

WEEK 9

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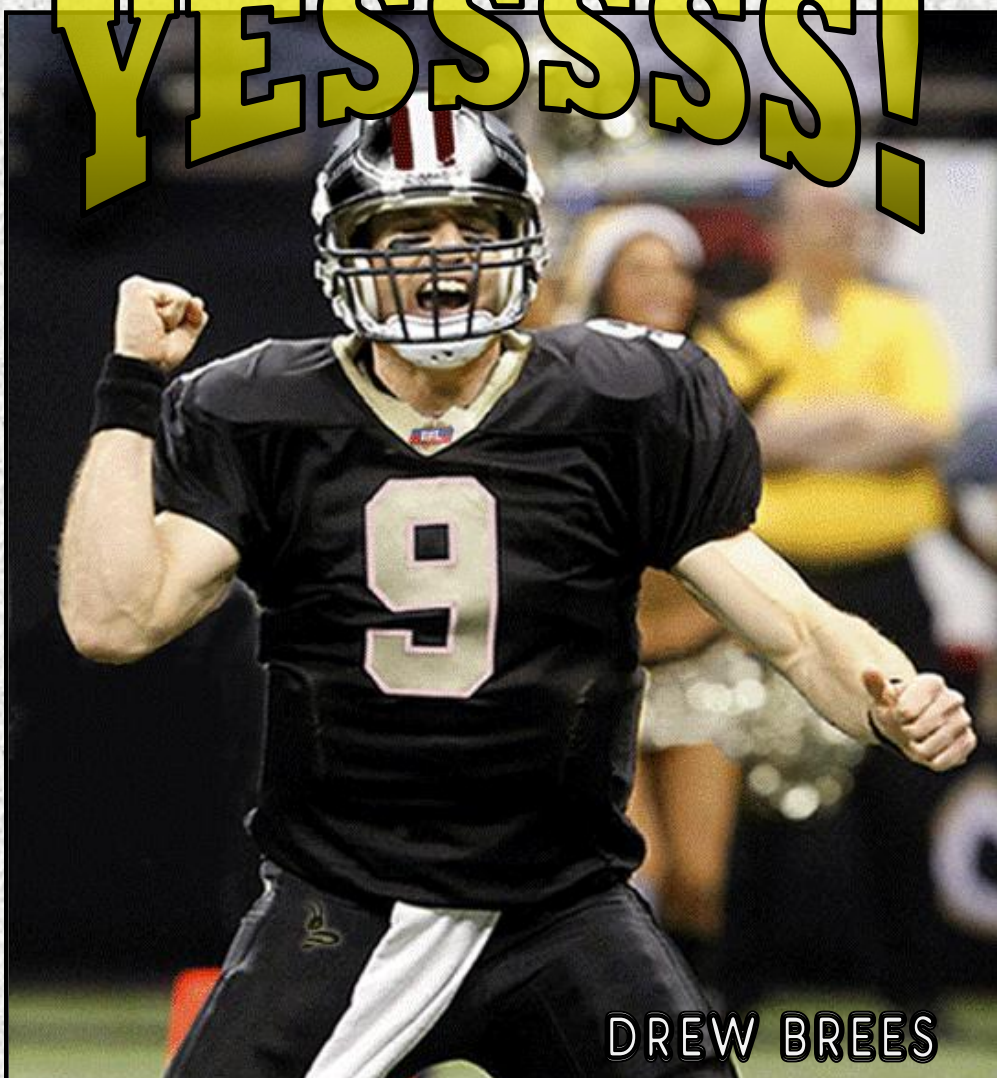
# 2012 EFL 2012

December 9, 2012



EAST			WEST			NORTH			SOUTH		
York	7	2 0	Death Valley	9	0 0	Durham	8	1 0	Scarborough	9	0 0
Virden	6	3 0	Chino	5	4 0	Cowtown	6	2 1	Garland	6	3 0
Commonwealth	5	4 0	Los Angeles	4	5 0	Markham	5	3 1	Gwinnett	4	5 0
Mohave	2	7 0	Iowa City	1	8 0	Pickering	3	6 0	South Carolina	4	5 0
Charleswood	0	9 0	Mission Viejo	1	8 0	Twin Cities	2	7 0	Sebastian	2	7 0

# YESSSSS!



DREW BREES

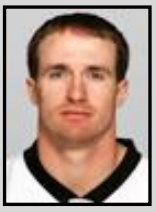
Drew Brees pumps his fist as tight end Aaron Hernandez scores the TD that set a new single-season TD pass record. Brees added two more and the record is counting.



Who was slick in Week Nine?

**"BRYLCREEM" THE EFL'S FIRST SPONSOR**

DEATH VALLEY



**Drew Brees**  
**QB**  
**Death Valley**  
**Undertakers**

24 of 37, 340 yards, 3 TDs, 2 INTs, beat Glads and set TD pass record.

PICKERING



**Ray McDonald**  
**DE**  
**Pickering**  
**Spartans**

6 tackles, 3 sacks, 2 PD, 2 Hur, 2 FF, led D in streak-ending win.



4-5-0

17



# GAME OF THE WEEK



9-0-0

23

## 'TAKERS BURY ANOTHER ONE! BREES SETS TD PASS RECORD AS UNDERTAKERS CONTINUE PERFECT RUN!

### GLADIATOR OF THE GAME

**Ben Roethlisberger**

21 of 31, 252 yds, 2 TDs, 1 INT

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
Gwinnett	0	7	3	7	-	17
Death Valley	7	0	6	10	-	23

### UNDERTAKER OF THE GAME

**Drew Brees**

24 of 37, 340 yds, 3 TDs, 2 INTs

**GAME SUMMARY:** Drew Brees set a new TD pass record and the Death Valley defence shackled **LeSean McCoy** as the Undertakers buried Gwinnett to remain unbeaten after nine weeks. The record-setting drama was over in the first quarter when Brees connected with tight end **Aaron Hernandez** on an aggressive 4<sup>th</sup> and 1 conversion attempt from the Gladiators' 27 yard line. With Gwinnett shifting inside and keying on running back **Ryan Matthews**, Hernandez slipped behind the linebackers and took a short slant all the way for the TD and a new EFL TD pass record for Brees. The Undertakers, pumped up by the home crowd, continued to force the attack, but opened the door for Gwinnett after a botched 4<sup>th</sup> and 7 from the Glads' 37 yard line. Passes of 39 yards to **Jeremy Maclin** and 18 yards to **Reggie Wayne** set up a 7-yard TD pass from **Ben Roethlisberger** to **Nate Burleson** to even the score at 7. An interception of Brees by **Dunta Robinson** to snuff out an Undertakers' drive in Gwinnett territory in the dying seconds of the half caused the score to remain deadlocked after two quarters. The Glads got the ball first and looked to score first by attempting a 4<sup>th</sup> and 1 at the Death Valley 46; but a misfire by Big Ben gave the ball to Brees, who made the Glads pay 3 plays later with a 51-yard TD pass to **Randall Cobb**. **Lance Briggs** blocked the extra point to make the score 13-7 for Death Valley. The Undertakers tried to catch the Glads off-guard with a surprise onside kick, but **Mike Pouncey** pounced on the ball at the Death Valley 45, setting up a 44-yard FG by **Josh Brown** to make it 13-10. For the rest of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, the defences took control – **Charles Johnson** stuffed McCoy for a 3-yard loss and forced a fumble, but the Undertakers gave it back when Brees was picked off by **Thomas DeCoud** on the next series. After a **Graham Gano** FG early in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, the game's turning point came when Gwinnett return ace **Stefan Logan** fumbled and lost the ball at the Glads' 15 on the ensuing kick return. After **Willis McGahee** rumbled 12 yards to the 3, Brees rifled it home with a 3-yard TD pass to Hernandez to make it 23-10. The Glads got that TD back on, but fell short in their comeback when **Brent Grimes** stripped the ball from Big Ben at the Undertaker's 49 with less than 2 minutes left.

