

2013



EFL NEWS

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

2013

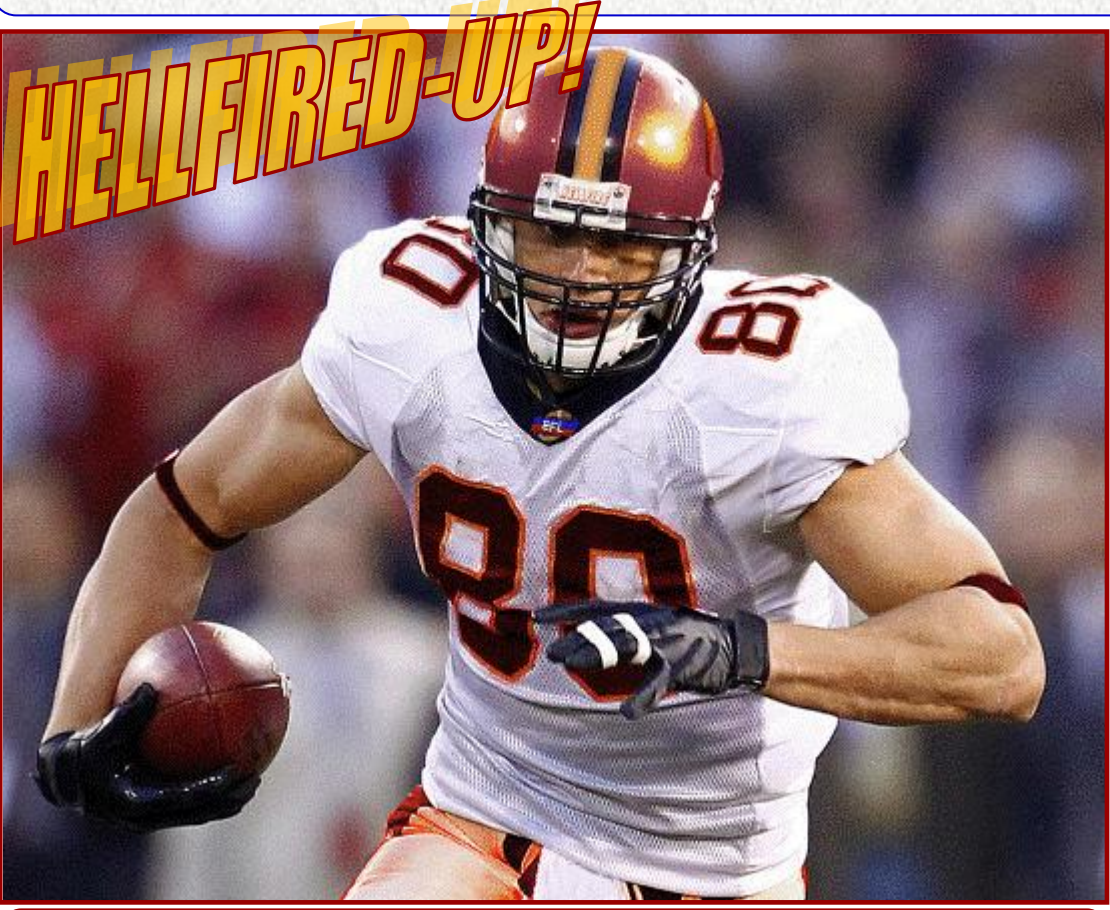
Week Fourteen

Week Fourteen

January 12, 2014



MOH	28	YOR	21	CAR	24	CHI	34	ICC	38	PIC	20	MAR	26	COW	35	GAR	3	SEB	17
VV	24	CHP	34	MVM	21	DVU	31	LA	14	DTL	23	TCT	7	SC	31	SBE	50	GWG	24



HELLFIRED-UP!

LATEST EFL NEWS INSIDE

- BLITZING AFTER BLITZEN
- CONVICTS ROB THE GRAVE
- LIZARDS GO TO GROUND
- PEYTON BLUNTS SOWRDS
- CONVICTS LOCK UONDEATH
- AND MORE.....

Also in this issue

- EFL FAN BLOG BRONTOBONES.NET
- SPATS
- JIMMY THE GEEK
- THIS WEEK IN THE EFL

Jimmy Graham of the Mohave Hellfire turns up field after snaring a pass from quarterback *Andrew Luck* in the 3rd quarter. Graham would score, starting a shocking second-half comeback that finished with the Hellfire scorching Virden 28-24.



Who was slick in Week Fourteen?

"BRYLCREEM" THE EFL'S FIRST SPONSOR



Andre Johnson
WR
Death Valley
Undertakers

13 Receptions, 224 yards, 4 TDs, in lost cause versus Convicts.



Calais Campbell
DE
Markham
North Stars

4 Sacks and a Safety contained opposing Campbell in win over TC.



5-9-0

Mohave

28

MVP
Jimmy Graham

24

Virden



8-6-0

TEAM LEADERS				
Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD
Luck	20	39	192	2
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
Dwyer	8	41	5.1	0
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
Graham	9	88	9.8	2

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
Mohave	0	0	14	14	-	28
Virden	3	14	0	7	-	24

TEAM LEADERS				
Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD
Stafford	21	38	232	2
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
Charles	11	83	7.5	1
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
Bryant	6	85	14.2	1

Play of the Game
Trailing 24-21 with 1:40 left in the game, facing 4th and goal from less than a yard, the Hellfire put it all on the line by running **Mike Tolbert** off right tackle to score the game-winning TD.

SUMMARY: Tight defensive play by both teams held the score to a single **Lawrence Tynes** field goal over the first 26 minutes before **Vontae Davis** sparked a late 2nd-quarter surge by the Violators with an interception and 69-yard return to the Mohave 25 yard line. Two plays later **Matt Stafford** hooked up with **Dez Bryant** for an 18-yard TD pass to make it 10-0 for Virden. On the ensuing kickoff return, **Cordarrell Patterson** fumbled away the ball at the Mohave 27 yard line and **Julio Jones** took advantage, hauling in a 27-yard TD pass from Stafford to make it 17-0. To start the 2nd half, the Violators hoped to catch the Hellfire off guard by attempting an onside kick, but Mohave's **Brandon Banks** recovered it at the 45. **Jimmy Graham** caught 3 passes for 41 yards on the following drive, the last for 14 yards and a TD to get Mohave on the score board. Graham added another TD catch on Mohave's next possession then **Dawan Landry** picked off Stafford to set up an 11-yard TD run by **Mike Tolbert** to give Mohave a 21-17 lead early in the 4th quarter. Virden regained the lead on a 24-yard TD run by **Jamaal Charles** with 7 minutes left, but the Hellfire answered with the longest drive of the game, moving 61 yards in 15 plays and reaching the half-yard line of Virden with 1:40 left in the game. Instead of trying the field goal to tie it, the Violators sent Tolbert into the line, scoring the TD that would turn out to be the game-winning score in a big Mohave upset.

QUOTES: "We are playing the kind of football now that I pictured in the pre-season. I don't agree that it's too late to make a difference. If we weren't taking these strides forward I can guarantee it would make a difference in who we bring back next year, so of course it makes a difference!" – Mohave coach, **Bobby Elder**, responding to media question about the Hellfire turnaround making no difference in the season.
"I have to play better in those situations, starting with not throwing the interceptions." – Virden quarterback, **Matt Stafford**.



HAPPY FAN



titter

ANGRY FAN



Jumping Bean @helltaco
No one want to play de Hellfire now!
We are jalapeno HOT!



Marquis de Sade @mdsviolate
Following this edition of the Violators is the most exquisite form of torture. Thank you, Lance Barrate.

