

# 2014



# EFL NEWS

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

# 2014

Week Eleven

Week Eleven

January 4, 2015



CHP	6	LAK	13	TCT	21	MOH	20	CAR	24	MAR	17	SEB	0	PIC	37	COW	10	YOR	38
MVM	26	VIR	30	CHI	48	ICC	35	SCB	51	SBE	16	DTL	37	SC	14	AUR	41	GWG	13

*Perfection!*



*Robert Griffin III* celebrates after completing his third TD pass of the day, a 22-yarder to *Alshon Jeffery*, to make the score 45-14 for Santa Clara in 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter action against Carthage. The Banana Sluggs went on to beat-up the Cannibals 51-24 behind the arm of RGIII. The Sluggs' QB finished with a perfect 158.3 passer rating.

### LATEST EFL NEWS INSIDE

- SLUGGS CRAWL OVER CANNIBALS
- MUSTANGS TRAMPLE CORN KINGS
- JAY CUTLER RETURNS
- VIO-LATE-ORS PULL IT OUT
- TERRELLE-BLE DAY FOR EAGLES
- KAPS STARTS FOR CUBS
- SPARTANS BASH REGULATORS
- AND MUCH MORE.....

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- SPATS FEATURE, 'A CRAP SHOOT,' 'THE HOMECOMING,' 'AROUND THE EFL.'
- JIMMY THE GEEK
- THIS WEEK IN EFL HISTORY



*Who was slick in Week Eleven?*

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



Robert Griffin III  
QB  
Santa Clara  
Banana Sluggs

20 of 23, 397 yards, 3 TDs, 1 rush TD. Perfect QB rating vs Cannibals



Cliff Avril  
DE  
Aurora  
Mustangs

9 Tackles, 7 SACKS, 2 PDs, 2 Hur. New EFL single game sack record.



9-2-0

# Cathage

24

MVP

RGIII

51



8-3-0

# Santa Clara



### TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD
Rivers	19	37	273	3
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
Blount	19	134	7.1	0
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
Sanders	3	70	23.3	1

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
Carthage	0	14	0	10	-	24
Santa Clara	14	17	14	6	-	51

### TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD
RGIII	20	23	397	3
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
Moreno	14	78	5.6	2
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
Johnson,A	8	150	18.8	1

### Play of the Game

Facing 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5 at their own 14 in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, **RGIII** lofted a spiral to **DeAndre Hopkins**, who raced 73 yards to the Carthage 13, setting up the opening TD of the game.

**SUMMARY:** The EFL Sunday Night Game of the Week pitted the top two teams in the PAC against each other in a possible Conference Championship Preview. Billed as a contest between the power running of the Sluggs vs the quick-strike passing of **Philip Rivers**, it was the aerial assault of Santa Clara that astonished viewers across the continent. The offensive show began on Santa Clara's 3<sup>rd</sup> play from scrimmage when **RGIII** lofted a fly down the seam that **DeAndre Hopkins** took 73 yards to set up a 6-yard TD run by **Knowshon Moreno** for the opening score. A 46-yard pass to **Andre Johnson** helped set up a 5-yard TD pass to **Alshon Jeffery** to make it 14-0 then passes of 22 yards and 14 yards to Johnson, the latter for a TD, made it 21-0 for Santa Clara early in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Carthage countered with **LeGarrette Blount** on the ground, setting up a 16-yard TD pass from **Philip Rivers** to **Doug Baldwin**. But the Sluggs made it 4 TDs in 4 possessions when a 15-yard facemask penalty on **Lavonte David** and a 22-yard pass to Johnson set up a 1-yard QB sneak by **RGIII** to make it 28-7. The Sluggs opened the 2<sup>nd</sup> half with a 32-yard pass to Hopkins keying an 80-yard drive for a TD to make the score 38-14 and kept the pressure on until late in the 4<sup>th</sup>, running away from the Cannibals in a rout.

**QUOTES:** "What am I supposed to say after a game like that? I know what I said during the game but I can't repeat that here. I just hope that kid has to go back to school and we won't see him in the playoffs!" – Carthage coach, **Ken Main**, on losing to **Ryan Rich**, the youngest coach ever. "I think it proves that I can win a game with my arm. I knew I could but I guess I had to prove it to the doubters. So, here you go – proof!" – Santa Clara QB, **Robert Griffin III**, responding to a reporter's question asking him what he thought this game proved.



### ANGRY FAN



### titter

### HAPPY FAN



**Mak'e Ti'iti'i @firewarrior**  
We demand vengeance! **@RGIII** must be destroyed and his slug brethren crushed under our feet!



**100% Slugg @Slugfest14**  
Where are all the RGIII haters now? I don't hear you.

01-01-2015 MetLife Stadium Temp: 52 Wind: 5-15 None MVP: **Robert Griffin III**

#### Scoring Summary

1 10:32	Santa Clara	TD Moreno 6 run (Henery)	(5-91-2:30)	0-7
1 5:09	Santa Clara	TD Griffin III 5 pass to Jeffery (Henery)	(5-76-3:02)	0-14
2 14:53	Santa Clara	TD Griffin III 14 pass to Johnson (Henery)	(5-64-2:48)	0-21
2 9:52	Carthage	TD Rivers 16 pass to Baldwin (Hauschka)	(11-88-4:53)	7-21
2 4:43	Santa Clara	TD Griffin III 1 run (Henery)	(11-80-5:09)	7-28
2 1:25	Carthage	TD Rivers 13 pass to Amendola (Hauschka)	(9-71-3:11)	14-28
2 0:00	Santa Clara	FG Henery 34	(7-57-1:17)	14-31
3 12:38	Santa Clara	TD Moreno 8 run (Henery)	(5-80-2:22)	14-38
3 7:04	Santa Clara	TD Griffin III 22 pass to Jeffery (Henery)	(5-63-2:52)	14-45
4 13:37	Santa Clara	FG Henery 37	(7-22-3:40)	14-48
4 12:02	Santa Clara	FG Henery 49	(4-6-1:16)	14-51
4 7:33	Carthage	FG Hauschka 32	(10-66-4:25)	17-51
4 4:22	Carthage	TD Rivers 58 pass to Sanders (Hauschka)	(2-65-1:00)	24-51

	CAR	SCB
First Downs	21	29
Rushes	23-157	33-121
Passes	37-19-273	25-22-411
Sacked	1-8	1-11
Fumble	0	0
Penalties	7-76	3-28
Turnovers	1	0
Missed Tackles	11	3
Blitzes	23	30
Time	28:26	31:34
Third Down	5-12	2-9
Fourth Down	0-1	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/2/1	8/5/1
Net Offense	422	521