### QUOTE OF THE GAME

"We knew Drew was going to get the record soon, probably in this game and probably early. He has been outstanding! But I'm really proud of our defence here. The Media is full of s&#t when they criticize this great bunch of guys." – *Undertakers' coach, Chris Worthley.*

"We're back to giving the ball away! If you're going to ask me why we're 4-5, there's your answer: turnovers! Simple." – *Gwinnett coach, Dave Birdsall.*



### FANS' THUMB UP

Brees setting TD pass record

### FANS' THUMB DOWN

Glads' fumblyitis!



### FAN RATING



12-04-2012 Graveyard Temp: 38 Wind: 5-15 None MVP: **Drew Brees**

1 5:31	Death Valley	TD Brees 27 pass to Hernandez (Gano) (5-64-3:04)	0-7
2 8:22	Gwinnett	TD Roethlisberger 7 pass to Burleson (Brown,J) (5-63-2:19)	7-7
3 10:04	Death Valley	TD Brees 51 pass to Cobb (no good) (3-54-0:54)	7-13
3 7:34	Gwinnett	FG Brown 44 (7-19-2:19)	10-13
4 10:45	Death Valley	FG Gano 30 (13-82-6:40)	10-16
4 9:53	Death Valley	TD Brees 3 pass to Hernandez (Gano) (2-15-0:46)	10-23
4 7:43	Gwinnett	TD Roethlisberger 6 pass to Burleson (Brown,J) (8-75-2:02)	17-23

	GWG	DVU
First Downs	19	23
Rushes	23-64	30-129
Passes	31-21-252	37-24-340
Sacked	1-7	5-36
Fumble	4	0
Penalties	2-10	6-45
Turnovers	4	2
Missed Tackles	5	6
Blitzes	24	5
Time	25:30	34:30
Third Down	4-8	5-14
Fourth Down	0-1	2-4
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/2/0	3/1/1
Net Offense	309	433



# QUICK COUNTS!!

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



**MONARCHS**  
1-8-0

5	7	3	0	0	<b>15</b>
OT					

**DeMarco Murray**  
18 Carries, 89 yards



**SWORDFISH**  
2-7-0

3	14	0	6	0	<b>23</b>
OT					

**Andy Dalton**  
18 of 29, 181 yards, 1 TD

The Monarchs grabbed an early 5-0 lead after **Quinton Coples** sacked **Andy Dalton** in the end zone for a safety then a short field led to a 28-yard FG. But a 31-yard pass to **Michael Jenkins**, setting up a FG then a 33-yard run by **Stevan Ridley**, setting up a 4-yard TD run by **Pierre Thomas** and 2-point convert, made it 11-5 for Sebastian. Mission re-gained the lead briefly on a 4-yard TD pass from **Colt McCoy** to **Devery Henderson**, but a 5-yard TD pass to **Robert Meachem** put the Swordfish ahead at the half. They would go on to prevail in a 2<sup>nd</sup> half defensive struggle to earn their 2<sup>nd</sup> win.



**CUBS**  
1-8-0

0	3	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
OT					

**Russell Wilson**  
13 of 19, 148 yards



**T-LIZARDS**  
8-1-0

3	14	14	3	0	<b>34</b>
OT					

**Philip Rivers**  
12 of 19, 177 yards, 2 TDs

After a struggle to a 3-3 tie through the 1<sup>st</sup> and early 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters, the Thunder Lizards started to break away from the Cubs mid-way through the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter with a 13-play, 84-yard drive that ended with a 3-yard TD pass from **Philip Rivers** to **Dwayne Bowe** to make it 10-3. The pair combined for a 20-yard TD pass with under 2 minutes remaining in the 2<sup>nd</sup> to make it 17-3 at half time. After opening the 2<sup>nd</sup> half with a 5-yard TD run by **Reggie Bush** then following it up with a 1-yard TD run by **Michael Bush** on their next possession, the rout was on for Durham as their defence kept the door shut.



**PATRIOTS**  
0-9-0

0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
OT					

**Michael Vick**  
127 yards pass,



**NORTH STARS**  
5-3-1

0	21	10	0	0	<b>31</b>
OT					

**Eli Manning**  
25 of 33, 293 yards, 4 TDs, 1 INT

With the game scoreless late in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, **Shaun Phillips** picked off **Eli Manning** at the Patriots' 25 yard but fumbled away the return, giving the Stars new life. Manning took advantage, connecting with **Wes Welker** from 12 yards out for the first of 4 TD passes on the day. **Michael Vick** was picked off trying to get that back by **Tarell Brown** and, on the next play, Manning found Cook again, this time for a 41-yard TD pass to make the score 14-0. The Stars added a 3<sup>rd</sup> TD before the half then put it on cruise control, adding 10 points and blanking the Pats the rest of the way.



# QUICK COUNTS!!

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



<b>VIOLATORS</b>
6-3-0

0	10	0	0	0	<b>10</b>
OT					

**Torrey Smith**  
9 Receptions, 100 yards, 1 TD



<b>CORN KINGS</b>
6-2-1

0	3	14	0	0	<b>17</b>
OT					

**Joe Flacco**  
15 of 29, 189 yards, 2 TDs

**Matt Stafford** broke a 3-3 tie with 0:24 left in the 1<sup>st</sup> half when he found **Torrey Smith** open in the end zone from 27 yards to give Virden a 10-3 lead. The Corn Kings tied it up in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter on a penalty-assisted 68-yard drive topped off by a 25-yard TD pass from **Joe Flacco** to **Larry Fitzgerald**. The game-winning TD came on Cowtown's next possession, after a daring 4<sup>th</sup> down conversion at the Virden 28 set up an 8-yard TD pass to **Santana Moss**. Linebacker **D.J. Williams** notched 2 sacks on Virden's last drive and the offence held on to the ball for the final 2 minutes to preserve the win.



<b>EXCALIBURS</b>
7-2-0

7	10	7	7	0	<b>31</b>
OT					

**Tom Brady**  
18 of 28, 265 yards, 3 TDs



<b>TRIUMPH</b>
2-7-0

3	7	0	0	0	<b>10</b>
OT					

**Ted Ginn Jr.**  
3 KR, 135 yards, Long 106, 1 TD

The Triumph got a league record long 106-yard kick return for a TD from **Ted Ginn Jr.** to even the score at 10 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter against the heavily favoured Excaliburs. However, **Tom Brady** engineered a 90-yard TD drive culminating in a 17-yard pass to **Victor Cruz** for a 17-10 half time lead. On the Triumph's opening possession of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, a pressured **Jay Cutler** threw deep and wildly on 3<sup>rd</sup> down and was picked off by **Asante Samuel**, setting up a 24-yard TD pass to **Juron Criner** to make it 24-10. A blocked punt by **Jason Babin** set the final York TD and capped off an easy win.



<b>SPARTANS</b>
3-6-0

7	13	0	6	0	<b>26</b>
OT					

**Percy Harvin**  
1 KR, 98 yards, TD



<b>HELLFIRE</b>
2-7-0

0	6	0	0	0	<b>6</b>
OT					

**Hakeem Nicks**  
5 Receptions, 101 yards

Pickering QB **Robert Griffin III** completed just 9 passes but 4 of them came on a single possession to cover 42 yards of a 49-yard TD drive that saw Griffin take it in himself on a 3-yard scramble to open the scoring. The teams traded field goals before **Percy Harvin** put a charge into the Spartans' sideline with a 98-yard kickoff return for a TD to make the score 17-3. **Andrew Luck** struggled trying to bring his team back against a Pickering defence that sacked him 4 times and intercepted him twice. **Ray McDonald** had a career day for the Spartans, notching 3 sacks and forced 2 fumbles.