01-08-2014 TERRORDOME Temp: 69 Wind: Calm None MVP: Jimmy Graham

1 1:43 Virden	FG Tynes 43 (8-50-5:03)	0-3
2 2:39 Virden	TD Stafford 18 pass to Bryant (Tynes) (2-25-0:52)	0-10
2 2:20 Virden	TD Stafford 27 pass to Jones (Tynes) (1-27-0:12)	0-17
3 12:32 Mohave	TD Luck 14 pass to Graham (Prater) (4-55-2:20)	7-17
3 8:53 Mohave	TD Luck 7 pass to Graham (Prater) (5-21-3:10)	14-17
4 14:08 Mohave	TD Tolbert 11 run (Prater) (7-36-2:28)	21-17
4 7:11 Virden	TD Charles 24 run (Tynes) (4-56-1:51)	21-24
4 1:36 Mohave	TD Tolbert 1 run (Prater) (15-61-5:29)	28-24

	MOH	VV
First Downs	22	18
Rushes	32-138	13-87
Passes	39-20-192	38-21-232
Sacked	3-24	4-36
Fumble	1	0
Penalties	5-29	7-53
Turnovers	3	3
Missed Tackles	7	10
Blitzes	37	7
Time	33:53	26:07
Third Down	8-17	3-11
Fourth Down	3-3	0-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	6/4/0	1/1/0
Net Offense	306	283

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



SWORDFISH

2-12-0

0

3

14

0

0

17

OT

Andy Dalton

23 of 45, 250 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT



GLADIATORS

6-8-0

7

7

0

10

0

24

Ahmad Bradshaw

25 Carries, 152 yards, 1 TD

After TD passes of 6 yards to **Reggie Wayne** and 15 yards to **Jeremy Maclin** followed by a fumble recovery, it appeared that the Glads were marching toward a blowout. But a pick by **Rahim Moore** at his own 10 and 50-yard return turned things around for the Swordfish. **Andy Dalton** hit **Nate Washington** on a deep fly to score from 27 yards and take a 17-14 lead in the 3rd quarter. The Glads' **Shaun Suisham** tied it on a 51-yard FG then **Ahmad Bradshaw** broke a 36-yard run on the Glads' next series, the big play in a drive that ended with him carrying in the winning TD from 4 yards.



SPARTANS

8-6-0

3

7

0

10

0

20

OT

Matt Schaub

11 of 17, 165 yards, 1 TD



T-LIZARDS

11-3-0

0

14

3

3

3

23

Reggie Bush

22 Carries, 125 yards, 1 TD

Reggie Bush opened the major scoring with an 8-yard TD run then **Danny Amendola** caught a medium pass behind tight coverage and scored from 19 yards to give the Lizards early control. But the first of 4 picks by QB, **Drew Brees** set up a Pickering TD drive late in the half to make it 14-10 after 2 quarters. **Vincent Jackson** turned a short pass into a 54-yard gain to set up the tying TD in the 4th quarter then an exchange of FGs made it 20-20 after regulation. In OT, Durham was stopped on its 1st series, but Spartans' **Steven Jackson** fumbled at his 22, setting up the game-winning FG.



EXCALIBURS

7-7-0

0

14

0

7

0

21

OT

Tom Brady

28 of 51, 323 yards, 3 TDs, 1 INT



PATRIOTS

9-5-0

14

7

3

10

0

34

Adrian Peterson

31 Carries, 135 yards, 2 TDs

The Pats got a quick start with an interception and 35-yard return by **George Wilson** that set up an easy TD by **Adrian Peterson**. A 31-yard pass to **Brian Hartline** on the next series keyed a long drive that ended with **AP** diving over the top to make it 14-0. The Swords scored when **Victor Cruz** capped an 87-yard drive with a 20-yard TD catch. After the Pats scored an 8-yard TD pass to **Jason Witten**, York answered before the half with a 26-yard TD pass to **Kevin Walter**. The Pats turned to possession football in the 2nd half and forced another red zone turnover to hamper York's comeback.

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



MUSTANGS
10-4-0

3	0	0	0	0	3
OT					

Matt Ryan
20 of 38, 140 yards, 2 INTs,



BLUE EAGLES
5-9-0

0	20	17	13	0	50
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Aaron Rodgers
18 of 23, 185 yards, 4 TDs

A grueling 16-play opening drive by the Mustangs yielded the game's first points, a 33-yard **Nick Folk** FG. That would be all the top team in the South could muster on a day that belonged to Scarborough. Penalties on the Garland defence and a well-balanced Blue Eagles' attack led to a 20-3 lead for the home team at half time. The game broke heavily in favour of Scarborough with an 83-yard run by **CJ Spiller** to start the 2nd half, setting up a TD pass to **Jermaine Gresham**. Two picks of **Matt Ryan**, including a pick-six by **Jerrell Freeman**, kept Garland at bay while the Eagles' offence romped.



NORTH STARS
11-3-0

7	14	5	0	0	26
OT					

Calais Campbell
4 Sacks, Safety



TRIUMPH
6-8-0

0	0	0	7	0	7
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Jason Campbell
21 of 29, 118 yards, 1 TD

The Triumph were unable to keep a promising opening drive alive after **Trent Cole** snuffed out a fake punt by stopping punter **Jon Ryan** for no gain on 4th and 1. The Markham defence dominated after that, sacking **Jason Campbell** 6 times – 4 of those by **Calais Campbell** that included a safety in the 3rd quarter – and forcing a turnover in the 2nd quarter that led to a 31-yard TD pass from **Eli Manning** to **Jordy Nelson** for their 3rd TD and a 21-0 lead. The North Stars kept the ball on the ground, but were effective when they went to the air, with Manning finishing 8 of 11 for 103 yards and 2 TDs.



CANNIBALS
5-9-0

7	3	3	11	0	24
OT					

Maurice Jones-Drew
18 Carries, 77 yards, 1 TD



MONARCHS
4-10-0

0	0	7	14	0	21
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DeMarco Murray
25 Carries, 151 yards, 1 TD

Cannibals' LB **Brooks Reed** blocked a punt late in the 1st quarter that led to an 11-yard draw for a TD by **Fred Jackson** to open the scoring. In the 2nd, a strip of **Ryan Tannehill** by **Greg Hardy** led to a Carthage FG before the half. Tannehill connected with **Dominik Hixon** for a 22-yard TD pass to open the 2nd half then, after Carthage had added a FG, put his team in front with a 1-yard sneak for a TD. An 8-yard TD run and 2-pt convert by **MJD** made it 21-14. The Monarchs tied it on a **DeMarco Murray** 6-yard TD run, but **Steve Hauschka** kicked a 50-yard game-winning FG with no time left.

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



CORN KINGS
8-6-0

14	7	7	7	0	35
OT					

Alfred Morris
26 Carries, 193 yards, 2 TDs



REGULATORS
7-7-0

10	7	7	7	0	31
OT					

Tony Romo
26 of 32, 265 yards, 4 TDs

The Regs opened with a 68-yard TD pass from **Tony Romo** to **AJ Green**, but Cowtown answered with a pair of TD drives in their first two possessions to seize the initiative in a back-and-forth shootout. After a 56-yard FG by **Rob Bironas**, the teams alternated scoring touchdowns, with Cowtown staying a step ahead until an interception by **Sam Shields** turned the tables and set up the go-ahead TD for the Regs on a 3-yard TD pass to **Jacquizz Rodgers**. **Joe Flacco** found **Larry Fitzgerald** for an 11-yard TD pass to regain the lead then **Everson Griffen** sacked Romo to stop the Carolina comeback.



CONVICTS
8-6-0

14	0	7	13	0	34
OT					

Cam Newton
20 of 30, 272 yards, 4 TDs



UNDERTAKERS
7-7-0

0	10	21	0	0	31
OT					

RGIII
28 of 40, 402 yards, 4 TDs

The Convicts charged out to a quick 14-0 lead on TD passes of 81 and 18 yards from **Cam Newton** to **Roddy White**, but the Undertakers turned back the tide with a 75-yard bomb from **RGIII** to **Andre Johnson** and a sack and strip by **Charles Johnson** leading to a FG before the half. Three TD passes to AJ in the 3rd quarter gave Death Valley a 31-21 lead, but Newton drew his team within 3 points with a 3-yard TD pass to **James Jones** before a pick by **Jo-Lonn Dunbar** set up the tying FG. **Alex Henery** missed a late 43-yard FG attempt but **Dan Bailey** was true from 55 yards for the game-winner.