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



### EXCALIBURS

6-5-0

10

14

7

7

0

OT

**38**

**De'Anthony Thomas**  
3 PRs, 96 yards, 84 Long, 1 TD



### GLADIATORS

2-9-0

3

3

0

7

0

**13**

**LeSean McCoy**  
23 carries, 164 yards

**Micah Hyde** returned the opening kickoff 68 yards to set up a 6-yard TD run by **Mashawn Lynch** to give York a 7-0 lead 1 minute into the game. A 56-yard run by **LeSean McCoy** and a stop by the Glads' defence deep in York territory set up a pair of Gwinnett FGs to keep it close into the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. But an 83-yard punt return for a TD by **De'Anthony Thomas** and an interception by **William Hayes** to set up a 14-yard TD run by **Giovani Bernard** in the 2<sup>nd</sup> turned the momentum in favour of York. A 56-yard interception return by **Darqueze Dennard** in the 4<sup>th</sup> pushed **Big Ben** out of the game.



### CORN KINGS

6-5-0

7

0

3

0

0

OT

**10**

**Joe Flacco**  
16 of 34, 191 yards, 1 TD, 2 INTs



### MUSTANGS

11-0-0

7

28

0

6

0

**41**

**Matt Ryan**  
29 of 35, 264 yards, 3 TDs

The Mustangs converted 4<sup>th</sup> and 1 at their 40 and **Matt Forte** broke a 22-yard run to set up a first series TD pass from **Matt Ryan** to **Julian Edelman**. But an Edelman fumble set up the equalizer for Cowtown on a 31-yard TD pass from **Joe Flacco** to **Larry Fitzgerald**. Cowtown would not get closer. An **Alfred Morris** fumble, returned by **Erin Henderson** for a TD, and an **Eric Weddle** interception powered a 28-point 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter for Aurora. Forte plunged in from 1-yard, and Ryan threw 2 more TD passes to make the rest of the game a formality. **Cliff Avril** set an all-time EFL record with 7 sacks.



### SPARTANS

8-3-0

14

16

0

7

0

OT

**37**

**Peyton Manning**  
10 of 14, 146 yards, 2 TDs



### REGULATORS

6-5-0

0

0

0

14

0

**14**

**Tony Romo**  
25 of 41, 235 yards, 2 TDs, 2 INTs

Pickering got the ball first and struck first with a 24-yard TD pass from **Peyton Manning** to **Pierre Garçon**. On their second series, **DeMaryius Thomas** caught 3 passes for 57 yards to set up a 3-yard TD run by **Chris Johnson**. The Regs' attack could not get on track; they punted 3 times and turned the ball over twice in the 1<sup>st</sup> two quarters, allowing the Spartans to build up a 30-0 half time lead. The Spartans kept the ball on the ground in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, with rookie running back **Devonta Freeman** garnering 16 carries for 92 yards, while **Tony Romo** threw 2 late TD passes to break the shutout.



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



**SWORDFISH**  
3-8-0

0	0	0	0	0	0
OT					0

**Andy Dalton**  
9 of 21, 49 yards, 1 INT



**T-LIZARDS**  
7-4-0

10	14	6	7	0	37
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**Drew Brees**  
17 of 28, 207 yards, 1 TD

**Reggie Bush** caught and ran the ball for 40 yards on Durham's opening series to set up a 1-yard TD run by **Fred Jackson** to give the Lizards all the points they would need. The Swordfish and **Andy Dalton** had a bad day offensively, gaining just 9 first downs and 94 total net yards. A botched 4<sup>th</sup> down attempt by the Fish at their own 46 set up Jackson's 2<sup>nd</sup> TD run of the day and a **Richard Sherman** pick set up a 22-yard TD pass from **Drew Brees** to **Calvin Johnson** to make it 24-0 at the half. Sebastian's offence never got on track while the Lizards ran out the clock with **Carlos Hyde** in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half.



**NORTH STARS**  
6-5-0

10	0	7	0	0	17
OT					

**Alex Smith**  
16 of 30, 164 yards, 1 TD, 1 rTD



**BLUE EAGLES**  
3-8-0

0	10	3	3	0	16
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**Terrelle Pryor**  
177 pass yards, 88 rush yards

Stars' LB **John Abraham** stripped the ball from QB **Terrelle Pryor** in the Stars' red zone and **Alex Smith** capitalized with a 42-yard pass to **Marques Colston** and a 14-yard TD pass to **Jordy Nelson** for the game's first points. The Eagles matched that TD with a 27-yard scramble by Pryor to set up a 13-yard TD run by **Ray Rice** to make it 10-10 at half time. **Jay Feely** put Scarborough on top with a 52-yard FG, but a fumbled punt by **LaMichael James** put the Stars in position for the winning TD on a 13-yard scramble by Smith. A sack by **Rob Ninkovich** shut down an Eagles' late rally attempt.



**HELLFIRE**  
1-10-0

0	10	0	10	0	20
OT					

**Andrew Luck**  
20 of 37, 248 yards



**CUBS**  
7-4-0

7	10	7	11	0	35
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**Colin Kaepernick**  
18 of 27, 270 yards, 3 TDs, 1 INT

**Colin Kaepernick** started for the Cubs and drove 97 yards on his first series, finishing it with a 31-yard TD pass to **Tavon Austin**. After **Matt Prater** got Mohave on the board with a FG, Kaepernick tossed another TD pass, a 2-yarder to **Tony Gonzalez** in the 2<sup>nd</sup>. But the Hellfire responded when **Montee Ball** capped a 66-yard drive with an 18-yard TD run to make it 14-10. The 2<sup>nd</sup> half saw the Cubs pull away starting with the opening drive – Kaepernick threw his 3<sup>rd</sup> TD of the day, hitting **Steve Smith** from 2 yards. The running of rookie RB **Bishop Sankey** set up 3 more Cubs' FGs to cap the day.

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



### TRIUMPH

7-4-0

7	7	0	7	0	21
OT					

Vincent Jackson

7 catches, 137 yards, 2 TDs



### CONVICTS

8-3-0

14	10	24	0	0	48
OT					

Adrian Peterson

21 carries, 111 yards, 3 TDs

**Jay Cutler** was intercepted on his first series by **Bernard Pollard**, whose 46-yard return set up an 8-yard TD pass from **Cam Newton** to **Greg Olsen** to open the scoring. It was the first of 5 turnovers by the Triumph that would turn this game into a rout before the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Cutler kept pace early with 2 TD passes to **Vincent Jackson**, but Jackson's fumble in the 2<sup>nd</sup> set up the second of 3 TD runs by **Adrian Peterson** that would put the Convicts in front to stay. Consecutive picks by **Antoine Bethea** and **Alterraun Verner**, the second for a "pick-six," led to a 24-point 3<sup>rd</sup> for Chino.



