

WEEK 4

WEEK 4

# 2012 EFL 2012

November 4, 2012



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

Death Valley kicker, **Graham Gano** (right) boots a 55-yard field goal past the out-stretched arms of the Cubs' **Byron Maxwell** to beat Iowa City 31-28 and allow the Undertakers to remain one of two unbeaten teams in the PAC. In other EFL action, Virden and Scarborough took care of their opponents to also remain unbeaten while the Excaliburs unhorsed the Knights on a last minute drive from deep in their territory to stay close to the Violators in the standings. Another record was set as well. (More Inside)



**GRAHAM GANO**



*Who was slick in Week Four?*

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



**Willis McGahee**  
RB  
Death Valley  
Undertakers

28 carries, 249 yards, 1 TD. Set EFL single game rushing record.



**Jared Allen**  
DE  
Durham Thunder  
Lizards

7 tackles, 3 sacks, 1 PD, 1 TFL, 3 QB Pressures, 2 FF, 'nuff said!





1-3

28

EFL

# GAME OF THE WEEK



4-0

31

## KICK OF DEATH!

### GANO BOOTS 55-YARD FIELD GOAL TO LIFT UNDERTAKERS TO LAST SECOND WIN!

#### CUB OF THE GAME

Mike Wallace

8 Receptions, 189 yards, 3 TDs

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
Iowa City	0	7	14	7	-	28
Death Valley	7	7	14	3	-	31

#### UNDERTAKER OF THE GAME

Willis McGahee

28 carries, 249 yards, 1 TD

**GAME SUMMARY:** With the game tied at 28, less than one minute remaining and the Cubs driving, rookie running back **LaMichael James** coughed up the ball after being stoned by Death Valley safety **George Wilson** as he was about to break into the clear. **Jason Allen** recovered at the Undertakers' 35 yard line and quarterback **Drew Brees** took over, coming up big on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 14 by completing a 22-yard pass to tight end **Rob Gronkowski** that brought the ball across mid-field. With just 15 seconds on the clock, Brees connected with **Randall Cobb** for 10 yards to the Cubs' 37 yard line where he called timeout. With just 8 seconds remaining **Graham Gano** booted a 55-yard field goal that hit dead center in the swirling Graveyard wind to give Death Valley a dramatic 31-28 victory. The big kick was certain redemption for Gano, who missed a 39-yard attempt and had another blocked earlier in the game. It was also the second game-winning field goal of 50-plus yards for him in as many weeks; last week he kicked a 54-yarder to beat Chino by the same 31-28 score. It was a happy ending for Death Valley but it came after the Cubs gave them a scare with a 21-point burst in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. Cubs' rookie QB, **Russell Wilson** connected three times with speedster **Mike Wallace** for TDs, including a 49-yard long hitch after Wilson miraculously got away from **Jonathan Fanene** in the backfield, as well as a 9-yard out pattern that Wallace turned into a 66-yard score as he dodged a tackle and sprinted down the sidelines to tie the game in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. The James fumble over-shadowed a 101-yard rushing day for the Cubs' rookie and a good day overall for the Iowa City offence that managed 437 yards of offence. The Undertakers posted big numbers as well, racking up 456 yards with over half of them coming from **Willis McGahee**, who rushed for an EFL-record 249 yards, including a 66-yard run to set up an Undertakers' TD in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, and a 65-yard TD run in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter that would turn out to be critical in keeping his team even with a late-surgng Cubs squad. Brees opened the day's scoring with the first of three TD passes, a short slant to **Alshon Jeffery** that the rookie receiver turned into a 16-yard scoring play. Brees finished with 229 yards and has yet to throw an interception this year.

#### QUOTE OF THE GAME

"I just run to the holes man and if there ain't no hole there then I make 'em miss. There were a lot of holes over there!" – *Death Valley running back, Willis McGahee.*

"It was a rookie mistake, like all the mistakes we are making this year." – *Iowa City coach, Deron Redding, on James' fumble in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.*

"The defence continues to give up big plays but our offence is keeping up with them!" – *Death Valley coach, Chris Worthley.*



#### FANS' THUMB UP

Record-setting day for McGahee!



#### FANS' THUMB DOWN

Critical fumble by Cubs' rookie

#### FAN RATING



10-30-2012 Graveyard Temp: 79 Wind: 5-15 None MVP: Willis McGahee

1 4:34	Death Valley	TD Brees 16 pass to Jeffery (Gano) (11-70-6:31)	0-7
2 14:55	Iowa City	TD Brown 2 run (Zuerlein) (8-84-4:34)	7-7
2 13:57	Death Valley	TD Brees 14 pass to Gronkowski (Gano) (2-80-0:58)	7-14
3 7:48	Death Valley	TD Brees 3 pass to Colston (Gano) (6-31-2:17)	7-21
3 5:27	Iowa City	TD Wilson 49 pass to Wallace (Zuerlein) (4-69-2:14)	14-21
3 5:06	Death Valley	TD McGahee 65 run (Gano) (1-65-0:14)	14-28
3 1:32	Iowa City	TD Wilson 5 pass to Wallace (Zuerlein) (8-63-3:29)	21-28
4 9:02	Iowa City	TD Wilson 66 pass to Wallace (Zuerlein) (3-73-1:38)	28-28
4 0:03	Death Valley	FG Gano 55 (5-28-0:51)	28-31

	ICC	DVU
First Downs	18	21
Rushes	36-194	29-250
Passes	21-15-243	27-21-229
Sacked	0-0	4-23
Fumble	1	0
Penalties	4-26	8-55
Turnovers	2	0
Bad Passes	2	2
Blitzes	11	9
Time	29:36	30:24
Third Down	6-12	4-13
Fourth Down	1-1	2-3
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/2/0	6/3/0
Net Offense	437	456



# QUICK COUNTS!!

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



**CONVICTS**  
3-1-0

7	20	6	0	0	<b>33</b>
OT					

**Steven Jackson**  
149 total yards, 2 TDs



**MONARCHS**  
0-4-0

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

**Rashard Mendenahall**  
17 Carries, 75 yards

A 51-yard FG by **Neil Rackers** was the difference in favour of Mission Viejo for most of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter until **Ryan Tannehill** was picked off by linebacker **Daryl Smith** and the ball returned to the Monarchs' 13 yard line. From there **Steven Jackson** snagged a pass in the flat and ran it in for a TD to start a streak of 33 consecutive unanswered points for the Convicts. **Brandon Tate** fumbled the ensuing kickoff return for Mission Viejo and **Cam Newton** made them pay with a 16-yard bootleg TD run. The Chino defence controlled the Monarchs the rest of the way to complete the easy win.



**TRIUMPH**  
1-3-0

0	7	0	0	0	<b>7</b>
OT					

**Doug Martin**  
17 Carries, 80 yards, 1 TD, 2 Fum



**CORN KINGS**  
3-1-0

24	7	3	0	0	<b>34</b>
OT					

**Joe Flacco**  
20 of 32, 240 yards, 3 TDs

A 1<sup>st</sup> quarter offensive barrage by the Corn Kings turned out to be the story of the game. After 15 minutes, the home team led 24-0 on a pair of **Joe Flacco** TD passes, a **Maurice Jones-Drew** TD run, and a 23-yard FG by **John Kasay** following a **Jay Cutler** sack and lost fumble. The Twin Cities' offence struggled early, failing to gain a 1<sup>st</sup> down in their first five possessions of the game. By the time **Tim Tebow** got the offence moving late in the 1<sup>st</sup> half, it was already 31-0 for Cowtown and the game already out of reach. Conservative play in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half brought the game to a quiet ending.



