	0.500	51	25.5	53	26.5	-1.0	1 0 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Markham	1	1	0	0.500	53	26.5	51	25.5	1.0	1 0 0	0 1 0	1 1 0
Twin Cities	1	1	0	0.500	55	27.5	33	16.5	11.0	1 0 0	0 1 0	1 1 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Scarborough	2	0	0	1.000	67	33.5	13	6.5	27.0	0 0 0	2 0 0	2 0 0
Garland	1	1	0	0.500	42	21	33	16.5	4.5	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 1 0
South Carolina	1	1	0	0.500	22	11	36	18	-7.0	1 0 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Gwinnett	0	2	0	0	24	12	52	26	-14.0	0 1 0	0 2 0	0 2 0
Sebastian	0	2	0	0	12	6	65	32.5	-26.5	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 2 0

PASSING

		Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate	
1	Brees	DVU	85	65	76.5	1004	0	0.0	54	14	16.5	154.6
2	Stafford	VV	57	46	80.7	648	0	0.0	37	7	12.3	153.6
3	Newton,C	CHI	45	35	77.8	421	0	0.0	75	5	11.1	142.7
4	Cutler	TCT	45	36	80.0	438	0	0.0	35	4	8.9	136.9
5	Smith,A	LAK	71	50	70.4	610	0	0.0	51	5	7.0	120.0
6	Brady	YOR	46	34	73.9	401	0	0.0	38	2	4.3	114.5
7	Rivers,P	DTL	57	39	68.4	483	1	1.8	53	4	7.0	110.5
8	Vick	CHP	47	34	72.3	423	3	6.4	71	4	8.5	101.6
9	Rodgers,A	SBE	61	38	62.3	503	0	0.0	73	2	3.3	99.3
10	Ryan,M	GDM	80	52	65.0	660	3	3.8	81	2	2.5	83.3
11	Sanchez	SS	33	21	63.6	205	0	0.0	27	0	0.0	81.0
12	Gabbert	MOH	43	23	53.5	285	1	2.3	49	2	4.7	80.1
13	Flacco	COW	79	43	54.4	529	2	2.5	43	3	3.8	77.5
14	Griffin,R	PIC	53	30	56.6	335	2	3.8	31	2	3.8	72.4
15	Manning,E	MAR	58	32	55.2	482	4	6.9	42	3	5.2	71.2
16	McCoy,C	MVM	58	34	58.6	297	2	3.4	36	2	3.4	69.4
17	Wilson,R	ICC	47	30	63.8	350	2	4.3	41	0	0.0	68.6
18	Freeman,J	COM	68	38	55.9	441	4	5.9	61	3	4.4	65.9
19	Luck	MOH	35	20	57.1	190	1	2.9	36	0	0.0	60.4
20	Romo	SC	79	51	64.6	483	5	6.3	22	1	1.3	59.2

RUSHING

		Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1	Turner,M	YOR	50	328	6.6	43	6	11	Williams,D	MAR	22	126	5.7	23	2
2	Rice,R	SBE	45	221	4.9	25	0	12	Martin,D	TCT	29	125	4.3	27	0
3	Jones-Drew	COW	47	198	4.2	23	2	13	McFadden	PIC	22	117	5.3	25	0
4	Jackson,F	COM	32	187	5.8	35	2	14	Newton,C	CHI	17	115	6.8	20	2
5	Sproles	LAK	24	177	7.4	25	1	15	Mendenhall	MVM	26	110	4.2	19	0
6	Mathews,R	DVU	34	176	5.2	36	0	16	Harvin	PIC	15	101	6.7	44	2
7	Wells,B	VV	43	174	4.0	15	2	17	Tolbert	MOH	22	98	4.5	18	0
8	Stewart,J	MAR	29	166	5.7	18	1	18	Gerhart	DTL	24	92	3.8	15	0
9	Jackson,S	CHI	35	136	3.9	14	0	19	Freeman,J	COM	9	89	9.9	25	0
10	Murray,D	MVM	19	135	7.1	18	1	20	Brown,D	ICC	21	86	4.1	17	0

RECEIVING

		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1	Gronkows,R	DVU	20	356	17.8	54	2	11	Nicks,H	MOH	12	178	14.8	49	1
2	Smith,S	LAK	17	281	16.5	51	3	12	Maclin	GWG	12	129	10.8	33	1
3	Fitzgerald	COW	16	241	15.1	43	2	13	Jennings,G	SC	12	94	7.8	12	1
4	Johnson,C	DTL	16	206	12.9	34	2	14	Johnson,A	DVU	11	259	23.5	47	7
5	Graham,J	MOH	14	130	9.3	36	1	15	Wright,K	TCT	11	205	18.6	35	3
6	Jones,J	CHI	14	231	16.5	75	3	16	White,R	LAK	11	136	12.4	40	0
7	Wallace,M	ICC	13	213	16.4	25	0	17	Harvin	PIC	10	147	14.7	31	0
8	Bowe	DTL	13	125	9.6	21	2	18	Witten	CHP	10	100	10.0	15	1
9	Bryant,D	VV	12	152	12.7	31	4	19	Washington	GDM	10	176	17.6	53	0
10	Jones,J	VV	12	211	17.6	35	1	20	Mathews,R	DVU	10	181	18.1	50	0