### KNIGHTS

0-11-0

7	0	6	0	0	13
OT					

Sam Bradford

19 of 32, 138 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT



### VIOLATORS

5-6-0

10	3	0	17	0	30
OT					

Matt Stafford

19 of 32, 255 yards, 2 TDs

A 41-yard punt return by **Marcus Sherels** set up Virden's opening TD; a 7-yard pass from **Matt Stafford** to **Dez Bryant** to make it 10-0. But the Knights struck back when **Robert Quinn** strip-sacked Stafford to set up a 30-yard TD pass to **Mike Brown**. The Knights started the 2<sup>nd</sup> half with a 9-minute possession that ended with a FG to make it 13-10 then tied it after **Javier Arenas** fumbled away the ensuing kickoff. A gamble on 4<sup>th</sup> & 10 paid off for the Violators, leading to a 7-yard TD run by **Jamaal Charles** then a pick of **Sam Bradford** by **Akeem Ayers** set up a TD pass to **Torrey Smith** to seal it.



### PATRIOTS

3-8-0

0	3	3	0	0	6
OT					

Blake Bortles

20 of 33, 193 yards, 1 INT



### MONARCHS

4-7-0

3	0	14	9	0	26
OT					

DeMarco Murray

25 Carries, 168 yards, 1 TD

A 48-yard FG by **Dan Carpenter** and a 53-yard FG by **Rob Bironas** made up all the scoring in a 1<sup>st</sup> half dominated by both defences. But an interception and 34-yard return by **Lardarius Webb** sparked the Monarchs' offence, setting up a 12-yard TD pass from **Ryan Tannehill** to **Logan Paulsen**. The Pats kicked a FG to make it 10-6, but on the Monarchs' next possession **DeMarco Murray** carried 8 straight times for 58 yards, including a 7-yard TD run, to put Mission Viejo front 17-6. A holding penalty with **Blake Bortles** in the end zone led to a safety in the 4<sup>th</sup> and put the Monarchs in control.

## WEEK ELEVEN

# STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Carthage	9	2	0	0.818	346	31.5	291	26.5	5	5 0 0	4 0 0	6 1 0
Twin Cities	7	4	0	0.636	254	23.1	249	22.6	0.5	3 2 0	3 1 0	5 2 0
Virden	5	6	0	0.455	327	29.7	286	26	3.7	4 2 0	0 4 0	2 5 0
Charleswood	3	8	0	0.273	187	17	301	27.4	-10.4	3 2 0	2 2 0	2 5 0
Mohave	1	10	0	0.091	251	22.8	351	31.9	-9.1	0 5 0	1 3 0	1 6 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Chino	8	3	0	0.727	294	26.7	231	21	5.7	5 1 0	3 1 0	5 2 0
Santa Clara	8	3	0	0.727	372	33.8	288	26.2	7.6	5 1 0	4 0 0	7 0 0
Iowa City	7	4	0	0.636	332	30.2	324	29.5	0.7	4 2 0	2 2 0	4 3 0
Mission Viejo	4	7	0	0.364	237	21.5	273	24.8	-3.3	3 3 0	1 3 0	3 4 0
Los Angeles	0	11	0	0.000	165	15	337	30.6	-15.6	0 5 0	0 4 0	0 7 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Pickering	8	3	0	0.727	324	29.5	234	21.3	8.2	4 1 0	2 2 0	4 3 0
Durham	7	4	0	0.636	340	30.9	238	21.6	9.3	5 1 0	3 1 0	5 2 0
Cowtown	6	5	0	0.545	290	26.4	293	26.6	-0.3	3 2 0	2 2 0	3 4 0
Markham	6	5	0	0.545	225	20.5	208	18.9	1.5	3 2 0	2 2 0	4 3 0
York	6	5	0	0.545	239	21.7	223	20.3	1.5	2 3 0	1 3 0	3 4 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Aurora	11	0	0	1.000	378	34.4	141	12.8	21.5	6 0 0	4 0 0	7 0 0
South Carolina	6	5	0	0.545	283	25.7	286	26	-0.3	3 3 0	3 1 0	4 3 0
Scarborough	3	8	0	0.273	220	20	289	26.3	-6.3	0 6 0	1 3 0	2 5 0
Sebastian	3	8	0	0.273	220	20	336	30.5	-10.5	1 4 0	1 3 0	1 6 0
Gwinnett	2	9	0	0.182	211	19.2	316	28.7	-9.5	1 5 0	1 3 0	2 5 0

# PASSING

#	Player	Team	Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Manning, P	PIC	327	213	65.1	2822	8	2.4	80	30	9.2	112.7
2	Brees	DTL	203	148	72.9	1719	4	2	66	11	5.4	108.0
3	Rivers, P	CAR	343	225	65.6	3145	10	2.9	75	23	6.7	105.2
4	Foles	DTL	164	98	59.8	1295	1	0.6	57	11	6.7	104.6
5	Wilson, R	ICC	312	215	68.9	2594	6	1.9	69	17	5.4	104.3
6	Griffin III	SCB	311	198	63.7	2677	5	1.6	73	18	5.8	103.6
7	Newton, C	CHI	344	238	69.2	2318	3	0.9	47	19	5.5	102.6
8	Ryan, M	AUR	423	279	66	3080	7	1.7	76	28	6.6	102.6
9	Cutler	TCT	205	135	65.9	1589	8	3.9	42	17	8.3	100.6
10	Stafford, M	VV	367	227	61.9	3304	9	2.5	80	20	5.4	99.1
11	Smith, A	MAR	282	173	61.3	1773	2	0.7	48	16	5.7	95.4
12	Flacco	COW	402	247	61.4	3088	15	3.7	80	25	6.2	90.5
13	Romo	SC	445	277	62.2	2821	9	2	71	23	5.2	89.2
14	Glennon	LAK	167	104	62.3	994	1	0.6	55	6	3.6	88.3
15	Luck	MOH	394	232	58.9	2826	9	2.3	77	15	3.8	84.2
16	Tannehill	MVM	342	202	59.1	2149	8	2.3	51	15	4.4	82.4
17	Brady	YOR	311	176	56.6	2217	8	2.6	73	13	4.2	82.2
18	Rodgers, A	SBE	237	141	59.5	1622	8	3.4	54	10	4.2	80.2
19	Manziel	TCT	222	132	59.5	1437	6	2.7	45	8	3.6	79.4
20	Dalton	SS	394	225	57.1	2375	7	1.8	74	14	3.6	79.2