CUBS
9-5-0

14	7	17	0	0	31
OT					

Trent Richardson
27 Carries, 138 yards, 2 TDs



KNIGHTS
4-10-0

0	7	0	7	0	14
OT					

Andre Brown
23 Carries, 129 yards, 1 TD

Tavon Austin returned the 1st Knights' punt for a 73-yard TD to give the Cubs a lead before their offence had touched the ball. The 2nd punt by **Steve Weatherford** backed the Cubs to their 8, but a 51-yard bomb to **Steve Smith** put them back in Knights' territory and led to an 8-yard TD run by **Trent Richardson**. LA struck back with a 3-yard TD run by **Andre Brown** set up by a **Charles Woodson** pick in Cubs' territory, but that was answered immediately by **Colin Kaepernick** hitting **Tony Gonzalez** for a 10-yard TD pass. A 17-point 3rd quarter for the Cubs took any doubt in the final outcome.



STATS



WEEK FOURTEEN

STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood (y)	9	5	0	0.643	438	31.3	334	23.9	7.4	4 3 0	4 2 0	7 3 0
Virden	8	6	0	0.571	376	26.9	341	24.4	2.5	4 3 0	4 2 0	6 4 0
York	7	7	0	0.5	335	23.9	300	21.4	2.5	5 2 0	3 4 0	5 5 0
Mohave	5	9	0	0.357	269	19.2	399	28.5	-9.3	2 5 0	3 4 0	4 6 0
Carthage	5	9	0	0.357	239	17.1	360	25.7	-8.6	4 3 0	2 4 0	4 6 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Iowa City	9	5	0	0.643	343	24.5	304	21.7	2.8	4 3 0	6 1 0	7 3 0
Chino	8	6	0	0.571	396	28.3	310	22.1	6.1	5 2 0	5 2 0	7 3 0
Death Valley	7	7	0	0.5	427	30.5	456	32.6	-2.1	4 3 0	2 4 0	4 6 0
Los Angeles	4	10	0	0.286	245	17.5	377	26.9	-9.4	1 6 0	1 5 0	3 7 0
Mission Viejo	4	10	0	0.286	220	15.7	360	25.7	-10	2 5 0	2 4 0	3 7 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham (y)	11	3	0	0.786	434	31	305	21.8	9.2	7 0 0	4 2 0	8 2 0
Markham (y)	11	3	0	0.786	371	26.5	258	18.4	8.1	5 2 0	6 1 0	8 2 0
Cowtown	8	6	0	0.571	407	29.1	303	21.6	7.4	4 3 0	1 5 0	5 5 0
Pickering	8	6	0	0.571	352	25.1	334	23.9	1.3	4 3 0	3 4 0	6 4 0
Twin Cities	6	8	0	0.429	288	20.6	346	24.7	-4.1	3 4 0	2 4 0	3 7 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Garland (z)	10	4	0	0.714	395	28.2	255	18.2	10	5 2 0	5 2 0	6 4 0
South Carolina	7	7	0	0.5	297	21.2	315	22.5	-1.3	5 2 0	3 3 0	4 6 0
Gwinnett	6	8	0	0.429	280	20	289	20.6	-0.6	5 2 0	4 2 0	5 5 0
Scarborough	5	9	0	0.357	287	20.5	366	26.1	-5.6	2 5 0	3 3 0	4 6 0
Sebastian	2	12	0	0.143	221	15.8	308	22	-6.2	0 7 0	1 6 0	1 9 0

(z)-clinched division

(y)-clinched wildcard

PASSING

Passing	Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1 Smith, A LAK	231	170	73.6	1703	5	2.2	54	17	7.4	109.6
2 Manning, P CHP	442	318	71.9	3547	11	2.5	59	26	5.9	104.7
3 Griffin II DVU	414	267	64.5	3218	14	3.4	77	32	7.7	99.9
4 Newton, C CHI	372	242	65.1	2907	10	2.7	81	24	6.5	99.2
5 Brees DTL	519	335	64.5	4269	20	3.9	59	37	7.1	97.9
6 Romo SC	468	326	69.7	3455	12	2.6	78	23	4.9	96.6
7 Rodgers, A SBE	508	339	66.7	3479	9	1.8	87	24	4.7	94.6
8 Ryan, M GDM	449	295	65.7	3242	11	2.4	62	23	5.1	93.8
9 Wilson, R ICC	318	214	67.3	2652	11	3.5	60	14	4.4	93.2
10 Manning, E MAR	368	218	59.2	2689	13	3.5	46	28	7.6	92.5
11 Flacco COW	505	296	58.6	3718	13	2.6	71	32	6.3	92.0
12 Roethlisbe GWG	318	198	62.3	1881	4	1.3	39	16	5.0	90.1
13 Stafford VV	467	264	56.5	3367	14	3.0	54	32	6.9	89.6
14 Brady YOR	520	307	59.0	3763	7	1.3	69	20	3.8	88.6
15 Cutler TCT	388	238	61.3	2748	11	2.8	58	19	4.9	87.2
16 Schaub PIC	490	290	59.2	3435	16	3.3	73	26	5.3	84.7
17 Rivers, P CAR	390	261	66.9	2312	9	2.3	57	12	3.1	83.2
18 Tannehill MVM	402	234	58.2	2621	10	2.5	78	18	4.5	82.3
19 Luck MOH	375	209	55.7	2344	13	3.5	52	17	4.5	75.2
20 Dalton SS	458	266	58.1	2881	14	3.1	82	14	3.1	74.1
21 Bradford, S LAK	149	81	54.4	678	6	4.0	32	1	0.7	51.8
22 Hekker COW	1	1	100.0	12	0	0.0	12	0	0.0	116.7
23 Hill, Sh LAK	13	8	61.5	96	0	0.0	21	1	7.7	109.8
24 Cousins CHI	50	35	70.0	394	2	4.0	46	3	6.0	96.6
25 Kaepernick ICC	111	65	58.6	912	2	1.8	64	6	5.4	95.6

RUSHING

Rushing		Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	Morris	COW	321	1813	5.6	44	14
2	Peterson,A	CHP	349	1779	5.1	29	21
3	Martin,D	TCT	295	1369	4.6	31	8
4	Jackson,S	PIC	265	1342	5.1	30	6
5	Charles,J	VV	229	1288	5.6	71	3
6	Johnson,C	CHI	263	1263	4.8	60	4
7	Foster,A	GDM	240	1156	4.8	66	17
8	Gore	SC	223	1136	5.1	39	6
9	Bush,R	DTL	195	1081	5.5	35	8
10	Greene	LAK	264	1053	4.0	29	1
11	Bradshaw	GWG	208	1041	5.0	41	8
12	Richardson	ICC	181	854	4.7	33	7
13	Ridley	DVU	191	825	4.3	23	2
14	Ball,M	MOH	207	820	4.0	27	5
15	Williams,D	MAR	152	743	4.9	48	5
16	Pierce	MVM	172	734	4.3	34	4
17	Turner,M	YOR	180	721	4.0	48	9
18	Spiller	SBE	150	708	4.7	83	3
19	Bernard	YOR	149	673	4.5	44	7
20	Dwyer	MOH	121	666	5.5	35	2
21	Griffin II	DVU	106	644	6.1	34	4
22	Newton,C	CHI	117	611	5.2	27	7
23	Forte	GDM	131	581	4.4	51	2
24	Rice,R	SBE	142	551	3.9	49	5
25	Lacy	CAR	126	529	4.2	55	2

RECEIVING

Receiving		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	Johnson,C	DTL	104	1693	16.3	59	17
2	White,R	CHI	97	1551	16.0	81	12
3	Graham,J	MOH	87	914	10.5	31	6
4	Johnson,A	DVU	86	1887	21.9	82	26
5	Welker	SBE	85	1022	12.0	87	6
6	Crabtree,M	CHP	82	1103	13.5	59	11
7	Witten	CHP	81	749	9.2	44	6
8	Thomas,D	PIC	80	1128	14.1	57	10
9	Bryant,D	VV	79	1186	15.0	54	14
10	Wayne	GWG	76	905	11.9	39	11
11	Lloyd,B	GDM	73	1007	13.8	62	4
12	Cruz	YOR	72	1124	15.6	55	7
13	Marshall	SBE	71	907	12.8	87	8
14	Jackson,V	PIC	68	1097	16.1	73	6
15	Cobb	DVU	67	635	9.5	25	6
16	Jones,J	VV	67	978	14.6	31	10
17	Rudolph	CAR	64	549	8.6	29	5
18	Gonzalez	ICC	64	749	11.7	27	5
19	Green,A	SC	64	876	13.7	77	7
20	Boldin	GDM	62	774	12.5	46	13
21	Smith,S	ICC	62	1218	19.6	64	9
22	Fitzgerald	COW	62	777	12.5	44	9
23	Decker	DTL	62	833	13.4	50	4
24	Pitta	MVM	59	599	10.2	78	6
25	Roberts,A	LAK	55	582	10.6	31	3

