

2015

Week Six



# EFL NEWS

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

2015

Week Six

November 16, 2015



CHI	30	BCR	13	LAK	24	MOH	0	CHP	17	SC	10	AUR	33	SBE	10	COW	23	YOR	41
CAR	28	TCT	24	VIR	16	ICC	36	MVM	14	DTL	27	PIC	31	MAR	16	GWG	13	SEB	12



### LATEST EFL NEWS INSIDE

- MUSTANGS GALLOP TO 25<sup>TH</sup> STRAIGHT WIN
- CONVICTS ESCAPE KILLING FIELD
- MANNING MAGIC IS A CHARM FOR CHARLESWOOD
- BIG BOOB BUMBLES
- EAGLES FALL TO THE DAWGS
- KNIGHTS ONE WIN CLOSER TO TITLE
- AND MORE.....

#### Also in this issue

- SPATS FEATURE, 'PRAY FOR PARIS,' '# 25,' 'BEST BUDS,' & 'EFL ROUND-UP.'
- JIMMY THE GEEK PROMISES PERFECT WEEK 7
- THIS WEEK IN THE EFL HISTORY – WEEK SIX OF 2009

*Chris Polk* of the Aurora Mustangs returns a kickoff for a TD in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter action in Pickering. Polk accumulated 197 return yards, including a 64-yard return that sparked a 4<sup>th</sup> quarter comeback for Aurora's 25<sup>th</sup> straight win. (Story Inside....)



*Who was slick  
in Week Six?*

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



**Peyton Manning**  
QB  
Charleswood  
Patriots

28 of 41, 288 yards, 2 TDs. Game-winning TD pass with 0:24 left.



**DeMarcus Ware**  
DT  
Chino  
Convicts

5 tackles, 2 sacks, 4 QBPs, 1 stuff. Kept pressure on Mariota all day.



**2-3-0**

Chris Polk

# Pickering

	AUR	PIC
First Downs	28	19
Rushes	10-31	27-116
Passes	56-40-355	33-18-255
Sacked	1-3	0-0
Fumble	0	1
Penalties	8-60	10-69
Turnovers	2	0
Missed Tackles	2	1
Blitzes	21	16
Time	32:07	27:53
Third Down	5-12	5-16
Fourth Down	2-2	1-3
Red Att/Td/Fg	7/2/4	5/2/1
Net Offense	383	371

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



## REGULATORS

2-4-0

3

0

0

7

0

10

OT

**Tony Romo**  
14 of 27, 202 yards, 1 TD



## T-LIZARDS

5-1-0

7

10

7

3

0

27

**Drew Brees**  
28 of 36, 261 yards, 3 TDs

The Thunder Lizards possessed the ball for more than 38 minutes, gained 26 first downs and accumulated 414 yards of offence, while their defence held the Regs to just 12 first downs and 279 yards in a dominating team performance. After a 56-yard pass to **Jerricho Catchery** set up an early Regs lead on a 23-yard FG by **Justin Tucker**, Durham took control with **Drew Brees** passing for TDs to **Eric Decker** and **Antonio Gates** on their next two series. Durham closed out a 24-point run with a 10-yard TD pass to **Calvin Johnson** in the 3<sup>rd</sup> then held off **Tony Romo** the rest of the way.



## PATRIOTS

6-0-0

3

0

0

14

0

17

OT

**Peyton Manning**  
28 of 41, 344 yards, 2 TDs, 1 INT



## MONARCHS

2-4-0

0

0

7

7

0

14

**Joique Bell**  
18 Carries, 90 yards, 1 TD

**Peyton Manning** led his team 72 yards in 1:08 to score the winning TD on a 16-yard TD pass to **Lamar Miller** with 0:24 left in the game. The Patriots led 3-0 after the 1<sup>st</sup> half after turning the ball over twice in Monarch territory to miss scoring opportunities. Mission Viejo switched to the ground game and took their first lead of the game on a 14-yard TD run by **Joique Bell** in the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Charleswood answered that score with a 12-yard TD pass to **Dez Bryant**, but a 47-yard TD pass from **Ryan Tannehill** to **Marques Colston** made it 14-10 with 1:50 left, setting the stage for the clutch final drive.



## HELLFIRE

1-5-0

0

0

0

0

0

0

OT

**Andrew Luck**  
21 of 42, 179 yards



## CUBS

4-1-1

7

17

6

6

0

36

**Russell Wilson**  
17 of 24, 240 yards, 3 TDs

After fumbling the ball away on the Cubs' opening series, **Russell Wilson** got hot, completing 14 of 17 for 198 yards and 3 TDs, all to **Brandon LaFell**, to give his team a 24-0 half time lead. Hellfire QB, **Andrew Luck** could not establish any success in the passing game, allowing the Cubs to capitalize on their many opportunities. **Darren Sproles** opened the 2<sup>nd</sup> half with an 82-yard punt return TD to make it 30-0. **Colin Kaepernick** saw some action in a mop up role, mostly handing the ball off to running backs **Bishop Sankey** and **Dexter McCluster** to add a pair of 4<sup>th</sup> quarter FGs to the tally.



**EFL**  
ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

# QUICK COUNTS!!

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



**CORN KINGS**

3-3-0

7	9	0	7	0	23
---	---	---	---	---	----

OT

**Steve Smith Sr.**  
7 Catches, 118 yards, 2 TDs



**GLADIATORS**

3-3-0

7	0	0	6	0	13
---	---	---	---	---	----

**LeSean McCoy**  
18 Carries, 83 yards, 1 TD

**Steve Smith Jr** made tacklers miss in getting the Corn Kings on the board first with a 20-yard TD catch in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter to make it 7-0 and a 45-yard catch-and-run TD in the 4<sup>th</sup> to give his team a 23-7 lead and needed breathing room. **LeSean McCoy** tied the game in the 1<sup>st</sup> with a 9-yard TD run, but a combination of Gwinnett miscues, untimely penalties and good defence by Cowtown kept the Glads off the board again until late in the 4<sup>th</sup>. **Big Ben** found **Jarvis Landry** on 4<sup>th</sup> down for a 13-yard TD with 2:33 left, but could not capitalize on a recovered onside kick and failed to score again.