## RUSHING

#	Player	Team	Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Johnson, C	PIC	227	1083	4.8	35	4
2	Morris, A	COW	191	1012	5.3	41	6
3	Charles, J	VV	208	974	4.7	51	9
4	McCoy, L	GWG	235	969	4.1	56	7
5	Lynch, M	YOR	206	968	4.7	48	8
6	Moreno	SCB	192	958	5.0	24	15
7	Lacy	CAR	204	932	4.6	57	13
8	Murray	MVM	185	853	4.6	62	9
9	Spiller	ICC	144	848	5.9	55	4
10	Forte	AUR	182	784	4.3	55	12
11	Gore	SC	162	771	4.8	56	8
12	Peterson, A	CHI	159	692	4.4	31	9
13	Ivory	CHP	162	684	4.2	50	5
14	Bell, L	LAK	175	646	3.7	44	1
15	Ball, M	MOH	121	565	4.7	27	5
16	Ellington	MAR	104	545	5.2	43	2
17	Jackson, F	DTL	119	532	4.5	20	12
18	Blount	CAR	120	521	4.3	24	4
19	Rice, R	SBE	137	505	3.7	62	4
20	Miller, L	CHP	130	492	3.8	49	1

## RECEIVING

#	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Brown, A	TCT	82	919	11.2	45	9
2	Bryant, D	VV	77	1265	16.4	50	10
3	Green, A	SC	77	991	12.9	71	8
4	Edelman	AUR	70	649	9.3	52	9
5	Boldin	AUR	69	1225	17.8	76	14
6	Johnson, A	SCB	67	864	12.9	46	2
7	Wright, K	TCT	64	602	9.4	35	5
8	Woodhead	CHI	63	516	8.2	35	4
9	Jackson, V	TCT	62	1082	17.5	42	9
10	Graham, J	MOH	62	871	14.0	65	5
11	Douglas, H	MOH	59	682	11.6	40	4
12	Jackson, D	SBE	58	880	15.2	60	7
13	Garcon	PIC	57	751	13.2	71	13
14	Jeffery	SCB	56	886	15.8	65	11
15	Olsen	CHI	56	481	8.6	36	5
16	Wallace, M	ICC	55	890	16.2	69	8
17	Fitzgerald	COW	54	779	14.4	80	9
18	Jennings, G	SC	53	497	9.4	58	7
19	Thomas, D	PIC	53	958	18.1	80	9
20	Watkins, S	CHP	52	710	13.7	71	5

## KICKING

#	Player	Team	FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts
1	Zuerlein	ICC	31	29	93.5	9	3	51	120
2	Crosby	VV	29	25	86.2	8	3	54	109
3	Folk	AUR	22	19	86.4	12	5	55	102
4	Henery	SCB	19	17	89.5	6	1	50	96
5	Prater	MOH	28	24	85.7	6	2	56	95
6	Hauschka	CAR	23	18	78.3	8	2	53	94
7	Dawson	DTL	18	18	100	5	2	57	94
8	Bailey, D	CHI	25	19	76	10	2	52	90
9	Feely	SBE	27	22	81.5	5	1	52	88
10	Novak	COW	19	17	89.5	6	1	56	82
11	Tucker, J	SC	21	15	71.4	6	2	54	79
12	Brown, J	MAR	20	17	85	9	5	53	75
13	Vinatieri	SS	19	17	89.5	5	2	54	74
14	Walsh	YOR	21	15	71.4	4	2	54	71
15	Carpenter	MVM	16	13	81.3	2	0	48	67
16	Gostkowski	TCT	11	11	100	5	0	49	62
17	Suisham	GWG	12	12	100	3	0	45	61
18	Bironas	CHP	13	11	84.6	6	2	53	55
19	Janikowski	PIC	6	5	83.3	0	0	38	53
20	Lindell	LAK	13	11	84.6	5	2	59	5



# AROUND THE



## With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – The EFL brought in 2015 with a bang – if, by a *bang*, you mean the sound of nine gunshots relieving nine wounded nags of their suffering, accompanied by the sound of two drunken pugilists crashing through a plate glass window and onto the sidewalk where one bangs his head on a fire hydrant, leaving the other to stagger home “victorious.” That just about describes Week Eleven football. It was dreadful to watch, unless you were a fan of one of the 9 teams to blow out their opponents. The only close game involved Markham and Scarborough and that sad struggle was a product of ineptness rather than competitiveness.

If Week Ten was strikingly impressive for its drama and intensity, Week Eleven was notable for being the exact opposite. Roughly around the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of any given contest, televisions across North America tuned to *Ice Road Truckers*, reruns of *Family Guy*, *Turner Classic Movies* and almost anything else in a desperate search for entertainment while biding time before Sunday Night Football’s marquis match-up between Carthage and Santa Clara. When that game finally came, it turned out to be a souped up version of the uneven matches that had preceded it, with the notable difference being that the savage intensity of the beating administered by the Banana Sluggs on their principal Conference rival compelled one to watch in disbelief, in the same way that one stares at a spectacular but horrible car crash or a particularly lop-sided prize fight. It was a strangely gripping game, despite the absurdly lop-sided final score.

### A CRAP SHOOT

A lot of people on the Santa Clara side of the Week Eleven showdown between the Banana Sluggs and the Cannibals were out to prove something this week. **Ryan Rich**, the boy coach who had been taunted by his star quarterback in practice and who had responded by calling that star “crap” at a the low point of last week’s difficult loss to Pickering, was out to prove he could handle the players as well as the playbook. **RGIII**, the “crap” quarterback who had frittered away opportunities the week before, was out to prove that he wasn’t “crap.” The defence was out to prove that it could make a defensive play of any kind. But, above all, the team without an owner needed to prove to itself that it was, in fact, a *team*, and not a collection of talented egos each competing for the limelight.

Apparently **Ryan Rich** and **RGIII** settled their differences early in the week when Ryan took two out of three games in a *Badden 14* showdown. With **RGIII** playing himself and **Ryan Rich** playing *Andy Dalton* and the Swordfish, Ryan took control of *Jadeveon Clowney* on defence to sack the electronic **RGIII** 15 times and force 6 interceptions in an 82-7 blowout in the final and deciding game. As per their bet, **RGIII** stood up in front of his team and recited the following words from a script prepared by Ryan himself: “*I am sorry I was such a crap quarterback last week and I promise to be better this week by doing everything that Coach Ryan tells me to do in practice and in the game. Coach Ryan is the most brilliant coach in the world.*” That act of humility, staged as it was, seemed to have a profound impact on the team as a whole. And with it, **RGIII** set about learning Ryan’s KLAU system with determination.