KICKING

Kicking		FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts	
1	Folk	GDM	25	24	96.0	5	2	55	114
2	Tynes	VV	26	23	88.5	7	2	52	112
3	Bailey,D	CHI	28	22	78.6	9	2	55	112
4	Dawson	DTL	21	19	90.5	7	3	54	110
5	Walsh	YOR	27	23	85.2	9	3	57	107
6	Zuerlein	ICC	30	21	70.0	9	1	51	103
7	Hartley	CHP	19	16	84.2	7	1	52	102
8	Henery	DVU	20	18	90.0	9	4	54	101
9	Scobee	PIC	25	21	84.0	6	3	54	100
10	Prater	MOH	26	24	92.3	9	1	54	99
11	Novak	COW	24	20	83.3	9	1	53	99
12	Graham,S	MAR	24	18	75.0	4	0	49	99
13	Suisham	GWG	23	21	91.3	7	4	51	92
14	Bironas	SC	24	20	83.3	9	1	56	91
15	Hauschka	CAR	26	22	84.6	9	4	54	87
16	Lindell	LAK	20	17	85.0	7	2	54	77
17	Janikowski	SBE	18	14	77.8	2	1	51	77
18	Gostkowski	TCT	15	12	80.0	3	1	54	72
19	Vinatieri	SS	19	16	84.2	6	2	54	67
20	Carpenter	MVM	13	10	76.9	5	2	53	56

TACKLES

Tackles			
1	Kuechly	SC	149
2	Riley	SS	128
3	Freeman, J	SBE	127
4	Dunbar	CHI	125
5	Mayo	DVU	115
6	Willis, P	ICC	111
7	Barwin	LAK	107
8	Posluszny	VV	103
9	Wagner	TCT	99
10	Washington	PIC	96
11	Jackson, D	MAR	93
12	Bowman	GDM	90
13	Laurinaiti	GWG	90
14	Barnett	VV	89
15	Ninkovich	MAR	87
16	Woodyard	YOR	86
17	Hawk	MVM	85
18	Houston, J	MOH	83
19	Tulloch	COW	83
20	Bailey, C	DTL	81
21	Cromartie	MAR	81
22	Greenway	LAK	81
23	Miller, V	YOR	79
24	McClain, R	SC	77
25	Hali	SC	77

SACKS

Sacks			
1	Smith, A	VV	20
2	Johnson, C	DVU	13
3	Watt	GDM	13
4	Atkins	YOR	12
5	Long, C	DVU	10
6	Johnson, M	YOR	10
7	Hardy	CAR	9
8	Griffen	COW	9
9	Ninkovich	MAR	9
10	Wake	MOH	9
11	Houston, J	MOH	9
12	Smith, A	VV	9
13	Harrison, J	CHI	8
14	Dumervil	DTL	8
15	Abraham	MAR	8
16	Peppers	CHI	8
17	Phillips, S	CHP	7
18	Irvin, B	MOH	7
19	Quinn, R	LAK	7
20	Jordan, C	MVM	7
21	Smith, W	GDM	7
22	Campbell, C	MAR	7
23	Matthews, C	DVU	6
24	Kerrigan	COW	6
25	Dareus	COW	6

INTERCEPTIONS

Interceptions		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	Clark, R	YOR	5	77	15.4	66	0
2	Elam	DVU	5	70	14.0	26	0
3	Hayward, C	ICC	5	68	13.6	30	0
4	DeCoud	GWG	5	62	12.4	34	0
5	Barber	SS	5	120	24.0	52	1
6	Sherman	DTL	4	40	10.0	16	0
7	Jones, R	ICC	4	51	12.8	43	0
8	Reid, E	TCT	4	51	12.8	29	0
9	Jackson, K	CHP	4	70	17.5	28	1
10	Reed, E	MAR	3	74	24.7	62	0
11	Williams, M	PIC	3	93	31.0	63	1
12	Ward, T	PIC	3	81	27.0	81	0
13	Slay	TCT	3	47	15.7	47	0
14	Wagner	TCT	3	91	30.3	49	1
15	Williams, T	VV	3	85	28.3	43	0
16	Finnegan	CHI	3	121	40.3	63	0
17	Johnson, L	CHP	3	116	38.7	51	3
18	Samuel	YOR	3	19	6.3	13	0
19	Mathieu	DTL	3	49	16.3	47	1
20	McDonald, T	LAK	3	48	16.0	34	1
21	Vaccaro	LAK	3	95	31.7	39	0
22	Freeman, J	SBE	3	45	15.0	26	1
23	Cox, D	SBE	3	36	12.0	32	0
24	Peterson, P	GDM	3	53	17.7	26	1
25	Thomas, E	GDM	3	116	38.7	57	1

Welcome to the

BLOGOSPHERE



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WHERE FANS SPEAK

DINOS JOIN BUSH LEAGUE!

BY DEACON BANCROFT (CONTRIBUTOR) ON JANUARY 12, 2014

Reggie Bush



How do you make a top flight air attack even better? You give it ground support. Any General worth his or her stars will agree. But there are fans out there who think all you need to fly in the EFL these days are big wing spans made of Calvin Johnsons and Andre Johnsons and Roddy Whites with heavy weaponry made of Jimmy Grahams and Jason Wittens.

Air power cannot do it alone, even in the pass-happy football era we live in. Sure an offence is blind without air power, but without a true running threat no ground they take can be easily held. The Dinos' air attack is the best in the league and we all know why. But what happens when that air attack is shot down by enemy defenders? After this week's win over the Spartans we know the answer to that question: you hire a "bush" pilot and attack where the opponent least expects it.

Drew didn't have a good day. It started well, but ended badly. With the score tied at 17 in the 4th quarter and 3 interceptions on his stat line already, George Kaldis turned to Reggie Bush, sending him into the line 8 times in a 12-play drive. All Reggie did was earn 40 yards and 3 first downs to set up Phil Dawson for the go-ahead field goal. Bush had already scored a TD in the game and after Dawson made the winning kick in OT, he had 122 rushing yards on 22 carries, putting him over the 1,000-yard mark for the season – a major accomplishment for the Dinos.

To put it in perspective, the Lizards have not had a 1,000-yard rusher since Michael Turner ran for 1,225 yards in 2009. Ironically, the team that can't run was the first team to own a 2,000-yard rusher in the EFL, Frank Gore, who led the league in 2007. That performance seemed to get the running out of the Durham system, and since then they have been primarily a vertical team. Well, it appears that problem is no more.

"Reggie re-ignited our offence," Kaldis said. "He'll get more chances next week, believe me."



AROUND THE



With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – The turbulent 2013 EFL regular season is building toward its unpredictable climax and tensions are rising like this writer has never seen in the league's seven years. In the past, one could always count on a couple of vain, profanity-laced outbursts at the news podium by Mohave coach, **Bobby Elder** to add some spice to the late season coverage of the Hellfire. Then of course, Spartans' owner **Gus Konstantakos** would inevitably experience several violent meltdowns, to varying degrees of severity, throughout the season following Pickering losses; usually nobody would be actually hurt by these tantrums, although property damage invariably occurred. But increasing parity in the EFL seems to be increasing the stress levels of both coaches and fans to unprecedented heights. Even journalists are becoming frayed around the edges; either that or else some of them are just plain bonkers. Read on.....

THE TEST OF THE FIVE FIENDS

The sight of **EJ Manuel** struggling against York last week was enough to cause Carthage coach, **Ken Main** to change his mind about his team's course heading into their Week 14 contest at Mission Viejo. He even took the unusual step of calling a press conference to announce that **Philip Rivers** would be, once again, his starting quarterback, and would be so for the remainder of the season.