**BLUE EAGLES**

3-3-0

7	3	0	0	0	10
---	---	---	---	---	----

OT

**Aaron Rodgers**  
22 of 34, 207 yards, 1 TD



**NORTH STARS**

3-3-0

3	7	3	3	0	16
---	---	---	---	---	----

**Eli Manning**  
14 of 21, 181 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT

**Aaron Rodgers** hooked up with **Mohamed Sanu** for a 31-yard pass to key an opening 87-yard drive that ended with a 2-yard TD pass to **Jordy Nelson**. The teams traded FGs then rookie Markham rookie **Phillip Dorsett** got open down the sideline and hauled in a 24-yard pass from **Eli Manning** for a TD to tie it at 10 before half time. Markham went in front in the 3<sup>rd</sup> on a **Josh Brown** FG from 39 yards and added another FG in the 4<sup>th</sup> to make it 16-10. Needing a TD, the Eagles drove deep into Markham territory but **Jermaine Gresham** fumbled at the 2, giving the ball and game back to the Stars.



**RAVENS**

4-1-1

7	3	0	3	0	13
---	---	---	---	---	----

OT

**Shaun Hill**  
16 of 28, 167 yards, 1 TD



**TRIUMPH**

5-1-0

3	7	7	7	0	24
---	---	---	---	---	----

**Jay Cutler**  
18 of 26, 254 yards, 1 TD

Triumph running back **Shane Vereen** rushed for 109 yards in place of **Melvin Gordon** and **Jay Cutler** ran for 2 TDs and passed for another to star in a hard fought win over the Ravens. Twin Cities hit the board first on a 44-yard FG by **Stephen Gostkowski** but the Ravens countered with an 8-yard TD pass from **Shaun Hill** to **Rob Gronkowski**. Cutler found **Markus Wheaton** for a 14-yard TD but **Cody Parkey** tied it for Beaufort with a 30-yard FG. The Triumph took the lead in the 3<sup>rd</sup> on a 5-yard scramble to the end zone by Cutler then put it away with a Cutler 1-yard sneak in the 4<sup>th</sup>.

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



## CONVICTS

3-3-0

17

0

3

10

0

30

OT

Cam Newton

16 of 27, 236 yards, 2 TDs



## CANNIBALS

2-4-0

7

0

0

21

0

28

Eddie Lacy

27 Carries, 156 yards, 2 TDs

A 44-yard catch-and-run by **Roddy White** to the Carthage 31 set up **Dan Bailey** for a 49-yard game-winning FG with 0:05 left in the game, thwarting an amazing 4<sup>th</sup> quarter comeback by the Cannibals. The Convicts jumped out to a 17-7 1<sup>st</sup> quarter lead and held on to a 27-14 lead with 7 minutes left in the game. But a 26-yard TD pass from **Marcus Mariota** to **Emmanuel Sanders** followed by a 21-yard Mariota scramble to set up an 8-yard **Eddie Lacy** TD run put Carthage in front, 28-27 with 0:39 remaining. Starting at their own 25, Chino faced 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10 when White broke his crucial play.



## EXCALIBURS

3-3-0

3

7

17

14

0

41

OT

Marshawn Lynch

21 Carries, 106 yards, 2 TDs



## SWORDFISH

0-6-0

0

9

3

0

0

12

Andy Dalton

17 of 32, 189 yards, 2 INTs

The Excaltiburs scored the only major of the 1<sup>st</sup> half when **Marshawn Lynch** ran it in from 10 yards with 2:07 left to take a 10-6 lead. Sebastian pulled within 1 point on a 46-yard FG by **Adam Vinatieri** as time expired to cap a rugged 1<sup>st</sup> half. York safety **Dwight Lowery** picked off **Andy Dalton** on the opening drive of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half and returned it 38 yards to set up an 18-yard **Tom Brady** to **James Jones** TD pass. **Dwayne Harris** fumbled the ensuing kickoff return, setting up a 14-yard TD pass to **Kelvin Benjamin** to make it 24-9 for York. A 15-yard pick-six by **Rashean Mathis** finished off the rout.



## KNIGHTS

2-4-0

7

10

0

7

0

24

OT

Le'Veon Bell

27 Carries, 157 yards, 1 TD



## VIOLATORS

0-6-0

7

0

3

6

0

16

Derek Carr

25 of 39, 315 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT

**Le'Veon Bell** dominated early with 110 total yards and a TD in the 1<sup>st</sup> half. Virden scraped back to within 1 point, trailing 17-16 with 4:07 left in the game. The Knights looked to keep possession against the Virden run defence. On 2<sup>nd</sup> & 6 at the Virden 46, Knights' QB, **Teddy Bridgewater** pulled off a perfect play action pass to **Andre Roberts**, who scooted 46 yards for a TD and an 8-point LA lead. Virden came back and got within striking distance on a 24-yard pass to **Michael Floyd**, but vet LA safety **Charles Woodson** picked off **Derek Carr** at the LA 11 yard line with 0:12 left to preserve the win.

## WEEK SIX

# STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood	6	0	0	1.000	175	29.2	100	16.7	12.5	3 0 0	4 0 0	6 0 0
Twin Cities	5	1	0	0.833	177	29.5	108	18	11.5	2 1 0	3 1 0	5 1 0
Carthage	2	4	0	0.333	170	28.3	167	27.8	0.5	1 2 0	2 2 0	2 4 0
Mohave	1	5	0	0.167	73	12.2	183	30.5	-18.3	0 3 0	1 3 0	1 5 0
Virden	0	6	0	0.000	79	13.2	166	27.7	-14.5	0 3 0	0 4 0	0 6 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Beaufort County	4	1	1	0.750	152	25.3	119	19.8	5.5	3 0 0	3 0 1	4 1 1
Iowa City	4	1	1	0.750	173	28.8	102	17	11.8	2 0 1	2 1 1	4 1 1
Chino	3	3	0	0.500	150	25	145	24.2	0.8	1 2 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
Los Angeles	2	4	0	0.333	112	18.7	158	26.3	-7.7	1 2 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
Mission Viejo	2	4	0	0.333	144	24	157	26.2	-2.2	1 2 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham	5	1	0	0.833	125	20.8	77	12.8	8	3 0 0	4 0 0	5 1 0
Cowtown	3	3	0	0.500	150	25	167	27.8	-2.8	2 1 0	1 3 0	3 3 0
Markham	3	3	0	0.500	129	21.5	95	15.8	5.7	3 0 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
York	3	3	0	0.500	130	21.7	108	18	3.7	2 1 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
Pickering	2	4	0	0.333	123	20.5	141	23.5	-3	1 2 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Aurora	6	0	0	1.000	203	33.8	130	21.7	12.2	3 0 0	4 0 0	6 0 0
Scarborough	3	3	0	0.500	134	22.3	148	24.7	-2.3	2 1 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
Gwinnett	3	3	0	0.500	146	24.3	131	21.8	2.5	1 2 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
South Carolina	2	4	0	0.333	109	18.2	174	29	-10.8	2 1 0	2 2 0	2 4 0
Sebastian	0	6	0	0.000	142	23.7	220	36.7	-13	0 3 0	0 4 0	0 6 0