I never got the impression that *Philip Rivers* and the Cannibals were really “off” during most of the time they were getting spanked silly by the Banana Sluggs. I know that sounds strange, but the head-hanging on the Carthage sideline did not start until the **Matt Elam** interception of Rivers in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. That play set up the **Alex Henery** field goal that made the score 51-14 for Santa Clara. It was the first and only turnover of the game. When it happened it was like a jolt, waking up everyone – players and announcers included – to the fact that the Banana Sluggs had reached the half-century mark in points without the benefit of a defensive score or a bundle of offensive miscues by their opponent. It had been all offence, all night, led by a **RGIII** who looked possessed by the spirit of *Sammy Baugh*.

It would be too easy to simply blame the Carthage defence for a lacklustre performance in allowing 521 yards of net offence and getting to the quarterback only once. While **Greg Hardy** was smothered by left tackle **Andrew Whitworth** more often than he should have been and **Keenan Lewis** suffered a particularly rough day in coverage, getting alternately burned by elite wide receivers **Andre Johnson** and **Alshon Jeffery**, it was not like the unit surrendered. **Lavonte David** would not let them. The leader of the Cannibals’ defence did all he could – perhaps he tried to do too much – to stem the fierce offensive tidal wave. But, in the final analysis, it was simply a command performance by an offensive unit with elite talent playing at an elite level.

Give credit to **Ryan Rich** for bringing it all together – for mixing it up the plays and keeping the Carthage defence off



balance throughout the entire game. But also give credit to **RGIII** for making the throws, perfectly, when he needed to make them. His numbers tell an impressive tale: 20 of 23 for 397 yards and 3 touchdowns. He also scored one himself on a quarterback sneak late in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter to make the score 28-7. A perfect quarterback passer rating always raises eyebrows, regardless of the opponent, but it would not have been possible without a stellar performance by the Santa Clara offensive line and the efficient running of **Knowshon Moreno**. There was room in the Cannibals' secondary largely because **RGIII** had time to throw and the Cannibals' linebackers could not get completely comfortable dropping back into coverage with that threat looming. It played out exactly as former coach **Chris Worthley** might have wished, before he was vaporized by Satan for his insubordination and his coaching staff scattered like ashes in the wind by a combination of supernatural vortex and tactical nuclear strike.

On the other side of this 51-24 demolition a



Triumph QB, **Jay Cutler** apparently got a little too comfortable in the quiet room at half time during the game between the Triumph and the Convicts. *Deathspun* printed this leaked photo of Cutler apparently finishing off a feast of Buffalo-style chicken wings that left him sleepy in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

tense **Ken Main** struggled to compose himself in the post-game presser. He held his head high and faced reporters directly, but his head was a throbbing one and his face was crimson. He forced a chuckle when asked what it felt like to be beaten so badly by a 12-year old coach then spat out: "It feels the same as any loss...lousy! I'll give the little fella credit, he has spirit. If he puts that much effort into his school work then he is going places, for sure. I just hope he has an exam or something around playoff time."

For **Ryan Rich**, the richest boy and youngest professional coach in the world, the win was bittersweet. The holiday break was coming to an end and, with it, time to leave the glittery, but ultimately *adult* world of professional football coaching for the boring structure of school. On his way out the door he high-fived RGIII and donned his #10 jersey. "Now I'm back to being a fan," he said with a smile.

As for the future of the team, it seems a little more certain now with the announcement by the Pentagon this morning that they had found a potential new owner for the orphan Banana Sluggs' franchise, a person with impeccable security credentials and a football background. Founder and CEO of Dark Oceans Worldwide Services – a private military protection services company – and Citadel alumnus, **Neil Shannon**, will take control of the Banana Sluggs effective immediately. As I write this, Shannon's press conference is merely hours away, but, unfortunately, after my deadline. So stay tuned for my take on Neil next week.

### **THE HOMECOMING**

The five-game interlude with Johnny Football calling the shots for the Triumph was not without its upbeat moments, but fans in Twin Cities were universally relieved to see **Jay Cutler** back in uniform for an important contest at Chino in Week Eleven. They eagerly anticipated a return to the blazing offensive fireworks of the first four weeks – a period during which a healthy Cutler threw an eyebrow-raising 14 touchdown passes to just 2 interceptions over the course of a 4-game winning streak. While realists knew that was an unsustainable pace, fans searching for a reason to hope for success against a solid Convicts defence boldly claimed that Cutler would compensate for a virtually non-existent running game and bring back a quick-strike sting to the Triumph attack plan. These optimistic fans flooded the airwaves of Twin Cities sports talk radio shows in the week leading up to the game and either dismissed or ignored reports that "Jay" was looking "a little off" in practice.

"Jay seems to be taking it easy in his first week back on reps with the first team," reported **Conrad Grant** of Gemini Sports Talk Radio. "He says he can't wait to get back out on the field on game day but he doesn't seem to be in a hurry to get on the practice field. And when he is on the practice field, he seems to be favouring, well, everything actually. He limps on and limps off the field, he rubs his arms after throwing, both arms, doubles over after handing off the ball, and takes many breaks to rest. But he insists he is healthy and from the way he ran off the practice field for lunch it looks like he is. He says he is just getting back into the rhythm after so many weeks off."

Had Chino fans been listening, they would have recognized the antics described above. They had been burned before by a "healthy" **Jay Cutler** acting up before a big game. But the delightfully naive Triumph fans paid no heed to the obvious red flags. After all, the "Good Jay" had been the principal manifestation of the EFL's most schizophrenic quarterback over the course of his career in Twin Cities. Maybe it was triggered by his return to the Big House; or maybe it was just time for an appearance, but whatever the reason "Bad Jay" was back and playing a key role in Chino's 48-21 hazing of the Triumph in Week Eleven.

Cutler's timing was clearly off by about half a second, which in a sport like pro football can mean the difference between success and failure. But he also seemed to forget his mechanics. He started the game by lofting a deep wobbler into the waiting arms of Convict safety, **Bernard Pollard**, who ran it back 46 yards to set up an 8-yard touchdown pass to **Greg Olsen**. That early

error was written off as rust after Cutler came back with a long slant to Vincent Jackson for 31 yards and followed that up with a short hitch that Jackson turned into a 32-yard touchdown. All appeared more or less well on the next two possessions: one ending in a touchdown and the other ending when Jackson fumbled the ball away. The Triumph trailed 24-14 at half time but they were still within striking distance for “Good Jay.” But the reported consumption of 3 pounds of chicken wings at half time apparently woke up “Bad Jay” and the results were immediate and dramatic.