KICKING

		FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts	
1	Janikowski	SBE	9	6	66.7	2	1	51	25
2	Zuerlein	ICC	9	8	88.9	3	1	51	24
3	Gould	GDM	8	7	87.5	3	0	44	24
4	Tynes	VV	4	4	100.0	1	0	44	22
5	Walsh	YOR	5	4	80.0	2	0	44	21
6	Carpenter	LAK	4	4	100.0	1	1	55	20
7	Gostkowski	COM	4	4	100.0	0	0	33	19
8	Akers	MAR	5	4	80.0	2	0	46	17
9	Bailey,D	CHI	3	3	100.0	1	0	46	16
10	Longwell	SC	6	5	83.3	2	0	46	16
11	Crosby	DTL	4	3	75.0	0	0	39	15
12	Scobee	PIC	4	3	75.0	1	1	58	14
13	Rackers	MVM	5	4	80.0	3	0	49	14
14	Bironas	TCT	2	2	100.0	1	0	48	13
15	Gano	DVU	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	13
16	Kasay	COW	4	3	75.0	0	0	37	12
17	Brown,J	GWG	1	1	100.0	0	0	37	6
18	Vinatieri	SS	2	2	100.0	0	0	28	6
19	Folk	CHP	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	5
20	Cundiff	MOH	1	1	100.0	1	0	48	5

INTERCEPTIONS

	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1 Griffin,M	SBE	2	14	7.0	9	0	11 Webster	COW	1	30	30.0	30	0
2 Cushing	GDM	2	1	0.5	1	0	12 Allen,J	DTL	1	0	0.0	0	0
3 Posluszny	VV	1	6	6.0	6	0	13 Rogers,C	DTL	1	0	0.0	0	0
4 Williams,T	VV	1	66	66.0	66	0	14 Sherman	DTL	1	20	20.0	20	0
5 Timmons	YOR	1	16	16.0	16	0	15 Brown,T	MAR	1	0	0.0	0	0
6 Mathis,R	YOR	1	0	0.0	0	0	16 Reed,E	MAR	1	0	0.0	0	0
7 Manning,D	YOR	1	21	21.0	21	0	17 Clements	MAR	1	2	2.0	2	0
8 David	COM	1	26	26.0	26	1	18 Joseph,J	PIC	1	0	0.0	0	0
9 Kerrigan	COW	1	0	0.0	0	0	19 Witherspoo	PIC	1	14	14.0	14	0
10 Godfrey	COW	1	0	0.0	0	0	20 Wilson,J	TCT	1	0	0.0	0	0

SACKS

1 Babin	YOR	3	8	Dumervil	DTL	2	15 Barnes,A	GWG	2
2 Kelly,T	DTL	3	9	Miller,V	YOR	2	16 Irvin	MOH	2
3 Peppers	CHI	3	10	Fanene	DVU	2	17 Smith,J	COW	1
4 Patterson	SC	3	11	Pierre-Pau	ICC	2	18 Long,C	VV	1
5 Hardy	COM	2	12	Suh	SBE	2	19 Kruger	MOH	1
6 Allen,J	DTL	2	13	Suggs	SBE	2	20 Atkins	YOR	1
7 Jenkins,C	YOR	2	14	Avril	GDM	2	21 Canty	MAR	1

TACKLES

1 Chaney	SS	22	12	Conner	SS	17	23 Phillips,K	COW	15
2 Martin,S	MVM	21	13	Bowman	GDM	16	24 Chancellor	DTL	14
3 Chung	SC	21	14	Laurinaiti	GWG	16	25 Powers	CHP	14
4 Ruud	CHP	21	15	Washington	PIC	16	26 Joseph,J	PIC	14
5 Angerer	MAR	20	16	Pierre-Pau	ICC	16	27 Wilkerson	ICC	14
6 Cushing	GDM	19	17	Bethea	LAK	16	28 Rogers,C	DTL	14
7 Jackson,D	LAK	19	18	Briggs	GWG	15	29 Dorsey	SC	13
8 McClain,R	MOH	19	19	Lewis,R	TCT	15	30 Vilma	MVM	13
9 Smith,D	CHI	17	20	Johnson,D	COW	15	31 Woodson	LAK	13
10 Hawthorne	COM	17	21	Taylor,P	CHP	15	32 Wilson,G	DVU	13