# PASSING

Rk	Player	Team	Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Wilson, R	ICC	177	113	63.8	1496	0	0	56	13	7.3	115
2	Newton, C	CHI	159	100	62.9	1429	3	1.9	56	13	8.2	111.3
3	Cutler	TCT	180	127	70.6	1525	5	2.8	73	14	7.8	110.5
4	Manning, P	CHP	190	125	65.8	1467	2	1.1	71	12	6.3	105.7
5	Hill, S	BCR	169	115	68	1224	2	1.2	54	10	5.9	103.8
6	Tannehill	MVM	201	133	66.2	1418	2	1	47	11	5.5	100.7
7	Flacco	COW	237	154	65	1741	5	2.1	49	15	6.3	99.1
8	Roethlisberger	GWG	202	128	63.4	1576	4	2	72	12	5.9	98.9
9	Romo	SC	224	147	65.6	1517	3	1.3	56	12	5.4	97.3
10	Bridgewater	LAK	108	62	57.4	670	2	1.9	46	9	8.3	95.8
11	Manning, E	MAR	122	78	63.9	862	2	1.6	63	6	4.9	94.4
12	Mariota	CAR	199	117	58.8	1599	7	3.5	57	14	7	93.4
13	Ryan, M	AUR	248	151	60.9	1892	6	2.4	62	12	4.8	90.7
14	Rivers, P	PIC	149	86	57.7	1157	5	3.4	74	9	6	88.7
15	Brees	DTL	244	161	66	1667	3	1.2	53	6	2.5	88.6
16	Brady, T	YOR	174	104	59.8	1111	3	1.7	87	8	4.6	86.6
17	Rodgers, A	SBE	240	147	61.3	1617	5	2.1	63	10	4.2	86.4
18	Dalton	SS	227	136	59.9	1612	9	4	81	8	3.5	76.8

## RUSHING

Rk	Player	Team	Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	McCoy, L	GWG	136	734	5.4	40	4
2	Bell, L	LAK	193	732	3.8	23	3
3	Forte	PIC	130	615	4.7	36	5
4	Anderson, C	SS	113	614	5.4	24	5
5	Lacy	CAR	117	601	5.1	31	4
6	Miller, L	CHP	98	590	6	23	2
7	Foster, A	AUR	89	555	6.2	34	5
8	Morris, A	COW	102	535	5.2	47	2
9	Murray, D	CHI	118	534	4.5	40	3
10	Lynch, M	YOR	104	511	4.9	33	3
11	Gordon, M	TCT	86	475	5.5	26	4
12	Gore	SC	91	471	5.2	50	1
13	Stewart	BCR	85	396	4.7	73	0
14	Charles, J	VV	81	380	4.7	54	1
15	Hill, J	ICC	60	366	6.1	30	3
16	Ivory	MVM	77	360	4.7	23	5
17	Coleman, T	MOH	95	353	3.7	20	3
18	Bell, J	MVM	66	352	5.3	21	1
19	Blue	SBE	83	347	4.2	21	5
20	Johnson, D	CHP	56	336	6	29	4

## RECEIVING

Rk	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Brown, A	TCT	41	465	11.3	27	5
2	Maclin	GWG	41	700	17.1	60	7
3	Evans, M	COW	38	476	12.5	47	2
4	Kelce, T	CAR	38	428	11.3	41	5
5	Fitzgerald	COW	37	394	10.6	21	6
6	Johnson, A	CHP	37	416	11.2	20	1
7	Johnson, C	DTL	36	553	15.4	53	4
8	Boldin	AUR	35	532	15.2	40	2
9	Decker	DTL	34	359	10.6	28	1
10	Jones, J	MOH	32	565	17.7	99	1
11	Allen, K	SC	32	398	12.4	42	3
12	Bryant, D	CHP	31	509	16.4	71	6
13	Smith Sr.	COW	31	426	13.7	45	5
14	Hopkins, D	BCR	31	402	13	45	4
15	Jackson, D	SBE	30	409	13.6	25	1
16	Nelson, J	SBE	29	339	11.7	21	5
17	Crabtree	MVM	29	296	10.2	22	4
18	Bowe	MVM	29	429	14.8	43	3
19	Garcon	SBE	29	300	10.3	21	3
20	Jackson, V	TCT	28	466	16.6	73	5

## KICKING

Rk	Player	Team	FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts
1	Folk	AUR	15	14	93.3	2	0	48	65
2	Succop	CHP	16	14	87.5	3	1	51	61
3	Parkey	BCR	16	15	93.8	7	1	54	58
4	Brown,J	MAR	17	15	88.2	5	1	54	57
5	Dawson	DTL	16	14	87.5	4	0	49	53
6	Gostkowski	TCT	10	10	100	4	0	48	51
7	Novak	COW	11	11	100	5	2	52	48
8	Zuerlein	ICC	12	9	75	4	0	49	47
9	Vinatieri	SS	10	10	100	5	1	50	44
10	Bailey,D	CHI	9	8	88.9	8	3	53	42
11	Suisham	GWG	11	9	81.8	4	0	47	42
12	Hauschka	CAR	7	5	71.4	2	1	51	36
13	Murray, P	LAK	7	7	100	4	2	53	34
14	Scobee	PIC	8	6	75	2	1	53	33
15	Walsh	YOR	9	6	66.7	2	0	48	32
16	Nugent	SBE	5	5	100	1	0	40	32
17	Tucker, J	SC	7	6	85.7	3	0	46	31
18	Carpenter	MVM	6	4	66.7	3	1	55	30
19	Janikowski	MOH	7	6	85.7	1	1	52	25
20	Crosby	VV	5	5	100	5	0	46	2



## STANDINGS - WEEK 1

EFL ASIA	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff
Beijing	1	0	0	1.000	38	38	31	31	7
Taipei	1	0	0	1.000	21	21	16	16	5
Pyongyang	0	1	0	0.000	16	16	21	21	-5
Seoul	0	1	0	0.000	31	31	38	38	-7



**RED DRAGONS**

0-1-0

-	-	-	-	0	-
---	---	---	---	---	---

[STAR PLAYER]

[stats]