**T-LIZARDS**  
3-1-0

7	0	10	24	0	<b>41</b>
OT					

**Calvin Johnson**  
8 Receptions, 123 yards, 3 TDs



**GLADIATORS**  
0-4-0

10	7	10	0	0	<b>27</b>
OT					

**LeSean McCoy**  
16 Carries, 81 yards, 2 TDs

A 42-yard TD pass from **Ben Roethlisberger** to **Reggie Wayne**, a dive into the end zone by **LeSean McCoy**, and error-free football gave the Gladiators a rare 10-point lead, 17-7, at half time. But their fortunes turned sour early in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half when Roethlisberger was picked off by **Curtis Lofton**. The turnover was converted into a 52-yard **Mason Crosby** FG, turning the momentum. **Jared Allen** sacked Big Ben on consecutive plays on Gwinnett's next possession then **Calvin Johnson** hauled in a 41-yard TD from **Philip Rivers** to tie it. Four more Glads' TOs led to 24, 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Durham points.





# QUICK COUNTS!!

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



## REGULATORS

1-3-0

0	0	0	0	0	0
OT					

**Felix Jones**  
5-34 Rush, 7 Receptions, 75 yards



## BLUE EAGLES

4-0-0

14	14	0	10	0	38
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**Aaron Rodgers**  
20 of 25, 257 yards, 4 TDs

**Aaron Rodgers** completed his first 4 passes, including a 19-yard TD strike to **DeSean Jackson**, to get the Blue Eagles' scoring barrage started in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. The Regulators' counter-strike was thwarted when **Bart Scott** forced a **Felix Jones** fumble at the Scarborough 20 and **Ray Rice** broke a 70-yard run to the SC 10 on the next play. Rodgers finished it off with a 2-yard bootleg for a TD for a quick 14-0 lead. The Regulators never got back in the game after that. Scarborough piled up 507 yards of offence, Rice rushed for 202 yards, and the 'D' posted a shutout as the Eagles soared.



## MUSTANGS

2-2-0

7	14	3	7	0	31
OT					

**Matt Ryan**  
30 of 48, 400 yards, 4 TDs



## SWORDFISH

1-3-0

3	0	3	0	0	6
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**Andy Dalton**  
24 of 38, 170 yards

**Matt Ryan** hooked up with **Darrius Heyward-Bey** for a 48-yard TD pass to get the scoring started. After the Swordfish replied with a 42-yard **Adam Vinatieri** FG, the Mustangs charged back with two more Ryan TD passes, a 15-yard hitch to Heyward-Bey and a 4-yard fly to **Laurent Robinson** in the back of the end zone to take a 21-3 lead after one half. After exchanging 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter field goals, Ryan put the game away for Garland in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter with his 4<sup>th</sup> TD pass of the day, a 2-yard slant to fullback **James Casey**. The teams combined for just 66 yards of rushing on the day.



## VIOLATORS

4-0-0

7	14	14	3	0	38
OT					

**Julio Jones**  
7 Receptions, 125 yards, 3 TDs



## HELLFIRE

0-4-0

0	10	3	0	0	13
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**Andrew Luck**  
21 of 32, 288 yards, 1 TD, 2 INTs

The league's top-rated QB continued to impress. Virden's **Matt Stafford** connected on TD passes of 13, 23, and 26 yards, all to **Julio Jones**, to direct his team to a 21-10 half time lead. The Hellfire showed some life in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter on a 43-yard TD pass from **Andrew Luck** to **Hakeem Nicks** and a forced fumble by LB **Justin Houston** that led to a FG. But the Violators' offence was too much for the Mohave defenders. Stafford got the 2<sup>nd</sup> half started with his 4<sup>th</sup> TD pass of the game, a 46-yard strike to **Dez Bryant**, and the Hellfire faded fast, gaining just two 1<sup>st</sup> downs the rest of the way.



# QUICK COUNTS!!

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



<b>EXCALIBURS</b>
3-1-0

0	10	7	7	0	<b>24</b>
				OT	

**Tom Brady**  
24 of 40, 343 yards, 3 TDs



<b>KNIGHTS</b>
2-2-0

0	3	7	10	0	<b>20</b>

**Darren Sproles**  
17 Carries, 112 yards, 4-42 rec

With the Knights leading 20-17, 1:08 remaining, and the Excaliburs backed up at their own 13 yard line **Anquan Boldin** broke a tackle and raced 70 yards to the 17 yard line of LA. On the next play **Tom Brady** lofted a pass to the corner of the end zone where **Victor Cruz** snagged it for the game-winning TD. Heavy rain slowed down both offences in the 1<sup>st</sup> half but the game opened up in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. The Knights battled back from a 17-10 deficit in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and appeared to be heading for victory after **Alex Smith** hooked up with **Tony Gonzalez** for a 1-yard TD with 1:12 remaining.



<b>COLONIALS</b>
3-1-0

7	7	10	3	0	<b>27</b>
				OT	

**Josh Freeman**  
21 of 28, 269 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT



<b>PATRIOTS</b>
0-4-0

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

**Mark Barron**  
4 Tackles, 1 PD, 1 INT for TD

The Patriots started strong with a 75-yard punt return TD by **Jacoby Jones** and a 37-yard 'pick-six' by rookie safety **Mark Barron** to grab an early 14-0 lead. But the **Brandon Weeden**-led Charleswood offence struggled all day and eventually the Commonwealth offence put them away. **Josh Freeman** capped an 86-yard drive with a 1-yard TD run to get on the board and **Fred Jackson** scooted by **Louis Delmas** for a 10-yard TD run to tie it at 14. After trading FGs, the Colonials took the lead for good on a 13-yard TD pass to **Donald Driver**. **Donte Whitner's** pick led to an insurance FG in the 4<sup>th</sup>.



<b>SPARTANS</b>
2-2-0

0	10	0	7	0	<b>17</b>
				OT	

**Chris Johnson**  
21 Carries, 97 yards



<b>NORTH STARS</b>
3-1-0

3	17	3	0	0	<b>23</b>

**DeAngelo Williams**  
16 Carries, 117 yards, 1 TD

A 39-yard TD pass from **Eli Manning** to **Jordy Nelson** broke a 10-10 tie with 30 seconds remaining in the 1<sup>st</sup> half then **Andre Branch** sacked **Robert Griffin III** and forced a fumble in Pickering territory to set up a 47-yard **David Akers** FG with 1 second left to give Markham a 20-10 half time lead. Griffin scored on a 1-yard sneak to bring Pickering within a TD early in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, but could not capitalize on a successful surprise onside kick. The Spartans could have got the ball back with 1:25 left, but **Ray Edwards** jumped offside as Markham punted on 4<sup>th</sup>&1 to give up the final 1<sup>st</sup> down.