KICK RETURNS

	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1 Scott,D	SBE	4	149	37.3	100	1	11 Gates,C	ICC	8	193	24.1	43	0
2 Sherels	SS	12	401	33.4	76	0	12 Tate,B	MVM	12	281	23.4	52	0
3 McKnight	MAR	9	290	32.2	82	0	13 Logan	GWG	11	253	23.0	30	0
4 Sproles	LAK	12	376	31.3	80	0	14 Hester,D	DTL	7	157	22.4	31	0
5 Stroughter	CHP	13	402	30.9	101	0	15 Washington	COM	10	224	22.4	27	0
6 Karim	GDM	3	83	27.7	35	0	16 Banks	MOH	11	246	22.4	29	0
7 Ginn Jr.	TCT	3	76	25.3	32	0	17 Weems	COW	5	100	20.0	30	0
8 Boykin	PIC	4	101	25.3	32	0	18 Lefeged	VV	4	75	18.8	20	0
9 Cribbs	CHI	4	98	24.5	34	0	19 Arenas	SC	2	121	60.5	97	0
10 Cobb	DVU	6	146	24.3	31	0	20 Harvin	PIC	1	32	32.0	32	0

PUNT RETURNS

	No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1 Arenas	SC	6	0	97	16.2	31	0	11 Cobb	DVU	3	3	19	6.3	9	0
2 Mariani	YOR	4	1	58	14.5	19	0	12 Edwards,A	ICC	6	0	37	6.2	8	0
3 Ginn Jr.	TCT	4	0	57	14.3	25	0	13 Peterson,P	GDM	3	1	15	5.0	7	0
4 Washington	COM	6	2	80	13.3	19	0	14 Bess	DTL	2	3	8	4.0	5	0
5 Weems	COW	6	2	73	12.2	14	0	15 Sproles	LAK	2	1	7	3.5	6	0
6 Jackson,D	SBE	3	6	26	8.7	11	0	16 Logan	GWG	2	1	7	3.5	5	0
7 Adams,J	PIC	4	3	33	8.3	10	0	17 Sherels	SS	1	1	13	13.0	13	0
8 Cribbs	CHI	8	1	63	7.9	13	0	18 Welker	MAR	1	0	12	12.0	12	0
9 Thomas,M	VV	6	2	47	7.8	15	0	19 McCluster	ICC	1	0	10	10.0	10	0
10 Tate,B	MVM	4	0	27	6.8	11	0	20 Banks	MOH	1	0	8	8.0	8	0



AROUND THE



With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – The hockey lockout fiasco is another example of how the little guy gets trampled when two giants fight. I am no more than a casual Rangers fan but I have a place in my heart for hockey; it's part of this city as much as the smell of garbage in the street. Gary Bettman, the commissioner of the NHL, is running the show in the only way he knows how – locking out the players. Apparently the great deal he foisted on the NHLPA after cancelling the 2005-06 season was not as well thought out as it could have been, in that it didn't account for such a large increase in league revenues. Now the players are getting too much money and the league wants some of it, presumably to continue expansion into non-hockey markets. To be fair to Bettman, it's hard to criticize a guy for doing his job and increasing NHL revenues from \$400 million to over \$3 billion in the nearly 20 years he's been representing the owners; but I'm going to do it anyway, because I don't really care much about the details of who is right and who is wrong, or how many millions are at stake for players and owners with too many millions in their pockets already. Those dollars came from the fans, and fans are the only ones who are *not* getting a say in this lockout mess. Once again, those who shell out increasingly large portions of their hard-earned salaries to feed the professional sports beast are being treated with contempt by both sides. If only fans had the brass to go on strike!

Wait a minute! As if on cue, something remarkable and unprecedented in professional sports happened this week in the EFL that speaks to this very issue – a kind of fan emancipation movement. What exactly am I talking about, you ask? Read on....

REPLACEMENT FANS MAKE MOHAVE DEBUT

Truckloads of replacement fans from the Baja Peninsula and Mexican border towns descended on the Mohave Desert to fill the remaining seats of a nearly empty Fiery Depths for the Hellfire's home opener against the Chino Convicts. Experienced fans of the Tijuana Tacos of the Tex-Mex Football League (TMFL) and the soccer team *Club Tijuana Xoloitzcuintles de Caliente* spearheaded the mob, estimated at 30,000 Mexican sports fans, lured to the game by the promise of a free lunch, transportation across the border, and a souvenir towel. The majority were trucked in by delivery vans, transport trailers, and buses, at the joint expense of the EFL and Hellfire owner, **Bobby Elder**.

A beefed up police presence at the stadium kept the replacements separate from the regular fans picketing around the property. Dozens of arrests were made when groups of Hellfire season-ticket holders, members of the Fans Liberation Association of Greater Mohave and Everywhere (FLAME), tried to block the replacement fans from entering the stadium grounds. No injuries were reported but tempers flared as FLAME members cried "scabs" at the jubilant Mexicans, who looked like they had each won the lottery as they rode into the stadium dancing on flatbeds to the sound of live mariachi bands, singing out of the back of cube vans, or hanging out of the windows of school buses blowing whistles and quaffing tequila.

