

WEEK 7



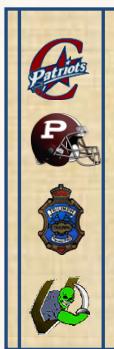
Shooting for the Stars in our 15th Season!

November 21, 2021

EAST



CENTRAL



WEST



NORTH



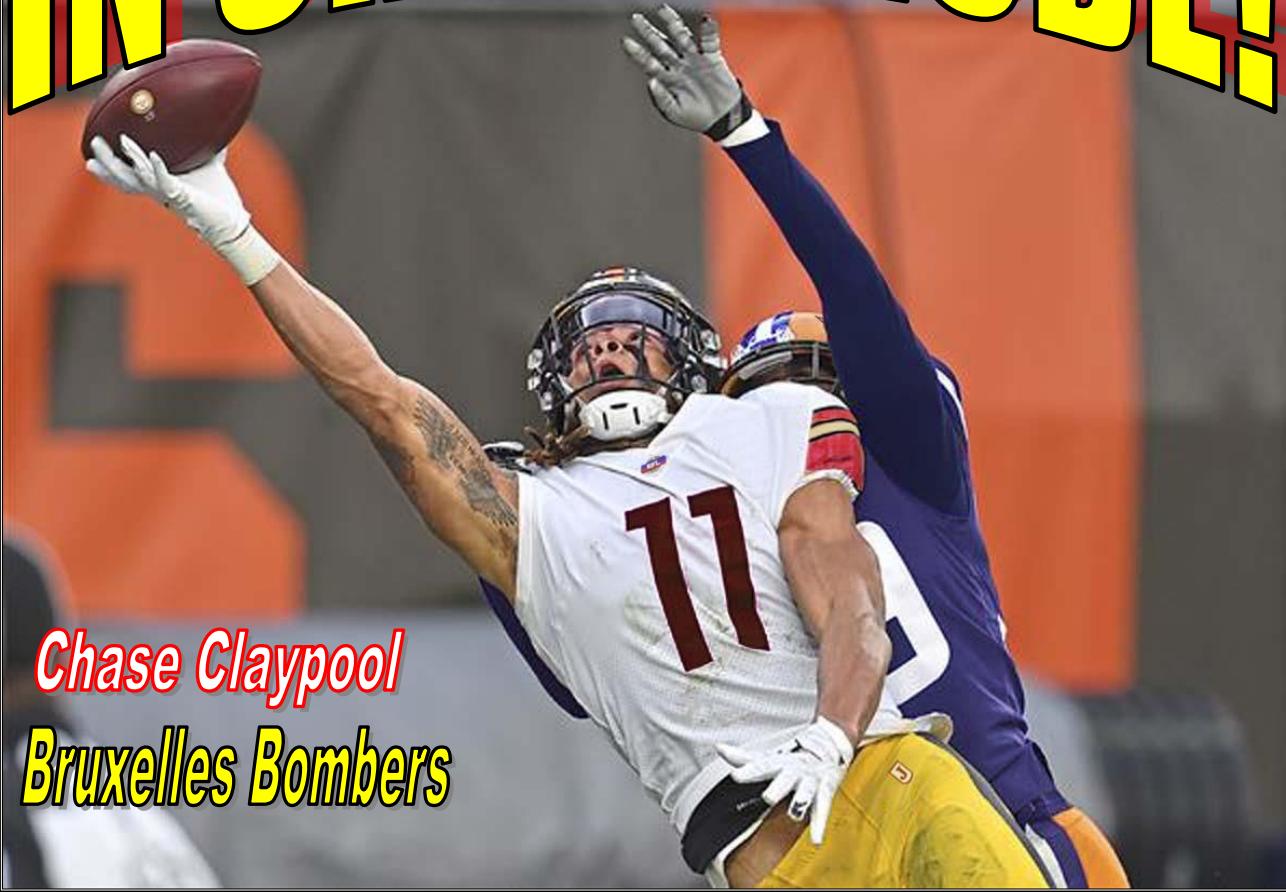
COASTAL



SOUTH



IN CHASE MODE!



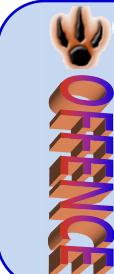
*Chase Claypool
Bruxelles Bombers*

Bombers WR, *Chase Claypool* makes a one-handed grab and falls into the end zone for the go-ahead TD in 4th quarter action in Pickering. The score made it 24-20 and put Bruxelles in front for good as they went on to a much-needed 31-26 win over the Spartans. The Bombers' slow start has them in full chase mode trying to catch up. (*Story inside*)



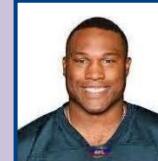
*Who was slick
in Week Seven?*

"Brylcreem" THE
EFLL'S FIRST SPONSOR



Josh Allen
QB
Durham
Thunder Lizards

31 of 43, 350 yds, 3 TDs. Picked apart elite Vegas defence in victory.



Stephon Tuitt
DE
Brooklin
Hawks

5 T, 2 SKs, 2 HUR, 1 FR (18yds-TD). Pressured Lamar all day, scored TD.



By Chris Sherman


 20
38

Kyler Fackrell picked off **Ryan Tannehill** on the first official play from scrimmage and returned it to the goal line, where **Demetric Felton** pushed it across for a quick Budapest lead. The Coyotes came back with a pair of TD passes to **DeVante Parker** on either end of a 27-yard TD pass to **Justin Jefferson** of Budapest to tie it at 14. **Aaron Rodgers** then hit on a pair of TD passes to **Nelson Agholor**, the second off a turnover on downs at the Coyote 35 to make it 28-14 for the Stars. Cobb County scored before the half but were shutout in the 2nd half as the Stars walked away for their 7th win.

11-18-2021 Temp:69 Wind:0-5 None Line:BUD by 9 MVP:Rodgers HFA:ON(0)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2021 Cobb County (4-3)	7	13	0	0	20
2021 Budapest (7-0)	14	14	10	0	38

Passing

 CB: Tannehill 32/19 212 Yds 2 TDs Int
 BUD: Rodgers 29/22 309 Yds 4 TDs

Rushing

 CB: Hasty 12/48, Peterson 12/43, Tannehill 3/43 TD
 BUD: Wilson Jr. 14/43, Felton 2/3 TD, Patterson 1/2, Patterson 2/1

Receiving

 CB: Parker 10/101 2 TDs, Pittman Jr. 4/59, Peterson 3/34, Jarwin 1/8, Long 1/10
 BUD: Diggs 10/105 TD, Jefferson 5/80 TD, Patterson 3/36, Agholor 3/74 2 TDs

Defense

 CB: Mitchell 10-Tk
 BUD: Goodson 10-Tk, Haden 9-Tk

Injuries

 CB:
 BUD:

Misc

 CB:
 BUD: Cannon 3/111 KR 42 Lg

 31
26

After a back-and-forth struggle through 3 quarters saw the Spartans wipe out an early 14-0 Bruxelles lead, **Greg Zuerlein**'s 47-yard FG put Pickering in front 20-17 to start the 4th. That's when **Drew Brees** went to work overseeing a 91-yard, 12-play drive that he finished off with a 17-yard TD pass to **Chase Claypool**. Pickering answered with a quick three-and-out and the Bombers followed up with a run-oriented 52-yard drive to burn off clock and hammer in it in from 1-yard with **Elijah Mitchell**. That score would make the difference, as the Spartans scored a late TD but didn't get the ball again.