# BODY COUNT



## WEEK FOUR INJURY REPORT



<b>CHARLESWOOD</b>	Peter Konz, C – OUT (2 games); Michael Vick, QB – OUT (2 games); Sidney Rice, WR – OUT (6 games); Shaun Phillips, LB – OUT (2 games); Barrett Ruud, LB – OUT (5 games); Ion Beason, ILB – OUT (Season)
<b>CHINO</b>	Dan Connor, ILB – QUESTIONABLE; Arrelious Benn, WR – OUT (2 games); James Harrison, OLB – OUT (5 games)
<b>COMMONWEALTH</b>	Corey Williams, DT – PROBABLE; Lavonte David, OLB – QUESTIONABLE; Arthur Moats, LB – QUESTIONABLE; Harrison Smith, S – QUESTIONABLE; Marcus McNeill, T – OUT (4 games); Emmanuel Sanders, WR – OUT (4 games)
<b>COWTOWN</b>	Santana Moss, WR – OUT; Malcolm Floyd, WR – OUT (2 games); Todd Heap, TE – OUT (4 games); D.J. Williams, OLB – OUT (2 games)
<b>DEATH VALLEY</b>	Ryan Broyles, KR – QUESTIONABLE; Jake Long, T – PROBABLE; Owen Marecic, RB – DOUTBFUL; William Moore, S – OUT (2 games); Rey Mauuluga, ILB – OUT (2 games); Gerald McCoy, DT – OUT (10 games)
<b>DURHAM</b>	Jason Jones, DL – QUESTIONABLE; David Reed, WR – DOUTBFUL; Antonio Gates, TE – PROBABLE; Matt Schaub, QB – OUT (2 games); Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, CB – OUT (2 games); Elvis Dumervil, DE – OUT (3 games)
<b>GARLAND</b>	Arian Foster, RB – QUESTIONABLE; Matt Forte, RB – OUT (2 games); Joseph Addai, RB – OUT (3 games); Peyton Hillis, RB – OUT (5 games); Deji Karim, RB – OUT (5 games); Quinn Johnson, FB – OUT (12 games)
<b>GWINNETT</b>	Jim Leonhard, S – DOUBTFUL; Dan Connolly, G – PROB; Vernon Carey, OL – PROB; Mychal Kendricks, LB – DOUBTFUL; Ernie Sims, OLB – (2 games); Sam Baker, T – OUT (3 games); Jeremy Maclin, WR – OUT (3 games); Jaiquawn Jarrett, S – OUT (5 games)
<b>IOWA CITY</b>	Patrick Willis, LB – DOUBTFUL; Brandon Harris, CB – OUT (6 games); Mario Williams, OLB – OUT (12 games)
<b>LOS ANGELES</b>	Kevin Williams, DT – DOUBTFUL; Brian Bulaga, T – OUT (2 games)
<b>MARKHAM</b>	James Starks, RB – OUT (2 games); Jonathan Babineaux, DT – OUT (3 games)
<b>MISSION VIEJO</b>	Chester Taylor, RB – OUT (2 games); Colt McCoy, QB – OUT (2 games); DeMarco Murry, RB – OUT (3 games)
<b>MOHAVE</b>	Roy Williams, WR – QUESTIONABLE; Champ Bailey, CB – OUT (2 games); Daniel Thomas, RB – OUT (4 games); Aaron Williams, CB – OUT (8 games)
<b>PICKERING</b>	Scott Chandler, TE – DOUBTFUL; Kerry Rhodes, S – OUT (5 games); Darren McFadden, RB – OUT (8 games)
<b>SCARBOROUGH</b>	Ndamukong Suh, DT – OUT; Jermaine Gresham, TE – OUT (2 games); LaMarr Woodley, OLB – OUT (6 games); Kris Dileman, G – OUT (11 games)
<b>SEBASTIAN</b>	Luke Stocker, TE – PROBABLE; Michael Jenkins, WR – OUT (2 games); Louis Murphy, WR – OUT (4 games); Leonard Hankerson, WR – OUT (11 games), Kenny Britt, WR – OUT (Season)
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>	Bradley Fletcher, CB – OUT (9 games)
<b>TWIN CITIES</b>	Albert Haynesworth, DL – OUT (2 games); Matt Roth, DE – OUT (5 games); Antoine Winfield, CB – OUT (12 games)
<b>VIRDEN</b>	Beanie Wells, RB – OUT (2 games); Vontae Davis, CB – OUT (3 games); Brandon Meriweather, S – OUT (6 games); La Ron Landry, S – OUT (8 games); Prince Amukamara, CB – OUT (10 games); Eric Berry, S – OUT (Season)
<b>YORK</b>	Oshiomogho Atogwe, S – QUESTIONABLE; Jason Peters, T – OUT (2 games); Assante Samuel, CB – OUT (3 games); Rashean Mathis, CB – OUT (7 games); Donald Jones, WR – OUT (7 games)



# STATS



## WEEK FOUR

### STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Virден	4	0	0	1.000	158	39.5	89	22.3	17.3	2 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0
York	3	1	0	0.750	134	33.5	72	18	15.5	1 1 0	2 1 0	3 1 0
Commonwealth	3	1	0	0.750	116	29	82	20.5	8.5	2 0 0	2 1 0	3 1 0
Charleswood	0	4	0	0	58	14.5	118	29.5	-15	0 2 0	0 3 0	0 4 0
Mohave	0	4	0	0	37	9.3	149	37.3	-28	0 3 0	0 3 0	0 4 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Death Valley	4	0	0	1.000	159	39.8	114	28.5	11.3	2 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0
Chino	3	1	0	0.750	119	29.8	60	15	14.8	1 0 0	2 1 0	3 1 0
Los Angeles	2	2	0	0.500	126	31.5	98	24.5	7	1 2 0	2 1 0	2 2 0
Iowa City	1	3	0	0.250	69	17.3	81	20.3	-3	1 1 0	0 3 0	1 3 0
Mission Viejo	0	4	0	0	47	11.8	160	40	-28.3	0 2 0	0 3 0	0 4 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Cowtown	3	1	0	0.750	113	28.3	68	17	11.3	2 0 0	2 1 0	3 1 0
Durham	3	1	0	0.750	116	29	101	25.3	3.8	2 0 0	2 1 0	3 1 0
Markham	3	1	0	0.750	96	24	81	20.3	3.8	2 0 0	2 1 0	3 1 0
Pickering	2	2	0	0.500	82	20.5	85	21.3	-0.8	2 0 0	2 2 0	2 2 0
Twin Cities	1	3	0	0.250	75	18.8	87	21.8	-3	1 1 0	0 3 0	1 3 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Scarborough	4	0	0	1.000	128	32	33	8.3	23.8	2 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0
Garland	2	2	0	0.500	93	23.3	62	15.5	7.8	1 0 0	2 1 0	2 2 0
South Carolina	1	3	0	0.250	43	10.8	109	27.3	-16.5	1 1 0	1 2 0	1 3 0
Sebastian	1	3	0	0.250	45	11.3	117	29.3	-18	0 2 0	1 2 0	1 3 0
Gwinnett	0	4	0	0	72	18	120	30	-12	0 3 0	0 3 0	0 4 0