# QUICK COUNTS!!

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



<b>COLONIALS</b>
5-4-0

0	17	0	7	0	<b>24</b>
OT					

**Lance Moore**  
7 Receptions, 82 yards, 1 TD



<b>BLUE EAGLES</b>
9-0-0

14	7	14	7	0	<b>42</b>
OT					

**Ray Rice**  
23 Carries, 149 yards, 2 TDs

The Blue Eagles opened the scoring after consuming 11:26 on their opening drive as **Aaron Rodgers** found **DeVier Posey** for a 6-yard TD pass. Rodgers added a 2<sup>nd</sup> TD at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> on a 28-yard scramble to make it 14-0 Scarborough. The Colonials fought back and briefly held the lead, 17-14, after a 26-yard pick-six by **Morris Claiborne**. But Scarborough took the lead back before half time, covering 80 yards in 2:44 to score on a 2-yard run by **Ray Rice**. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, **Josh Freeman** was picked off in the end zone trying to lead a comeback while the Scarborough offence rolled up the score.



<b>KNIGHTS</b>
4-5-0

0	7	14	6	0	<b>27</b>
OT					

**Alex Smith**  
35 of 43, 379 yards, 3 TDs



<b>REGULATORS</b>
4-5-0

0	6	7	3	0	<b>16</b>
OT					

**AJ Green**  
8 Receptions, 172 yards, 1 TD

**Alex Smith** dodged the pass rush and fired a bullet to **Steve Smith**, who broke a couple of tackles to finish off a 49-yard TD catch and erase a 6-0 South Carolina lead in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Smith increased the LA lead with a 12-yard TD pass to **Roddy White**, but the Regulators responded with a 75-yard TD pass from **Tony Romo** to **AJ Green** to trail by 1. The Knights drove back down the field and finished off an 86-yard trip with a 4-yard TD pass to White, his 2<sup>nd</sup> of the game. Trailing 24-16 in the 4<sup>th</sup>, Romo was picked off by **Charles Woodson**, setting up a late 51-yard FG to seal the LA win.



<b>CONVICTS</b>
5-4-0

3	7	0	7	0	<b>17</b>
OT					

**Cam Newton**  
19 of 33, 202 yards, 2 TDs, 1 INT



<b>MUSTANGS</b>
6-3-0

7	13	13	0	0	<b>33</b>
OT					

**Patrick Peterson**  
3 PR, 96 yards, 74 long, 1 TD

The Mustangs scored their only offensive TD when **Arian Foster** carried it over from 3 yards out on their first possession. **Patrick Peterson** broke his 2<sup>nd</sup> punt return for a TD in two weeks to make it 17-3 for Garland before Chino's **Cam Newton** scrambled and connected with **Jason Avant** for a 39-yard TD pass to make it a one-score game. **DeAngelo Hall** picked off Newton and returned it 43 yards for a TD then **Robbie Gould** kicked his 4<sup>th</sup> of 4 FGs to make the score 33-10. Newton and Avant connected for their 2<sup>nd</sup> TD of the day early in the 4<sup>th</sup>, but the Mustangs would allow no more.



# BODY COUNT



## WEEK NINE INJURY REPORT



<b>CHARLESWOOD</b>	Sidney Rice, WR – QUESTIONABLE; Adrian Peterson, RB – DOUBTFUL; Jon Beason, ILB – OUT (Season); Marcus Trufant – OUT (Season)
<b>CHINO</b>	None
<b>COMMONWEALTH</b>	Andre Smith, T – QUESTIONABLE
<b>COWTOWN</b>	None
<b>DEATH VALLEY</b>	Alshon Jeffery, WR – PROBABLE; Jimmy Smith, CB – OUT (2 games); Gerald McCoy, DT – OUT (5 games)
<b>DURHAM</b>	Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, CB – DOUBTFUL; Corey Wootton, DE – OUT (2 games); Nick Mangold, C – OUT (3 games)
<b>GARLAND</b>	Quinn Johnson, FB – OUT (6 games)
<b>GWINNETT</b>	LeSean McCoy, RB – QUESTIONABLE; Ahmad Bradshaw, RB – OUT (2 games); Demaryius Thomas, WR – OUT (2 games)
<b>IOWA CITY</b>	Riley Reiff, T – QUESTIONABLE; Brandon Harris, CB – OUT; Mario Williams, OLB – OUT (7 games)
<b>LOS ANGELES</b>	Sion Fua, DT – QUESTIONABLE; Michael Bennett, DE – OUT (2 games); Nick Miller, WR – OUT (4 games); Osi Umenyiora, DE – OUT (Season); Sam Young, T – OUT (Season)
<b>MARKHAM</b>	Roscoe Parrish, WR – OUT (5 games)
<b>MISSION VIEJO</b>	Michael Brockers, DE – OUT (2 games); Jonathan Vilma, LB – OUT (3 games); Koa Misi, OLB – OUT (4 games); Derek Cox, CB – OUT (Season)
<b>MOHAVE</b>	Brian Price, DT – PROBABLE; Trevor Laws, DT – OUT (3 games); Aaron Williams, CB – OUT (3 games); Ben Graham, P – (6 games); Chris Massey, LS – OUT (10 games)
<b>PICKERING</b>	Darren McFadden, RB – OUT (3 games); T.J. Ward, S – OUT (4 games); Miles Austin, WR – OUT (4 games)
<b>SCARBOROUGH</b>	LaMarr Woodley, OLB – OUT; Justin Tuck, DL – DOUBTFUL; Jermaine Gresham, TE – OUT (2 games); Kris Dielman, G – OUT (6 games)
<b>SEBASTIAN</b>	Leonard Hankerson, WR – OUT (7 games); Leon Hall, CB – OUT (8 games); Kenny Britt, WR – OUT (Season)
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>	Shareece Wright, S – OUT (3 games); Bradley Fletcher, CB – OUT (4 games); Brandon Spikes, ILB – OUT (6 games); Patrick Chung, S – OUT (7 games); Brandon Graham, DE – OUT (Season)
<b>TWIN CITIES</b>	Jerry Hughes, DE – QUESTIONABLE; Bobby Wagner, ILB – OUT (2 games); Ray Lewis, ILB – OUT (2 games); Antoine Winfield, CB – OUT (7 games)
<b>VIRDEN</b>	Brandon Meriweather, S – OUT; La Ron Landry, S – OUT (3 games); Julio Jones, WR – OUT (3 games); Prince Amukamara, CB – OUT (5 games); Shawne Merriman, DE-LB OUT (8 games); Eric Berry, S – OUT (Season); Jeff Otah, T – OUT (Season)
<b>YORK</b>	Rashean Mathis, CB – OUT (2 games); Donald Jones, WR – OUT (2 games); Jason Peters, T – OUT (2 games)



# STATS



## WEEK NINE

# STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
York	7	2	0	0.778	263	29.2	144	16	13.2	3 1 0	3 1 0	5 1 0
Virgen	6	3	0	0.667	271	30.1	220	24.4	5.7	3 1 0	4 0 0	5 1 0
Commonwealth	5	4	0	0.556	208	23.1	230	25.6	-2.4	3 1 0	2 2 0	4 2 0
Mohave	2	7	0	0.222	161	17.9	293	32.6	-14.7	1 3 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
Charleswood	0	9	0	0	113	12.6	308	34.2	-21.7	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 6 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Death Valley	9	0	0	1	340	37.8	198	22	15.8	4 0 0	4 0 0	6 0 0
Chino	5	4	0	0.556	203	22.6	187	20.8	1.8	2 2 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
Los Angeles	4	5	0	0.444	247	27.4	185	20.6	6.9	1 3 0	3 1 0	3 3 0
Iowa City	1	8	0	0.111	153	17	227	25.2	-8.2	1 3 0	0 4 0	1 5 0
Mission Viejo	1	8	0	0.111	99	11	290	32.2	-21.2	1 3 0	1 3 0	1 5 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham	8	1	0	0.889	271	30.1	146	16.2	13.9	5 0 0	3 1 0	5 1 0
Cowtown	6	2	1	0.722	242	26.9	145	16.1	10.8	4 1 0	2 1 1	3 2 1
Markham	5	3	1	0.611	208	23.1	156	17.3	5.8	3 1 1	2 1 1	4 1 1
Pickering	3	6	0	0.333	182	20.2	211	23.4	-3.2	2 3 0	2 2 0	2 4 0
Twin Cities	2	7	0	0.222	160	17.8	220	24.4	-6.7	2 3 0	0 4 0	1 5 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Scarborough	9	0	0	1	272	30.2	136	15.1	15.1	5 0 0	4 0 0	6 0 0
Garland	6	3	0	0.667	243	27	149	16.6	10.4	4 1 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
Gwinnett	4	5	0	0.444	196	21.8	203	22.6	-0.8	2 3 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
South Carolina	4	5	0	0.444	156	17.3	206	22.9	-5.6	2 3 0	2 2 0	2 4 0
Sebastian	2	7	0	0.222	115	12.8	249	27.7	-14.9	1 4 0	1 3 0	1 5 0