11-21-2021 Thermopylae Stadium Temp:43 Wind:5-15 None Line:PIC by 5 MVP:Mitchell H

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2021 Bruxelles (2-5)	14	3	0	14	31
2021 Pickering (3-4)	0	14	3	9	26

Passing

 BRX: Brees 16/11 192 Yds TD
 PIC: Rivers 28/19 212 Yds

Rushing

 BRX: Mitchell 16/96 2 TDs, Williams 8/36, Fournette 7/28, Brees 4/1 TD
 PIC: Sanders 22/125 2 TDs, Swift 5/9 TD, Rivers 1/1

Receiving

 BRX: Claypool 5/74 TD, Godwin 3/81, Valdes-Scantling 1/19, Juszczyk 1/7, Mitchell 1/11
 PIC: Shepard 6/67, Ridley 5/59, Brown 3/44, Mooney 2/21, Sanders 1/5, Freiermuth 1/6

Defense

 BRX: Davis FF 5-Tk, Clark Sk 3-Tk
 PIC: Ward 11-Tk, Schobert 10-Tk

Injuries

 BRX: Wynn 3, Phillips 2
 PIC: Dennard 5, Incognito 3

Misc

 BRX: Quinn 1-FR, Prater 1/1 FG 22 Lg
 PIC: Sanders 1-F Lost, Zuerlein 2/2 FG 47 Lg



31

21

Despite the score, the defences were in charge of this game. Three of the game's 6 TDs were defensive strikes, with Brooklin getting two of those on a pick-six by **Tyson Campbell** and a fumble recovery by **Stephon Tuitt**. Buffalo got a 55-yard interception return for a TD from **L'Jarius Sneed** that helped Buffalo overcome a 21-0 deficit and pull even at 21 heading into the 4th. At the 6:00 mark, **DeAndre Hopkins** broke a tackle and raced 54 yards for the go-ahead and eventual winning TD. **Ronnie Harrison Jr** picked off **Lamar Jackson** on Buffalo's return drive to help preserve the win.

11-17-2021 New Era Stadium Temp:50 Wind:15-25 None Line:BUF by 6 MVP:Tuitt HFA:0

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2021 Brooklin (3-4)	7	14	0	10	31
2021 Buffalo (3-4)	0	7	14	0	21

Passing

BRH: Carr 31/14 182 Yds TD Int, Jones 6/2 57 Yds TD
BUF: Jackson 28/17 102 Yds 2 Int

Rushing

BRH: Hyde 13/62, Scott 4/19, Jones 1/15, Engram 1/11
BUF: Jackson 11/95 TD, Davis 13/56 TD, Gage 2/10, Johnson 1/4

Receiving

BRH: Hopkins 5/102 TD, Cobb 3/69, Engram 2/22, Hyde 2/14, Gronkowski 2/17, Perriman 1/3 TD
BUF: Fant 5/25, Sanders 3/31, Gage 3/24, Tate 2/10, Davis 2/6, Schwartz 1/6

Defense

BRH: Tuitt 2-Sks 5-Tk, Campbell Int(TD) FF 2-Tk, Paye Sk FF 3-Tk, Jones 9-Tk
BUF: Donald Sk 2-FF 4-Tk, Horn Sk FF 5-Tk, Sneed Int(TD) 4-Tk, Chubb Sk FF 4-Tk

Injuries

BRH: McKinney 6, Lewan 1, Ekeler 1
BUF: Brown 3, Tartt 3

Misc

BRH: Carr 4-F 2 Lost, Tuitt 1-FR TD, Dawkins 2-FR
BUF: Jackson 2-F 1 Lost, Erickson 2-F 1 Lost, Mercilus 1-FR, Donald 1-FR



20

17

York's **DeForest Buckner** stripped the ball from **David Montgomery** and recovered it at his own 16, thwarting an early NJ scoring opportunity and setting up a York FG drive. The teams proceed to trade scores, with **Tom Brady** and **Matthew Stafford** throwing 2 TDs each in a furious 2nd quarter. After 4 punts in the 3rd, York looked to extend its lead in the 4th, but Brady was picked off in the end zone leading to a Wrecking Balls FG drive to tie. York got the ball with 5:26 left and managed to chew up the clock and get into position for **Robbie Gould**'s 31-yard game-winning FG as time expired.

11-21-2021 Stone Pony Shore Temp:71 Wind:0-10 None Line:NJ by 5 MVP:Brady HFA:0

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2021 York (5-2)	3	14	0	3	20
2021 New Jersey (4-3)	0	14	0	3	17

Passing

YOR: Brady 33/25 293 Yds 2 TDs Int
NJ: Stafford 26/19 191 Yds 2 TDs

Rushing

YOR: Henry 19/51, Williams 3/4, Brady 1/3
NJ: Montgomery 16/75, McKissic 3/10, Stafford 1/6, Gallman Jr. 1/3

Receiving

YOR: Amendola 7/112, Henry 4/11, Williams 4/51, Williams 3/26, Davis 3/47 2 TDs
NJ: McLaurin 5/49, McKissic 5/39, Allen 3/30 TD, Hooper 2/19, Samuel 2/19 TD

Defense

YOR: Jewell 9-Tk
NJ: Cunningham 16-Tk, Bradberry Int 3-Tk, Adams Sk 3-Tk, Breeland 8-Tk, Smith Sk

Injuries

YOR: Henderson 6
NJ:

Misc

YOR: 8/11 3rd down, Buckner 1-FR, Gould 2/2/ FG 46 Lg
NJ: Montgomery 1-F Lost, Boswell 1/1 FG 52 Lg



20



23

DeShaun Watson capped a 75-yard drive with a 10-yard TD scramble with 0:20 left to give the Pats a comeback win. Watson also threw 2 TD passes, a 27-yarder to **DK Metcalf** and a 15-yarder to **Travis Kelce**, to make the most of limited opportunities against a stubborn Glads' 'D.' Georgia dictated the pace of play for most of the game, putting together 3 long scoring drives, two of those for TDs, including a 14-play, 81-yard effort in the 4th that ended with an 8-yard strike from **Big Ben** to **Diontae Johnson** for a 20-16 lead with 4:33 left. That was, however, enough time for Watson.

11-16-2021 Patriot Place Temp:75 Wind:Calm

Line:CHP by 7

MVP:Watson

HFA:ON(

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2021 Georgia (1-5-1)	7	3	0	10	20
2021 Charleswood (6-1)	6	7	3	7	23

Passing

GEO: Roethlisberger 35/24 253 Yds TD
 CHP: Watson 28/17 179 Yds 2 TDs

Rushing

GEO: Robinson 24/99, Jacobs 8/15, Bernard 1/6 TD, Roethlisberger 1/5
 CHP: Kamara 10/52, Dobbins 4/26, Watson 2/16 TD, Hill 1/5

Receiving

GEO: Fuller V 7/109, Johnson 5/28 TD, Bernard 4/21, Fells 2/22, Landry 2/18
 CHP: Cooper 4/47, Kamara 3/17, Metcalf 3/59 TD, Smith-Schuster 2/18, Kelce 2/29 TD

Defense

GEO:
 CHP: Sweat Sk 4-Tk

Injuries

GEO: Ingram III 3
 CHP: Linder 5, Stanley 4, Trufant 2

Misc

GEO: 36:46 TOP, Bass 2/2 FG 46 LG
 CHP: Lutz 1/1 FG 37 Lg



10

The winless Crusaders visited the 1-win Cadillac and the teams battled to a 10-10 draw in the 1st half. **Mac Jones** connected with **Tyler Higbee** for an 80-yard TD pass to answer a 4-yard **Kyler Murray** bootleg that closed out an opening drive TD by the Caddies. The home team pulled away in the 2nd half. They shut down the Peg City offence, forcing three turnovers that led to 3 Erieau TDs: an 8-yard TD pass to **Mark Andrews**, another Murray bootleg and a 6-yard pass to **Zack Moss**. **Rodney McLeod** had a fumble recovery and an interception and **Myles Garrett** had 2 sacks to lead the 'D.'