### PASSING

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Stafford	VV	114	90	78.9	1258	1	0.9	46	14	12.3	148.6
2	Brees	DVU	174	130	74.7	1714	0	0.0	54	20	11.5	143.7
3	Newton,C	CHI	91	64	70.3	825	1	1.1	75	8	8.8	123.2
4	Brady	YOR	119	80	67.2	1131	1	0.8	75	8	6.7	116.6
5	Smith,A	LAK	136	94	69.1	1098	2	1.5	51	11	8.1	114.2
6	Cutler	TCT	91	63	69.2	698	0	0.0	36	5	5.5	110.1
7	Rodgers,A	SBE	130	87	66.9	1074	1	0.8	73	6	4.6	104.5
8	Flacco	COW	140	82	58.6	1063	2	1.4	76	11	7.9	102.8
9	Rivers,P	DTL	129	82	63.6	1112	5	3.9	53	10	7.8	100.7
10	Bradford,S	ICC	43	26	60.5	323	0	0.0	51	2	4.7	99.3
11	Vick	CHP	71	50	70.4	612	3	4.2	71	4	5.6	97.9
12	Ryan,M	GDM	170	107	62.9	1387	4	2.4	81	7	4.1	92.5
13	Wilson,R	ICC	68	45	66.2	593	3	4.4	66	3	4.4	89.9
14	Manning,E	MAR	102	59	57.8	899	4	3.9	57	5	4.9	87.0
15	Freeman,J	COM	118	74	62.7	834	5	4.2	61	6	5.1	83.1
16	McCoy,C	MVM	86	52	60.5	455	2	2.3	36	3	3.5	76.5
17	Gabbert	MOH	73	40	54.8	448	2	2.7	49	3	4.1	75.6
18	Luck	MOH	67	41	61.2	478	3	4.5	52	1	1.5	69.1
19	Romo	SC	147	95	64.6	916	8	5.4	30	3	2.0	66.0
20	Dalton	SS	96	62	64.6	535	5	5.2	22	2	2.1	64.4



## RUSHING

		Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1	Rice, R	SBE	91	518	5.7	70	2	11	McGahee	DVU	32	259	8.1	66	1
2	Turner, M	YOR	86	447	5.2	43	6	12	Brown, D	ICC	44	256	5.8	27	1
3	Jackson, F	COM	81	446	5.5	35	5	13	Mathews, R	DVU	56	254	4.5	36	0
4	Jones-Drew	COW	90	430	4.8	23	3	14	McCoy, L	GWG	58	241	4.2	17	2
5	Martin, D	TCT	66	320	4.8	55	1	15	Gerhart	DTL	48	235	4.9	30	0
6	Sproles	LAK	45	316	7.0	27	1	16	Johnson, C	PIC	56	225	4.0	35	1
7	Williams, D	MAR	48	304	6.3	73	4	17	Mendenhall	MVM	56	200	3.6	19	0
8	Wells, B	VV	65	291	4.5	15	2	18	James, L	ICC	33	186	5.6	47	0
9	Jackson, S	CHI	61	290	4.8	52	1	19	Newton, C	CHI	28	165	5.9	20	4
10	Stewart, J	MAR	48	275	5.7	18	1	20	Tate, B	VV	29	165	5.7	27	1

## RECEIVING

		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1	Gronkows, R	DVU	35	541	15.5	54	3	11	Johnson, A	DVU	21	397	18.9	47	8
2	Johnson, C	DTL	32	490	15.3	48	6	12	Green, A	SC	21	253	12.0	22	2
3	Bowe	DTL	27	346	12.8	53	3	13	Winslow	YOR	20	202	10.1	20	1
4	Smith, S	LAK	27	413	15.3	51	4	14	Witten	CHP	20	198	9.9	18	1
5	Jones, J	VV	25	449	18.0	35	5	15	Jackson, D	SBE	20	336	16.8	73	1
6	Fitzgerald	COW	25	404	16.2	43	5	16	Wayne	GWG	20	304	15.2	42	3
7	Wallace, M	ICC	25	505	20.2	66	4	17	Welker	MAR	20	280	14.0	43	1
8	Graham, J	MOH	25	280	11.2	52	1	18	Marshall, B	SBE	19	218	11.5	19	3
9	White, R	LAK	23	291	12.7	41	2	19	Colston	DVU	19	199	10.5	26	1
10	Bryant, D	VV	22	340	15.5	46	5	20	Nicks, H	MOH	19	321	16.9	49	2

## KICKING

		FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts	
1	Janikowski	SBE	14	10	71.4	3	1	51	44
2	Gould	GDM	12	10	83.3	4	0	44	39
3	Tynes	VV	6	6	100.0	1	0	44	38
4	Crosby	DTL	11	8	72.7	3	2	52	36
5	Akers	MAR	12	9	75.0	5	0	49	36
6	Carpenter	LAK	7	7	100.0	3	2	55	36
7	Bailey, D	CHI	8	7	87.5	3	1	51	35
8	Zuerlein	ICC	11	9	81.8	3	1	51	33
9	Walsh	YOR	8	5	62.5	2	0	44	32
10	Gostkowski	COM	7	6	85.7	0	0	33	32
11	Gano	DVU	6	4	66.7	2	2	55	31
12	Kasay	COW	6	5	83.3	0	0	37	27
13	Scobee	PIC	5	4	80.0	2	1	58	22
14	Bironas	TCT	4	4	100.0	2	0	48	21
15	Rackers	MVM	7	6	85.7	5	2	59	21
16	Vinatieri	SS	6	6	100.0	1	0	42	21
17	Longwell	SC	6	5	83.3	2	0	46	19
18	Brown, J	GWG	4	3	75.0	1	1	52	18
19	Folk	CHP	3	3	100.0	1	0	47	16
20	Cundiff	MOH	4	3	75.0	2	0	48	13



## INTERCEPTIONS

	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1 Kerrigan	COW	2	0	0.0	0	0	11 Timmons	YOR	1	16	16.0	16	0
2 Sherman	DTL	2	23	11.5	20	0	12 Mathis,R	YOR	1	0	0.0	0	0
3 Reed,E	MAR	2	0	0.0	0	0	13 Manning,D	YOR	1	21	21.0	21	0
4 Witherspoo	PIC	2	66	33.0	52	1	14 Barber,R	COM	1	10	10.0	10	0
5 Martin,S	MVM	2	0	0.0	0	0	15 Whitner	COM	1	0	0.0	0	0
6 Griffin,M	SBE	2	14	7.0	9	0	16 Claiborne	COM	1	0	0.0	0	0
7 Cushing	GDM	2	1	0.5	1	0	17 David	COM	1	26	26.0	26	1
8 Weddle	GDM	2	15	7.5	15	0	18 Ross,A	COW	1	0	0.0	0	0
9 Polamalu	GWG	2	33	16.5	33	1	19 Barron	CHP	1	37	37.0	37	1
10 Johnson,M	YOR	1	1	1.0	1	0	20 Godfrey	COW	1	0	0.0	0	0

## SACKS

1 Allen,J	DTL	6	8 Atkins	YOR	4	15 Smith,A	VV	3
2 Babin	YOR	5	9 Suggs	SBE	4	16 Dumervil	DTL	3
3 Tuck	SBE	5	10 Avril	GDM	4	17 Patterson	SC	3
4 Kelly,T	DTL	4	11 Barnes,A	GWG	4	18 Miller,V	YOR	2
5 Cole,T	MAR	4	12 Wilkerson	ICC	3	19 Sheard	PIC	2
6 Peppers	CHI	4	13 Johnson,M	YOR	3	20 McDonald	PIC	2
7 Pierre-Pau	ICC	4	14 Casey,J	TCT	3	21 Taylor,P	CHP	2

## TACKLES

1 McClain,R	MOH	45	8 Angerer	MAR	33	15 Kuechly	SC	30
2 Laurinaiti	GWG	44	9 Briggs	GWG	33	16 Washington	PIC	30
3 Cushing	GDM	39	10 Mayo	DVU	32	17 Johnson,D	COW	29
4 Martin,S	MVM	39	11 Smith,D	CHI	32	18 Lofton	DTL	29
5 Pierre-Pau	ICC	37	12 Taylor,P	CHP	31	19 Hawthorne	COM	29
6 Chaney	SS	36	13 Barnett	VV	31	20 Hall,D	GDM	28
7 Jackson,D	LAK	34	14 Henders,EJ	SC	30	21 Bowman	GDM	26