A groggy-looking Cutler did only one thing fast in the second half – throw interceptions. He threw three of them in the span of 1 minute and 9 seconds (which must be a record), with all three leading to Chino touchdowns, including a 27-yard pick-six by **Alterraun Verner**. The Convicts scored 24 third-quarter points to turn what had been one of the preeminent Week 11 matchups into a Sebastian-style rout. In the end, the Triumph were embarrassed and Jay Cutler was left holding the bag at the post-game podium, a task he seemed remarkably blasé about under the circumstances.

“I’m not the kind to change the way I play because of injury,” he droned on with half-lidded eyes. “I’m confident in my game. I’m confident in what I can do out there on the field. Tonight I had some bad luck but I’m going to come out and do the same thing next week.”

Triumph fans had better hope that’s not the case or they will soon be clamouring for Johnny Football.

### **AROUND THE EFL**

While the games this week may have been mostly unbearable to watch, there were some notably bad and good performances:

In Aurora, the Mustangs trampled the Corn Kings 41-10. It was another dominating defensive performance by the league’s only remaining unbeaten team. Aurora left defensive end **Cliff Avril** obliterated right tackle **Michael Oher** and in the process shattered the EFL single-game record with seven (yes, 7!) sacks of Cowtown quarterback **Joe Flacco**. In all, the Mustangs sacked Flacco 9 times and held the previously 3<sup>rd</sup>-ranked offence in the league to just 9 first downs and 159 yards of net offence. It was as humiliating a loss as Cowtown has had in years, but for those of us who are not emotionally attached to ups and downs of “Joe Cool” and do not live-and-breathe ‘corn husk green’ and ‘niblet gold’ it was a long overdue humbling; a sober reminder that this is a last place calibre team masquerading as a contender that has, until this week, fooled their gullible fans.

At Bluff’s Stadium the Markham North Stars escaped Scarborough with a 17-16 win to rise to 6-5 and remain in the playoff hunt. By “escaped Scarborough” I don’t mean to suggest that the Blue Eagles posed any real danger to Markham. Rather, it was the Stars themselves that posed the greatest risk to their chances of prevailing against the worst quarterback in football. **Terrelle Pryor** did what he could to make this an easy win for **Darrin Jones**’ lethargic offence by fumbling in the red zone and throwing an interception to kill a promising 2<sup>nd</sup> half drive. But had time not mercifully expired, the equally passionless Eagles might have found a way to finish on top due to the inability of Markham to sustain a drive of more than 33 yards. This mind-numbing display of Walter Camp-era offence was taken in by a near capacity crowd, equally represented by diehard Blue Eagles fans and party-loving Markham acolytes; who made the short trip from Markham to the Bluffs to enjoy *Laker* beer, cold tacos, and *Joe Louis* half-moons with their relatives in the woods before the game.

At the Carolina Slammer the Pickering Spartans continued their upward surge with a 37-14 pummeling of the Regulators that was not as close as the lop-sided score would indicate. **Hal Corson**’s attempt to motivate his team by posting the betting line favouring the Spartans by 2 in his team’s locker room did not appear to have any positive effect. Pickering dominated the Regs on both sides of the ball in racking up a 30-0 half time lead. It was the longest running-out-of-the-clock this year by any team as rookie **Devonta Freeman** carried the ball 16 times and **Peyton Manning** attempted just one pass in the second half.

The Violators would not add to their embarrassment this season by being the first team to lose to the lowly Knights. They won in the end by a healthy 30-13 score, but not before terrifying fans at **TERRORDOME** by turning the ball over three times to keep the Knights in the game all the way into the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Thankfully for **Lance Barrate**, the unfamiliarity of being tied with just 15 minutes left to play was disorienting to the Knights, causing them to meltdown on both sides of the ball and help Virden pile on 17 points in the final period.

**Ben Rothlisberger** had the worst performance of his long career in a 38-13 loss to the Excaliburs. Big Boob completed just 8 of 24 passes for 71 yards and 2 INTs for a game day QB rating of 7.6. He was also sacked 3 times for 17 yards, bringing his team’s total passing yards to 54 while he was behind center. His woeful showing completely wasted a 164-yard rushing day by **LeSean McCoy**. **Chad Henne** actually entered the game for the Glads to do more than kneel down: a sure sign that things had gone as low as they could go with Ben at the helm. While the Glads are clearly awful, give credit to a slowly but steadily improving York defence for making Gwinnett’s troubles that much more acute.

With the emerging stardom of **Russell Wilson** currently the hottest topic in mainstream sports media, **Deron Redding** chose Week 11 against Mohave to sit him on the bench and showcase **Colin Kaepernick**. It was a shrewd move if the Cubs plan to trade him and Kap definitely needed some action, but the risk is that Wilson will lose some of the impetus behind his meteoric rise. Kapernick looked good in leading the Cubs to a 35-20 victory. But who doesn’t look good against Mohave?

We wrap up a dud week with the duddiest games of all. At Mission Viejo an interception by **Lardarius Webb** woke up the Monarchs and sparked a 14-point 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter as they dispatched Charleswood 26-6. The Pats are looking more like the “patsies” we thought they were with each passing week. And finally, at Jurassic Park, the Lizards held the Swordfish to just 6 first downs and 94 total yards in stomping them 37-0. In an EFL fan poll, fans of both teams voted this the worst game of Week 11.

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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 TWELVE PICKS

### GAMES TO WATCH

#### CHINO @ CARTHAGE (line – CANNIBALS by 4)

**INJURIES:** **Chino** – James Jones (OUT), DeMarcus Ware (OUT); **Carthage** – Harrison Smith (PROBABLE), Eddie Lacy (QUESTIONABLE), Kyle Rudolph (OUT), Stefen WISNIEWSKI (OUT), Earl Wolff (OUT).