11-19-2021 Kelly-Burke Field Temp:62 Wind:5-15 None

Line:ERI by 4

MVP:Murray

HFA

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2021 Peg City (0-7)	7	3	0	0	10
2021 Erieau (2-5)	7	3	14	7	31

Passing

PCC: Jones 28/12 182 Yds TD 2 Int
 ERI: Murray 31/19 165 Yds 2 TDs

Rushing

PCC: Hubbard 6/30, Bell 12/30, Aiyuk 1/17, Jones 4/7, Shenault Jr. 1/5
 ERI: Murray 10/79 2 TDs, Harris 15/68, Hines 4/24, Moss 3/6, Vaughn 5/4

Receiving

PCC: Aiyuk 3/27, Hubbard 1/5, Shenault Jr. 1/11, Higbee 1/80 TD, Sutton 1/13
 ERI: Andrews 7/63 TD, Conley 2/18, Hines 2/4, Henry 2/20, Waddle 2/24, Moss 1/6 TD

Defense

PCC: Owusu-Koramoah 12-Tk, Burris FF 7-Tk
 ERI: Garrett 2-Sks 3-Tk, Peppers FF 6-Tk, Crosby Sk 4-Tk

Injuries

PCC: Barkley 7, Godchaux 7, Cohen 6, Jones 5, Bush 4, Thompson 4, Bullard 2
 ERI: Poole 1

Misc

PCC: Pitts 1-F Lost
 ERI: McLeod 1-FR



21

19

Mitch Trubisky was picked off 3 times in 3 straight 1st half possessions, leading to a pair of Oshawa TDs – a 28-yard pass from **Matt Ryan** to **Davante Adams** and a 21-yard run by **Kenyan Drake** – and taking points off the board on **Erik Harris**' pick at the Oshawa 2-yard line. Still, the Triumph stayed in the game right up until the end thanks to a ground game that churned out 158 yards and kept the ball out of Ryan's hands. The Triumph got in position to tie after **Harrison Bryant**'s 9-yard TD catch made it 21-19 in the 4th. They didn't convert and never got another chance.

11-17-2021 Wilballa Stadium Temp:70 Wind:Calm

Line:TCT by 5 MVP:Ryan

HFA:

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2021 Oshawa (2-4-1)	7	7	7	0	21
2021 Twin Cities (2-5)	3	7	3	6	19

Passing

OSH: Ryan 25/17 180 Yds 2 TDs

TCT: Trubisky 47/26 271 Yds 2 TDs 3 Int

Rushing

OSH: Drake 19/129 TD

TCT: Edwards-Helaire 10/69, Henderson Jr. 11/54, Trubisky 4/35

Receiving

OSH: Goedert 5/53, Reynolds 5/49, Adams 3/41 TD, Schultz 2/26 TD, Atwell 1/9

TCT: White 7/42 TD, Moore 7/120, Bateman 6/58, Henderson Jr. 3/35, Bryant 1/9 TD

Defense

OSH: Watt Int Sk 5-Tk, Peterson Int 10-Tk, Johnson 12-Tk, Reddick Sk 4-Tk, Harris Int

TCT: Wagner 14-Tk

Injuries

OSH: Edelman 4, Williams 3, Kendricks 2

TCT: Brown 6, Brown 5, Golladay 4

Misc

OSH: Drake 1-F Lost

TCT: Pride Jr 1-FR, Hopkins 2/2 FG 40 Lg



27



24

The Violators and Irish exchanged score for score until **Michael Badgley** connected for a 53-yard FG with 1:01 left in OT for the win. Virden set the pace with a 34-yard TD pass from **Pat Mahomes** to **Gabriel Davis** on the game's opening drive but the Irish were able to match this with a 75-yard drive and **Sony Michel** 1-yard TD run. **Ezekiel Elliott** scored the first of his 2 TDs, diving in from 2 yards but East Elmhurst parried with Michel's second TD run. After the kickers exchanged FGs, Elliott scored then **Baker Mayfield** tied it on a 4th down TD pass to **Tyreek Hill** with 2:42 left.

11-17-2021 Mgr McClancy Mem Sta Temp:71 Wind:5-15 Light Rain Line:EE by 7 MVP:Elliott H

	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
2021 Virden (4-3)	7	10	0	7	3	27
2021 East Elmhurst (4-3)	7	7	3	7	0	24

Passing

VV: Mahomes 26/16 251 Yds TD

EE: Mayfield 34/25 253 Yds TD

Rushing

VV: Elliott 21/80 2 TDs, Mahomes 4/24

EE: Jones 20/99, Michel 9/38 2 TDs, Mayfield 6/17

Receiving

VV: Green 4/50, Davis 4/109 TD, Hockenson 3/31, Hamler 3/33, Elliott 2/28

EE: Everett 7/68, Thielen 6/68, Hill 5/57 TD, Jones 3/30, Michel 2/9, Robinson 2/21

Defense

VV: Okafor 2-Sks FF 6-Tk, Williams Sk 5-Tk, Peters 9-Tk, Adderley 9-Tk, Trevathan

EE: Smith 10-Tk, Allen Sk 4-Tk, Vernon Sk 3-Tk

Injuries

VV: Ximines 6, Johnson 6, Atkins 6, Bryant 6, Barr 5, Hooker 5, Osemele 5

EE:

Misc

VV: Badgley 2/2 FG 53 Lg

EE: Blankenship 1/1 FG 53 Lg



34

44

The red-hot Swordfish offence out-paced the Cubs for their 4th victory. **Kirk Cousins** threw 5 TD passes while **Jonathan Taylor** and **Nick Chubb** combined for 177 yards on 31 carries. The Cubs' **AJ Brown** exploded for 178 yards on 8 catches, but he and **Russell Wilson** could not overcome a Swordfish attack that scored 6 TDs on 6 trips to the red zone. Sebastian staked themselves to a 23-10 lead in the 2nd on a pair of TD passes from Cousins and a **Daniel Carlson** FG after a Cubs turnover on downs at mid-field. The Cubs came within 3 on 3 occasions after but could not catch up.

11-18-2021 Temp:76 Wind:Calm No Line MVP:Cousins HFA:ON(0)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2021 Iowa City (3-4)	10	10	0	14	34
2021 Sebastian (4-2-1)	13	10	7	14	44

Passing

ICC: Wilson 39/28 333 Yds 2 TDs
SS: Cousins 27/22 265 Yds 5 TDs

Rushing

ICC: Wilson 10/65 TD, Conner 5/32 TD, Carter 2/7
SS: Taylor 14/98, Chubb 17/79 TD, Cousins 2/23

Receiving

ICC: Brown 8/178, Beasley 5/24 TD, Lockett 5/45, Conner 3/6, Kirk 3/39 TD, Njoku 2/26
SS: Marshall Jr. 7/100 TD, Ebron 5/70 2 TDs, Reagor 3/39, Chubb 2/10 TD, Taylor 2/12

Defense

ICC: Singleton 14-Tk, Hargrave 8-Tk
SS: Jackson III 8-Tk

Injuries

ICC:
SS:

Misc

ICC: Tucker 2/2 FG 44 Lg
SS: 6/6 RedZn TD, Carlson 1/1 FG 46 Lg



23

10

On a day without much offence, Chino PR, **Jakeem Grant** helped win the field position battle and turn short drives into scores while the defence held when it needed to. After the teams exchanged field goals in the 1st, Grant's 18-yard return helped set up a 51-yd **Harrison Butker** FG to end the half with Chino up 6-3. **Teddy Bridgewater** drove his team 75 yards to a TD to start the 2nd half then Grant's 26-yard return set up another Butker FG to make it 16-3. **Ryan Fitzpatrick** was then picked off in the red zone on 4th down and Chino drove back for a TD to put the game out of reach.