## KICK RETURNS

	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1 Arenas	SC	5	188	37.6	97	0	11 Gates,C	ICC	16	377	23.6	43	0
2 Sherels	SS	17	542	31.9	76	0	12 Logan	GWG	22	517	23.5	33	0
3 McKnight	MAR	15	470	31.3	82	0	13 Karim	GDM	10	233	23.3	35	0
4 Sproles	LAK	17	505	29.7	80	0	14 Jones,F	SC	5	114	22.8	34	0
5 Scott,D	SBE	10	294	29.4	100	1	15 Banks	MOH	21	467	22.2	35	0
6 Stroughter	CHP	22	643	29.2	101	0	16 Tate,B	MVM	22	486	22.1	52	0
7 Harvin	PIC	10	272	27.2	40	0	17 Cribbs	CHI	7	154	22.0	34	0
8 Cobb	DVU	13	337	25.9	35	0	18 Boykin	PIC	5	109	21.8	32	0
9 Hester,D	DTL	11	281	25.5	52	0	19 Washington	COM	12	261	21.8	27	0
10 Ginn Jr.	TCT	12	301	25.1	32	0	20 Lefeged	VV	9	183	20.3	29	0

## PUNT RETURNS

	No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1 Jones,J	CHP	8	0	150	18.8	75	1	11 Peterson,P	GDM	7	2	59	8.4	26	0
2 Arenas	SC	6	0	97	16.2	31	0	12 Edwards,A	ICC	13	0	108	8.3	41	0
3 Ginn Jr.	TCT	8	1	116	14.5	25	0	13 Cribbs	CHI	12	2	99	8.3	13	0
4 Banks	MOH	5	1	64	12.8	23	0	14 Logan	GWG	5	3	40	8.0	16	0
5 Mariani	YOR	8	1	102	12.8	19	0	15 Tate,B	MVM	6	2	47	7.8	11	0
6 Washington	COM	10	2	120	12.0	19	0	16 Jackson,D	SBE	9	8	68	7.6	12	0
7 Weems	COW	11	4	132	12.0	15	0	17 Thomas,M	VV	7	3	52	7.4	15	0
8 Bess	DTL	4	6	45	11.3	23	0	18 Adams,J	PIC	9	4	55	6.1	10	0
9 Welker	MAR	4	1	40	10.0	16	0	19 Cobb	DVU	6	4	36	6.0	9	0
10 Sherels	SS	4	1	34	8.5	13	0	20 Sproles	LAK	8	3	45	5.6	12	0



# AROUND THE



*With Spats McChad*

NEW YORK – Hurricane Sandy humbles us. It reminds mankind of who, or what, is actually in control of our collective survival. Mother Nature can be a cruel teacher – when unleashing her fury she has no favourites; but apparently some are unluckier than others in the face of her indiscriminate force. One of those unluckier ones is me.

My flight back to New York from Charlottesville was delayed by Sandy and I spent Monday night hunkered down in the Super 8 Charlottesville, the only hotel near the airport with vacancies. I could see why – it was not exactly one of the better hotel experiences I have had. I would have written a scathing online review of its numerous deficiencies but the place had no Wi-Fi. Can you believe that? So, with the faint whiff of stale urine in the air I opened a bag of bugles from the lobby vending machine and settled in for the night to watch coverage of the storm on CNN.

After seeing footage of the flooding in Lower Manhattan and the wreckage of a yacht on somebody's front lawn on Staten Island, I thanked my lucky stars that my West 50<sup>th</sup> Street condo was well out of harm's way. When I arrived back home on Wednesday, however, I was stunned to find my 11<sup>th</sup> floor apartment *flooded* by Hurricane Sandy – the only unit in the entire building to be affected by the storm.

I was greeted upon arrival by a familiar face – scars caused by my former pet cat Mr. Abbott fully healed and barely visible after several trips to the surgeon – who this time looked extremely empathetic and apologetic as opposed to stern and stiff as he had looked the last I had dealings with him. Mr. Nanton, the building manager, was devastated to inform me of damage to my apartment which apparently had been the result of, in his words, “unimaginable misfortune.”

For reasons that are unclear, because nobody can offer a rational explanation for it, a window-washing crew was working the day of the storm and was in the process of cleaning my windows when a strong gust of wind rose from below and caught the scaffold, knocking the hapless washer through my window, followed by part of the platform he had been standing on. The platform came to rest pointing upwards at a 45<sup>o</sup> angle, with half of it outside my window and the other half wedged inside at the base of my chesterfield.

The impact of hitting his head against my Italian alabaster lamp caused the unfortunate, but completely illegal, immigrant window-washer to lose consciousness while his partner, who was on the roof at the time, ran away in fear of the arrival of the authorities. Since nobody was paying attention to what was happening at the side of my building while a hurricane was bearing down on the city, nobody actually called the authorities until much later. Hurricane Sandy hit, bringing torrential rains and 80 mph winds; which winds blew said rain into my apartment by way of the tilted wooden platform angled in such a way that the water could flow freely into my living room and from there into every other room. This, of course, caused a great deal of damage to my apartment but, fortunately, did not drown the window-washer, who was found snoring on my couch when the authorities eventually arrived.

The bad news is that I, once again around Week Four of the EFL season, find myself homeless. The good news is that all of the money I had to spend to repair the damage done to my apartment by Mr. Abbott last year will be recouped, and then some, by the civil suit I am launching against my condominium corporation. In the mean time, I am enjoying my digs at the Crowne Plaza Times Square Manhattan, courtesy of Mr. Nanton.

## ***A YEAR FOR THE RECORD BOOKS***

After four weeks this season looks like it will be a memorable one for the offences, especially the one in Death Valley. The offensive record books continue to be re-written by the Undertakers. That team does nothing *small*; when something works **Chris Worthley** takes it as far as he can. In Week Four against Iowa City running back **Willis McGahee** was on fire, so Worthley set him to torching the Cubs' defence, rushing for 249 yards including a 65-yard TD run and another run of 66 yards, beating the EFL single-game record of 238 yards set by **LaDainian Tomlinson** in 2007 when he was with Chino. **Drew Brees** took a back seat to McGahee, but even while back-seat driving Brees managed to sling 3 more TD passes to bring his league-leading total to 20 after four weeks. The early favourite for Offensive MVP has yet to throw an interception this year in 174 attempts. Despite these impressive numbers from the stars of the Undertakers' offence, at crunch time all attention was focused on **Graham Gano** as he





The inside of my 11<sup>th</sup> floor apartment on West 50<sup>th</sup> Street in midtown Manhattan. I returned home shocked to discover Hurricane Sandy had struck.

lined up at the 45-yard line with 8 seconds left to decide the game. It is one of American football's great ironies that a 60-minute battle violently contested by all shapes and sizes of physical brutes could be decided by a relatively diminutive pseudo-athlete whose one skill involves kicking a ball. As incongruous as it appears, the presence of kicking is absolutely necessary in order to maintain any relationship whatsoever to American football's parent sport, *English* football. The English version prominently features the *foot* as opposed to the hands, and seeing as both sports share the same name and history, a *foot* should be significantly involved at some point in American *football*, even if the hands play a much larger role at all other times. The *foot* in American football is somewhat sacred, or it should be, and therefore kicking is a suitable means of deciding a game.