The regular common fans of the Mohave Hellfire have long been discontented about the sub-standard and inhumane conditions at The Fiery Depths: oppressive heat, warm beer, faulty washroom plumbing, oppressive heat, only 6 cheerleaders (one of them 11 years old and another 42), the digital scoreboard, only 6 water fountains in the upper deck, the curiously grey hot dogs, and, did I mention the oppressive heat? The FLAME website at www.toasteldersass.com contains a list of over 100 grievances and an electronic petition with over 100,000 signatures calling on Bobby Elder to make upgrades to the stadium, sign big name free agents, and donate money to local football programs.

"All we want is for him to respect the fans," says **Carmen Diablo**, an original Hellfire season-ticket holder, whose son Devlin joined a junior football program sponsored by the Hellfire only to find himself cleaning the locker rooms and stands at The Fiery Depths on game day for the privilege of playing pick-up football with the water boys and other junior staff for an hour afterwards – without pads or uniforms. "The fans keep football alive in the Mohave Desert. Where would the Hellfire be without the fans?" Trucking in mobs of Mexicans, apparently – to answer Carmen's rhetorical question.

One can understand the average fan's frustration. The Hellfire are coming off a 3-win campaign in 2011 and haven't posted a winning season since they won 11 games in 2008. They are hoping to improve to 6 wins this year without the benefit of a single big name free agent, while riding the coattails of highly-touted **Andrew Luck** at QB. Their best player, **Champ Bailey**, has made it clear he wants out. Nobody is happy in Mohave these days, except, it seems their newfound fan base from Mexico.



Replacement fans from Mexican border towns root for both teams at The Fiery Depths in Mohave in Week 2. The regular Hellfire fans are on strike to protest conditions in the stadium and a perennially bad football team.

The new fans certainly made a lot of noise – nobody disputed their enthusiasm. It was *when* they made the noise, and the kind of noise they made, that caused the controversy. Home field advantage was re-defined. The mariachi music became annoying enough by the 2nd quarter, but not as irritating as the constant cacophony from the crowd itself. The Mexicans were excited by *any* players who ran with the ball and angered by *any* tackle, crying ‘*sucio*’ every time a ball-carrier was brought down. In the first quarter, all passing plays brought hoots of derision and loud boos; but by the second quarter it was apparently the most exciting thing that could happen in the game and all passes were cheered equally and enthusiastically, including the ones by the visiting Convicts. There were many blown cheers, but none of them as egregious as the tendency, all game, to make the loudest noise when Mohave had the ball on offence and to hiss quietly when Chino

possessed the ball. Apparently few of them noticed, or could read, the digital scoreboard instruction to ‘MAKE SOME NOISE’ when *Cam Newton* was on the field.

Reaction of the players was mixed, with most of the Convicts finding the strange crowd amusing while several Hellfire players expressed irritation at their random expressions of glee and displeasure. “What’s with all those whistles?” responded Mohave running back, *Mike Tolbert*, to a reporter’s question about the crowd. Tolbert then appeared to blame his fumble in the third quarter on a mistaken belief that the play had been blown dead after he heard a loud whistle from a fan near the 50 yard line.

If Tolbert actually let his guard down because he mistook a fan’s whistle for a referee’s, then it is one clear strike against Elder’s replacement fan strategy. But the replay audio evidence is inconclusive and the video suggests it is likely that Tolbert would have fumbled anyway due to the bone-crushing hit and violent stripping action of Chino linebacker, *Dan Connor*.

As for the game itself, the Hellfire fell convincingly to the Convicts 41-17, and very few expressed the opinion that the outcome would have been any different if the regular fans had been in the stands. One network commentator remarked off-camera that the replacement fans “at least brought us some entertainment in the 4th quarter.”

They may have brought us more than entertainment, however. Reports of empty buses heading back to the border after the game suggest that many of the replacement fans may still be in the Mohave area and have no intention of returning to Mexico any time soon.

CHAMPIONSHIP HANGOVER

Although still very early in the season, the two finalists in last year’s EFL Championship Game are off to dismal starts, going a combined 1-3 after two weeks of EFL play. Despite having many of the same players as one year ago when they rose to the top of their respective Conferences, the Gladiators and the Knights are looking like completely different teams so far this year. It is not just that they are losing or, (in the case of LA’s Week Two encounter with the Cubs), barely winning; it is the *way* they are losing that is perplexing. They both look hung-over.

For as long as the EFL has existed, the LA Knights have been a team that relies, more than most, on its defence. The ‘Blue Shield’ is legendary and propelled the Knights to the team’s first EFL Championship win in 2011. Yet, after two games the Knights’ defence is ranked last in the league after giving up 669 yards and 49 points to Death Valley in Week One and yielding 487 yards in Week Two to a Cubs team led by a rookie QB operating behind a mostly rookie offensive line with a rookie running back in the backfield. A chronic case of cold feet in the red zone was the only thing that kept Iowa City from racking up the score against their prestigious rival. Knights’ QB, *Alex Smith* was able to find receivers in the end zone twice, which made all the difference in the game. To the chagrin of the inflated egos on the LA defence, the victory had little to do with them.