# PASSING

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Brees	DVU	333	240	72.1	3181	6	1.8	54	39	11.7	133.5
2	Stafford	VV	310	215	69.4	2785	6	1.9	64	23	7.4	114.0
3	Brady	YOR	257	170	66.1	2409	7	2.7	75	18	7.0	108.3
4	Smith,A	LAK	327	225	68.8	2438	4	1.2	51	19	5.8	104.8
5	Rodgers,A	SBE	285	197	69.1	2358	5	1.8	73	14	4.9	103.2
6	Newton,C	CHI	239	157	65.7	1813	4	1.7	75	14	5.9	101.0
7	Rivers,P	DTL	237	150	63.3	2124	10	4.2	53	18	7.6	99.9
8	Cutler	TCT	226	146	64.6	1609	3	1.3	47	12	5.3	97.8
9	Ryan,M	GDM	350	232	66.3	2713	6	1.7	81	16	4.6	97.7
10	Flacco	COW	305	175	57.4	2184	7	2.3	76	23	7.5	95.3
11	Luck	MOH	248	163	65.7	1824	8	3.2	52	12	4.8	90.2
12	Wilson,R	ICC	198	124	62.6	1608	5	2.5	66	7	3.5	89.4
13	Manning,E	MAR	247	151	61.1	2053	10	4.0	57	12	4.9	87.0
14	Romo	SC	288	189	65.6	2148	13	4.5	75	14	4.9	85.2
15	Roethlisbe	GWG	295	189	64.1	1964	12	4.1	80	16	5.4	84.3
16	Vick	CHP	144	86	59.7	919	6	4.2	71	5	3.5	72.7
17	Weeden	CHP	108	62	57.4	716	3	2.8	50	2	1.9	72.1
18	Dalton	SS	266	165	62.0	1548	9	3.4	59	5	1.9	70.2
19	Freeman,J	COM	255	155	60.8	1783	15	5.9	61	9	3.5	69.1
20	McCoy,C	MVM	151	86	57.0	732	4	2.6	44	4	2.6	67.5

## RUSHING

		Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1	Rice, R	SBE	174	895	5.1	70	5	11	McGahee	DVU	102	530	5.2	66	1
2	Jones-Drew	COW	198	886	4.5	23	4	12	Mathews, R	DVU	109	529	4.9	36	1
3	Turner, M	YOR	167	821	4.9	43	7	13	Tate, B	VV	103	521	5.1	27	1
4	Jackson, F	COM	160	757	4.7	35	6	14	Bush, R	DTL	112	490	4.4	22	4
5	Brown, D	ICC	138	747	5.4	72	6	15	Stewart, J	MAR	91	460	5.1	18	3
6	Martin, D	TCT	149	683	4.6	55	1	16	Newton, C	CHI	85	458	5.4	25	7
7	McCoy, L	GWG	151	638	4.2	48	7	17	Jackson, S	CHI	107	454	4.2	52	1
8	Johnson, C	PIC	153	587	3.8	36	2	18	Thomas, P	SS	97	453	4.7	31	4
9	Sproles	LAK	75	581	7.7	34	1	19	Tolbert	MOH	105	436	4.2	18	3
10	Williams, D	MAR	87	561	6.4	73	7	20	Mendenhall	MVM	107	347	3.2	23	0

## RECEIVING

		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1	Graham, J	MOH	62	685	11.0	52	3	11	Jones, J	VV	45	766	17.0	35	7
2	Fitzgerald	COW	60	864	14.4	43	9	12	Gonzalez	LAK	44	400	9.1	36	3
3	White, R	LAK	60	694	11.6	48	6	13	Cruz	YOR	43	906	21.1	75	9
4	Johnson, C	DTL	54	951	17.6	57	8	14	Davis, F	VV	41	443	10.8	31	2
5	Smith, S	LAK	52	753	14.5	51	7	15	Winslow	YOR	39	429	11.0	23	2
6	Bowe	DTL	50	657	13.1	53	9	16	Witten	CHP	39	398	10.2	50	2
7	Welker	MAR	50	619	12.4	43	2	17	Jennings, G	SC	39	562	14.4	65	1
8	Gronkows, R	DVU	48	792	16.5	54	5	18	Green, A	SC	39	569	14.6	75	6
9	Wallace, M	ICC	48	947	19.7	66	7	19	Jackson, D	SBE	38	546	14.4	73	4
10	Nicks, H	MOH	45	804	17.9	51	7	20	Marshall, B	SBE	38	470	12.4	44	3

## KICKING

		FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts	
1	Janikowski	SBE	23	18	78.3	7	3	52	84
2	Crosby	DTL	21	18	85.7	4	2	52	83
3	Carpenter	LAK	21	19	90.5	7	5	57	83
4	Gould	GDM	21	18	85.7	5	0	48	81
5	Tynes	VV	18	16	88.9	6	0	49	79
6	Gano	DVU	16	11	68.8	3	3	55	74
7	Gostkowski	COM	18	16	88.9	6	0	48	70
8	Akers	MAR	20	16	80.0	7	0	49	70
9	Scobee	PIC	18	17	94.4	7	2	58	68
10	Bailey, D	CHI	18	14	77.8	6	1	51	65
11	Zuerlein	ICC	21	16	76.2	9	2	51	63
12	Kasay	COW	12	11	91.7	2	1	52	60
13	Walsh	YOR	13	9	69.2	2	0	44	59
14	Vinatieri	SS	15	15	100.0	4	0	49	51
15	Longwell	SC	12	10	83.3	5	1	50	48
16	Bironas	TCT	10	9	90.0	3	1	53	46
17	Brown, J	GWG	10	7	70.0	4	1	52	46
18	Cundiff	MOH	8	7	87.5	3	0	48	41
19	Rackers	MVM	15	11	73.3	8	3	59	41
20	Folk	CHP	7	5	71.4	1	0	47	29



## INTERCEPTIONS

						No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD							No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1	Webster	COW	4	97	24.3	41	1	11	Robinson, P	SS	3	28	9.3	14	0	12	Flowers	COW	2	51	25.5	27	1
2	Brown, T	MAR	4	3	0.8	3	0	13	Phillips, S	CHP	2	2	1.0	2	0	14	Chancellor	DTL	2	0	0.0	0	0
3	Sherman	DTL	3	52	17.3	29	1	15	Barnett	VV	2	55	27.5	35	1	16	Newman	VV	2	37	18.5	27	1
4	Barron	CHP	3	112	37.3	45	2	17	Tillman	MAR	2	0	0.0	0	0	18	Reed, E	MAR	2	0	0.0	0	0
5	Matthews	DVU	3	56	18.7	31	0	19	Joseph, J	PIC	2	20	10.0	20	0	20	Witherspool	PIC	2	66	33.0	52	1
6	Griffin, M	SBE	3	21	7.0	9	0	6	Tuck	SBE	5												
7	Cushing	GDM	3	10	3.3	9	0	7	McDonald	PIC	7												
8	Weddle	GDM	3	34	11.3	19	0	8	McClain, R	MOH	89												
9	Polamalu	GWG	3	33	11.0	33	1	9	Mayo	DVU	74												
10	DeCoud	GWG	3	50	16.7	29	0	10	Pierre-Pau	ICC	81												