11-18-2021 Temp:67 Wind:15-25 None Line:COW by 5 MVP:Jones II HFA:ON(0)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2021 Chino (5-2)	3	3	10	7	23
2021 Cowtown (4-3)	3	0	0	7	10

Passing

CHI: Bridgewater 28/20 159 Yds Int
COW: Fitzpatrick 26/17 143 Yds Int, Mills 9/7 63 Yds TD

Rushing

CHI: Jones II 16/85, Bridgewater 7/19, Jackson 3/10, Abdullah 2/5 2 TDs
COW: Gore 7/28, Murray 6/19, Gurley II 7/15, Fitzpatrick 2/3

Receiving

CHI: Byrd 6/49, Jones II 5/29, Patrick 3/44, Gallup 2/14, Jackson 2/12, Grant 1/8
COW: Bourne 7/70, Evans 5/71, Murray 3/7, McKenzie 3/25, Alie-Cox 3/7, Cephus 2/29 TD

Defense

CHI: Bowser Int Sk 3-Tk, Jackson 10-Tk
COW: Smith 12-Tk, Farley 10-Tk, Chinn Int 4-Tk

Injuries

CHI: McCaffrey 5, Prescott 4, Bouye 2, Purcell 2
COW: Saubert 5, Garoppolo 1

Misc

CHI: Butker 3/3 FG 51 Lg, Grant 4/75 PR 28 Lg
COW: Slye 1/2 FG 45 Lg



13

23

The Bule Eagles got on the board on the opening drive with a 38-yard pass to **Jamison Crowder** setting up 2-yard TD run by **Chris Carson**. The Pilots countered a 75-yard, 11-play drive, 9 of those runs, to even it on a 7-yard TD run by **Malcolm Brown**. It was all Seattle from that point. Led by rookie **Trey Lance**, the Pilots rushed the ball 43 times for 179 yards, 63 of those by Lance and 81 by **Kareem Hunt**, to control the time of possession and keep their defence fresh. Rookie kicker, **Evan McPherson** was a perfect 3 of 3 kicking FGs with a long of 57 to give a leg up on Seattle's first win.

11-17-2021 Kingdome Temp:70 Wind:Calm

Line:SEA by 5 MVP:Lance

HFA:ON(3)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2021 Scarborough (1-5-1)	7	0	0	6	13
2021 Seattle (1-6)	7	10	6	0	23

Passing

SBE: Burrow 41/23 236 Yds TD Int
 SEA: Lance 16/10 131 Yds TD

Rushing

SBE: Carson 9/46 TD, Gaskin 4/16, Burrow 1/1
 SEA: Hunt 17/81, Lance 10/63, Brown 12/25 TD, Mack 4/10

Receiving

SBE: Crowder 7/122 TD, Gaskin 6/16, Robinson II 3/31, Carson 3/22, Ward 2/14
 SEA: Lamb 4/50 TD, Anderson 3/47, Renfrow 1/12, Cole Sr. 1/11, Firkser 1/11

Defense

SBE: Jones Sk 8-Tk, Hill 8-Tk
 SEA: Ogunjobi Sk FF 2-Tk, Lattimore Int 4-Tk, Wright 9-Tk

Injuries

SBE: Jackson 4, Bosa 4, Collins 3, Martin 1
 SEA:

Misc

SBE:
 SEA: 36:57 TOP, McPherson 3/3 FG 57 Lg



27

17

Las Vegas drew first blood with a **Justin Herbert** check down to **Michael Thomas** in the end zone to cap the opening drive. Durham responded with a **Josh Allen** check down to **Dawson Knox** for 5-yard TD to tie it. The teams traded FGs before Vegas pulled in front 17-10 on a 9-yard scramble by Herbert and took a 17-13 lead into the locker room. Durham scored out of the gate to start the 2nd half on a 13-yard TD pass to **Darren Waller** for a 20-17 lead. The Lizards defence took over, forcing 3 punts and 2 picks while **Antonio Gibson** put the game away with a 10-yard TD run in the 4th.

11-19-2021 Assassin's Den Temp:74 Wind:Calm

Line:LV by 5 MVP:Allen

HFA:ON(

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2021 Durham (6-1)	7	6	7	7	27
2021 Las Vegas (6-1)	7	10	0	0	17

Passing

DTL: Allen 43/31 350 Yds 3 TDs
 LV: Herbert 34/19 188 Yds TD 2 Int

Rushing

DTL: Gibson 9/60, Allen 4/15, Edmonds 2/5, Mattison 1/3, Evans 4/1
 LV: Cook 16/61, Herbert 3/10 TD, Williams 2/1

Receiving

DTL: Gibson 8/59 TD, Samuel 6/85, Boyd 5/56, Kupp 5/63, Waller 4/33 TD, Knox 2/41 TD
 LV: Watkins 4/59, Fitzgerald 4/49, Cook 3/29, Thomas 3/23 TD, Beck 2/1, Graham 2/15

Defense

DTL: Hendrickson Sk FF 5-Tk, Moore II Int 7-Tk
 LV: Leonard 10-Tk, Ngakoue FF 6-Tk

Injuries

DTL: Penny 4
 LV: Leonard 1

Misc

DTL: Gibson 1-F Lost, Santos 2/2 FG 53 Lg
 LV: Judon 1-FR, Fairbairn 1/1 FG 49 Long



STATS



WEEK SEVEN

STANDINGS & STATS

EFL 2021 - Week 7 Standings

East	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Cobb County	4	3	0	.571	L1	178	25.4	138	19.7	5.7	3	1	0
New Jersey	4	3	0	.571	L1	146	20.9	178	25.4	-4.6	1	3	0
Buffalo	3	4	0	.429	L2	153	21.9	149	21.3	0.6	2	1	0
Bruxelles	2	5	0	.286	W1	164	23.4	207	29.6	-6.1	1	3	0
Central	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood	6	1	0	.857	W4	162	23.1	161	23.0	0.1	4	0	0
Virden	4	3	0	.571	W3	184	26.3	161	23.0	3.3	1	2	0
Twin Cities	2	5	0	.286	L3	134	19.1	139	19.9	-0.7	1	3	0
Peg City	0	7	0	.000	L7	96	13.7	199	28.4	-14.7	0	2	0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Las Vegas	6	1	0	.857	L1	186	26.6	104	14.9	11.7	3	1	0
Chino	5	2	0	.714	W1	191	27.3	138	19.7	7.6	2	1	0
Iowa City	3	4	0	.429	L1	191	27.3	196	28.0	-0.7	2	1	0
Seattle	1	6	0	.143	W1	112	16.0	177	25.3	-9.3	1	3	0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham	6	1	0	.857	W2	239	34.1	121	17.3	16.9	4	0	0
Sebastian	4	2	1	.643	W1	261	37.3	254	36.3	1.0	2	1	0
Cowtown	4	3	0	.571	L1	158	22.6	152	21.7	0.9	3	1	0
Scarborough	1	5	1	.214	L2	131	18.7	211	30.1	-11.4	1	1	1
Coastal	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Budapest	7	0	0	1.000	W7	223	31.9	107	15.3	16.6	4	0	0
York	5	2	0	.714	W1	170	24.3	165	23.6	0.7	3	1	0
Pickering	3	4	0	.429	L1	134	19.1	162	23.1	-4.0	0	3	0
Brooklin	3	4	0	.429	W1	169	24.1	184	26.3	-2.1	1	2	0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
East Elmhurst	4	3	0	.571	L1	153	21.9	135	19.3	2.6	1	2	0
Oshawa	2	4	1	.357	W2	165	23.6	204	29.1	-5.6	1	2	1
Erieau	2	5	0	.286	W1	118	16.9	147	21.0	-4.1	1	3	0
Georgia	1	5	1	.214	L3	177	25.3	206	29.4	-4.1	0	3	0