In Gwinnett, the 0-2 Gladiators are looking for answers after dropping a 19-17 decision to the Regulators at the Carolina Slammer. They shouldn’t have to look too hard. ‘*Big Ben*’ *Roethlisberger* is doing his best to confirm the wisdom of *Dave Birdsall*’s decision to go with *Vince Young* in the playoffs last year. Roethlisberger has been intercepted a league-high 6 times, fumbled twice,

been sacked 5 times, and completed only 57% of his passes for a QB rating of 52.7 – good for a ranking of 22nd among 20 EFL starters. The question nobody can answer, in view of Big Ben’s bungling, is why Young is *not* back starting for Gwinnett this year. He is still on the roster, but standing on the sidelines. Apart from the suspicion that Young may be an idiot with a limited shelf life, nobody knows for sure why the other idiot is starting ahead of him.

REVENGE – SKINNY, HALF-SWEET

Among the upgrades in 2012 for fans at Tillman Field in Cowtown is the introduction of Starbucks as the official coffee of the Corn Kings. One full-service cafe and 8 kiosks opened for the first time at the home opener against the Thunder Lizards with the unveiling of the *Pumpkin Spice Corned Latté*, a special local version of the international autumn favourite. The chain was unknown in Cowtown proper until recently when Corn Kings’ owner Farmer Brown took a shining to the extra dark brew after tasting a sample from a Starbucks corporate buyer purchasing bulk milk from one of his dairy farms. “It brings me back to old Granny Brown’s home brew,” Farmer Brown reminisced publicly during the announcement. “She never changed the grinds and boy, did it pack a wallop! It sure got ya bailing hay like the devil in the morning.”

They say “revenge is sweet;” but not always. To borrow Starbucks lingo, sometimes it’s half-sweet, or merely skinny. Such was the case in Cowtown this week when the Corn Kings knocked off the Thunder Lizards 30-23 with a 24-point outburst in the 2nd half fueled by 4 Durham turnovers. Scene of the quarter-final playoff debacle in 2011 when Cowtown fell controversially to Durham due, in part, to a naked fan running on the field, Tillman Field was filled to capacity and awash with yellow and green as the Corn Kings took the field, needing to win this game to stay with the pack in an already tightly-contested race for the North Division title. With **Joe Flacco** playing like he might have played in his rookie season had he played in his rookie season, it became apparent after one half of play that a Cowtown victory would depend heavily on Durham self-destructing in the second half – which they did. Three lost fumbles by the Dinosaurs enabled Cowtown to take the lead while a late interception by safety **Charles Godfrey** enabled them to keep it. It wasn’t exactly a case of Cowtown sticking it to Durham, but more a case of Durham sticking it to themselves. Regardless, the fans will take it.

Philip Rivers started the turnover party when he was stripped by **Justin Smith** during a scramble early in the 3rd quarter. Many observers were subsequently quick to heap most of the blame for the loss on the now generally-hated Durham QB. But Rivers was actually the catalyst for the Thunder Lizards’ offence and the principal reason why they had the lead to begin with. His was one turnover that seemed to get the voodoo started, but the killer one came at the hands of kick-returner **Devin Hester**, who fumbled away the kickoff return at his 19 after Cowtown had tied the game 23-23. Flacco found **Kevin Walter** two plays later for a 19-yard game-winning TD pass that brought the crowd to its feet, but thankfully not naked onto the field.

PUBLIC EXECUTION

The Monarchs opened their season at the pompously-named ‘His Majesty the King’s Royal Coliseum’ in Mission Viejo this week against the dour and imposing Death Valley Undertakers. Monarchs’ owner, **Chris Ferraro** appeared to spare no expense in making sure it was a memorable event done in a *grand* style fit for royalty. Roasted boar on a spit, roasted steer on a spit, roasted venison on a spit...okay, every kind of meat imaginable, big enough to be put on a spit, was roasted on a spit and available somewhere in the stadium. The Royal French Fries, fried in lard, ½ an inch thick, and smothered in butter and ketchup were a big hit, as was the half-priced Royal Beer (actually Budweiser) served by attractive “wenches” in skimpy purple and gold outfits. The on-field opening ceremonies featured the rock band Kings of Leon accompanied by a squadron of trumpets, a Herald dressed in actual gold lace who also sang the national anthem, dozens of dancers, and Ferraro appearing out of a cloud of mist flanked by his coaching staff seated on a very war-like, sword encrusted, motorized throne.