## SACKS

1	Allen, J	DTL	11	8	McDonald	PIC	7	15	Tuck	SBE	5
2	Peppers	CHI	10	9	Cole, T	MAR	6	16	Abraham	MAR	5
3	Pierre-Pau	ICC	9	10	Atkins	YOR	6	17	Campbell, C	SBE	5
4	Barnes, A	GWG	9	11	Johnson, M	YOR	5	18	Avril	GDM	5
5	Suggs	SBE	8	12	Freeney	TCT	5	19	Sheard	PIC	5
6	Babin	YOR	8	13	Kelly, T	DTL	5	20	Seymour	SC	5
7	Ware, D	VV	7	14	Anderson, M	COW	5	21	Jenkins, C	YOR	4

## TACKLES

1	Laurinaiti	GWG	95	8	Barnett	VV	75	15	Conner	SS	66
2	McClain, R	MOH	89	9	Mayo	DVU	74	16	Kuechly	SC	65
3	Cushing	GDM	81	10	Pierre-Pau	ICC	73	17	Jackson, D	LAK	63
4	Hawthorne	COM	81	11	Lofton	DTL	72	18	Burnett, M	PIC	62
5	Johnson, D	COW	80	12	Burnett, K	TCT	71	19	Martin, S	MVM	60
6	Washington	PIC	76	13	Chaney	SS	68	20	Taylor, P	CHP	60
7	Smith, D	CHI	76	14	Briggs	GWG	66	21	Henders, EJ	SC	60

## KICK RETURNS

						No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD							No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1	Harvin	PIC	19	556	29.3	98	1	11	Washington	COM	39	930	23.8	36	0	12	Cobb	DVU	27	620	23.0	35	0
2	Sherels	SS	29	844	29.1	76	0	13	Karim	GDM	11	252	22.9	35	0	14	Hester, D	DTL	19	431	22.7	52	0
3	Sproles	LAK	29	838	28.9	82	0	15	Tate, B	MVM	44	995	22.6	52	0	16	Banks	MOH	45	1014	22.5	47	0
4	Ginn Jr.	TCT	29	827	28.5	106	1	17	Weems	COW	21	470	22.4	35	0	18	Mariani	YOR	26	569	21.9	49	0
5	McKnight	MAR	31	878	28.3	82	0	19	Lefeged	VV	20	378	18.9	29	0	20	Boykin	PIC	14	257	18.4	32	0
6	Stroughter	CHP	50	1392	27.8	104	1	6	Scott, D	SBE	26	677	26.0	100	1								
7	Scott, D	SBE	26	677	26.0	100	1	7	Gates, C	ICC	36	899	25.0	75	0								
8	Gates, C	ICC	36	899	25.0	75	0	8	Cribbs	CHI	26	646	24.8	58	0								
9	Cribbs	CHI	26	646	24.8	58	0																
10	Logan	GWG	33	793	24.0	42	0																

## PUNT RETURNS

						No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD							No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			
1	Peterson, P	GDM	22	4	329	15.0	74	2	11	Washington	COM	19	2	216	11.4	19	0	12	Weems	COW	32	8	330	10.3	17	0
2	Jones, J	CHP	24	1	353	14.7	75	2	13	Logan	GWG	16	9	157	9.8	27	0	14	Tate, B	MVM	15	3	147	9.8	22	0
3	Mariani	YOR	16	6	232	14.5	69	1	15	Edwards, A	ICC	22	3	189	8.6	41	0	16	Cribbs	CHI	23	4	192	8.3	13	0
4	Sproles	LAK	20	8	284	14.2	84	2	17	Jackson, D	SBE	19	13	152	8.0	23	0	18	Adams, J	PIC	17	5	124	7.3	15	0
5	Arenas	SC	13	4	174	13.4	31	0	19	Sherels	SS	13	4	93	7.2	13	0	20	Parrish	MAR	1	1	29	29.0	29	0
6	Ginn Jr.	TCT	20	3	253	12.7	25	0	6	Jones, J	CHP	24	1	353	14.7	75	2									
7	Bess	DTL	14	11	176	12.6	23	0	7	Mariani	YOR	16	6	232	14.5	69	1									
8	Cobb	DVU	13	7	161	12.4	62	1	8	Sproles	LAK	20	8	284	14.2	84	2									
9	Banks	MOH	11	2	129	11.7	23	0	9	Arenas	SC	13	4	174	13.4	31	0									
10	Crayton	MAR	11	5	128	11.6	40	0	10	Ginn Jr.	TCT	20	3	253	12.7	25	0									



# AROUND THE



*With Spats McChad*

SOMEWHERE IN NORTH AMERICA – This week I write from an undisclosed location for security reasons as I launch my campaign of counter-terrorism against that dreaded minion of King Chris, the *Red Pimple*. Thus, comments about my life and observations about the world and other people in general will not be available to you this week, dear readers, out of concern that I might slip and offer inadvertent clues of my whereabouts. I will, however, continue to offer my unfettered observations of all matters related to the EFL, as scathing and as astute as ever, so that I might, if you choose to read, elevate your minds.

## **MATT SNOB**

For Durham fans who enjoyed watching the triumphant return of **Matt Schaub** in the Dinos' 39-13 stomping of York last week, it must have bordered on sickening to see **Philip Rivers** take the field to start against the Cubs this week. Stark fear of a possible recurrence of the injury that had hobbled Schaub through six weeks might have turned to bafflement, then possibly outrage, once a check of the in-actives revealed that Schaub was, indeed, dressed for the game and ready to go on the sideline.

Whatever crazy explanation those fans may have imagined in the intervening time between the announcement of Rivers as starter and **George Kaldis'** post-game media scrum would never have been as crazy as the real one, according to **Sir Reginald Malcolm Clapham**, writing in the Durham Diggat:

*'Released from any obligation to engage in self-criticism following unreserved approbation from all quarters, including that of a fawning owner and a usually taciturn coach, Mr. Schaub appears to be jealously guarding his health and his reputation by making unusual requests, bordering on demands,'* began Clapham's weekend column, one that provided a rare glimpse behind the scenes at Jurassic Park.

In the article, Clapham describes a bizarre scene at a mid-week practice where Schaub appears on the field for reps with the first team riding an electric "mobility scooter." He rides into position behind center, gingerly dismounts from the scooter, receives a ball from the ball boy rather than the center, and yells "hut!" The receivers and the DBs jump into action while the linemen on both sides stand immobile facing each other with bored expressions. Schaub rifles a pass to **Calvin Johnson** who snares it just beyond the reach of **Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie**. Schaub bows once toward both sidelines as owner **Celine Dion** claps furiously and yells, 'Bravo, Mathieu, Bravo!' He winces slightly as he lowers himself back onto the scooter and rides off the field toward the trainer. **Coach Kaldis** walks over to the trainer and pats Schaub gently on the shoulder, smiling apprehensively. A small crowd of staff, coaches and a team of doctors start to gather around Schaub while **Philip Rivers** and **John Skelton**, virtually unnoticed, take the rest of the practice reps at quarterback. It's a strange scene, but only the tip of the iceberg according to Clapham's sources inside the team.

Schaub has apparently been filling his head with his own press clippings and listening intently to Celine Dion's incessant worries about his health and his importance to the team. In the days leading up to the Cubs' game, Schaub limited both the length and quality of his practice time – on the recommendation of Dion's personal physician – in order to avoid "re-aggravating" his ankle injury. Schaub's sudden and previously undiagnosed hypochondria may have been inadvertently nurtured by Coach Kaldis himself who, "out of an abundance of caution," had made the decision to sit Schaub in Week Seven versus Charleswood after he had been cleared for contact by team doctors. The implicit message that he was too valuable to risk in anything other than the most important situations was received loud and clear, and quickly absorbed by owner **Celine Dion** and Schaub himself. But the hypochondria has recently transformed alarmingly into the arrogance of a *'Prima Dona.'* With the approval of owner Dion, Schaub has been given his own private dressing room, with a personal chef and masseuse at his disposal, and the right to decide when he will play.