With both teams in the thick of the hunt for their respective division titles this game could end up being the Conference seeding tie-breaker when the season ends. Harrison Smith is listed as ‘probable’ and sources say he is “about 99%” likely to be on the field, which is good news for a Cannibals secondary that dropped three spots in the pass defence rankings after giving up 411 passing yards to the Sluggs last week. Not that the Convicts are likely to post those kinds of numbers on a good day, but Cam Newton is

capable of exacting a steep price for teams loading up the box to stop Adrian Peterson. More problematic will be the absence of Eddie Lacy if his hyper-extended knee isn't ready for live action. LeGarrette Blount is a runner in the same mold but Philip Rivers will miss Lacy's hands out of the backfield when pressure gets through. Pressure is a big part of the Chino secondary's success in generating the second highest number of interceptions in the league. To that end, the Convicts will be designing blitz packages to compensate for the loss of DeMarcus Ware, who is out of the rotation with a shoulder injury. The Cannibals are looking to rebound from a whipping by the Banana Sluggs, while the Convicts are hoping to build on their big win over Twin Cities. While the Convicts cannot count on Rivers being as generous as Jay Cutler was last week, it will be difficult pickings for the Cannibals' signal-caller nonetheless. This one will be close – 3 points either way. **PICK: CHINO**

### **SOUTH CAROLINA @ YORK (line – EXCALIBURS by 6)**

**INJURIES: South Carolina** – Sam Acho (OUT), Bradley Fletcher (OUT), Kyle Van Noy (OUT); **York** – Asante Samuel (DOUBTFUL), Robert Geathers (OUT).

The Regulators look like a permanent fixture in second place in the South Division, but that won't help their playoff aspirations if they don't finish the equivalent of at least third place in the crowded North Division. If the season were to end today the Regs would be in the final wild card spot due to their superior conference record, but they have four viable opponents to stay in front of over the final five weeks and the Swords are one of those. This game could be pivotal for both teams but York is in the more precarious position because they have no "soft" games remaining, while the Regs have the anemic bottom three of their division left on their sked. The York defence is quietly developing into one of the best in the league and can only get better now that Von Miller is back after missing 7 games. The Regs' defence has been more than respectable defending the pass and taking the ball away, but they have struggled to contain the run. Expect the Swords to pound the right side of the Regulators' line with Marshawn Lynch to soften them up and set up the deep play action pass to playmakers Victor Cruz and Kelvin Benjamin. On the other side, Tony Romo will need help from Frank Gore or else call on his magic arm to draw the proverbial sword from the stone in Camelot. I see York winning but I can't them winning by more than the puffed up spread. **PICK: SOUTH CAROLINA**

### **DURHAM @ COWTOWN (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 1)**

**INJURIES: Durham** – Marquise Goodwin (OUT), Eugene Monroe (OUT); **Cowtown** – Ryan Clady (OUT).

This is a game to watch, not because the teams are very evenly matched, but because the outcome will signal the critical turning point in both their seasons. Some would argue that Cowtown's downward turning point came last week when they were crushed by Aurora, but the long-standing bitter rivalry between these teams should be enough incentive for the Kings to pull themselves up off the mat and give the Lizards a run. With Pickering peaking, a Durham loss here would make the climb to the top of the North Division that much steeper, longer, and more difficult, while plunging them in the middle of a potential five-way battle for a wild card berth. A win for Cowtown would instantly rehabilitate their reputation and put them in a strong position for a playoff spot. The line is mysteriously thin given the disparity in the teams' Week 11 results. Durham smothered Sebastian 37-0 while the Corn Kings were trampled like real corn under the hooves of the Mustangs. Obviously, Vegas expects a typical grudge match, where the weaker home team feeds off the crowd and plays as if it has nothing to lose while the stronger team plays not to lose – a dynamic for an upset if there ever was one. I don't buy it; the turnover differentials tell the true story. **PICK: DURHAM**

## **GAMES OF NOTE**

### **PICKERING @ MARKHAM (line – SPARTANS by 3)**

**INJURIES: Pickering** – Charles Tillman (OUT); **Markham** – Anthony Fasano (OUT), Jordan Reed (OUT).

Many a dream has died on the patchy turf of the Dawg Pound; this includes Markham's dreams. But while the Spartans' dream of a return to the top of the North Division would not die in the unlikely event of a loss this week, it could easily plunge it back into the grim reality of an eventual showdown with the Thunder Lizards – a critical scenario they would rather avoid. All obvious signs point to a Pickering romp, despite the North Stars' invigorating home field advantage and a reputation for being spoilers. Chris Johnson is running like it is 2010 again, DeMaryius Thomas is looking more like a Cyborg each week, and Peyton Manning is finally comfortable in blue. The "Vision" of Gus Konstantakos is coming into focus after a pixilated start. But a typical Markham team traditionally feeds off the hubris of its opponent, and there is plenty of hubris to go around on the Spartans' sideline disguised as humility. They know they are good, but go out of their way to pretend otherwise in order to



disarm their opponents. The Stars will not be so easily fooled, but what can they do about it? The Alex Smith era in Markham is stiflingly boring to watch. Jordy Nelson is reportedly growing breasts waiting for a chance to stretch the field. Andre Ellington is reserving his carries a month in advance and refuses to do any more. Against a team with the firepower of the Spartans the frugal Markham attack is wholly inadequate; this is not Scarborough they are facing here. Markham needs an Eli Manning to win this game or go down in blazing glory trying. If they don't pit brother against brother, why bother? **PICK: PICKERING**

### **TWIN CITIES @ CHARLESWOOD (line – TRIUMPH by 3)**

**INJURIES: Twin Cities** –Doug Martin (PROBABLE), Shane Vereen (DOUBTFUL), Jason Worlds (DOUBTFUL); Henry Melton (OUT), Devin Taylor (OUT); **Charleswood** – Chris Ivory (PROBABLE), Michael Crabtree (OUT), Jerod Mayo (OUT), Anthony Spencer (OUT), Vince Wilfork (OUT).

It appears that Doug Martin will make his return this week, barring a last minute setback in his rehab. That is the best news Guy Williams has heard since doctors announced that Jay Cutler had a green light to go last week...and we saw how *that* went! The bottom line is that things can only get better for the Triumph with a reliable running back in the offence, but it may take a game or two to get Martin up to full speed. Facing the slumping Patriots is the perfect rehabilitative prescription for a back who hasn't seen game action since Week One. It is also a golden opportunity for Jay Cutler to get back on track after self-immolating last week in Chino. The Pats cannot be taken lightly at home, but while the Pats' defence continues to hold its own while being on the field more than most, the league appears to be rapidly catching up with Blake Bortles after the rookie starter showed moxie and skill through the first five weeks of the season. Sammy Watkins and Terrance Williams have made head-turning plays this year, but they are no match for Antonio Brown and Vincent Jackson on most Sundays. **PICK: TWIN CITIES**

### **HOLIDAY LEFTOVERS**

### **VIRDEN @ MOHAVE (line – VIOLATORS by 6)**

**INJURIES: Virden** – Branden Albert (OUT), Melvin Ingram (OUT), Justin Blackmon (OUT), Julio Jones (OUT); **Mohave** – Dwayne Gratz (QUESTIONABLE), Chris Houston (OUT), Justin Houston (OUT), Bruce Irvin (OUT), Amini Silatolu (OUT).