It was perhaps a touch overdone, but impressive anyway and certainly the closest thing we’ll see to a Championship pre-game ceremony in Mission Viejo for many years to come. The excitement hung in the air at game time and kept the energy up for the home team through the first half of play as the plucky Monarchs held off **Drew Brees** and the Undertakers’ second-stringers to trail by merely 3 points, 13-10, at half time. Sadly, the second half saw the illusion of competitiveness vanish like the mist that ushered Ferraro onto the field in the pre-game ceremonies. Brees went to work on the Undertakers’ first possession of the 3rd quarter, leading a 72-yard drive that finished with an easy toss to an uncovered **Owen Marecic** in the end zone for a TD. Marecic, before the game well-known in his home village and to his immediate family, would inadvertently take something away from **Andre Johnson’s** Week One star performance by demonstrating with 3 TD grabs that anyone can be a star when Brees is throwing the ball. With a comfortable 20-10 lead, Death Valley was just getting started. Brees played with the Monarchs’ defenders like a cat plays with a mouse, adding 4 more TD passes to finish with 7 on the day for the second game in a row. But like anybody watching a cat play with a mouse, eventually I became less impressed with the cat and sorrier for the mouse. Whether it was to stake a claim for the record books or to serve notice to the rest of the West Division, Brees throwing a TD pass with 26 seconds left, leading 41-17, was distasteful to me. It was an unnecessary public execution of a helpless expansion team. It incensed the crowd, the Monarchs’ players, and Ferraro himself, who announced after the game that he was firing the training staff that he had hired just last week and replacing them with US Marines, “to toughen those up those wimps.” He also formally declared war on Death Valley and declared Undertakers’ owner **Chris Worthley** an outlaw wanted in Mission Viejo for High Treason. Ferraro joins a growing

list of owners who, for one reason or another, have taken Worthley off their Christmas card lists. Not that Satan's Ward cares very much.

"This is professional sports," he declared at a short press conference afterwards. "I'm not in it to make friends I'm in it to win games. They (Monarchs) get paid to stop my team. So stop my team! My players are doing them a favour by letting them know how much they suck!"

AROUND THE EFL

Blowouts were the principal theme in Week Two. Or, to be more politically sensitive to the losers, "less-competitive contests" abounded.

The Excaliburs are 2-0 and looking good so far, albeit against two troubled teams. In Week Two, **Michael Turner** established a league-leading pace with 223 yards rushing and 3 TDs, allowing **Tom Brady** to sit back and manage a 33-14 thumping of the Patriots. The York defence put a headlock on **Michael Vick** and the Pats for one half before easing up somewhat in the 3rd and 4th quarters. **Jay Hammond's** team looked like they were conserving their energies for the main event upcoming in Week Three against Viriden.

Pickering nudged past Twin Cities 27-24 in a game that was not as close as the three-point



Monarchs' owner **Chris Ferraro**, flanked by members of his coaching staff, appears out of the mist for his team's home opener at His Majesty the King's Royal Coliseum. His broad smile had vanished completely by the 4th quarter as his team was pummeled by the Undertakers, 48-17.

differential suggests, but was too close for comfort for **Gus Konstantakos**. With **Robert Griffin III** on the sideline after taking a hard hit from **Antoine Winfield**, the Triumph tied the game 10-10 in the 3rd quarter on a bulls-eye 8-yard TD pass from **Jay Cutler** to tight end **Dennis Pitta**, reportedly prompting Konstantakos to smash a glass coffee table in his executive lounge. Pickering super-sub **Joe Webb** replaced Griffin at QB and wasted no time chipping in his contribution with a 21-yard strike to **Miles Austin** sandwiched between runs of 35 yards and 8 yards, the last for a TD, by wide-receiver-at-running back **Percy Harvin**. But Triumph rookie **Kendall Wright** found a seam in the Pickering zone and snared a dart from Cutler for a 35-yard TD strike to tie the game again, reportedly prompting Konstantakos to toss a couch across the room in his executive lounge. In the end, Harvin saved the day by eluding a keying linebacker and racing 44 yards to set up the decisive score, another 8-yard TD run by Harvin, to give the Spartans the win.

In Viriden, Matt Stafford continued his gun-slinging ways with a 326-yard, 3-TD performance against the Colonials. The Violators' defence clamped down on Week One MVP **Josh Freeman**, picking him off three times, causing two fumbles, and holding him to 8 yards rushing on 2 carries. **Doug Baldwin** got loose in the Viriden secondary for a 49-yard TD catch and **Fred Jackson** broke a 35-yard TD run for Commonwealth, but it was not nearly enough to keep pace with Stafford, who sits exactly 1 point behind **Drew Brees** in QB rating after two weeks.

At the Dawg Pound, a boisterous sell-out crowd registered their approval with a shower of dog biscuits onto the North Stars players as they filed through the tunnel to the lockers after taking out Garland 30-23. A freakish 78-yard fumble recovery by the massive defensive tackle **Vince Wilfork** brought the Mustangs within a TD with less than two minutes remaining. The Markham offence was slow to react to Wilfork's fumble recovery because they initially thought **Steve Slaton** was down by contact and Wilfork was walking off the field. By the time they realized he was actually "running," or waddling briskly in the direction of the Markham goal line, the other Garland defenders had caught up and formed a wedge *behind* Wilfork, keeping the pursuing Stars away for the 26 seconds it took him to reach the end zone. It all worked out happily for Markham when corner **Tarell Brown** intercepted **Matt Ryan** with 1:14 left in the game to halt the rally attempt and seal the win.