When asked by a pool reporter why he decided to hold Schaub out of the starting line-up against the Cubs this week, coach **George Kaldis** responded, "It wasn't my decision - otherwise he'd be out there. Matt felt his services weren't needed against a team like the Cubs. Sorry, Deron - his words not mine," Kaldis added, to avoid offending his coaching peer.

Schaub declined to speak with the media before or after the game, but according to sources inside the locker room he backed off a decision to spend the game in the owner's box and decided at the last moment to dress and appear on the sidelines in case his colleague, Rivers, faltered and he was required to "save the show."



*Matt Schaub*, the official starting QB for Durham, stands on the sideline in full-length cape as *Philip Rivers* fills in for him on the field versus Iowa City. A heightened injury-awareness has Schaub and the team taking no chances.

As it turned out, Schaub wasn't needed in the least – Rivers threw two TD passes in the 1st half to stake the Lizards to a 17-3 lead at half time that the running combo of *Michael* and *Reggie Bush* put away in the 2nd half. The result was a 34-3 drubbing of the hapless Cubs that could have been much more embarrassing to **Deron Redding** than it was. **George Kaldis** called off the dogs early, passing just twice in the entire second half while still managing to score 17 more points.

Although a win is always nice, the word from inside Jurassic Park is that Kaldis is not too happy right now with the owner's infatuation with his “starting” quarterback. He fears that her catering to Schaub's increasingly unreasonable demands could end up creating discipline and morale issues that could affect the whole team. As concerned as he was before about Schaub's physical health, Kaldis is more concerned now with Schaub's and the team's mental health as playoff crunch time approaches.

So what about this upcoming week? The early word from DDTV, the local EFL affiliate, is that Schaub was held back by **George Kaldis** after the Iowa City game and called into his office. From there, a voice sounding like Schaub's could be overheard barking loudly, “I will not play a *common* expansion team like the Colonials! I refuse! Send in Philip if you must – he is expendable! Why risk me against such riffraff?”

How typical it is of Coach Kaldis' luck that just when he may have thought he had a new franchise quarterback who would bring harmony and

leadership to the Durham locker room, it appears the reality is exactly the opposite.

### **FLAG FOOTBALL**

The Violators lived up to their name in a 17-10 Week Nine loss to Cowtown, drawing 11 yellow flags from the zebras. Like watching Frankenstein dancing a waltz with Quasimodo, this contest had no rhythm to it with the exception of the regular beat of 6 straight punts in the 1st quarter. Other than that it was a good game, especially if you like defensive struggles where the defence plays a secondary role in causing the offence to experience difficulty moving the ball.

The Violators appeared to finally gain the upper hand toward the end of the first half when *Matt Stafford* launched a laser toward the corner that *Torrey Smith* hauled in for a 27-yard TD catch and a 10-3 lead. It was the first really nice play of the afternoon but it would not be a sign of excitement to come. The sputtering offences continued early in the second half until the Corn Kings caught a break from the officials when *Tramon Williams* was flagged for pass interference on *Larry Fitzgerald*, converting a key 3rd down and bringing the ball to the Virden 35. Two plays later, *Joe Flacco* threw his first nice pass of the day, hitting Fitzgerald for a 25-yard scoring strike to tie the game. On their next drive, an uncommonly aggressive gamble on 4th and 3 from the Virden 28 paid off as Flacco found Fitzgerald for a 17-yard completion along the sideline. Two plays later Flacco checked down to *Santana Moss* for the go-ahead TD. Virden responded with a heavy dose of *Ben Tate*, and it worked until *Stephen Tulloch* made the play of the game by forcing a fumble that was recovered by the Corn Kings at their own 27 yard line to stop the Virden threat; but the Cowtown offence could not put the game away. It took back-to-back sacks of Stafford by *DJ Williams* on Virden's next possession, followed by a devastating 3rd down illegal contact penalty against *Stanford Rount* on Cowtown's next possession to preserve the win.

Virden coach, **Lance Barrate** was less than thrilled with the officiating and shared his feelings afterwards without crossing the 'Bobby Elder Line' and incurring league sanction. "We couldn't avoid the penalties at key moments. I'm going to have to watch the film closely to determine the cause – was it us, or was the interpretation by the officials a little different than we normally see? I don't know. I think Stanford has the right to bump that receiver inside 5 yards."

Very diplomatic, Lance; but perhaps you wouldn't have been so tactful had you realized, at the time, that the head of that officiating crew was none other than newly promoted referee **Billy Bob Brown**, 5th cousin twice removed of **Farmer Brown**, brought in at the last moment to replace a flu-stricken **Pete Morelli**, who suddenly fell ill after ingesting a serving of apple pie and ice cream at the Suzy Q's Family Diner in Cowtown the night before the game. Was it conspiracy or coincidence? You decide, dear readers.

### **'EL PASSO'**

**Drew Brees** set a single season TD pass record in the Undertakers' 23-17 victory over Gwinnett at the Graveyard. His 37th TD pass of 2012 came at the 5:31 mark of the 1st quarter on a short slant to **Aaron Hernandez**, who avoided a diving tackle attempt by **Mychal Kendricks** and found the open field for a 27-yard play to put Brees in the record books. Brees added 2 more to bring his season total so far to 39 with 7 more games to go. Brees is on pace to throw 69 TD passes and to pile up 5,655 passing yards. Both would not only be EFL records to stand the test of time, but would also eclipse by a wide margin the old NFL records of 5,084 yards set by **Dan Marino** with the Dolphins in 1984 and 49 set by **Peyton Manning** when he was with the Colts back in 2004.

Believe it or not, if Brees achieves his mark of 69 TD passes this season, he will still be 7 behind the current professional record of 76 thrown by **Charlie Batch** with the El Paso Pintos of the Tex-Mex Football League in 2010. The Pintos ran the ball just 57 times that year in going 16-2 during the regular season (they play 18 games) while Batch and back-up **Charlie Frye** combined for 866 pass attempts, 6,435 yards, 78 TD passes, and 19 interceptions. Of course, with whacky rules like 2 downs to gain 5 yards; 10 players a side on the field; no punting inside opponent's territory; and a league-high 288 penalties called against El Paso's opponents that year (the team's owner was Chair of the Competition Committee that makes the rules and hires the officials), it is a "professional" record with more than one asterisk beside it.

### **FISHING FOR VICTORIES**

Week Nine saw the Swordfish assert their superiority over the Monarchs by an unconvincing 23-15 score. The battle of the expansion marmosets was notable for two reasons: first, at one point in the first half the Swordfish led the Monarchs 11-5, a score rare enough that it has never been a *final* score in pro football history...*ever*. A safety and a FG on one side; and a FG, TD and a 2-point convert on the other led to the scoreboard weirdness that had fans across the continent checking their eyes. Second, free fish apparently draws a crowd in coastal Florida. **Russ Lemmon** served up free pan-fried scup and a bottle of Red Stripe to everyone who purchased a ticket in the week leading up to the game. Unsubstantiated rumours allege the scup was harvested in illegal quantities in a fishing raid off the coast of South Carolina and the Red Stripe was pirated from a Caribbean Cruise Ship that had strayed off course into "protected" waters off the Sebastian coast.

The promotion was not enough to avoid another league-imposed TV blackout, but it did draw in the second largest crowd of the year for a Swordfish game. Considering the weak competition they were facing, hauling in that human catch was an impressive accomplishment in itself. And speaking of Mission Viejo, **Chris Ferraro** has declared his team "neutral" in the upcoming war for a playoff berth in the Pacific-Atlantic Conference. "As a non-combatant, I expect others will respect the neutrality of the Kingdom of Mission Viejo and agree to a draw in lieu of hostilities on the field. This is fair, and would apply to all remaining games, to all my erstwhile opponents, without fear or favour," he announced post-game to the Media.