"We do not wish to be bottom feeders in this league," Main stated forcefully as he looked at the sparsely attended gallery with the piercing glare of a military commander steeling his troops for a last stand. "Hope for a title may be gone for this season, but this is not about winning a title. It is about pride, purpose, and destruction of the enemy when it is in our power to bring that destruction upon them! When the Cannibal consumes his enemy, it bestows the power of that enemy upon him. We will consume our opponents until the very end and with each one we will grow stronger, until we have consumed all who would oppose us!"

The startled members of the Press in attendance, mostly from the Samoa News and EA-TV in Pago Pago, with a handful of Mission Viejo scribes and reporters, gazed at each other quizzically as if to ask, 'do you know where this is going?' Only one, **Kokopali Crimpton** of the *Carthage Carving*, a local weekly, seemed to know. He stared at Main with obvious glee, his war-paint spattered face and blue-dyed, 10-inch standing tuft of hair helping to create a lot of standing room between him and the next reporter.

"The 'Test of the Five Fiends' is complete. Our youngest warrior, **EJ**, has faced the Five Fiends and survived. He now must return to the Circle of Study to learn more of the art of war. I welcome the return of the Mighty Philip to lead us to victory, to visit pain and ruination upon our enemies, beginning this week against the False Kings."

"*Aaahheeeeeee!*" a blood-curdling shriek came from Crimpton, who raised both his arms above his head and started to bounce rapidly on the balls of his feet., causing Main to look in his direction and say, "and you can bring news that back to the elders, Crimp."

After a long pause at the podium, during which **Kokopali Crimpton** whooped it up with some alarmingly deranged vocal noises, **Michael S. Hickenbottom** of the Orange County Register raised his hand to ask a question.

Catching the movement, Main pointed at Hickenbottom and said, "Yes, you, the young man in the glasses."

"Is that it?" Hickenbottom asked with obvious letdown in his voice. "You called us here to tell us you're making the switch back to **Philip Rivers** at QB?"

"Well, yes, yes it is; and to tell you that EJ was successful, very successful, in passing the test of the...test of the five....five fiends. That doesn't happen every day, you know" stammered Main, apparently ruffled at the lack of impact this news was having on nearly everyone in the room except the guy with the painted face.

Some of the members of the gallery began to pack up and leave, obviously not interested in learning more about the Cannibals' quarterback situation. But the Monarchs reporter wanted some more material, possibly to hang Main with later.

"Are you guaranteeing a victory, then, against the Monarchs on Sunday?" he asked, a slight smile crossing his face.

"I am saying that we are going to leave it all on the field before we return home for the season finale," answered Main.

"But, you're not sure you can win, even with Philip Rivers at quarterback, is that correct?" Hickenbottom countered.

"No, that's not correct! Of course we can win!" Main slammed his fist on the podium.

"But you're not sure, though," the cocky Hickenbottom goaded.

"I am sure about one thing, you little sh%^," Main grimaced, "I'll....." but before Main could finish, **Kokopali Crimpton** bellowed loudly, pointed at Hickenbottom then lunged in his direction. The startled Monarchs' scribe backed away and was saved from a roundhouse boot to the chops by the lucky intervention of a length of cable wire, which was being gathered up by a TV crewman, that caught Crimpton's pivot foot as it was turning, causing him to fall on his backside.

Reporters scattered as the painted man with the strange hair bounced back up and braced to take another run at Hickenbottom. But before he could make his move, Main shouted into the microphone, "That's enough, Crimp! He's harmless....more than harmless, actually. The team will do its talking on the field tomorrow." And with that the press gathering quickly dispersed.



Kokopali Crimpton, writer for the *Carthage Carving*, holds up a giant tortoise in this undated Facebook photo. Son of a U.S. serviceman serving in Samoa, Crimpton "went native," turning down a football scholarship at the University of Hawaii to follow Headball and Polynesian martial arts.

The announcement of Rivers returning to starting duties from the bench was about as newsworthy as a forecast for light showers and mild north-westerly winds. Arguably, no established veteran starting quarterback had been put in and pulled out of the starting line-up with as much frequency as Rivers had in his EFL career. But the *broohaha* at the end of this announcement did draw national attention, after the fact, as well as unanswered questions about the Test of the Five Fiends.

The answer to that is tied into the reason for the grandstanding by Main prior to a meaningless game against a meaningless opponent. His announcement was all about building the Cannibals' fan base in a fragile Polynesian football market; a market that includes a segment of the Samoan population that still believes in the ancient rites of manhood and war, and prefers traditional Headball over Football. The *Test of the Five Fiends*, one of those ancient rites, is the test that must be passed by the War Leader of a Village. Cutting through the imprecise translations of old oral legends and modern attempts to 'sanitize' the practices of primitive peoples, my research shows that it involved the prospective great warrior' showing his toughness by having the living hell beaten out of him by the five strongest men in the Village – a practice not dissimilar to a Crips or Bloods "beat down" today. If he survived and thanked his tormentors with precious gifts, he was anointed Chief Warrior of the Village and accorded many valuable privileges.

Kokopali Crimpton, a wannabe native Samoan born of American parents, had been one of the few voices critical of the Cannibals and American Football generally, although he covered the team for the Samoan Nationalist publication the *Carthage Carving*. A former football player himself, he had written articles describing football as pure entertainment and no longer the test of manhood it had once been. Claiming to speak for "True Samoans" he demanded "warrior football" from the Cannibals and a "return to traditional values." With the Cannibals falling in the standings, he had also demanded a "test" of the "uninitiated" **EJ Manuel** to prove he was worthy to stand on the field with **Philip Rivers**. Although Manuel's virtually unrehearsed performance against York appeared to be a disaster from a football viewpoint, it had been well received by traditionalist Samoans, especially since Main had presented it in the context of the ancient Test of the Five Fiends and Manuel had looked overwhelmed during the experience. Strangely, the more Manuel struggled, the higher the value of the test was in the minds of native traditionalists.

As for the Week 14 match-up at HMK Royal Coliseum in Mission Viejo, the Cannibals and Monarchs put on a fine performance for those few who cared to take it in. The teams combined for 25 points in the 4th quarter in a see-saw battle that ended with the Cannibals in the high seat as **Steven Hauschka** booted a 50-yard field goal with no time on the clock to win 24-21.

HELLFIRE HATH NO FURY LIKE A BARRATE BURNED

In Virden, the Violators took a page from the Death Valley playbook by attempting an onside kick to start the second half while leading 17-0. **Brandon Banks** of the Hellfire recovered at the Mohave 45, giving his team good field position to start the first of three touchdown drives over their next four possessions, erasing the deficit and giving Mohave a 21-17 lead. Virden would get the lead back mid-way in the 4th quarter, but in the end would lose on a gutsy 4th and goal gambit by Mohave coach **Bobby Elder** with 1:40 left in the game.

With the ball less than a yard away from the goal line, but needing just a field goal to tie it, Elder tore a page from the

'Banzai' chapter of the Death Valley playbook, the same chapter containing the infamous 'All-or-nothing two-point convert' play. With the Virden line stacked with 10 in the box, **Mike "the Toll Booth" Tolbert** crashed in off right tackle for the big score, giving Mohave a stunning 28-24 upset over heavily favoured Virden.

As it had done to **Peyton Manning** the previous week, the red-hot Hellfire pass rush gave **Matt Stafford** more than he could handle. Mohave pressure resulted in 4 sacks and 3 Stafford interceptions, two of those coming in the 2nd half during the critical Mohave comeback phase.

Mohave has won three of its last four games and now must be considered a dangerous opponent for any team with a stake in the playoffs. The Violators have now dropped two in a row, with Stafford struggling in both games. The usually impassive **Lance Barrate** is showing the stress of a season which has seen his team's fortunes rise and fall like a sailboat on a stormy sea. His usually conversational post-game press conferences have turned snippy, while his estrangement from his quarterback is becoming clear to see despite attempts to conceal the discord. When asked about his quarterback's recent performances, Barrate's jaw set and the corners of his mouth rose in the motion of a smile while his eyes glared at the questioner.