**SHARKS**

1-0-0

-	-	-	-	0	-
---	---	---	---	---	---

[STAR PLAYER]

[stats]

\*The game between the Taipei Sharks and the Beijing Red Dragons has been postponed until next week\*



**CALM**

0-1-0

-	-	-	-	0	-
---	---	---	---	---	---

[STAR PLAYER]

[stats]



**SUN**

1-0-0

-	-	-	-	0	-
---	---	---	---	---	---

[STAR PLAYER]

[stats]

\*The game between the Seoul Calm and the Pyongyang Sun has been postponed while the UN places observers at the game site\*



# AROUND THE



## With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – Living at the site of the deadliest and most abominable terrorist attack in history has not desensitized me to the horror of a conventional suicide bombing or mass shooting. When I heard the news out of Paris about the multiple simultaneous terrorist attacks Friday night I felt the same pit in my stomach and helpless outrage I had felt upon absorbing the news of the attacks on the Twin Towers. I lost a friend in 9/11 and had commiserated with another who had been away on business, but who normally worked in the Trade Center and had lost colleagues in the attack. Those connections and the fact that it had happened in my back yard had made it personal, but I had also felt that all of humanity had winced in unison on that terrible day. On Friday, it felt like it was happening all over again, just in a different place.

When I use the term “conventional suicide bombing,” it is not to minimize the horror in France, but to underscore how we in North America have come to know suicide bombings vicariously through the media as common and somewhat sanitized events in other parts of the world. Most of us have never been to the places where they happen and there is little chance that we would have, for example, a loved one buying apricots in a Kabul market on a day when the Taliban might decide to strike. But we note them in passing as we might a hurricane or tsunami and silently resolve to avoid those places.

It is a different feeling entirely when indiscriminate violence strikes people we know in familiar places we love – places where we feel it doesn’t belong. The horror finally hits home like a punch in the gut. We may try to understand it, but there is nothing to understand other than it is insanity manifest. We are on the edge of a nightmare world where the frayed thread of civilization is constantly on the verge of snapping. Civilization no longer exists in large portions of Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan. Now the safe havens are under attack from those places, their assassins using our very freedoms against us.

The challenges our civilization is about to face will take more than a ribbon campaign or charity bike ride to overcome. It will require real unity, real courage, real strength and the best our humanity has to offer.

Pray for Paris!

### #25

Someday, a sports writer from Aurora, or maybe Texas, will write a book about *The Streak*. At 25 consecutive victories and counting it is no longer a record to be broken but one being set anew with each Aurora win. This week they eclipsed the previous unbeaten mark of 24 games, set by the 2009 – 2010 Florida Dragons under Coach, **Jim Heaton**. If winning is contagious, the Mustangs have a terminal case of *the wins*. They may not be able to lose even if they wanted to.

When the book is finally written on Aurora’s prolonged period of utter dominance, it will certainly contain a chapter devoted to those moments during *The Streak* when it felt as if there was a supernatural presence influencing the outcome. Whether the result of interference by the Football Gods themselves; or the result of a curse laid on Jim Heaton by **Cai Qing**; or the mischievous machinations of the ‘Great Koch,’ mythical creator of the *Footballverse*, the sense that a greater power is at work behind the scenes in Aurora’s streak is hard to escape. The Week Six match-up vs the Spartans was a case in point.

Not taking anything away from the stewardship of Mustang coach, **Rich Liotta** – who already belongs in the Coach Hall of Fame for this feat alone – but simply being very good is not good enough all on its own when greatness is the ultimate goal. Inevitably on the road to fame and great fortune there has to be a bit of...well...*fortune*, of the good kind.

Win no. 25 of *The Streak* came at the expense of the Pickering Spartans, a team that once came within one win of a coveted perfect season. In an ironic twist, it was the Spartans that had ended the Dragons’ win streak at 24, beating them 28-9 in the 2010 Conference Final. This week, they had a chance to do it again. If any active coach other than Liotta knows exactly how difficult it is to never lose a game in a single season, that coach would be **Gus Konstantakos**. The fanatical progeny of Spartan nobility is a generous but violent soul, who feels the pain of his team’s losses so acutely that he has been known to fall into a berserk rage at pivotal moments in games that have gone bad. Those rages had him placed on permanent probation by the league. On pain of banishment from the sidelines, he is forbidden to demonstrate the ferocious temper that, on several previous occasions, has caused physical injury and extensive property damage.

The search for a kinder, gentler Gus has been difficult, but experimental drugs and therapies have proven helpful in preventing the worst of his excesses on game days gone bad. He joined a screaming club and spends at least one hour a day

pounding a tractor tire with a sledgehammer in his garage. He also takes the experimental prescription medication, *Angra* to suppress temper tantrums and elevate his mood on road trips and before games. His goal is to eliminate the need for the “Gus Gun,” the painful break-glass-in-case-of-emergency tranquilizer gun calibrated to knock him out in case of a critical temper explosion. All of these exotic anger management techniques were put to the test this week when his Spartans let one get away from them at home, becoming just another victim of the Mustangs’ winning streak instead of the team that broke it.

The Spartans had been in control for most of the contest. **Matt Ryan** had been pressing and **Philip Rivers** had been turnover-free. When **Golden Tate** hauled in a tight spiral from Rivers and out-galoped **Earl Thomas** to the end zone for a 69-yard touchdown and a 31-20 lead with 12:05 left in the game, the crowd at Thermopylae Stadium could smell victory.

“ONWARD, MEN! ONWARD TO GLORIOUS VICTORY!” bellowed **Gus Konstantakos** as he waved his play sheets like a sword and brought in his special teamers to call the play that would bottle up Mustang kick returner, **Chris Polk**, who had returned a kick 100 yards for a touchdown earlier. The plan was to kick short and away from Polk, surrendering yards up front to eliminate the chance of a big return. It was a two-possession game and the Spartans were willing to give up yards underneath in exchange for burning valuable time off the clock.

**Josh Scobee** angled his kickoff as directed, but he got the numbers reversed, kicking away from #34 **Cameron Artis-Payne** and instead toward #32, **Chris Polk**. The speedy Polk caught the line drive kick on the dead run and charged through the gaping hole in the coverage. Only a diving shoestring tackle by **Damarious Randall** prevented what would have been Polk’s second special teams TD of the day, but the return was still good for 64 yards. Taking over at the Pickering 20, Ryan made short work of the defence, completing a couple of short passes to set up a 3-yard touchdown run by **Arian Foster**. In less than two minutes, the Mustangs were within one score, trailing 31-27, with plenty of time left.