Finally, Scarborough returned to the State of Florida to a small crowd of protestors wearing Dragons paraphernalia and a larger group of supporters wearing Blue Eagles garb with a Florida Sun above the logo. Although it must have been disconcerting to the Swordfish players to discover that a large portion of the crowd at their home opener was actually cheering for the other team, it didn't affect the outcome of the game – which was never in doubt. With Scarborough out-gaining Sebastian 500 to 132 in net offence and 31-6 in first downs, the 34-6 score in favour of the Blue Eagles was a tribute to **Chris Dickinson's** sportsmanship.

BUG THE BOOKIE!

JIMMY THE GEEK GIVES YOU HIS PICKS FOR WEEK THREE EFL ACTION

Your source for fantasy and on-line betting solutions



RECORD VS THE SPREAD AFTER WEEK 2:

15-4-1

JIMMY'S WEEK THREE PICKS

CHARLESWOOD @ IOWA CITY (line – CUBS by 4)

Two rebuilding projects take the field against each other, giving analysts a glimpse of which one has progressed further on the long road back to respectability. Not that it matters outside of these two franchises, but one of these teams will be able to set aside fears of a winless season after this game. Injuries are a factor, with 3 key players; Russell Wilson, Trent Richardson, and Patrick Willis out for the Cubs; while the Pats enter the game with their line-backing corps decimated by injury. The game will come down to the veterans and there are more of those on the Pats capable of making a difference. Michael Vick has been posting good numbers despite two lop-sided losses and the beast Adrian Peterson has a chance to get back on track if he can run around Cubs' end Jason Pierre-Paul. Usually inhospitable Joe Ferguson Stadium will feel welcoming for the Pats this week. **PICK: CHARLESWOOD**

VIRDEN @ YORK (line – EXCALIBURS by 1)

The two favourites to win the East go toe-to-toe for the first time this season in a crucial game toward eventually determining that winner. The deck appears to be stacked in York's favour as they have the better defence, a championship QB in Tom Brady, the home field, and no significant injuries to report. But Virden QB, Matt Stafford has one of the hottest hands in the EFL after two weeks, behind only Drew Brees, with a 153.6 QB rating and 7 TD passes. After blowing away Charleswood and Commonwealth, we will see how well he performs against a team with a respectable and deep secondary and a bona-fide play-making defensive end in Jason Babin. League-leading rusher Michael Turner's career has been re-born with the Excaliburs and he has an opportunity to stay on top of the league against a Virden defence without a lot of beef on the line. Despite outward signs suggesting a comfortable York victory, I expect this game to come down to the wire in a Brady vs Stafford shootout. **PICK: YORK**

MOHAVE @ COMMONWEALTH (line – COLONIALS by 1)

Humiliations small and large are beginning to pile up for Mohave and we're only in Week 3. After two blowout defeats and the shame of playing in front of replacement fans, they go to expansion Commonwealth as 1-point underdogs. With their best player, Champ Bailey, out for at least 3 weeks, and QB Andrew Luck doubtful, it sure appears that there will be an opening for free-wheeling Josh Freeman to leave a mark on Mohave with his arm and, if necessary, his feet. But the Colonials will be missing top rookie corner Morris Claiborne on an already shallow secondary and will have no answer for Hakeem Nicks and Jimmy Graham. If Blaine Gabbert (or Andrew Luck) can stay upright against a somnolent pass rush there will be yards to be gained in the air game. The questions are: how many; and will they be enough? Unless Fred Jackson's legs fall off, the Hellfire will not be able to keep up with the Colonials' running game and that will make the difference. **PICK: COMMONWEALTH**

MISSION VIEJO @ LOS ANGELES (line – KNIGHTS by 4)

Is there a defence in the league worse than the Monarchs? Why, yes there is – it is in Los Angeles. Believe it or not, the Knights' 'Blue Shield' is dead last in team defence, surrendering a whopping 9.4 yards per-play and 578 yards per game. It is still early, but giving up 578 yards is horrible on any day, let alone doing it twice. Mission Viejo's 'D', leading the league in points allowed, looks like a steel trap next to LA's at 7 yards per-play and an average of 467 yards per game. So, is a shootout inevitable at Round Table Stadium this week? Don't bet on it. Colt McCoy is no Drew Brees and Mike Williams cannot carry the load by himself going up against the only Knights' defender who hasn't looked like he's on medication this year, Charles Woodson. Expect Alex Smith, on the other hand, to pick apart the Monarchs despite the presence of Lardarius Webb and Brent Grimes in the defensive backfield. Darren Sproles will make his presence felt in a high-scoring game –high scoring for one team anyway. **PICK: LOS ANGELES**