"I think Matt has a wealth of talent and is capable of great things in this game and I love Matt, I really do," he began. "But I think Matt would be the first to tell you that he can do a better job than he did today at finding the hot read in those blitz situations. I think Matt would be the first to step up and take responsibility for this loss, even though he and I know it's a team game and doesn't fall on any single player's shoulder....although Matt has big shoulders and uses them a lot. He's not afraid to come out and admit that he may have played a little soft in certain situations, backed off his throws instead of stepping into them, you know....*panicked* at times. Football is a tough game and no matter how long you play it, there are bound to be times out there when you wish you had taken up that basket-weaving or cooking you took in college. I'm sure Matt thought about that a few times today when he should have been reading the defence. But stuff like that happens in the game of football, although it happens more with pussies than with guys like Matt, and you just have to let it go and get ready for the next game. We have a game against the Pats coming up and I expect Matt will get his sorry a---, I mean our sorry *attack* in gear for that important game. That is all, folks."

And with that, Barrate closed his note folder, walked off the podium, and kicked a TV camera off its tripod while yelling expletives that cannot be reprinted here.

THE BRONTOLYZER

So, what happens when you not only control **Drew Brees**, but knock him off his game completely? You still lose, apparently. Ask **Gus Konstantakos** of the Pickering Spartans about it....on second thought, don't. Ask one of his assistants, because Konstantakos is presently sleeping off the effects of a tranquilizer dart fired into him by a Jurassic Park game warden following an epic outburst that started in the guest owner's box and ended in the parking lot at an overturned hot dog cart. It took the custom-made 'Brontolyzer,' a one-of-a-kind sedation weapon designed to bring down large dinosaurs that stray from their protected enclave into the parking lots of the prehistoric theme park in Durham, to fell the rampaging and berserk Pickering owner. Video of the dramatic takedown from dozens of different cell-phone camera angles can be found on YouTube, while CBS has broadcast a great bird's eye view of the standoff from the Goat Blimp.

Damage as a result of this one-man riot is estimated at more than a million dollars, an astounding figure given the relative brevity of the episode and the fact that it was entirely caused by Konstantakos' bare hands. Miraculously, nobody was seriously hurt, although one security guard who attempted to restrain him suffered a gash to his head after being lifted and hurled over the bar in the luxury box. Konstantakos, known for his violent outbursts, may have gone too far this time. But, according to sycophantic, dim-witted *Pickering Post* hack, **Aristedes Kalogiannis**, the Spartans' owner was provoked beyond endurance. Here is an excerpt from his online Post column:

*"What is a true Spartan to do when faced with such craven treachery? The Ephialtes in our midst, **Steven Jackson**, could not have been more unexpected and therefore could not have been more treacherous. The cornerstone of our offence, failing at such a critical juncture, would cause Ares to weep uncontrollably, and rain violent death upon a thousand warriors. What are a few discarded hot dogs in comparison? They are mere trifles in the big picture."*

Unhappy as well, but not criminally so, was Durham coach **George Kaldis**, who referred to his quarterback's performance as "one of the worst I've ever seen by a winning quarterback." Brees struggled inexplicably after his team jumped out to a 14-3 lead, one of those touchdowns coming on a nice throw to the back shoulder of **Danny Amendola** for a 19-yard score. With timing ticking away in the first half and the Lizards facing 3rd and 9, Brees threw a wobbler directly into the arms of safety **Morgan Burnett**, who returned it 24 yards into Durham territory, setting up a touchdown run by **Tashard Choice** that checked the early Durham momentum.

After the teams battled to a 20-20 deadlock, the Lizards were marching across mid field with less than one minute left in the game when Brees threw a screen pass into the arms of Spartans' lineman **Ray McDonald** to force overtime. After the Spartans' defence had held the Lizards to a single first down on the opening possession of overtime, they took over at their own 30 yard line. But a couple of bad runs brought disastrous results. After losing a yard, a wild pitch to **Steven Jackson** on the second try pushed him backwards. As the Pickering star tried to reverse his field, **Jared Allen** hammered the ball loose and it was recovered by **Curtis Lofton** at the 22 yard line. Not wanting to risk another turnover, Kaldis sent out his field goal team without hesitation, and **Phil Dawson** put this game into the 'W' column with a 40-yard boot inside the right upright, unknowingly setting off a streak of

unbridled violence that would only end with the deployment of the 'Brontolyzer.'

WHERE EAGLES DARE

In frigid, snowy Scarborough it appeared after one quarter that the defences of the Mustangs and Blue Eagles were gearing up for day-long struggle. But five penalties on the Mustangs' defence, including 3 personal foul calls, helped a slow but steady Scarborough offence hang 20 points on the board and command a 20-3 lead by half time. The second half adjustments by **Ricky "Coco" Main** apparently involved whipping his defence into an even greater frenzy, because on Scarborough's opening possession of the second half linebackers **Anthony Spencer** and **Erin Henderson** came screaming through the line on a wildly-conceived blitz, running right past **CJ Spiller** toward **Aaron Rodgers** and leaving the Eagles' shifty running back more space than he has seen all season. Spiller broke an 83-yard run that set up a 5-yard TD pass to **Jermaine Gresham** to make it 27-3 and the 'Scarborough Massacre' was officially in full swing.

When the snow cleared, the scoreboard read Blue Eagles 50, Mustangs 3. Nobody could believe it. Everything you thought you saw in this Scarborough team prior to the start of the season finally surfaced in this game, while everything that nobody but **Doug Shirley** had expected to see from the Mustangs reared its ugly head. It was a total and, for Garland fans, frightening domination by a team that had been building up a lot of anger over the course of the previous 13 weeks.

The fans, too, had been angry and their season-long frustration came pouring out of them as their team piled on the points. The few that were in attendance relished taunting the Garland players on the sideline, prompting a confrontation when **Ricky Main** approached the foot of the stands and heaved a cooler of Gatorade at a drunken, shirtless fan, soaking him and those next to him in the beverage. This caused a half dozen drunken brutes to pile over the wall and go after Main, who took them on with obvious glee. Security and police managed to break up the melee and escort a bloodied but laughing Main off the field while ambulance personnel tended to the wounded fans. But on the field of play, the Blue Eagles had managed to wound their now bitter rival, severely shaking the Mustangs' pride and knocking them down a peg in the race for the first seed in the Can-Am Conference.

AROUND THE EFL

Having covered the most violent of the outbursts in a stress-packed Week14 in the EFL, here is a quick rundown of the rest:

It was the second classic battle in two weeks at the Graveyard as the visiting Chino Convicts broke the un-beating hearts of the Undead in Death Valley with a last second 34-31 victory on a booming 55-yard field goal by **Dan Bailey**. In a game that some had predicted would be riddled by turnovers, **RGIII** and **Cam Newton** squared off and put their passing skills on display, throwing four TD passes each. The Undertakers overcame an early 14-0 deficit to lead 31-21 in the third quarter after the practically unstoppable duo of **RGIII** to **Andre Johnson** hooked up for four touchdown passes. Not to be outdone, Captain Cam hit **Roddy White** for a 30-yard pass while the Undertakers obsessed over the running threat of **Chris Johnson**, making up big chunk of real estate in a touchdown drive that made it 31-28. **Jo-Lonn Dunbar**, the Convicts' star free agent, then picked off **RGIII** to set up the tying field goal. The Undertakers drove back and, uncharacteristically, went for the points instead of the first down on 4th and inches at the Chino 25. **Alex Henery** missed the 43-yard attempt, pushing it to the right, giving the ball back to the Convicts for the game-winning drive. **Chris Worthley** will likely second-guess himself for what will be a long off-season if the Undertakers cannot recover from their Week 14 setback.

At the Carolina Slammer, the visiting Corn Kings gained the upper hand over the Regulators in the race for runner-up to the last wild card spot with a thrilling 35-31 shootout victory. Cowtown survived the only turnover of the game, a 4th quarter pick by **Sam Shields** that set up the go-ahead touchdown drive for the Regs. **Joe Flacco** finished off a ploughing ground drive with a bulls-eye to **Larry Fitzgerald** in the end zone from 11 yards out that gave the Kings a 35-31 lead with 5:52 left. **Tony Romo** led his offence back up the field, converting a key 4th and 4 in South Carolina territory and moving all the way to the Cowtown 32 yard line. But the Corn Kings, that had been labouring all afternoon with Justin Smith out with an injury, came up big on 4th down, with **Everson Griffen** sacking Romo to all but seal the win.