For the second week in a row, Gano decided a game in his team's favour, this time with a 55-yard kick to win a 31-28 bitterly-fought battle over arch-rival Iowa City. It was a heart-breaking loss for the young Cubs,

but **Deron Redding** was happy with his young team's performance. **Russell Wilson** looked poised in the pocket, evaded the rush well, and made some nice throws. **Mike Wallace** looked to be in 2011 form, which is where he has to be if Iowa City hopes for a respectable finish this year, and the running game scored big with 194 yards behind a young and very questionable offensive line. Although the defence surrendered 456 yards, all that really means is that the Cubs now join a growing list of EFL teams that cannot stop the Undertakers' soul-sucking offence.

As a reward for "trying hard," Redding booked his team, none of whom are over the age of 27, for a day at the *Chuck E. Cheese* in Laguna Hills on Monday when they arrive in Southern California for their Week Five tilt against Mission Viejo. Afterwards they will be heading to *Build-a-Bear*, so that, as Redding explains, "every player can create their very own lucky bear cub to last for the rest of the season."

#### **PYGMY POWER**

"What's that on the Corn Kings' sideline, Bill?" "Looks like a pygmy, Phil." So went the exchange between **Phil Mimms** and **Bill Mimes** in the booth during Thursday Night Football contest between the Twin Cities Triumph and the Cowtown Corn Kings. But in fact it was no pygmy standing next to **Coach Coghlin** on the sidelines. It was none other than part-owner of the Corn Kings' franchise, **Ryan Rich**, the poor little rich boy. Don't ask me why they call him that – he is anything but poor in the literal and the metaphorical senses.

According to sources, 10-year old Ryan spends more time studying the Corn Kings' playbook and watching game film than he does studying his math or english assignments. His favourite book is not *Holes*, or *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows*, but *Gridiron Empire*, a book about former Dragons' owner **Jim Heaton's** obsession to build the perfect EFL team and the miraculous seasons and shattered relationships it caused.

Ryan is completely candid during interviews. That is not surprising, considering his age and the fact that for all 10 years of his life he has received almost everything he has ever asked for and been fawned over by servants and doting relatives anxious not to offend him for fear of also offending his super-rich and high-handed father. Why wouldn't he expect people to agree with everything he says and listen attentively to it?

"I think Jim Heaton was the best coach, don't you?" Ryan said recently when interviewed by **Orville Smucker** of the *Cowtown Plain Dealer*. When Smucker followed up gently, attempting to clarify Ryan's words by adding, "After Coach Coghlin, of course?" Ryan answered comically, "No, he was much better than Coach Coghlin. I'm better than Coach Coghlin so of course Mr. Heaton was as well." Kids can say the darndest things!

Anyway, on Thursday night – a night Coach Coghlin was not looking forward to being part of, Ryan finally got his chance to run the Cowtown offence against Twin Cities. This arrangement was apparently part of the deal that Ryan's father made with **Farmer Brown**, owner of the Corn Kings, last year when he purchased 45% of the franchise and bailed out Brown from some financial difficulties – that Ryan would get to "run the offence next year" during a game of Coach Coghlin's choosing. That game was in Week Four against the expansion Triumph.

Heading into this game, the Triumph had looked much better than expected in all three of their previous outings. It was not going to be an easy contest, by all predictions. But in a tough Division, with a first place schedule, there would not be many "easy" games for Cowtown this year. This one appeared, at home, to be one of the easier ones.

The Corn Kings got the ball first, starting at their own 36 yard line. With clipboard in hand and with his face largely obscured by a slightly ill-fitting hat, Ryan bleated his commands into his headset to a startled **Joe Flacco**. "Long slant, Fitzgerald,"

He squeaked proudly. It was a bold and unusual start to a game for the Corn Kings, and it caught the Triumph off guard. With the defence keying on **Maurice Jones-Drew**, **Larry Fitzgerald** was in man coverage against **Ike Taylor**, a bit of a mismatch. Fitz got free and Flacco hit him between the numbers for a 26-yard gain. Jumping up and down with his arms flapping, the excited Ryan could not wait to call the next play and shrilly cried, “short out Maurice, shot out Maurice!” When that play went for 6 yards, he turned to Coach Coghlin and explained, “You have to stretch them first then pull them him. Now watch this: medium out Fitz, medium out Fitz!” With the Triumph guarding against the run and Taylor covering Fitzgerald tight, **Zach Miller** peeled free and caught the dump-off from Flacco for 11 yards. Two plays later, Flacco dumped it off again to Miller, this time for a 5-yard touchdown pass, bringing loud cheers from the crowd and a quick little celebratory dance from **Ryan Rich**. Cowtown’s little “Pygmy Coach” proceeded to hang 31 points on the Triumph by half time. The Corn Kings went on to win 34-7, playing conservatively the rest of the way; but who knows what the final score would have been if Ryan’s mother hadn’t take him off the field at the half because it was bed time and a school night.

#### ***TO BOLDLY GO WHERE NO SWORD HAS GONE BEFORE....***

One of the more exciting games this week featured a PAC showdown between the reigning EFL champion LA Knights and one of their more daunting challengers, the York Excaliburs. It’s just four weeks into the season, but the overriding sense for everyone was that this game would carry significant weight in determining the playoff picture at the end of the year. With Death Valley and Virden atop their respective divisions with perfect 4-0 records, both York and LA find themselves fighting off unexpectedly strong challenges from their divisional rivals one quarter of the way into the schedule; neither team could, therefore, afford a loss.

The game was played in an uncommonly heavy rain storm, which slowed down the offences a bit. The rushing leader heading into Week Four, **Michael Turner** was not a factor on this day, partly due to the rain but mostly because the ‘Blue Shield,’ for all its well-publicised problems, is still capable of containing the run. York quarterback **Tom Brady** spread the ball out to several targets in passing for 343 yards and 3 touchdowns and could have done much more if not for 6 drops by his receivers. In the end, though, it took a great individual play by veteran receiver **Anquan Boldin** to keep Brady and the Swords from falling to 2-2.

Trailing 17-13 late in the fourth quarter, the tragic Knights (at least I suspect they may be heading for tragedy at this point) appeared to have overcome a slow start and to have got the job done when it mattered. **Alex Smith**, who has been one of the few bright lights for LA so far this year, made up for an uncharacteristic interception on their previous series with a clutch throw to **Tony Gonzalez** for a 1-yard TD pass to give his team a 20-17 lead with 1:12 remaining in the game. York took over at their 20 after downing the kickoff and the situation looked pretty good for the home team when Knights’ end **Osi Umenyiora** sacked Brady for a 7-yard loss on the first play of the drive. But with the Knights in a deep zone and York in a hurry-up offence with five wide receivers, Brady threw a medium out to Boldin, who found a lane and galloped 70 yards to the Knights’ 17 yard line. Boldin isn’t exactly fast anymore, if he ever was, but he is hard to bring down and the game might have been over on that play if not for a great open field tackle by safety **Antoine Bethea**. With a field goal opportunity and chance to tie the game in their hands, **Jay Hammond** eschewed the ground game and went instead for the jugular. Brady lofted a high arcing pass to the corner of the end zone and watched as **Victor Cruz** ran under it for his second touchdown catch of the game.

The clearly pumped up Hammond held an upbeat press conference after the game, praising Boldin as if he had single-handedly won the division title. “What a play from Anqy! What a bold run through the best defence in the league! Hey, that’s like his name – Boldin – a *bold* run by *Boldin*. That’s like a pun isn’t it? Or like Star Trek or something – *to boldly go where no sword has gone before....to the championship, yeah!*”

After presiding last year over one of the more notably under-achieving seasons on record, it is understandable that Hammond would be excited by his team’s performance so far in 2012. They look a lot more capable on offence and their defence has some play-makers. If they can keep their heads on straight the best may be yet to come.