“UohUohohUoh-hh-hh-hu-hu-hu,” a guttural tremor emerged from Konstantakos. No words, just a rumbling vibration emanating from somewhere deep inside his chest. His eyes swelled out of his head and fixated on Scobee, who was standing at the opposite end of the Pickering sideline. Unconsciously perhaps, he reached for something hard and picked up a helmet. But before he could take two steps toward his kicker, defensive coordinator **General Pausanias** intervened, calmly taking the helmet from him as he whispered: “All is not lost my liege.” Konstantakos caught himself, paused, nervously popped a couple of *Angra* and looked at his play sheets. “Buzz-buster strong, hard option,” he barked into the radio. “Let’s run it down their throats.”

It was a good idea, but running the ball is all about will and the Mustangs’ defence was fired up after the TD from the



**Peyton Manning** fist pumps supporters as he leaves the field at HMK Royal Coliseum in Mission Viejo. The veteran was in classic form late in the game, directing a 77-yard drive for a TD with 0:24 left to beat the Monarchs 17-14 and remain undefeated.



Scarborough coach, **Rex Ryan** is not happy with his team's last gasp effort in the dying seconds of a 16-10 loss to the Markham North Stars. Missed opportunities, mental errors and a simple failure to execute with the game on the line led to another frustrating loss for the struggling Blue Eagles.

offence. They held **Matt Forte** to 5 yards on 2 carries to set up 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5. A delay of game penalty against Rivers and a bad pass on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10 ended the Pickering drive, forcing a punt after 1:24 minutes.

"Erarrurthrawhurth-hu-hu-hu-warhh," was audible from a distance, rising out of Gus Konstantakos like a quavering earth spasm. His eyebrows furrowed as he squinted in the direction of Rivers, who was standing at the far end of the Pickering sideline. He reached for helmet and took a couple of steps toward his quarterback but was intercepted by **General Pausanias**, who casually relieved him of the helmet and in a calm voice said: "Our defence will stop them, my liege." Konstantakos stopped, swallowed hard, and let out a therapeutic scream, one of his favourites from the screaming club: "**AIIEEEAAEEYAAOOOHH!!**" He seemed oblivious to the attention he drew to himself. When he was done, he inhaled deeply, exhaled powerfully, and barked: "*Never Surrender!*"

In response, the Spartan defence bent, quite a lot, but it did not surrender. Three straight passes to **Anquan Boldin** and an 11-yard run by Foster

brought the Mustangs inside the 10 yard line, but they stalled there against some well-designed defensive formations called by **General Pausanias**. **Nick Folk** came on for the 24-yard chip shot to make the score 31-30 for Pickering.

"Well done, General Pausanias!" Konstantakos clapped his old friend on the shoulder. "Next time, though, stop them on the first set of downs!"

With 5:17 remaining in the game, the Spartans could no longer focus only on running out the clock. They needed to score or somehow hold on to the ball in the attempt. But three straight check downs by Rivers and only one completion for 4 yards forced another quick punt. The Mustangs charged back, with Ryan hitting on his first four passes to jet them into the red zone. Again they stalled, but Folk came on for another easy field goal, this one from 27 yards, to give Aurora a 33-31 lead with 1:37 left in the game.

A muffled hiss was discernible coming from the area of the Pickering coach. **Gus Konstantakos** stood stalk still, inflating like a Michelin Man as his face darkened and a wisp of steam escaped from his nostrils. A small drop of blood appeared at the corner of his right eye and rolled slowly down his cheek as he began to vibrate. **General Pausanias** leaped into action, pulling out an epipen filled with liquid *Angra* and drove it with a sharp blow into the thigh of his head coach. Konstantakos stiffened momentarily with the impact. After a pause, the blood in his face receded as he stopped shaking and slowly deflated. "Thank you, General," he wheezed.

"We shall make a heroic thrust into the enemy's heartland, my liege," the General added reassuringly.

Contrary to the General's hopeful prognostication, there would be no home team heroics on this day. The Pickering offensive was over in an instant. It took Rivers 22 seconds to fire 4 consecutive incomplete passes – one misfire under pressure, one drop, one tipped ball, and one potential pass interference infraction that was never called. All that was left to do for the Mustangs to log their 25<sup>th</sup> straight victory under coach, **Rich Liotta** and break the unbreakable streak, was to assume the victory formation and take a knee.

Disappointed spectators filed toward the exits, but several close to the field paused to listen as a rumbling issued from the field. A cooler of Gatorade spilled off of its shaking table near where Coach Konstantakos was standing and equipment rattled on the bench. A sonorous "*BLW AYR BGILLGLUBIWARJHEJMNWAGGGGHHHFWUUUWH!*" resonated from deep inside his belly and built up intensity as Konstantakos struggled to contain his rage.

With his supply of *Angra* depleted, **General Pausanias** looked around for a tire and a sledgehammer, but none were to be found at hand. "Get the gun! Get the gun!" he barked. Without hesitation, **Akrotatos Thrombos**, captain of the Spartan Emergency Response Team gave the signal and the sniper fired, felling the Pickering coach with one well-placed shot to the butt. Score another point for the 'Gus Gun,' saving **Gus Konstantakos** from himself and others. He will coach another day.

### **BEST BUDS**

The league is apparently investigating rumours that **Chris Dickinson**, owner and former coach of the Scarborough Blue Eagles, violated the league's communication policy that prohibits electronic communications of any kind to players and coaches on the field during games. The tip off came after **Aaron Rodgers** was stopped for a 1-yard gain while trying to sneak the ball on 4<sup>th</sup> & 7 in the dying seconds of the Blue Eagles' 16-10 loss to Markham. The ill-fated play tied a tattered ribbon around another gift win for the North Stars and caused Scarborough coach, **Rex Ryan** to explode in anger on the sideline. Within seconds of the play, Dickinson tweeted on his public *Titter* account: "Bud, sneak not sneak! LOL!"

A curious reply was posted from @aaronrogers12 a couple of hours later: “Sneak was great idea...NOT! LMAO!”

Clearly these tweets were not meant for public consumption, but once out there the public and media reacted. Asked to comment about the strange play call in the game’s dying moments, **Rex Ryan** replied with a terse, “What the f^\$\* are you talking about. That wasn’t *my* call!”