The North Stars toyed with the Triumph at the Metrodome, dumping them with ease, 26-7. **Calais Campbell** had a nose for back-up quarterback, **Jason Campbell**, sacking him four times, once in the end zone for a safety. The Triumph had a sense from the outset that it would take an extraordinary performance to bump off the top team in the league. When the opening drive stalled at the Markham 40, **Guy Williams** dipped into his bag of tricks and called for a fake punt on 4th and 1, but the North Stars were waiting for it, stopping **Jon Ryan** for no gain. The game would get no fancier than that. Markham opted for the 1930's era style they naturally prefer, running 37 times with 9 different running backs and passing just 11. This austere game plan only wins when you have a good offensive line and a good defence putting pressure on a mediocre quarterback on the other end. The North Stars had a "rest week" in Week 14 and must now dial up a modern-era game plan to take on the Mustangs in Week 15.

At Patriot Place, the Pats grabbed a quick 14-0 lead and never looked back in a 34-21 victory over York that clinched them a playoff spot. A pair of critical turnovers by the Swords in their own territory gave **Peyton Manning** and **Adrian Peterson** short fields for two TDs. **Tom Brady** was slow to get into a rhythm and by the time he did, it was an uphill struggle all the way.

At the Coliseum in Gwinnett, the Glads saw a 14-0 second quarter lead turn into 17-14 third quarter deficit as the Swordfish challenged the better team for a second consecutive week. With the score tied 17-17, **Ahmad Bradshaw** broke a 36-yard run up the middle to enter Swordfish territory then finished off the winning drive five plays later with a 4-yard scoring run.

Finally, at Round Table Stadium, **Colin Kaepernick** showed what he could do when facing token competition, leading the Cubs over the defenceless Knights in a painless 38-14 victory that kept the Cubs one game ahead of Chino in the West.

BUG THE BOOKIE!

JIMMY THE GEEK GIVES YOU HIS PICKS
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RECORD VS THE SPREAD AFTER WEEK 14:

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PLAYOFF PICTURE AT A GLANCE

		PACIFIC-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE		CAN-AM CONFERENCE	
OUT	ALIVE	IN	IN	ALIVE	OUT
			1		
			2		
			3		
			4		

JIMMY'S WEEK FIFTEEN PICKS

GAMES TO WATCH

VIRDEN @ CHARLESWOOD (line – PATRIOTS by 4)

INJURIES: Virден – Brandon Meriweather (OUT), Fili Moala (OUT); Charleswood – Santonio Holmes (OUT), Jerraud Powers (OUT).

With two weeks remaining the East Division title is up for grabs. The Pats hold the upper hand, for now. But a Violators' victory here would set up a decision day in Week 16, with Virден in control of its own destiny. A win for the Pats will secure them the division title. In the worst case scenario, 2 losses to end the season, the Pats would still have at least a wild card berth in the bank. Don't ask me to explain how – it will take too long to detail the possible scenarios and the tie-breakers that apply – but the Pats win all the ones conceivable at the 4th seed. For Virден, a loss is not fatal to their playoff hopes, but it puts them in a precarious position they would rather avoid. They finish the year with two tough opponents, but victory over just one could be enough to squeak in to

the post-season; victory over both and they own the East. Virden is coming off a pair of discouraging losses in which last year's runner-up offensive MVP looked shaky, to say the least. The book is out on Matt Stafford and Chapter One is titled 'Pressure, Pressure.' The Charleswood pass rush has been effective at times, but no decent offensive lineman is wetting his pants at the thought of any of their front-three pinning their ears back. The Pats will need to blitz to put pressure on Stafford and that could open up as many opportunities for the offence as it closes. On the other side, right tackle Doug Free will have his hands full trying to hold off Aldon Smith. Adrian Peterson will play a critical role in the Pats' attack, forcing the league's top pass-rusher to stay at home to contain the run game, but the Pats' running back cannot do it all by himself. Peyton will need to take control of this game at some point, and when it comes his turn to get the job done, expect the veteran to step on the Matt. **PICK: CHARLESWOOD**

COWTOWN @ PICKERING (line – SPARTANS by 1)

INJURIES: Cowtown – None; Pickering – None.

With three of four playoff teams in the Can-Am Conference already determined, there are three teams vying for the final wildcard berth and these two are the prohibitive front-runners. A Pickering win and they are in; a Cowtown win and they might be in if they can beat Twin Cities at home in the final week or Pickering loses to Sebastian. The odds favour the Spartans – they are at home, have already beaten the Corn Kings on the road, and they own the tie-breaker. The Corn Kings, after starting the season 0-4 and owning a 1-5 record in the Division, possibly feel lucky to be in the post-season discussion at all; but now that they are back in a position to control their own destiny they aren't about to go down without a fight. Coming off two hard fought road wins they are in a fighting mood, but winning three straight on the road may be asking too much of a team that has struggled with ball control and cannot buy a takeaway. On the reverse side of shifting fortune, the Spartans find themselves in this position after dropping three in a row, including a heartbreaker in overtime. Matt Schaub has been brilliant at times this year, but when he is off his game there appears to be no way to save it. The cracks are certainly showing in what had appeared to be a charmed year for the Spartans after eight weeks. The last time these teams faced each other, the multi-faceted Spartans' attack kicked into high gear to score 23 points in the second half of a 26-20 victory. Steven Jackson played a big role in opening up the passing game for Matt Schaub, as he has done in many other games this year. Don't expect Jackson to run so wild with Justin Smith back in the line-up for the Corn Kings and don't expect Alfred Morris to run free with Daryl Washington supporting the Pickering line. This game will come down to the quarterbacks and turnovers. Expect the Corn Kings to control the play but the Spartans to win the takeaways. **PICK: PICKERING**

GAMES OF NOTE

GARLAND @ MARKHAM (line – NORTH STARS by 1)

INJURIES: Garland – Julian Edelman (OUT); Markham – Lucas Nicks (OUT), Jah Reid (OUT).

After getting humiliated at Scarborough last week, the Mustangs' designs on the #1 seed have to be redrawn to include a win here on the road against a team they could very well face again in the playoffs. The Stars, for their part, can afford to lose this game provided they win in their Week 16 showdown against the Thunder Lizards. A North Stars' win here coupled with a Durham loss to Twin Cities would give Markham its first North Division title and another, smaller, award to place beside their 2012 Championship trophy. Two weeks ago Vegas might have given the reigning champion Stars points here on their home field against the surging Mustangs, but not after the undressing Garland received at Bluff's Stadium last week. No matter how one dices it, dropping a 50-3 decision to the degenerate Blue Eagles is a disgrace not easily overcome; although winning at the Dawg Pound would go a long way to re-establishing their credibility. For Markham this game may turn out to be their biggest test of the regular season, provided the Mustangs don't give the game away with more stupid penalties. The Stars know they are capable of beating Durham, but the Mustangs are relatively unknown to them, especially under their new head coach. There is no place to hide Eli against the Garland defence. I think this game will be a wake-up call for the cruising North Stars. **PICK: GARLAND**

CHINO @ YORK (line – Pick 'Em)

INJURIES: Chino – Davon House (OUT), Chris Ivory (OUT) Jarius Wright (OUT); York – Chris Gamble (DOUBTFUL), Eric Wright (DOUBTFUL), Ryan Williams (OUT).

The York playoff scenarios are pretty complicated, involving many variables, but the entire mess can be bundled together with the

simple message, "JUST WIN BABY!" The East Division title is officially out of their reach, but while the Swords have been somewhat mistreated in their own Division, a win this week would give them the first tie-breaker against all of their West Division opponents in the wild card hunt. A loss, however, and prayers would be in order. The Convicts' victory over Death Valley last week has put them in a position to control their playoff destiny. A pair of wins assures a playoff berth, with some help required for a West Division title. Best, if you are Rob Nazar, not to think about that and focus instead on the back-up plan when the York defence, ranked #1 in yards-per-carry, throws barbed wire in front of Cam Newton and Chris Johnson. It will be tough slogging in both directions in this game, but Chino will find the going tougher in the trenches. Newton will have to make plays in the air to spread the Excaliburs' defence. He has the weapons to do it; the question is; will he have the time, with Michael Johnson and Von Miller on the other side? The Excaliburs should be able to generate offence against an ageing 'Lockdown Crew' but an unbalanced attack will get severely punished. **PICK: YORK**

DURHAM @ TWIN CITIES (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 4)

INJURIES: **Durham** – David DeCastro (OUT); **Twin Cities** – Eric Reid (DOUBTFUL), Glenn Dorsey (OUT).