The Violators at 5-6 remain stubbornly alive in the playoff hunt after what appeared to be a stillborn start to the season. The Hellfire at 1-10 are one of two teams entering Week 12 with the distinction of having nothing to play for apart from long lost pride. The troubled Hellfire retain a slight advantage insofar as they are at home, have already beaten the Violators for their only win this year and will play free of serious expectations, making them relatively loose against the Conference's most uptight team. But the Hellfire is also a demoralized team, with no sense of purpose; a team that can usually be relied on to be worse than expected; so don't count on any of those advantages I just mentioned. Virden remains the league's most powerful offence in terms of moving the ball forward, but frequently negates its advantage by giving the ball over at critical times. In this way they keep their opponents in the game no matter how uneven the talent differential is between them. I hesitate to call for lightning to strike twice but the Virden is like a steel rod for precisely this sort of thing. **PICK: MOHAVE**

### **SANTA CLARA @ MISSION VIEJO (line – BANANA SLUGGS by 2)**

**INJURIES: Santa Clara** –Randall Cobb (OUT), Alfonzo Dennard (OUT), Rob Gronkowski (OUT), Clay Matthews (OUT), Louis Nix III (OUT), Brandon Williams (OUT); **Mission Viejo** – Kenbrell Thompkins (QUESTIONABLE), Brandon Browner (OUT), Brian Cushing (OUT), Duke Ihenacho (OUT), Mike James (OUT), Russell Okung (OUT), Mike Williams (OUT).

The only explanation I can think of for this absurdly small line is that uncertainty over the effect of three owners for this franchise in less than one year is putting all bets off. But it seems to me to be slightly mad to think that further front office upheaval is going to have a meaningful game-day impact on the players after they just survived a 12-year old interim coach for two weeks and an erratic novice at the helm for 9 weeks. If the Sluggs were a lesser team facing a mightier opponent I might pause, but there is just too much talent there to think that they will lose to the Monarchs, let alone struggle to win. DeMarco Murray is developing into an impact back but there is not enough tread on his tires to carry his team as far as it needs to go to outscore the elite Santa Clara offence. This one is an easy one for your pocket book. **PICK: SANTA CLARA**

### **LOS ANGELES @ IOWA CITY (line – CUBS by 15)**

**INJURIES: Los Angeles** – Cortland Finnegan (PROBABLE), Garrett Graham (PROBABLE), Kenny Vaccaro (OUT); **Iowa City** – Xavier Rhodes (PROBABLE), Tavon Austin (OUT), Tyvon Branch (OUT), Casey Hayward (OUT), Malcolm Jenkins (OUT), Stephon Gilmore (OUT), Jamar Taylor (OUT).

The Cubs had their secondary severely banged up by the Hellfire last week but, apart from Malcolm Jenkins, none of them will be sorely missed this week against a Knights team that throws the ball about as often and as effectively as the 1925 Pottsville Maroons – no offence intended to the Maroons. The severely abused ‘Blue Shield’ can expect a long day against one of the league’s top moving offences. It will be interesting to see whether Colin Kaepernick continues his audition for other teams this week or Russell Wilson returns to starting duties for the Cubs – interesting, but irrelevant to the outcome. **PICK: IOWA CITY**

### **SEBASTIAN @ AURORA (line – MUSTANGS by 21)**

**INJURIES: Sebastian** – Patrick Chung (OUT), Leon Hall (OUT), Rahim Moore (OUT), Derek Wolfe (OUT); **Aurora** – Arian Foster (OUT).

As shocking as it is to see a 21-point line in professional football, it is not really surprising here given the recent performances by both these teams. The Swordfish managed just 6 first downs *last* week against a fine Durham defence not nearly as dominant as the one they face *this* week that, *last* week, held the previously third-ranked offence to just 9 first downs. If that is too confusing, think of it this way: the Swordfish suck on offence and the Mustangs have the best defence in football. The ‘Stangs also have a pretty good offence which is capable, on an off day, of scoring more than 21 points against a decent defence that won’t be able to stay off the field for long. I would add the “anything can happen” caveat to account for how the Fish might beat the spread but in this case it just seems too trite. **PICK: AURORA**

### **GWINNETT @ SCARBOROUGH (line – BLUE EAGLES by 3)**

**INJURIES: Gwinnett** – Reggie Wayne (QUESTIONABLE), Lance Briggs (OUT), Tommy Kelly (OUT), Maurkice Pouncey (OUT); **Scarborough** – Kroy Biermann (OUT), Brodrick Bunkley (OUT), Nate Burleson (OUT), Aaron Rodgers (OUT), Charles Sims (OUT), D.J. Williams (OUT).

Aaron Rodgers is still injured and Terrelle Pryor is still active, which means there is no realistic chance for Scarborough to win a game unless they are at home facing the worst team in the league. Now, a few people would claim that the Glads *are* the worst team in the league. But the Glads’ record and the data does not support that hypothesis. The data clearly indicates that the worst team in the league is playing Iowa City this week. Therefore, by process of deduction, it is next to impossible for the Blue Eagles to win. Now, *that* was easy! **PICK: GWINNETT**



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*This Week in EFL History*  
*With Professor Sterling Smitherman*

FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – In 2008 the EFL was just in its second year and already its history was having an influence on the present. That is the wonderful thing about history: everything that ever happens becomes history the moment somebody records it. And that record leaves an indelible imprint in our collective minds about who we are and where we are going. History is glorious. Its impact increases exponentially with the passage of time.

Not to make too much of a bit of EFL history, but **Donovan McNabb**, who made history as the original championship QB with the Chino Convicts, found himself

one year later toiling thanklessly for the expansion Pickering Spartans. The cruel world of pro sports was especially cruel to McNabb. The first championship QB in EFL history was never offered so much as a contract by the Convicts after they overspent on marginal free agents. Donovan became too rich for their blood and he was put on the waiver wire to be snatched up by Pickering minutes later. In Week Nine, he made the Convicts and their new QB, **Jay Cutler**, pay by leading the Spartans to a stunning 27-24 upset that pushed Chino back another game behind Iowa City in the West Division. 249 yards and 3 TD passes was enough to earn him player of the week honours as well – an extra little jab at his jilter.

On the defensive side, **Will Witherspoon** of the Dragons made 14 tackles, 4 stuffs and forced 2 fumbles to earn Defensive Player of the Week honours after helping to shut down the Thunder Lizards 20-10. The Pats also remained undefeated, taking down Mohave 30-6 to set up the anticipated match-up between undefeated Florida and Charleswood in Week 10.

Remember **Brodie Croyle**? If you don’t you are forgiven. He was the woeful Knights’ QB in Week 9.