#### ***THE FAT LADY SINGS EARLY***

At the Dawg Pound in Markham the low-hanging cloud of defeat is slowly dissipating with the light breeze of victory and hopeful prayers for greater things in the future. At 2-1 heading into Week Four, the North Stars’ victories and their single loss had not revealed the dominance predicted by some, but they had revealed a change in attitude, particularly on offence. Production under **Eli Manning** after three games had increased from 4.0 yards per play in 2011 to 6.1 yards per play this year. Yards per carry had gone up 1.6 yards from 3.6 to 5.2 and passer rating from 49.9 to 84.5. Most importantly, Markham had scored 8 offensive touchdowns compared with only 2 at the same time last year.

Evidence that the fans and employees were becoming imbued with the new attitude was everywhere to be found. The cheerleading squad formerly known as the ‘Brown Bitches’ has been renamed the ‘Starlettes.’ Hayley, the chain-smoking head cheerleader, announced that she had quit smoking and would donate a season’s worth of cigarette savings to a local dog shelter. The old mascot **Bowser**, the anthropomorphic dog in a North Stars jersey, perhaps best known for falling asleep in the falling snow during a game against Cowtown last year, has been replaced by the more dynamic and entertaining **Hot Diggity Dawg**, who likes to punch and kick things. And last, but far from least, are there actually a few more empty seats in Row 54 where the Fat Lady remains entrenched?

It is hard to tell from looking at her because (let’s be honest) a great deal of weight is involved and a couple of hundred



pounds one way or the other could go unnoticed; but it looks like the Fat Lady might be slimming down. Not only that, but her usual screeching has been toned down slightly and she is, believe it or not, actually singing some of her cheers. Although still a powerful voice, it is not a very attractive one – her impure tone riddled by phlegm and flecks of un-chewed popcorn – but the sound is a lot more bearable than her usual bellowing.

In Week Four, Markham hosted their arch-rival Pickering. For the first time ever **Darrin Jones'** crew was actually the favourite heading into the game, but nobody at the stadium seemed to really grasp it or believe it, although they wanted to. Everyone expected a tough game and in that they weren't disappointed; but a careful analysis of the tape reveals that, as close as it must have *felt* to the perennially disappointed Markham fans, it was Markham all the way. If you have the tape, just watch **DeAngelo Williams** run through the flat-footed and shocked Spartans for a 73-yard run, stopped 2 yards short of a touchdown by safety **TJ Ward**. No North Star running back of the past would have pulled that off so effortlessly and no Spartan defence of the past would have allowed it. Williams finished it off on the next carry with a touchdown run which also would not have happened a year ago; at least not on the first play. Leading at one point 23-10 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, the rest of the game saw Markham fend off repeated creative attempts by Pickering to get back in the game, including a successful surprise onside kick in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter after **Robert Griffin III** had snuck the ball across the goal line to pull within 6 points. It amounted to nothing more than theatre – the Spartans got close but failed to convert on 4<sup>th</sup> and 9 inside the Markham red zone with 1:43 left. **Gus Konstantakos**



**Hot Diggity Dawg** – the new mascot is part of a fresh attitude in Markham.

threw his shoe out of the guest owner's box while the North Stars fans celebrated their victory with high fives and, yes, singing.

#### **AROUND THE EFL**

In Mohave, a respectable and promising opening drive for the Hellfire ended with **Billy Cundiff** missing a 36-yard field goal to the lusty cheers and scattered boos of the replacement fans. It was an early sign that it would, once again, not be **Bobby Elder's** day. The Virden offensive machine kept churning out the touchdowns, mostly passes (four of them) from **Matt Stafford** to his favourites, **Julio Jones** and **Dez Bryant** in a 38-13 walk over the faintly warm coals of the Hellfire defence. Stafford has completed an amazing 78.9% of his passes and leads the league with a QB rating of 148.6.

In Charleswood, the Patsies got off to an inspired start, scoring twice in unconventional ways with a punt return for a touchdown by **Jacoby Jones** and a 37-yard interception return by rookie safety **Mark Barron** to take a 14-0 lead over the Colonials in the first quarter. But it was all Commonwealth after that as Charleswood back-up quarterback, rookie **Brandon Weeden** could not figure out the basics of running an EFL offence. **Josh Freeman** and the Colonials looked like the veteran team by not panicking and methodically working their way back into the game. They got help doing this from a thoroughly passive and disinterested Pats' defence. Do not be surprised if a fan strike were to spread to Charleswood prior to Week Eight.

The struggles of the 2012 Gladiators continued in Week Four with an embarrassing 41-27 loss at home to Durham. Not embarrassing because the Dinos are an unworthy team (quite the contrary), but because the Glads led 17-7 at half time and literally gave the game away on five turnovers in the second half. The collapse occurred almost entirely in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, with Gwinnett enjoying a 27-17 lead. **Calvin Johnson** scored on an 8-yard touchdown pass from **Philip Rivers** to pull Durham to within 3 points. Then a **Big Ben** lost fumble and two interceptions in Gwinnett's next three possessions led to 10 points for the Lizards as they tallied 24 points in all over a 15-minute span. **Dave Birdsall** fulfilled his professional obligation to speak to the Media by showing up at the podium and announcing he had nothing to say about the game, but would talk freely about issues in the upcoming U.S. election and the weather.

At the Fish Tank this week, the team with no receivers hosted the team with no running backs in an experimental game that drew a lot of attention from football tacticians and stats geeks around the country. The theoretical question of which team would have an advantage in such a situation had the same answer as any other question about team offence: the best quarterback won. **Matt Ryan** ignored the Swordfish secondary and filleted them for 400 yards and 4 touchdowns in leading Garland to a 31-6 licking of Sebastian. To be fair, it was not a true test of the premise. The Mustangs' defence is one of the better outfits in the league and **Pierre Thomas** is a running back that needs a passing threat behind him to be effective.

At Bluff's Stadium the Blue Eagles took flight behind 20 to 30 mph winds to overwhelm the Regulators 38-0. **Ray Rice** gouged the South Carolina 'D' for 202 rushing yards while **Aaron Rodgers** tried to get back in the quarterback scoring race with 4 TD passes. The Scarborough defence was a menacing monster and its fury on the field no less devastating than Sandy.

Finally, the worst team in football after four weeks gave their fans no reason to look forward in future games to anything more than half-priced hot dogs. Mission Viejo fell to Chino 33-3 and in the process made the Convicts look bad by not getting beaten worse than they were. I would say it would be a long season for **Chris Ferraro**, but he seems completely unaware that his team is flat out bad and appears to think that "better conditioning" is the key. Ferraro fired **Shane Falco's** cousin for the second time this year and hired Richard Simmons to "get these f%gs into shape!"