EFL 2021 - Week 7 Passing Leaders

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Rodgers,A	BUD	223	168	75.3	2228	2	0.9	75	21	9.4	134.1
2	Cousins	SS	232	167	72.0	2248	5	2.2	76	24	10.3	127.9
3	Mahomes	VV	230	150	65.2	2150	1	0.4	72	16	7.0	116.8
4	Watson,D	CHP	220	145	65.9	1802	1	0.5	47	17	7.7	115.0
5	Wilson,R	ICC	203	148	72.9	1663	5	2.5	54	17	8.4	114.6
6	Prescott	CHI	88	65	73.9	754	0	0.0	75	4	4.5	114.5
7	Allen,J	DTL	264	179	67.8	2090	3	1.1	75	19	7.2	110.8
8	Bridgewater	CHI	133	101	75.9	1096	2	1.5	44	6	4.5	108.5
9	Herbert	LV	230	162	70.4	1758	5	2.2	65	14	6.1	103.9
10	Brady	YOR	214	147	68.7	1865	7	3.3	84	14	6.5	103.8
11	Mayfield	EE	194	134	69.1	1526	3	1.5	48	10	5.2	103.2
12	Stafford	NJ	241	165	68.5	1930	5	2.1	75	13	5.4	101.8
13	Tannehill	CB	185	115	62.2	1524	5	2.7	55	13	7.0	100.4
14	Roethlisbe	GEO	242	159	65.7	1652	3	1.2	60	14	5.8	99.4
15	Brees	BRX	170	105	61.8	1314	4	2.4	75	11	6.5	97.5
16	Ryan,M	OSH	240	157	65.4	1467	5	2.1	28	14	5.8	92.8
17	Trubisky	TCT	180	111	61.7	1172	4	2.2	40	11	6.1	91.7
18	Burrow	SBE	214	127	59.3	1314	2	0.9	55	11	5.1	90.4
19	Jackson,L	BUF	228	154	67.5	1429	4	1.8	60	9	3.9	90.3
20	Fitzpatrick	COW	167	117	70.1	1229	7	4.2	52	8	4.8	89.6
21	Carr,D	BRH	230	134	58.3	1569	5	2.2	54	12	5.2	87.4
22	Rivers,P	PIC	194	115	59.3	1291	3	1.5	36	6	3.1	83.1
23	Minshew II	SEA	102	65	63.7	680	4	3.9	62	5	4.9	83.0
24	Murray,K	ERI	208	126	60.6	1142	3	1.4	47	5	2.4	77.4
25	Jones,M	PCC	230	130	56.5	1571	7	3.0	80	8	3.5	76.6

EFL 2021 - Week 7 Kick Return Leaders

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Roberts,A	BRX	14	478	34.1	46	0
2	Agnew	SEA	15	457	30.5	68	0
3	Harris,D	COW	10	296	29.6	76	0
4	Homer	YOR	9	243	27.0	36	0
5	Patterson	BUD	10	265	26.5	39	0
6	Rodgers,I	CHP	10	256	25.6	34	0
7	Waddle	ERI	9	215	23.9	31	0
8	Webster,N	NJ	9	210	23.3	35	0
9	Carter,D	BUF	13	303	23.3	48	0
10	Atwell	OSH	15	323	21.5	38	0
11	Abdullah	CHI	9	193	21.4	36	0
12	Cannon	BUD	3	111	37.0	42	0
13	Barner	PIC	6	181	30.2	39	0
14	Adderley	VV	3	89	29.7	33	0
15	Johnson,D	SBE	8	233	29.1	41	0
16	Johnson,D	CB	3	78	26.0	28	0
17	Hubbard	PCC	4	103	25.8	29	0
18	Lewis,D	LV	8	201	25.1	43	0
19	Hill	DTL	6	149	24.8	38	0
20	Duvernay	TCT	8	192	24.0	49	0
21	Davis,A	PCC	2	47	23.5	28	0
22	Scott,B	BRH	8	183	22.9	32	0
23	Powell	EE	3	68	22.7	31	0
24	James,R	GEO	3	66	22.0	35	0
25	Wallace	GEO	2	44	22.0	38	0

EFL 2021 - Week 7 Punt Return Leaders

			No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Grant,J	CHI	14	4	247	17.6	62	1
2	Taylor,T	CHP	14	2	165	11.8	27	0
3	Peppers	ERI	13	3	153	11.8	22	0
4	Moore	EE	10	5	106	10.6	17	0
5	Harris,D	COW	15	3	156	10.4	18	0
6	Proche	DTL	20	6	180	9.0	20	0
7	Hill,K	SBE	14	2	118	8.4	25	0
8	Roberts,A	BRX	11	0	83	7.5	15	0
9	Peoples-Jo	SS	13	4	92	7.1	16	0
10	Spencer,D	NJ	11	3	61	5.5	11	0
11	Raymond	CB	10	1	52	5.2	17	0
12	Hardman	LV	9	10	44	4.9	13	0
13	Lamb	SEA	5	3	74	14.8	38	0
14	Erickson	BUF	8	5	92	11.5	24	0
15	Atwell	OSH	3	1	31	10.3	17	0
16	Cooper,P	VV	8	8	78	9.8	41	0
17	Cole Sr.	SEA	7	0	66	9.4	16	0
18	Tate,G	BRH	3	9	28	9.3	19	0
19	Rodgers,Am	BUD	7	11	64	9.1	20	0
20	Renfrow	SEA	5	4	44	8.8	20	0
21	Johnson,D	GEO	6	4	50	8.3	12	0
22	Barner	PIC	6	7	48	8.0	14	0
23	Carter,D	BUF	1	2	6	6.0	6	0
24	Kirk	ICC	5	3	26	5.2	10	0
25	Fuller V	GEO	1	1	4	4.0	4	0

EFL 2021 - Week 7 Rushing Leaders

			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Henry,D	YOR	159	747	4.7	48	5
2	Robinson,J	GEO	135	694	5.1	52	5
3	Cook,D	LV	136	664	4.9	49	5
4	Drake	OSH	107	597	5.6	40	4
5	Sanders,M	PIC	116	582	5.0	25	2
6	Jones,A	EE	112	568	5.1	22	5
7	Taylor,J	SS	95	555	5.8	52	5
8	Elliott,E	VV	126	529	4.2	28	6
9	Gordon III	TCT	100	518	5.2	45	0
10	Harris,D	CB	67	476	7.1	35	3
11	Chubb,N	SS	99	474	4.8	47	4
12	Conner	ICC	65	430	6.6	47	1
13	Jackson,L	BUF	63	429	6.8	32	7
14	Murray,K	ERI	66	360	5.5	19	5
15	Harris	ERI	90	355	3.9	37	1
16	Jones II	CHI	85	345	4.1	26	4
17	Edwards-He	TCT	49	326	6.7	36	4
18	Montgomery	NJ	98	318	3.2	18	0
19	Carson	SBE	67	314	4.7	13	3
20	Wilson,R	ICC	45	296	6.6	26	2
21	Mitchell	BRX	58	292	5.0	34	3
22	Davis,M	BUF	68	273	4.0	19	2
23	Scott,B	BRH	46	255	5.5	20	1
24	Gurley II	COW	66	250	3.8	20	4
25	Ekeler	BRH	43	246	5.7	21	0
26	Peterson,A	CB	57	238	4.2	16	2
27	Lance	SEA	49	231	4.7	22	0
28	Akers	SEA	46	230	5.0	52	2
29	Kamara	CHP	72	228	3.2	19	0
30	Williams,J	BRX	48	226	4.7	18	0