As disturbing as it would be for a Durham fan to watch their star quarterback Drew Brees throw 4 interceptions last week against Pickering, it should be equally heartening to know that the Lizards won anyway. Good teams win when they play well; great teams win when they don't play well. While Durham's greatness is yet to be confirmed, the signs are pointing to the fact that they are, at least, very good. They will need to be if they are going to hurdle the Triumph and set up a possible winner-take-all for the North Division in the final week. Twin Cities no longer has playoff aspirations, but they do have spoiler aspirations and two big targets to aim for in the last two weeks. The Triumph would love nothing more than to close out their home season with a message-carrying upset of the Thunder Lizards that could relegate them to a wildcard spot. The Dinos would love nothing more than to be able to shove aside the Triumph without too much effort and get on to the business of planning to host their real rivals from Dawg Country. Inconveniently, however, the Lizards need to win this game to maintain their position for the final week. Very good teams tend to play better after setbacks the previous week. You can bet that Drew Brees won't give the ball away four times in the Metrodome, and that is bad news for the Triumph. **PICK: DURHAM**

DEATH VALLEY @ LOS ANGELES (line – UNDERTAKERS by 3)

INJURIES: **Death Valley** – Adrian Clayborn (OUT), Randall Cobb (OUT), Brent Grimes (OUT), Jake Long (OUT), Mario Manningham (OUT), Larry Warford (OUT); **Los Angeles** – Barry Church (OUT), Brian Orakpo (OUT).

The Undertakers have dug themselves a hole at least six-feet deep and will need help if they are to advance to the post-season. Beating the Knights is a necessity, not only for their slim playoff hopes, but for revenge. Perhaps the Undertakers are in the playoff driver's seat now, instead of Chino, if they had only managed to beat a very beatable LA team in Week One of this year. LA launched it's highly successful 'Don't forget About Me' campaign in the season's first week with a stunning 40-31 upset in Death Valley that has kept the Undertakers' off balance and unsure of themselves ever since. Since then, Alex Smith has developed chronic indigestion, limiting his playing time; Sam Bradford has appeared like an unwelcome guest to spoil any ambition for the offence; and the defence is crippled by clumsiness. The situation is ripe for a Death Valley victory if they decide to dress all of their healthy players. If they do, the 3-point spread is a fool's gambit. **PICK: DEATH VALLEY**

ELEVATOR MUSIC

CARTHAGE @ MOHAVE (line – HELLFIRE by 4)

INJURIES: **Carthage** – Orlando Scandrick (PROBABLE); Jon Beason (OUT), Datone Jones (OUT); **Mohave** – None.

The Hellfire are now the most dangerous team in the EFL when playing a contender, but the Cannibals haven't been one of those since the season's mid-point. This game means nothing in the playoff standings but it means a lot to the psychology of two teams that see themselves on the rise at the same irrelevant time. As meaningless games go, this one could turn out to be entertaining if fans forget that the outcome doesn't matter except to corrupt gamblers. Philip Rivers is back at the helm for the Man Eaters, posing a juicy, immobile target for those on the Hellfire defence who are looking to inflate their sacks stats for coming contract negotiations. Andrew Luck continues to build his confidence now that he sees quarterbacks on the other team getting swarmed and battered too. Carthage finally won a road game last week in Mission Viejo, but their discomfort away from the creepy decor of the Killing Field is still a factor – as is the lack of really good players on their defence. **PICK: MOHAVE**

IOWA CITY @ MISSION VIEJO (line – CUBS by 5)

INJURIES: Iowa City –LaMichael James (OUT); Mission Viejo – Aaron Maybin (OUT), Dee Milliner (OUT).

The Cubs have their beady little black eyes focused on the West Division title. With a road date at Mission Viejo and a home date against Mohave to finish the season, who is likely to bet against them? If the Cubs win out, they will grab the West and the #1 seed – a quantum leap from their 2012 performance. If they don't....well, things get a little more complicated, with all depending on what other teams do. This game is an opportunity for Deron Redding to sort out who his starting quarterback will be moving forward into the post-season. The Monarchs are playing competitive ball against low-grade opponents and could very well make this an entertaining game for one half if they give it everything they have. **PICK: IOWA CITY**

SCARBOROUGH @ GWINNETT (line – GLADIATORS by 6)

INJURIES: Scarborough – Ryan Kalil (DOUBTFUL), Derek Cox (OUT), Jordan Norwood (OUT), Darrelle Revis (OUT). Gwinnett –Bill Bentley (OUT), Josh Brown (OUT), Nate Bursleson (OUT), Ed Dickson (OUT).

With the playoffs out of reach, the Blue Eagles played as loose as a gay goose in shellacking the Mustangs 50-3 last week. Although TV ratings would disagree, there can be no unimportant game left on the miserable Blue Eagles' road back to dominance; that includes this potential clunker at the Coliseum. If one considers every game to be a training ground for the harmonization of the dysfunctional powerhouse that is Scarborough then one can understand why this game is important – to them, at least. The Glads are playing out the string in a steady, if unspectacular, manner. I like the Glads to eke out a win in these circumstances, but keeping it above the spread might be overly challenging. **PICK: SCARBOROUGH**

SEBASTIAN @ SOUTH CAROLINA (line – REGULATORS by 4)

INJURIES: Sebastian – Usama Young (OUT); South Carolina – Brandon Pettigrew (OUT).

The Regulators are technically alive in the playoff race but the plug on their life support can be pulled at any moment. For South Carolina to make the post-season the Corn Kings and Spartans must tie in Week 15 and both must lose in the final week. Oh, yes, and the Regs have to win twice. The most improbable event in that scenario is not the Regulators' winning the remainder of their games, but the tie; there have only been two of those in EFL history. With the high probability that this game means nothing in the post-season picture, expect the pent up energy from last week's near miss against Cowtown to fire up the Regulators, while the Swordfish attempt to toggle the 'Forward' switch on their offence. To be fair, Sebastian did score 31 points against the Garland defence to provide the exception that proves the rule. Nevertheless, the Rule will prevail. **PICK: SOUTH CAROLINA**



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

FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – 2007 – The sudden birth of the EFL had caught people by surprise and the schedule maker was one of them. The Gwinnett Gladiators were forced to play 8 consecutive road games that first season due to a two-month 'Roman Carnival' that welcomed exhibitors from Europe and the rest of the world to Gwinnett in an attempt to recreate daily life in 500 BC. As Anchorman for the Ancient History Channel I can tell you that this carnival was a good family time for all, but did not come close to historical accuracy. Nevertheless, it brought revenue into Gwinnett County and made the locals very

happy when their Gladiators returned home to knock off Anchorage 20-13 on Willie Parker's 24-yard TD run, enabling the Glads to stay in the playoff hunt.

Week 14 was a week of inter-divisional match-ups. In the East, in a game billed as a battle of "struggling powerhouses," the Thunder Lizards edged the Hellfire 16-14 to hand Mohave its third straight loss. The Pats meanwhile took down the Convicts 24-20 in a game that saw Peyton Manning throw 2 TD passes to Donald Driver in the 4th quarter to give Charleswood control of the East. The race for the final playoff spot in the East had come down to a fight between Kutztown and Gwinnett, with Kutztown staying in front after a 27-24 win over the Cubs. The Meadowlands Swamp Dogs, meanwhile, continued their "perfect" season by falling to 0-14 after a 23-3 loss to the Knights. In the West, Cowtown logged its 6th straight win, hammering Florida 42-6, to hold the division with an 11-3 record.

Individually, Anchorage defensive end Jared Allen led all defenders with 11 tackles, 3 sacks, 1 stuff, 1 QB pressure and 1 interception, while Peyton Manning led all offenders with 297-yard, 3 TD performance against Chino.