Sources close to the nascent investigation tell me that Rodgers has two sets of earpieces during games: the ones hard-wired into his helmet – *legal* – and the ones attached to his mini-I-phone – *illegal*. The illegal earpieces allow him to converse with his good friend, Scarborough owner, Dickinson, who evidently isn’t quite ready to fully surrender the coaching reins to his new hire, Rex, and calls the occasional play. According to sources, Dickinson also follows Rodgers’ Titter account during games and relays the contents to Rodgers, who is reportedly obsessed with how the public is viewing him.

The two can often be seen off-hours at Moxie’s Bar & Grill in Vaughan, a community north of Toronto removed enough from Scarborough to avoid running into the fan posse looking to string up the Blue Eagles’ well-meaning but bumbling owner. Rodgers and Dickinson are, apparently, “best buds” on the cocktail circuit in the GTA. They have been known to write-up plays on cocktail napkins and name them after hot young ladies at the bar. My sources say the Hail Mary Sneak in question may have been named either ‘*Brenda M*’ or ‘*Trish the Dish*.’

It will be interesting to see what the league investigation turns up. But if even half of my source’s information is accurate, questions around the reasons for the third-rate play of **Aaron Rodgers** this year just came a lot closer to being answered.

### AROUND THE EFL

Six weeks into the season we are learning that increasingly pass-happy playbooks are making even big leads unsafe in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Running out the clock is no longer a reliable strategy for front-runners while aggressive risk-taking in the aerial game is paying off as often as it is not for the trailers.

At the Killing Field in Carthage, rookie QB, **Marcus Mariota** did a fair imitation of **Russell Wilson**, passing for 140 yards and 1 TD and scrambling for 21 yards in a 21-point 4<sup>th</sup> quarter that gave the Cannibals a 28-27 lead over Chino with just 0:39 remaining. But an amazing, possibly season-saving 44-yard catch-and-run by receiver **Roddy White** set up a 49-yard field goal by **Dan Bailey** with 0:05 left to make the final 30-28, Convicts.

Proof that the good teams find a way to win and the mediocre teams find a way to lose was in evidence at HMK Royal Coliseum in Mission Viejo, where **Peyton Manning** turned around a lacklustre performance with a pair of 4<sup>th</sup> quarter TD passes, lifting the Patriots over the Monarchs 17-14. It looked as if an extraordinary upset was in the making when **Ryan Tannehill** found **Marques Colston** open for a 47-yard TD pass to make it 14-10 for the home team with less than two minutes remaining. But Manning coolly picked apart the Monarchs’ secondary for 77 yards on 5 completions in the space of 1:08 to down the Kings.

At the Coliseum in Gwinnett, **Big Boob** made his second appearance of the year for the Glads and played a prominent role in a 23-13 loss to the Corn Kings. But despite Ben’s off-day, he was still able to create some nervous moments for the visitors late in the game. Cowtown led 23-7 with 3:45 left after **Steve Smith Sr.** broke free for a 45-yard TD catch, his second of the game. It looked like they had the game in the bag, but suddenly everything that had not worked for more than three quarters began working for the Glads. Ben drove his team 74 yards in 1:04 for a TD to make it 23-13. After missing the two-point convert the Glads recovered an onside kick and used just two plays to reach the Cowtown 14 yard line with 2:08 left. But a would-be miraculous comeback failed to snowball when **Maurkice Pouncey** was flagged for tripping, Moore false-started, and **Ryan Kerrigan** sack Ben for a loss at the 41. The Glads failed to convert 4<sup>th</sup> and 37 and the Corn Kings celebrated their 3<sup>rd</sup> win.

At TCF Bank Stadium in Twin Cities, a turnover-free contest broke in favour of the Triumph when **Jay Cutler** flashed cat-like mobility and scrambled 5 yards for a TD to make it 17-10, Twin Cities, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. The run seemed to catch the Ravens off guard, so Cutler did it again in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, sneaking the ball across the goal line from 1 yard out to make it a two-score game at 24-13. **Shaun Hill** was the surprise starter at QB for Beaufort, but **RGIII** came on in relief in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, distinguishing himself with a 22-yard scramble and little else. Quarterbacking will continue to hold the Ravens back.

At **TERRORDOME** in Virden, the Knights doubled their win total by holding off a 2<sup>nd</sup> half **Mason Crosby** field goal frenzy and adding a 46-yard TD from **Teddy Bridgewater** to **Andre Roberts** late in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, to finish one score in front of the winless Violators, 24-16. All Knight safety, **Charles Woodson** clinched the win with his 3<sup>rd</sup> interception, picking off **Derek Carr** at the 11-yard line with 0:12 left. An excited **Jeff Dohrn** called for a Victory Parade upon the team’s return to LA.

At Jurassic Park in Durham, **Drew Brees** was in fine form for the second week in a row; throwing for 261 yards and 3 TD passes in a 27-10 slam dunk over the shiftless Regulators. The Lizards’ offence showed uncommon balance, with **Darren McFadden**, **Carlos Hyde** and **Mike Davis** combining for 155 yards on the ground to help Durham earn over 38 minutes of possession. It was uncommon balance for Durham, but not for the Regulators’ defence, which has been giving up lots of yards in both phases. At 2-4 and looking awkward win or lose, South Carolina appears to be heading quickly toward irrelevance in 2015.

And finally, as usual, I wrap-up the week with a pair of blowouts: at Joe Ferguson Stadium in Iowa City, the Cubs racked up 525 yards, 31 first downs and held the ball for over 40 minutes to stomp out the Hellfire 36-0. And yes....it could have been a lot worse for the visitors if **Deron Redding** wasn’t such a nice guy. Meanwhile, at the scene of more blowouts *per capita* than any other stadium, the Excaliburs cut up the Swordfish 41-12 at the Fish Tank, capitalizing on three Sebastian turnovers in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half to turn around what had been a tightly contested game through two quarters.

# BUG THE BOOKIE!

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

*Your source for fantasy and on-line betting solutions*



**RECORD VS THE SPREAD AFTER WEEK 6:**

**40-17-3**

### JIMMY'S WEEK SEVEN PICKS

#### **CARTHAGE @ AURORA (line – MUSTANGS by 9)**

**INJURIES:** Carthage – Justin Durant (IR), Greg Hardy (IR), Derrick Johnson (IR) Matt Slauson (OUT), Andre Smith (OUT); Aurora – Willie Young (PROBABLE), Julian Edelman (DOUBTFUL), Karlos Dansby (OUT), Kevin Pierre-Louis (OUT).