EFL 2021 - Week 7 Receiving Leaders

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Adams,D	OSH	54	534	9.9	28	8
2	Gallup	CHI	48	695	14.5	75	4
3	Diggs,S	BUD	46	550	12.0	46	5
4	Allen,K	NJ	43	426	9.9	35	6
5	Hill,T	EE	38	530	13.9	40	5
6	Johnson,D	GEO	38	335	8.8	20	6
7	Jefferson	BUD	38	627	16.5	75	6
8	Hopkins,D	BRH	37	496	13.4	54	7
9	Waller	DTL	37	446	12.1	43	5
10	Lockett	ICC	37	366	9.9	24	5
11	Amendola	YOR	35	441	12.6	31	2
12	McLaurin	NJ	35	531	15.2	75	4
13	Samuel,C	DTL	34	331	9.7	34	2
14	Anderson,R	SEA	33	328	9.9	23	1
15	Claypool	BRX	33	576	17.5	75	8
16	Brown,A	ICC	33	619	18.8	54	4
17	McKissic	NJ	33	278	8.4	29	1
18	Chase	VV	32	666	20.8	72	5
19	Sanders,E	BUF	32	371	11.6	37	4
20	Kelce,T	CHP	32	436	13.6	31	7
21	Cooper,A	CHP	31	420	13.5	47	3
22	Hilton	SS	31	527	17.0	38	6
23	Andrews,M	ERI	30	312	10.4	47	1
24	Thielen	EE	30	351	11.7	26	2
25	Shepard	PIC	30	367	12.2	29	4
26	Kupp	DTL	30	522	17.4	75	3
27	Fuller V	GEO	30	621	20.7	60	4
28	Woods,R	BUF	30	350	11.7	60	4
29	Evans,M	COW	29	402	13.9	41	4
30	Godwin,C	BRX	29	449	15.5	56	4



AROUND THE EFL

With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – Reaction from the blogosphere and article farms to my sweeping critique of dumbed down content on the web was as swift as the internet. Most of it was negative and a large portion of that negative feedback consisted of ad hominem attacks. I expected as much and am not fazed. But one critique did force me to pause and think.

Fansane Asylum user, **Beercrusher** challenged me to rebut his case for why **Zach Wilson** needs to be starting in Pickering. “You call my article ‘speculative nonsense’ but isn’t that what we all do, including you? Tell me why I’m wrong.” he wrote, not unreasonably, before unreasonably asking me to follow the links he provided to review the game charts and tape from all 30 games Wilson played at BYU.

Fair enough, **Beercrusher**, but I don’t need to review any more tape or read any more assessments of Wilson’s play at the collegiate level to deliver my point. That is, when an attempt to project a rookie’s on-field performance at the pro level for draft purposes crosses the line into a one-step-removed postulation that that rookie should be starting immediately at the pro level because of his draft status, such an assertion is at best a pure conjectural leap rather than a reasoned argument based on knowledge. Translation: *You don’t know what you’re talking about.*

Obviously, the Spartans invested significant draft capital – the no.8 pick overall – to land Wilson, which logically suggests that they like him and intend to use him. But exactly *how* they like him and *when* they like him depends on their plan and their assessment of his pro readiness. The fan has no real place in that assessment as the fan has absolutely no knowledge of how the rookie is actually progressing in learning the offence; how his practice performance is being evaluated; or an in-depth understanding of the team’s short, medium and long-term plans. Yet, despite this, fan and media pressure can play a role in forcing unready quarterbacks onto the field.

Let’s take stock of what we actually *know* about the Spartans’ quarterback situation that might explain why the 8th overall pick is sitting on the bench and likely will be there for a while:

- We know they have a veteran starter in **Philip Rivers** who, a consensus says, is one Championship win away from being a first ballot Hall of Famer.
- We know the Spartans feel they can win now. Even if that is wishful thinking, the important thing is that they believe they can win now.
- We know the Spartans’ offence is a vertical one built around Rivers’ strengths as a pocket passer and reliant on play-action.
- We know that the Spartans use a man-blocking scheme in the run game, not the wide zone blocking scheme used at BYU that cleared linebackers from the middle of the field and set up play action in a primarily rhythm-based passing scheme. As a result, we know that one of two things must happen if Wilson is to be given the best chance to succeed at the pro level: the Spartans must overhaul their offensive scheme to maximize Wilson’ strengths; or Wilson must be tutored in a new offence. Both of these options take time and we certainly know that the former will not happen as long as Rivers is under center.
- We know that they drafted **Jalen Hurts** in the third round in 2020 and that he currently sits *ahead* of Wilson on the depth chart. That should tell an outsider something about how the Pickering coaching staff views Wilson’s state of readiness if Rivers were to go down to injury. If Wilson isn’t deemed suitable for even the primary back-up role, then he is certainly not ready to start. So, while I understand that many impatient fans may feel a burning need to “see what we have in Wilson” and think that his first-round status alone warrants rushing him onto the field; the logical, prudent thing to do is wait and let the Spartans’ brain trust work through their process.

Does any of the above preclude Wilson starting at all in 2021? No. If or when it becomes clear that the Spartans are destined for another disappointing season and coach **Gus Konstantakos** feels that Wilson could benefit from exposure to the speed of live EFL action in preparation for the Great Leap Forward in 2022, then perhaps he gets the starting nod in the final game or two. What is as obvious as a carbuncle on a drunk’s nose, however, is that Wilson is not part of any Plan A for the Spartans in 2021 and is likely only a bit player in Plan B. The Wilson starting scenario I envision above is Plan C.

When speaking off the record with GMs and coaches around the league, there is general agreement that going with rookie quarterbacks is almost always the second-best option. However, in a win-now league with a salary cap the pressure to go with a rookie, especially one drafted in the first round, can be intense. Just look at what is happening in Twin Cities, where fans at Wilhalla Stadium are chanting “Tre-VOR! Tre-VOR!” from the opening snap to the final gun. With the Triumph seemingly going nowhere

fast, it is understandable that impatient Triumph fans, who suffered grudgingly through a 2-14 campaign in 2020 for the pay-off of **Trevor Lawrence**, want to see the no.1 overall pick strut his stuff. After all, if the first pick in the draft is not ready to step on the field immediately then no college quarterback ever is. However, coach **Guy Williams** obviously has different ideas even though it is unclear exactly what they are, or why they are.

“We’ll make the move to Trevor when we are ready,” Williams said when fielding questions after their loss to Virden in Week Six. “Mitch gives us the best chance to win now.”

As usual, the Triumph coach is playing his cards close to his chest. But this hesitancy to expose Lawrence to the field is fueling speculation that the coaching staff already thinks he is a bust. There is also a measure of panic that the one pre-draft knock on Lawrence that stuck for a time might be true; that he lacks a true commitment to football. While it is far too early to jump to that conclusion, it does not help calm nerves that the rookie was reportedly seen scouting out trout farms northeast of Minneapolis with his wife, high school sweetheart, Marissa while making off-the-cuff comments about “life after football.”

As **Lars Odegard** of the *Valhalla Press* writes: “*If true, it is concerning that a rookie who has not thrown an EFL pass or appeared in an EFL game is already talking about life after football and looking to settle in the state of the team that just drafted him. Coach Williams brushes it off as nothing, but maybe – just maybe – that is the reason Lawrence has not started yet: Williams is testing the kid’s desire to play the game.*”

This year’s “Big Five,” as **Lazor Ponk** refers to the top five quarterbacks in the 2021 draft class, received a hysterical amount of ink and air in the lead-up to the draft. The interesting part is that three of them only became really hot topics *after* the 2020 college season concluded. One of them, **Trey Lance**, did not have a 2020 college season to speak of due to the pandemic. Yet, Lance suddenly started being talked about in the same breath as **Justin Fields** and **Trevor Lawrence** had been talked about while the 2020 season was still in progress. Then Fields started falling in the ‘franchise quarterback’ rankings, yielding position to the likes of Wilson and Alabama’s **Mac Jones**. Seemingly overnight, the latter went from being a “game manager” in a powerhouse ‘Bama system, to a serious candidate for selection in the top five. So, what happened?