### **LITTLE GENERAL'S LAST STAND**

The Little General, **Ryan Rich**, took the field for the last time as Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth Colonials in Week Nine. Determined to earn a win for his adopted team, he studied the game film of the Colonials and the Blue Eagles more closely than he had any homework assignment in his brief time on this planet. He knew what he had to do and he knew, at the level of his soul, that it was hopeless; but at the level of a 10-year old kid, he firmly believed, *no knew*, that victory was possible if his players faithfully executed The Klee as he had designed it.

Discarding the absurd historical General's uniform and adopting a blue team jacket, Ryan Rich looked months older than his 10 years as he took the field at Bluff's Stadium in Scarborough to face the league's most imposing defence. With the coin toss going to the Blue Eagles, it would fall to his defence to make the first move in the league's most astounding upset of all time. It was a defence that had been given the blueprint for success and had only to execute it – a very important detail actually, and one that would play a pivotal role in the events that followed.

The opening drive by the Blue Eagles turned out to be a metaphor for the entire game. What was probably the slowest drive in league history took 20 plays and 11:26 minutes to cover 81 yards of territory, as Scarborough was forced to convert five 3<sup>rd</sup> downs on the way to the Commonwealth end zone. The Colonials' defensive scheme checked most of the moves the Blue Eagles made, but in the end the players could not make the stops necessary to keep rookie **DeVier Posey** off the score sheet.

An exasperated Ryan Rich wailed and cursed, without actually swearing, as his team lined up to receive the kickoff, objecting to the unfairness of it all. A wise and beneficent advisor, not on the Commonwealth payroll, whispered in his ear, "All you can do is make the calls, young man; your players have to do the job."

"Well, my players are horrible then!" an inconsolable Ryan shot back, as he took a deep breath and turned his attention to his offensive play-sheet. A quick three-and-out with little fanfare deepened his frown. With grim determination he set to stopping

Scarborough a second time, but after giving up 35 yards on some missed guesses, his well-conceived blitz on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10 worked a little too well, forcing **Aaron Rodgers** out of the pocket and 28 yards down field through the Commonwealth defence for another Scarborough TD. This brought a screeching protest from little Ryan that somehow cheating was at play in the game; but a world-weary and helpful advisor whispered in his ear, "Sometimes you can be made a victim of your own success."

"I hate this game!" an inconsolable Ryan spat back as he readied himself for an offensive counter-strike against the now despised Blue Eagles. Amazingly, his morale turned around instantly with a 25-yard run by **Fred Jackson** to start the comeback drive. A 14-yard pass to **Emmanuel Sanders** to convert a 3<sup>rd</sup> down, followed by runs of 14, 5 and 12 yards by three different players put the Colonials on the scoreboard, trailing 14-7. After forcing a punt on Scarborough's next possession, a **Stephen Gostkowski** field goal improved the mood on the Commonwealth sideline immensely; but it was nothing compared with the ear-piercing scream that escaped from Ryan Rich's mouth when **Morris Claiborne** picked off Rodgers and returned it 26 yards for a touchdown to give Commonwealth an improbable 17-14 lead with just 3:38 left in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

"I love this game!" a thrilled Ryan bellowed as he kicked off for a touchback. But the sad reality of his difficult situation soon revealed itself as the Blue Eagles swooped back into the game despite another series of good defensive calls. After an 80-yard, 11-play drive, Scarborough took the lead for good with a 2-yard TD run by **Ray Rice** to make the score 21-17. This did not bother the Little General very much at the time, but the half time adjustments that he did not bother to engage in during the break were about to change the situation dramatically.

The second half witnessed the Blue Eagles do almost everything right and the Colonials do almost everything wrong. The truth of his team revealed, Ryan set about trying to score points, any points, to save face, but knowing he had no hope of winning the game. He managed to score finally, in the dying minutes, under the guidance of **Nick Foles** at QB. Under the circumstances the 42-24 final looked respectable but it was not enough to firmly console the Little General.

"I quit this team," he said to the Media immediately afterwards. "I'm going back to Cowtown. I know they have problems, but they look good to me right now!"

#### **AROUND THE EFL**

The North Stars enjoyed a session of 'Charleswood Therapy' in Week Nine, blanking the Patsies by a 31-0 score at the Dawg Pound. A 21-point outburst in the 2nd quarter carried the day offensively for Markham while **Michael Vick** helped out their defence with a pair of turnovers and generally erratic play. **Eli Manning** threw for 293 yards and 4 TD passes but did not get a free pass from fans of the orange and brown. After connecting with **Jared Cook** in the third quarter for his final TD pass of the day, a bellicose fan could be heard bellowing as Manning walked back to the bench, "now do it against a real team, Eli! Do it against a real team," to laughter from other spectators. Eli won't get that chance until Week Eleven against the Gladiators as next week the Stars travel to Mission Viejo to execute the Monarchs.

After getting pasted by Durham last week, the Excaliburs were back looking like the class of the PAC in a 31-10 mauling of Twin Cities at the Metrodome. For a brief moment it looked like it might be a nervous outing for **Jay Hammond's** crew after Triumph return specialist **Ted Ginn Jr.** tied it at 10 apiece with a record-setting 106-yard kick return for a TD; but **Tom Brady** settled everything down with a skilfully executed 90-yard scoring drive ending with **Victor Cruz** surviving a hard hit from **Josh Wilson** to hold onto a 17-yard TD pass to take the lead for good.

Pickering's 26-6 bumping of Mohave was one of the more dismal performances by two teams I have seen in a long while and, to be honest, I didn't bother to watch the rest of it after **Morgan Burnett** intercepted **Andrew Luck** in the 3rd quarter. Pickering came out on top but the win did nothing to reassure supporters that the team is ready to turn the corner on a disappointing season. For Mohave, it was a return to the doldrums for the offence while the pass defence that has so far set the league benchmark for incompetence stepped up and swatted down the rookie Spartans' QB with apparent ease. That is either a stunning indictment of Griffin, or a sign that **Champ Bailey** is tired of being called "Chump."

**Alex Smith** threw 3 touchdown passes to lead the Knights past the Regulators 27-16 at the Carolina Slammer, raising their record to 4-5. LA continued to move the ball with efficiency while the defence surrendered over 300 yards passing for the sixth time this year. The LA 'No Passing Zone' of 2011 has been re-zoned to a 'Passing Only' lane in 2012.

Finally, Chino wide receiver **Jason Avant** had his coming out party with 5 receptions for 108 yards and 2 touchdowns while his team fell ignominiously to Garland 33-17. "I'm ready to take on a bigger role here if they let me," Avant said after the game. "I'm ready to break out and into end zones everywhere!"

Chino coach **Rob Nazar** echoed Avant's sentiments with a ringing endorsement of his receiver. "Jason has the talent to be a no. 1 anywhere he chooses to play. Thank goodness he chooses to play with us."

With just 19 catches on the season and 3 touchdowns, it is easy to question the sudden public interest in Avant and stunning endorsement by his coach. But with **Cam Newton** garnering all of the headlines in Chino, the Convicts are in desperate need of other offensive role models in order to drive up jersey sales. Everyone in Chino loves Cam, as well as the players on the defence; but few fans can name a single receiver and many have forgotten about **Steven Jackson**. Avant is a new name and it sounds like a cologne, making it all the more marketable. Watch for a tiny spike in the sale of **Jason Avant** jerseys while the team promotes another offensive hero not named **Cam Newton** next week.