This re-match of last year's Championship finalists is not going to be the same intense dogfight of 'Gale Sayers 8,' but it might be more competitive than originally thought. One can imagine that the Cannibals would be near, if not at the top of the East Division if they only had a defence. Marcus Mariota is performing above high expectations, Emmanuel Sanders is currently the league's most dangerous deep threat and Eddie Lacy is a chain-mover and scoring threat on the ground. But as good as the offence has been the defence has been the opposite, with virtually no achievements to its credit apart from shutting down Andrew Luck in Week Five – which is becoming less of a feat than it used to be. The Mustangs are galloping along in the midst of a 25-game winning streak. They have not lost since Rich Liotta took over as coach, although they came darn close to falling last week against Pickering. Aurora may be showing more vulnerability than it did last season, but they remain the class of the EFL. At home, against a game but green QB and an amateurish defence, the Mustangs should have no trouble making winning look easy. **PICK: AURORA**

#### **TWIN CITIES @ DURHAM (line – TRIUMPH by 2)**

**INJURIES:** Twin Cities – Kendall Wright (QUESTIONABLE), LaAdrian Waddle (OUT); Durham – Tyrann Mathieu (DOUBTFUL), Ahmad Bradshaw (OUT), Alex Carter (OUT).

So how good is Twin Cities? That is the question being asked as Vegas books them as the favourites on the road against North Division leading Durham. The perception is that the Triumph are very good and one look at their offensive output will tell you why: they are tied for second in yards-per-play with 6.5 and are by themselves in second in points per game with 29.5. In a betting environment that tends to worship offence, those are eye-catching numbers. The Lizards, on the other hand, have been struggling to establish that offensive powerhouse many had expected from them; all the discussion has been focused on Drew Brees and his "off-year." People tend to overlook the fact that Durham has surrendered the fewest points per game in the league, 12.8, and second fewest yards per game at 266. The last time Twin Cities faced a defence like that, versus Charleswood in their only loss of the year, it took their offence a full half to get rolling and by then it was too late. With Ahmad Bradshaw 'OUT' for this game, the Durham attack will be one-dimensional, but the return of Kam Chancellor should make the defence that much stronger. Jay Cutler tends to feast on the weak and tremble against the strong. Expect that tendency to be in full bloom this week. **PICK: DURHAM**

#### **GWINNETT @ VIRDEN (line – GLADIATORS by 10)**

**INJURIES:** Gwinnett – Reggie Wayne (PROBABLE), Mychal Kendrick (OUT); Virden – Prince Amukamara (OUT), Martavis Bryant (OUT), Eric Berry (IR), Kelcy Quarles (IR), Stephen Tulloch (IR).

The Violators are about as bad as bad can be. They missed their best chance for a win last week and will have to wait until they visit the Fiery Depths in Week Fifteen for their next best shot at avoiding the stigma of a winless season. The Glads rise and fall with Big Ben and, so far, he has come to play during odd-numbered weeks and showed up as Big Boob during even-numbered weeks. This being an odd-numbered week and a road match-up against namby-pamby Virden, expect the quarterback play to be a real strength. Actually, expect everything about the Glads to appear championship-calibre against the banged-up and not-very-good-to-begin-with Violators. The side action is busy as Vegas takes bets on *when*, not *if*, the Glads eclipse the double-digit line. **PICK: GWINNETT**

### **SOUTH CAROLINA @ MOHAVE (line – REGULATORS by 3)**

**INJURIES:** **South Carolina** – AJ Green (QUESTIONABLE), Jason Kelce (OUT), Dontay Moch (OUT); **Mohave** – Aaron Williams (QUESTIONABLE), Tevin COLEMAN (OUT), Harry Douglas (OUT), Ace Sanders (OUT).

When two teams in the doldrums face each other it is usually a good bet that one of them will emerge feeling better from the experience. There is no guarantee, however, that either of these basket case teams will shake off their current paralysis merely for the reason that they get to face each other. By gauge of pure talent, the Regulators should be capable of stealing a road win from the Hellfire. By gauge of their pass rush and the pedigree of their quarterback, Mohave should be able to make that job difficult. But the way these teams have been playing, an ugly low-scoring tie is more probable than usual. The Regs will get a big boost if AJ Green is cleared to play; the offence has struggled with him out of the line-up. Although running is never a priority for Bobby Elder's teams, the loss of Tevin Coleman will be felt as it removes a viable workhorse option out of the backfield. My confidence in the Regs is at a two-year low, but the match-ups still favour them – going with my head here. **PICK: SOUTH CAROLINA**

### **COWTOWN @ CHARLESWOOD (line – PATRIOTS by 9)**

**INJURIES:** **Cowtown** – Terence Newman (OUT), Cedric Ogbuehi (OUT), Ryan Wendell (OUT), Todd Gurley (OUT), Koa Misi (OUT); **Charleswood** – Lane Johnson (OUT).

The Patriots have the top-ranked defence in the league, an often over-looked fact with 'Manning Mania' commanding all the media attention. As stingy as they are surrendering yards, they are ranked 20<sup>th</sup> in red zone defence, allowing opponents to score 100% of the time once they have reached their 20. The Corn Kings have had their share of problems, but scoring is not one of them. Joe Flacco leads the league in touchdown passes and the offensive line has held up better than expected, although they are still one of the most penalized in the league. Cowtown has a shot at an upset if they can bring consistent pressure on Peyton Manning, but the play of the defensive line has been a hit-and-miss, mostly miss, so far this season. Brandon Flowers is back but Terence Newman is out, meaning there will be an exploitable weakness in the secondary for Peyton to find his impressive targets at wide receiver. The undefeated Pats should remain so after this game, but it won't necessarily be easy. **PICK: COWTOWN**

### **SCARBOROUGH @ BEAUFORT COUNTY (line – RAVENS by 5)**

**INJURIES:** **Scarborough** – None; **Beaufort County** – Vontaze Burfict (OUT), Nick Fairley (OUT), Mason Foster (OUT), Ryan Mathews (OUT), Frank Alexander (IR), Jairus Byrd (IR).