Quarterback almost always garners the most attention in the lead-up to the draft because the position is so important. In addition, these hot five commodities were perceived as being the last of a bumper crop before an anticipated drought in 2022. Three of the five fit the ‘new age’ prototype of the mobile quarterback with the strong arm who poses a dual threat at all times and can turn a broken play into a game-winning play. Everyone is looking for the new **Lamar Jackson** or **Patrick Mahomes** and Wilson, Fields and Lance appeared to fit the bill. Everything good about them became magnified. For teams with a need at quarterback, landing one was perceived as a must. All five were expected to go in the top ten and each one of them was expected to start immediately.

EFL GMs held a slightly different view of the Big Five as evidenced by the way the draft played out how they have been handled to this point in the regular season. Let’s have a look at where they were drafted and where they are now:

No.1 – Trevor Lawrence (Twin Cities). *0 Games*. The top prospect in the country went no.1 as expected. What nobody expected was that he would still be in street clothes by Week Seven. As discussed above, nobody outside of a very tight circle around coach **Guy Williams** knows for sure why the great one is being held back.

No.8 – Zach Wilson (Pickering). *0 Games*. The heir apparent to **Philip Rivers** or future back-up to **Jalen Hurts**? As discussed, Wilson has to be in the Spartans’ future plans given his draft status. But how far in the future remains to be seen.

No.9 – Justin Fields (Charleswood/Bruxelles). *0 Games*. Pats’ owner and GM **Jason Findlay** loves to grab value in the draft above all else, even if the player doesn’t fit a need. Even so, few understood this selection at the time, given that **DeShaun Watson** was on the roster and the mere idea of drafting a quarterback would send the wrong message. Within a month it made more sense. Fields was sent off to Bruxelles for **Travis Kelce** to fuel the Pats’ playoff run. Fields is now on the sideline watching **Drew Brees**. Expect him to stay there in 2021.

No.11 – Mac Jones (Peg City). *7 G, 7 GS, 230 ATT, 8 TD, 7 INT, 76.6 QBR*. The “least talented” but smartest of the Big Five is the only one to see a full season of action. Unfortunately for Jones, the opportunity comes at the expense of starting for the worst team in the league. Without a running game to support him and throwing to a receiving corps with an average age of 23, he risks being ruined. But if anyone has the head to survive the psychological trauma of starting for the Crusaders, Jones is the one.

No.13 – Trey Lance (Seattle). *6 G, 4 GS, 66 ATT, 3 TD, 1 INT, 85.3 QBR*. Although **Sam Darnold** showed flashes of “franchise QB” potential in 2020 he also had some alarming lapses. Those lapses caused **Mitch Gangwish** to look for some competition for Darnold and he got it in the form of the rawest QB talent in the draft. Lance and **Gardner Minshew II** have crowded out Darnold for playing time and, after posting a win this week, it looks like Lance will get an increasing share of work behind center. Or maybe not. He definitely brings a ground dimension that the others don’t, having rushed almost as many times as he has passed, but he is rough around the edges. Still, on a Seattle team already looking ahead to 2022, Lance will continue to see the field.

What the above summary shows pretty clearly is that EFL coaches and GMs see things much differently from the restless masses when it comes to young quarterback talent. They have invested too much in the most important position in the game to squander it prematurely. It is telling that the top three picks have yet to see the field, while the 4th and 5th are both playing roles immediately. I have to say I agree. But I do wonder a bit about **Trevor Lawrence**....

IN THE WAR ROOM

A new series debuted this year on EFL Network called *In the War Room*, a behind-the-scenes look at coaching staffs and personnel

departments around the league. Built around hundreds of thousands of hours of raw footage shot during the off-season beginning with the draft and continuing through the summer and into training camp, each hour-long episode features two different EFL teams and offers valuable insights into how each franchise goes about building a roster and preparing the play book for the coming year.

I began watching the series with amusement, but also with a smidgeon of fascination at how candid so much of it appears, as if the focus of the cameras had forgotten in many instances that they were being filmed. This certainly seemed to be the case for one segment involving Swordfish coach, **Russ Lemmon** and his special-teams assistants at a meeting in a private room at Captain Hiram's Resort in Sebastian, FL during the summer.

It was a hot day and the air conditioning wasn't working as efficiently as it should have. Perspiration stains were visible on coach Lemmon's white golf shirt and condensation had formed in large droplets on his glass of iced tea. Laptops and binders were spread out on a large table in front of him. Sitting across from him was special-teams coordinator **Dave Flipper** and his assistant, **Morey Phinn**. The problem they were attempting to solve was how to bring the "Swordfish way" into the special-teams game plan. Lemmon was getting visibly frustrated that all of his ideas for executing an onside kick were no longer permitted by the rules.

"That's a great idea, boss, but we can't do that," Flipper says after listening to Lemmon describe a play where the kicker pauses in the middle of his kicking motion and the five players lined up on his left sprint over to his right, link arms with the players on the right and attack in wedge formation at a point 10 yards from the kicking line to the right of the kicker.

"But the kicker is kicking, Dave," Lemmon replies impatiently. "He's kicking at that moment. He's just pausing to make sure...he kicks it...you know."

Long pause as Flipper opens a tab in a ring binder and reads. "It says '*before the kicker approaches the ball and until the ball is kicked.*' That means he has to kick it first...before you can do that. Plus, I don't think we can use a flying wedge. It was outlawed way back in...I think it was before 1900."

Lemmon pushes himself back in his chair and lifts his head up in exasperation. "So, what you're basically saying Dave, is that we can't do anything to make this onside kick more likely to succeed! What am I paying you for?"

"I don't make the rules, boss," Flipper protests feebly. Phinn looks down at his notes, pretending to read. "The league is like saying, you're not doing this and we don't care. Unless you catch the other team off guard...you know...totally surprise them..."

Lemmon sits up suddenly. "That's it!" he says, a smile crossing his face. "We'll surprise them! We'll stun them! They'll never see it coming. They'll be so gobsmacked they won't know what to do!"

Clever film editing manages to condense what was actually a long process over the course of a hot afternoon in Sebastian into about 3 minutes of show time: the creation of the Swordfish special 'Surprise Surprise Onside Kick.'

With Lemmon as the architect and Flipper & Phinn the engineers working out the fine details of execution, the play consists of two distinct surprise elements: Situational Surprise & Tactical Surprise. The first element calls on the coach to make the call at a time in the game when the opponent is least expecting an onside kick. Ideally, according to Lemmon, the call would come at a time when there is no need for an onside kick and the failure to execute such a risky play could actually be detrimental to the team. In other words: call it at a crazy time, when your opponent least expects it. The second element is what Lemmon calls a "tactical executional blind," which is an elaborate way of describing a process where some of your players are *unaware* of the call and are therefore less likely to give the play away ahead of time and will act authentically during the kick as if the opposite of an onside kick is occurring.



Patriots' owner **Jason Findlay** (center, left) poses for *In the War Room* cameras after selecting **Justin Fields** of Ohio State with the 9th overall pick in the draft. Findlay loves to make a splash on draft day and the Field pick certainly created waves at the time. In contrast, Triumph GM **Guy Williams** (hands locked, right) ignores the cameras and shares a joke before sending in the card for the no.1 overall pick, **Trevor Lawrence**. People are now questioning whether Williams always intended to sit Lawrence, or there are problems behind the scenes.

Lemmon recaps the play for his assistants: "Okay...so one half...let's say the half on the left...they're told that we're doing a deep kick or a squib or something like that and we send them out," Lemmon says as he looks at his notes. "Then...we tell the half on the right as they are going out that we're doing a surprise onside kick to the right side." He looks up from his notes and addresses Flipper directly. "How do we make sure that the guys on the right don't tell the guys on the left what we're doing?"

"We divide them into platoons and turn it onto a competition," Flipper replies, without further elaboration.

"Okay, great!" Lemmon responds. "Then one half is going gangbusters for the return guy at the one-yard line and the other half is gunning for the ball at the point of the kick. The defence is divided...they don't know what to think. Now that's surprise!"