# BUG THE BOOKIE!

## JIMMY THE GEEK GIVES YOU HIS PICKS FOR WEEK TEN EFL ACTION

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**RECORD VS THE SPREAD AFTER WEEK 9:**

**60-28-2**

### JIMMY'S WEEK TEN PICKS

#### **MARKHAM @ MISSION VIEJO (line – NORTH STARS by 10)**

It is games like this (and four others this week) where I really earn my paycheque. In this particular one, it is my job to determine what possible scenario could lead to the Monarchs covering this 10-point spread. Obviously, *somebody* thinks they can, or else the line would be higher by now. This one is a little easier to picture than the other four. Just imagine Eli Manning throwing two inexplicable interceptions to Lardarius Webb and Sherrod Martin, one for a pick-six; Quinton Coples breaking through and forcing a fumble, returned by Ray Mauluga for a touchdown; Devery Henderson pulling off another miracle touchdown catch; and freak injuries to Wes Welker and DeAngelo Williams, all in the same game, and it just *might* happen. **PICK: MARKHAM**

#### **SCARBOROUGH @ CHARLESWOOD (line – BLUE EAGLES by 16)**

After watching the Blue Eagles force their will on the feisty Colonials last week it is easy to imagine that they will do more damage to a soft and dispirited Pats squad. How much more is irrelevant, since our main concern is merely that it exceeds the 16-point spread. That could happen in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter if Adrian Peterson is not available and by the mid-way point of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter if he can play. Trying to conceive a scenario where the Pats cover the spread is like solving a Rubik's Cube – the solution exists but the game will likely be over by the time it is solved. But off the top of my head I can picture a scenario where Michael Vick, Adrian Peterson, and Jason Witten awake from their year-long stupor and remember that they can play this game. If that happens, and the Blue Eagles celebrate early like they did against Iowa City two weeks ago, anything is possible. **PICK: SCARBOROUGH**

#### **GWINNETT @ CHINO (line – CONVICTS by 3)**

The Gladiators could be in a desperate situation if LeSean McCoy (Questionable) is not able to dress on game day. Ahmad Bradshaw is definitely out, thrusting little-used back-up Dion Lewis, the only other running back on the roster, into the limelight. Facing the league's second-best defence against the run, it is possible that the Glads will not be able to run the ball at all. Big Ben may have to carry the team all by himself and we have all seen how well that can go. The Convicts appeared to lose big last week against Garland but actually played the Mustangs close if not for a special teams lapse and a pick-six going the other way. Cam Newton continues to lead the Convicts in offence so the key to the Glads staying close rests in finding a way to stop him. If they can contain him (and that's a big "if") they should be able to stay within striking distance for a Big Ben miracle in the passing game. If not, and the Glads fall behind, the Lockdown Crew will sit on the pass and lay a nasty beat down on Big Ben. **PICK: CHINO**

#### **SEBASTIAN @ VIRDEN (line – VIOLATORS by 12)**

The Violators left Cowtown last week angry at the officials but they should direct some anger at themselves for not doing the little things that could have put the game away against a very shaky-looking Joe Flacco. This week they return to the never-friendly, but at least familiar confines of *TERRORDOME* to face expansion Sebastian, needing a win to stay close to York in the race for the East Division title. Dez Bryant returns to the line-up but Julio Jones is still out, along with two starters in the secondary. These injuries will not matter at all to the bottom line. Matt Stafford is coming off a mediocre performance and will want to get back on track against a defence that is missing one of its starting cornerbacks and wasn't very good when he was healthy anyway. The Swordfish are coming off a victory over their expansion cousin Mission Viejo but did not look very impressive doing it. Now they face a big league team at a dingy and dangerous-looking park – a very depressing experience with no silver lining. **PICK: VIRDEN**

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

Both of these teams are coming off walloping last week at the hands of superior opponents and see this game as an opportunity to snatch a win for the sake of respectability. It is also an opportunity for both to better position themselves for a premium pick in a weak draft. Fortunately, the competitive spirit of both these coaches will mean neither will lay down for the other and the happy result will be one of the better games in an uninspiring Week Nine line-up. The Cubs have a distinct edge due to the home field, explosive playmakers on offence, and a couple of defensive studs in Patrick Willis and Jason Pierre-Paul. The Triumph are banged up at linebacker, with leader Ray Lewis and capable rookie Bobby Wagner both out; however what they lack in star power they make up for in depth and this could make a subtle but significant difference in specialty formations. On offence, Jay Cutler is a notch higher than his counterparts on the Cubs' sideline – with Doug Martin running interference for him, look for Cutler to light up the Cubs despite a no-name band of receivers. **PICK: TWIN CITIES**

### **COWTOWN @ YORK (line – EXCALIBURS by 3)**

Despite being tied for second overall in TD passes, Joe Flacco has been erratic and this has slowed down the Corn Kings' offence considerably from last year. Fortunately, their defence has been performing at a league-leading pace and causing turnovers to boot, giving the offence many extra chances to get it right. But for a nasty fall at Jurassic Park in Week Eight, York has looked like the most complete team in the Conference and possibly the league. They enter this game missing All Pro left tackle Jason Peters, but otherwise have all their main weapons available. All things being equal, it is hard to envision a more talented York squad failing to prevail comfortably over Cowtown at home; but if the Corn Kings continue to take away the ball at their current pace, this game could turn very uncomfortable for them very quickly. **PICK: COWTOWN**

### **SOUTH CAROLINA @ DEATH VALLEY (line – UNDERTAKERS by 13)**

Watching the Undertakers' offence this year is like watching Madden EFL 2012 on 'Beginner' every week. Chris Worthley coaches like a kid – passing to the extreme on offence and attacking the ball on defence. It is this unabashed aggression that is setting the league on fire and propelling Drew Brees to achieve records of the never-to-be-broken kind. With this track record, it is not unlikely that Death Valley will touch up the Regulators and their decrepit secondary for 60+ points this week. In fact, expect it. The question will be whether another gun-slinger, Tony Romo, can keep pace, and the answer to that is *no*. The Undertakers' defence is no longer as vulnerable as it once was. It leads the league in takeaways and, coincidentally, the South Carolina QB tends to make that task easier for opposing defences. It will be ugly and a tragedy. **PICK: DEATH VALLEY**

### **GARLAND @ MOHAVE (line – MUSTANGS by 5)**

The return of starting running backs to active duty in Garland has not translated into a devastating balanced attack to match the pedigree of their defence. It could be that they are rusty, or it could be that Doug Shirley has no idea how to use them, but either way it is the passing game gets all the action in Garland and this week they will see plenty more against a Mohave pass defence that still ranks dead last even after holding Pickering to 95 yards last week. The Hellfire are falling back into the cold abyss offensively, and defensively they are hopeless if left to their own devices. However, the ultra-conservative and shy Garland offence tends to make the least of such blowout opportunities – leaving the remote possibility of a Mohave cover. Don't bet on it, but keep it in the back of your mind to kick yourself with it later if they do. **PICK: GARLAND**

### **PICKERING @ LOS ANGELES (line – KNIGHTS by 6)**

The Spartans can't be as bad as they look this season. That is what everyone tells themselves every new week and that is why Pickering never gets double-digit point spreads. This one almost was – starting at 9, dropping quickly to 5, and stabilizing at 6. Lots of people still like the Spartans and that just goes to show you the big role reputation plays in these things. Honestly, this is one match-up where everything seems to favour LA at first glance. The Spartans can't pass and the Knights defend the run better than anybody. The Spartans have a good defence and the Knights can move the ball against a good defence. The Knights are at home, where they are 1-3...aha! That's it – home is not so sweet for LA's darlings. **PICK: PICKERING**

### **DURHAM @ COMMONWEALTH (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 5)**

The Colonials get their real coach back and return to Commonwealth to try and repair their playoff hopes after two straight losses. Based on recent performances, the Lizards appear to be in ascension mode, but if rumours of a Philip Rivers start at QB prove true, it may not be a very high flight for the Pterodactyls at Scott Stadium if 'Bad Philip' shows up. But if 'Good Philip' shows up, this game will be just another romp in a week replete with them – another reason to turn off the TV and do that chore you've been avoiding since September. **PICK: DURHAM**