This battle of the birds promises to be unpredictable. In rising to a share of first place in the West, the Ravens have limited their mistakes on offence and held strong in red zone defence to hang tough in every game and gut out 4 wins. But how long they can continue to rely on Shaun Hill to keep them in the race is an open question with no clear answer. Hill is out-performing his scouting report, but with the tentative insertion of RGIII into recent games, Neil Shannon is signalling that Hill is not the long-term answer. What the team will look like when they finally make the switch is unclear. The Blue Eagles have dropped 3 of their last 4 games, with a victory over feeble Sebastian the only bright spot. Early season optimism is, as usual, turning to skepticism that anything has changed for the better in Scarborough. Although there is lots of blame to go around, including an underperforming defence, Aaron Rodgers is becoming the main focus of critics as he plummets in the quarterback rankings for no apparent reason. With game-breaking targets Jordy Nelson and DeSean Jackson on the wings, Rodgers' performance borders on scandalous. The talent is there on this Eagle team, but the heart is missing. **PICK: BEAUFORT COUNTY**

### **CHINO @ MARKHAM (line – NORTH STARS by 4)**

**INJURIES:** **Chino** – None; **Markham** – Brandon Marshall (OUT), Max Unger (OUT).

There was no 4<sup>th</sup> quarter collapse in Markham's victory over Scarborough last week, but there could have been if Jermaine Gresham had held onto the ball at the Markham two yard line. The feeling that Darrin Jones coaches under a lucky (north) star is warranted, but it also fails to credit the team-tailored game plans that put his teams in a position every week to take advantage of any good fortune that comes their way. Expect Markham to try to take away the Chino running game and put the game into the hands of Cam Newton. That may sound counter-intuitive against the league's 2<sup>nd</sup> highest rated quarterback, but more things can go wrong in the air than on the ground and the North Stars hope to rely on critical miscues to push them over the top here. The Convicts escaped the Killing Field last week after a shocking implosion that witnessed the rookie-led Carthage offence rack up 224 total yards and tally 21 points in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Without Roddy White's game-saving play to set up the winning field goal, Chino would be already relegated to the outer edges of playoff contention. On the plus side, the Convicts finally got the kind of game they were looking for from DeMarco Murray, the kind they will need this week to pull off an upset. **PICK: CHINO**

## SEBASTIAN @ IOWA CITY (line – CUBS by 20)

**INJURIES:** **Sebastian** – Odell Beckham Jr. (OUT), Alex Mack (OUT), Paul Posluszny (OUT), Perry Riley Jr. (OUT); **Iowa City** – None.

It is a rare day when a 20-point line in a pro game doesn't look big enough, but the Swordfish are in rare bad form these days; rare in that they are much worse than usual. Few adjectives adequately describe the incompetence of the defence, so let me simply point out that they have given up an average of over 420 yards and 36 points per game. Without Odell Beckham Jr. in the line-up they have no hope of staying afloat as the gaping holes on the defensive side of the ball sink their ship every week. Meanwhile, the Cubs are beginning to assert their talent on the field. With each week they grow in confidence as they see just how good they are. Russell Wilson leapt into the top spot in quarterback rating this week and the defensive line keeps generating pressure without the need for blitz pressure. The Cubs could score 40 points without even trying hard. **PICK: IOWA CITY**

## YORK @ MISSION VIEJO (line – Pick 'Em)

**INJURIES:** **York** – Giovani Bernard (OUT), Vincent Brown (OUT), De'Anthony Thomas (OUT), Nick Toon (OUT); **Mission Viejo** – Jerod Mayo (IR).

The Monarchs are riding a 4-game losing streak during which they lost to the woeful Knights and pushed the powerful Patriots to the edge. Not yet a contender themselves they have graduated from being an automatic out to being a tough out for contending teams looking to stay in contention. The Excaliburs are such a team, but one that walks a tightrope each week, one misstep away from a fall. Nothing has come easy for York and don't expect an easy win here. They may need a little luck, with backfield receiving threat and change-of-pace back Giovani Bernard not available to an offence with limited weapons. The key will be the play of the York defence, currently ranked third in the league. If they perform to their current standard, the Monarchs will struggle to score and their defence will eventually succumb to Tom Brady. But if Ryan Tannehill makes a few plays and they are able to control the ball with Chris Ivory and Joique Bell, a win is not only possible, but probable. **PICK: MISSION VIEJO**

## PICKERING @ LOS ANGELES (line – SPARTANS by 2)

**INJURIES:** **Pickering** – Jason Hatcher (OUT); **Los Angeles** – John Conner (OUT), Brandin Cooks (OUT), CJ Spiller (OUT).

The Spartans lost a couple of games they should have won, and that is the difference between 2-4 and 4-2. Parity does that – it obscures the line between good and bad just enough to make determining spreads and picking a winner against them more of a guessing game than an art or a science. This time, however, Vegas has the line just about right, in my opinion. The Blue Shield is sufficiently strong to deflect enough strikes to keep them from being blown away and the over-achieving Spartans defence is weak enough to yield ground to the shaky Knights offence. LA is at home and has a lot of fight left in them, even if they sometimes look like the wounded Black Knight in the Month Python skit. All this adds up to a potentially close game for three of four quarters that will go badly for the Knights in the end. **PICK: PICKERING**



ANCIENT HISTORY  
CHANNEL  
PRESENTS  
*This Week in EFL History*  
*With Professor Sterling Smitherman*

FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – In Week Six of the 2009 EFL season the Garland Mustangs were beginning to garner attention nationwide. Just one year removed from an inaugural 1-15 expansion campaign, they had just finished off Mohave, 31-28 in a shootout at home to rise to 4-2 and a share of second place in the South Division. Talk of **Matt Ryan** as a candidate for league MVP was not being laughed off, since nobody had expected the Mustangs to be in contention or for Ryan to be second in the league in QB rating, behind **Peyton Manning**. Certainly if the Mustangs

continued to exceed expectations, the QB who was getting it done against all odds would have to be recognized.

Durham came from behind to top the Knights, 20-17, in the week's big heavyweight contest. **Ellis Hobbs** picked off **Tarvaris Jackson** to set up the game-winning field goal with 2:17 left. The Lizards had made just 11 first downs and gained a paltry 242 total yards against a 'Blue Shield' that was in its prime. Like today, the 2009 version of the Thunder Lizards was being heavily criticized for its lack of offence, despite an embarrassment of talent on the line and a full array of weapons at the skill positions.

Complacency may have set in for some of the contending teams: In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, the 1-5 Ringgold Crimson Hawks led the 5-1 Patriots 24-14, but **Peyton Manning** fired two TD passes and **Brandon Flowers** posted a pick-six in a 21-point 4<sup>th</sup> quarter rally to win 35-24, avoiding a humiliating upset. At **TERRORDOME** the Gladiators needed 18 2<sup>nd</sup> half points to overcome a 14-6 deficit and beat the 2-4 Violators.

It was a big week for returner **Justin Miller** of Kutztown: he returned 5 kicks for 203 yards and 1 TD. It was the only TD for the Golden Bears in their 27-10 loss to Florida.