CHINO @ DEATH VALLEY (line – UNDERTAKERS by 6)

On the other side of the absurdity that is the Knights' performance so far on defence is the Undertakers' performance on offence. Drew Brees has roared out of the gate with 14 TD passes in 2 games, twice tying the league single-game TD-pass record in the process. Death Valley looks unstoppable and is a big part of why the Monarchs' and Knights' defences, their two opponents to date, are currently rated #19 and #20 in the league. This week they face a much better defence in the 'Lockdown Crew.' Although I don't expect the likes of Julius Peppers, Haloti Ngata, James Harrison, and Chris Gamble to stop the Undertakers' "scythe of death" Brees completely, I expect them to blunt his blade just enough to keep their own offence in the game. Unnoticed, because of Brees' heroics, has been the weak performance of the Death Valley defence, especially against the run. Cam Newton has a golden opportunity to carry his team for a day against this lightweight crew. **PICK: DEATH VALLEY**

COWTOWN @ SOUTH CAROLINA (line – CORN KINGS by 3)

Both teams are coming off big wins at home and hope to build on the momentum. One of them is going to be very disappointed because it is a game that both can reasonably expect to win. The Corn Kings have the overall better defence and offensive line, but the Regulators are at home and match-up fairly well on defence against their opponent's strengths. South Carolina does not have a shutdown defender in the secondary and their top corner is out, but the Corn Kings are missing Santana Moss and Malcolm Floyd as well as both starting tight ends. That leaves little after Larry Fitzgerald to threaten in the passing game. The Regulators' defensive line, led by Richard Seymour, is holding opponents to under 2 yards per carry this year, meaning it will be tough progress in the trenches for Maurice Jones-Drew. South Carolina's fortunes will hinge on erratic Tony Romo's ability to crack a good Cowtown secondary. If he can do that, his defence might just be able to do the rest. **PICK: COWTOWN**

PICKERING @ DURHAM (line – SPARTANS by 6)

There isn't going to be a North Division match-up this clear-cut for a while, so bet on it while you can. Pickering is facing their first loss of the year with RGIII out and the possibility that both their top cover safeties will not dress. Durham is coming off a 2nd half meltdown in Cowtown last week but, if not for the turnovers, looked strong in all facets of the game and likely should have won. Joe Webb has been effective in relief for the Spartans but he is in over his head this time on the road against the best secondary in the league. The Vegas line is wonky so dip into the piggy bank, sit back and collect. **PICK: DURHAM**

MARKHAM @ TWIN CITIES (line – NORTH STARS by 3)

Twin Cities is proving to be a tough out after mauling Sebastian then matching the spread against Pickering in a game many expected would not be that close. The defence is tougher than expected and the Cutler-Tebow tag team is working well so far in moving the chains. However, this week the Triumph host the team many consider to be the class of the North Division, maybe the league. The North Stars are healthy and have all the weapons they need to humble a greater defence than the one they face in Twin Cities this week. The Stars will shine on offence while Jay Cutler will finally reveal his true self. **PICK: MARKHAM**

SEBASTIAN @ GWINNETT (line – GLADIATORS by 2)

The Gladiators are desperate for a win so for them Sebastian comes to town at the perfect time. Not that the hapless Gladiators can take anything for granted but if they do not believe they can soundly beat the Swordfish at the Coliseum then they might as well pack it in now and start auditioning Tyler Thigpen for next year. The Glads are at the bottom of the league in offence thanks to a feckless Ben Roethlisberger who leads the league in interceptions and nothing else. The running game is in the doldrums and the defence has been merely average. Mark Sanchez seems to have won the starting job from coach's darling, Andy Dalton in Sebastian, but who he intends to throw to in this game is a stumper as injuries have reduced the receiving corps to 3 wide-outs and 1 tight end! Chandler Jones, the only impact player on the Swordfish defence, is out as well. Gwinnett should win this game easily, but don't expect it to play out without some unexpected twists and turns. **PICK: GWINNETT**

GARLAND @ SCARBOROUGH (line – BLUE EAGLES by 10)

So far, so good for the Blue Eagles, but nobody is getting their hopes too high in Scarborough. Nothing less than a berth in the Championship Game will soothe the sting of last year's stumble, so a 2-0 record only means that nobody is calling for the coach's head yet. The coming-of-age Mustangs will present Scarborough with their first real test of the season – at least on offence. On defence, it may not be as much of a test as Garland's top four running backs (yes, four) are out, leaving Jahvid Best carrying the load on the ground. This puts Matt Ryan in a tough spot against Darelle Revis & Friends in the Scarborough secondary. To compete, Garland will need a blue-chip performance from their defence and pin-point accuracy from Matt Ryan. If they cannot get both, the outcome is certain and potentially embarrassing. **PICK: SCARBOROUGH**