# BUG THE BOOKIE!

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### JIMMY'S WEEK FIVE PICKS

#### **COWTOWN @ MARKHAM (line – NORTH STARS by 1)**

These teams own identical records and are statistically very close to each other on both sides of the ball. However, the Corn Kings have benefitted from a +8 turnover ratio in making up for some deficiencies in key areas – such as at wide receiver and tight end – while turnovers have not helped, nor, hurt the North Stars. Cowtown comes to the Dawg Pound still battered at the wide receiver position. While they have overcome this deficiency against lesser competition, they cannot expect to get a free pass against a ball-hawking secondary supported by a pair of veteran pass rushers in Trent Cole and John Abraham. The running game will have to work or the passing game will falter. For Markham, the key will be to keep mistakes to a minimum, or eliminate them entirely. Eli Manning has been a definite upgrade over Mark Sanchez, but he has not been dominant and has been sacked more than any other quarterback in the league. The spread doesn't get closer than this and I think the teams will play accordingly. **PICK: MARKHAM**

#### **GWINNETT @ GARLAND (line – MUSTANGS by 11)**

With Jahvid Best the lone man standing at the running back position for Garland, it is probably more efficient to move straight to the Glads' secondary to see what stands in the way of a Mustangs' victory. On an island is Troy Polamalu. If there has to be just one guy, then Troy is one I might pick for the duty; but that won't be enough against Matt Ryan and a solid quartet of wide receivers. The Mustangs' defence stands #3 in the league and has given up just one touchdown pass all year. The Gwinnett offence has mastered self-destruction with a league-high 15 turnovers. This is partly because a lot has been placed on the shoulders of Ben Roethlisberger and not enough on LeSean McCoy. At the Corral, facing a thoroughbred defence, there is no reason to believe that Big Ben will not continue to help other teams achieve their goals if he is left to do it all on his own. But with McCoy in gear, a slowed down Ryan, combined with my general lack of confidence in the killer instinct of the Garland offence and my belief that the Glads are due for some good fortune, I suspect the spread might be in jeopardy. **PICK: GWINNETT**

#### **PICKERING @ SCARBOROUGH (line – BLUE EAGLES by 10)**

Trading Stanford Routt at the deadline signalled that Pickering is already thinking ahead to next year. The talent is there at quarterback but the experience is lacking and with it a sense that the 'win-or-die' attitude of Gus Konstantakos might not carry the day in the brutally competitive North Division. The Blue Eagles are so far living up to their own talent pool, but are doing so without the weekly fireworks of the other unbeaten teams. Don't take this as a sign of weakness. Scarborough has the best defence in the league and they haven't broken a sweat yet on offence. With LaMarr Woodley and Ndamukong Suh out, there is an opening for the crafty Spartans, but it is a small opening, no larger than the pass at Thermopylae. Oh, the irony! **PICK: SCARBOROUGH**

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

Take away last week's flat-footed start, fully exploited by the Corn Kings, and the Triumph lose that game in Cowtown by a score of 10-7. Okay, I understand that you can't just discount all 24 points scored in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, but my point is that for three-quarters of the game the Triumph stood toe-to-toe with a better team, like they had in their previous three games. Doug Martin is the key to the Triumph attack – he must take the heat off Jay Cutler or else there will be little to gain in the passing game. The Thunder Lizards should be able to move the ball, but with error-prone Philip Rivers running the offence for Durham there could be some dramatic opportunities for the home team. If the score is close late in the game, we all know anything can happen in this league regardless of who is playing. **PICK: DURHAM**



### **SOUTH CAROLINA @ SEBASTIAN (line – REGULATORS by 1)**

This is a game to avoid unless you have a relative playing, or otherwise involved, with either of these teams. It may be too early in the season to predict who will win the South Division but it is not too early to predict who will not. With neither of these teams in the running, there is nothing to spoil here except one's chances of getting a high pick in the draft. The good news is if you have to watch it, at least the game should be competitive. Despite a deluge of injuries to the Swordfish wide receivers, the teams are neck-and-neck in the power rankings and in overall team stats, although not highly placed in any of them. The only difference is that SC should be better and Sebastian should be about where they are. **PICK: SOUTH CAROLINA**

### **CHARLESWOOD @ MOHAVE (line – HELLFIRE by 2)**

With Brandon Weeden calling the shots for the Patriots this is Mohave's best shot at a win until they visit Mission Viejo in the final week of the season. Champ Bailey is still out and Roy Williams is questionable for the Hellfire, which is significant; but not nearly as significant as Charleswood's lack of will or talent. Adrian Peterson is still there but at 2.2 yards per carry he may as well be somewhere else. Second-year defensive tackle Phil Taylor is leading the defence in tackles and sacks. Who, you ask? Exactly! The Pats cannot live up to their name anymore, but at least they have a name. The Hellfire have a name mentioned in conjunction with others such as "goddamned" and "useless" and are known mostly for what they have *not* done lately. Having said all that, Andrew Luck is a promising quarterback, Hakeem Nicks is a good receiver, and Jimmy Graham is a great tight end. It is time for the fire to burn again and Charleswood is the kindling. **PICK: MOHAVE**

### **VIRDEN @ DEATH VALLEY (line – VIOLATORS by 1)**

Both of these unbeaten teams were active at the trade deadline, including a rare trade with each other. This week DeMarcus Ware, Chris Long, and Demeco Ryans will face their former teams less than one week after being traded from them. The Undertakers also picked up corner Brent Grimes from Mission Viejo at the deadline in an effort to patch a gushing leak in their pass defence, while the Violators added Terrence Newman and Stanford Routt to compensate for a slew of injuries to their secondary. Preparations to shore up questionable defences were the top order of the day in advance of the top two quarterbacks in the EFL going head-to-head. The last second jerry-rigging of the defences will not stop either of these offensive juggernauts, but the hope for both is that it could result in a key play or two that might turn the tide against the other. With so many points likely, the narrow spread is meaningless. Who will win? I'm putting my money on the home team. **PICK: DEATH VALLEY**

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

Wins versus Mission Viejo, Charleswood, and Mohave, teams that are a combined 0-12, have propelled Commonwealth to a deceptive 3-1 record and a second-place tie in the East with the Excaliburs. This proves that there a lot of bad teams in the PAC and that the Colonials are not the worst of them. It does not mean the Colonials are any good. Despite their identical won-loss records, there is a grand canyon separating the talent on York from that on Commonwealth. **PICK: YORK**

### **LOS ANGELES @ CHINO (line – CONVICTS by 4)**

The Knights' defensive standing has forced me to re-write this column. This is not a battle between two great defences – this is a battle between an excellent defence in Chino and a very good Knights' offence; and a very good offence in Chino and an extremely poor defence in LA. To be realistic, the Convicts' offence is not really that good – it just looks that way because Cam Newton is playing out of his shoes at the moment. And to be fair on the other side, the Knights' defence is not really that bad – it just looks that way because the pass defence has been horrendous; the run defence is actually the best in the league after 4 games. These two teams have a long history of hating and playing each other tough. Before the season started I would have given the nod to the reigning champs, but after seeing Nnamdi Asomugha run around like a chicken with his head cut off and knowing that there is nobody better behind him, I have to go with the Rob Nazar's crew at home. **PICK: CHINO**

### **IOWA CITY @ MISSION VIEJO (line – CUBS by 7)**

I am trying to conceive of ways in which the Cubs could actually compete for a wildcard spot this year and I have arrived at the sure answer: play Mission Viejo every week. The already weak Monarchs became that much weaker when they dealt Brent Grimes to Death Valley. They enter this game with Ryan Tannehill at quarterback and DeMarco Murray out due to injury, which makes them weaker still. Patrick Willis is still doubtful for the Cubs but his presence is not necessary this week, unless you have bet the mortgage money on an Iowa City shutout. The Cubs are the youngest team in the EFL and therefore Deron Redding is always looking for opportunities to build their confidence from week-to-week. This will be one of those games that could make them overconfident **PICK: IOWA CITY**