As I watched Lemmon expound on the element of surprise as if he was a field general, stretching the concept to its breaking point, I was convinced that what I was watching was 100% staged. However, to my utter astonishment, as I was reviewing the film from Sebastian's 44-34 victory over Iowa City this week, I watched what was obviously the same crazy play actually unfold.

After scoring a touchdown in the 1st quarter on their first possession to take a 7-3 lead, the Swordfish attempted to execute a surprise onside kick in a situation that did not remotely call for it. Cubs' reserve tackle, **Jack Driscoll**, reacting on pure instinct, gathered in the ball on one bounce and curled up in the fetal position while five Swordfish players converged on him and the other five charged down the field toward the goal line. It was over in seconds and, in keeping with the odds, it was unsuccessful. But the fact that it was tried and caught everybody, including TV viewers off guard was powerful testimony that the play worked at least partially as designed. (A bigger sample size is required to see if the Sebastian 'Surprise Surprise Onside Kick' can exceed the average league success rate, post-rule change, of 7%).

The net result, however, was another unhinged Swordfish gamble that backfired. The Cubs took over at their own 47-yard line and promptly marched up the field to score a touchdown and take a 10-3 lead. At the time it had the feeling of a turning point. But there is apparently no turning off the tap of the Swordfish offence. Read on....

FISH SWARM

For lack of anything better to call it the nickname emerging from the East Coast of Florida to describe the highly predacious Swordfish offence is "*Fish Swarm*." It is a sorry testament to the imaginations of the local fans and media that this is the best they can come up with to encourage the league's best offence. Off the top of my head, I came up with "*Fin-ishers*," which neatly refers simultaneously to fish – *fin* – and the Sebastian offence's ability to *finish* in the red zone, where they boast an incredible 86% TD conversion rate. But who am I, apart from a lonely syndicated freelance hack trapped in an increasingly dystopian Manhattan with no real friends and waning national influence in the genre due to my advanced intellect? (Sorry, that lament is for another day....)

Nobody is going to mistake the Cubs' defence of 2021 for those Cub defences of the not-too-distant past, most recently the 2018 edition that held opposing passers to an overall 68.8 passer rating. However, neither should anybody mistake this year's relatively unstable unit to the leaky barge that is sinking in Bruxelles these days. Yet, the Cubs' defenders looked as completely lost as the Bombers trying to stop **Kirk Cousins** and the one-two ground punch of **Jonathan Taylor** and **Nick Chubb** in a Week 7 all-out gun battle that saw both teams combine for 78 total points in a 44-34 Swordfish win.

After surrendering the obligatory short field to the Cubs on an ill-advised coach's decision (the 'Surprise Surprise Onside Kick'), the Swordfish got back in the water and swam to victory without so much as a pause to spear a squid for lunch. If you cherish parity, it was unnerving to watch the ease with which they cut through the Cubs' defence. If you love offence and the Swordfish, it was exhilarating. Sebastian scored on 7 of 9 possessions and converted all six of their red zone opportunities into touchdowns. They piled up 27 first downs, 465 yards of total offence and held the ball for almost 35 minutes. Cousins threw 5 TD passes to out-duel a red-hot **Russell Wilson**. Yes, you read that right.

Wilson was one of his best selves on this day, personally accounting for 398 of his team's 417 yards from scrimmage (333 passing, 65 rushing) and having a hand in 3 touchdowns (2 passing and 1 rushing) but it was still not enough. Wilson did get the ball last but down two scores there was no miracle to be made.

"We have to be able to make a stop on that last drive to give Russell a chance," an inflamed **Deron Redding** told the assembled media after the game. "Blown coverages, bad tackling and times when guys just weren't sticking to their assignments. They made us look more than a little foolish out there. But the buck stops with the head coach. I take full responsibility for this."

Hours later, Redding announced the demotion of Defensive Coordinator, **Fred Smerlas** to defensive line coach and the promotion of former Bills' cornerback **Steve Freeman** to replace him. Redding added a short disclaimer that he would gladly fire himself except that to do so would leave nobody to make the necessary demotions and promotions to fix the defence. I wonder how all this is going to play out in the board room!

Aside from the embarrassment of being schooled by the Fish the Cubs, at 3-4, are now in serious trouble in the standings. The Assassins lost this week, but were far from humiliated by the powerhouse Thunder Lizards. Las Vegas appears for real and the Convicts are never out of the mix. The knives are coming out for Redding in the State of Iowa and the person wielding the sharpest one is none other than Redding's journalist nemesis, **Archibald Thacker** of the *Des Moines Register*, who launched a diatribe after the game.

"*Mr. Alberhasky not only needs to fire Coach Redding, he needs to fire the entire coaching staff and personnel department,*" Thacker writes in his recent article, 'Cubs Drown off Florida's East Coast and We All Know Why.' "*Everybody associated in any way with Redding has to go. The Swordfish offence is only as dangerous as bad defensive coaching allows them to be. And that was BAD defensive coaching from the Cubs in Florida this weekend! If it was the first time it would be something to groan about and hopefully correct. But this is all the time with this defence of late. There is now only one solution: Get rid of the guy with no plan!*"

Thacker's frustration, while understandable, lacks insight when it comes to the *Fish Swarm*. Until somebody figures out how to spook Cousins into being a more historical version of himself, defences forced to respect the run will continue to get picked apart by him. To date, only the North Stars have stood up to Sebastian's offensive juggernaut. The swarmings will continue until the league improves.

AROUND THE EFL

A quick scan of the state of the league shows that the divisional front-runners in four of the six divisions are already gaining significant separation and we are not at the halfway point. At this rate most of the races will be over by the quarter mark. Let's hope it turns around.

As impressive as the Swordfish offence is performing, it does not appear it will make much difference in the North Division title race – at least not after the Thunder Lizards mastered the previously unbeaten Assassins, 27-17 at the Assassin's Den in Las Vegas. **Josh Allen** looked the part of the emerging star that many people in the media have been claiming that he is, (without much evidence to this point), finishing with 3 TD passes and 350 yards passing against a very tough Assassins' defence. To make it a complete win, the Lizards defence clamped down on **Justin Herbert** in the second half, picking him off twice to put an end to any potential comeback threat.

At Stone Pony Shore in New Jersey, the Wrecking Balls continued to be hard-luck homers, dropping a 20-17 decision to the Excaliburs. This was actually a well-played game and a straight up win for York, with few mistakes on either side and an absence of sensational melodrama on the Jersey sideline. One turnover per side cancelled each other out in terms of effect on the score, boiling the game down to the final York drive. **Tom Brady** showed his mastery in the clutch by converting two 3rd & longs enroute to a **Robbie Gould** 31-yard game-wining field goal at the final gun, ending New Jersey's four-game winning streak and keeping York in the hunt.

At Patriot Place in Charleswood, the Patriots pulled out an exciting win at the wire over the Gladiators, topping them 23-20. **DeShaun Watson** scrambled for a touchdown on 4th & goal from the Georgia 10-yard line with just 0:20 left in the game to cap an 11-play, 75-yard drive. After three straight goal-to-go incompletions on the usual Charleswood pass plays – slants followed by hitches – Watson gave up trying to force the ball into tailor-made Georgia coverage and powered through the Glads' light-bodied 7-DB set for the dramatic touchdown. The run topped the highlight reel nationally and made people overlook the fact that the Pats continue to look shaky, despite their 6-1 record. They enjoy a two-game lead over Virden at the moment. Will it last much longer?

For what it is worth, the Bombers came from behind at Thermopylae Stadium in Pickering to deflate the Spartans, 31-26, thus "saving" their season. It may still be too little, too late already in Bruxelles, but the heat is off **Kenny Main** and **Drew Brees** for at least a short week after Brees led two 4th-quarter TD drives and the much-maligned Bomber defence made a stop between those drives to facilitate the two-score lead that ultimately held. **Chase Claypool** made a leaping, one-handed grab in the back of the end zone on a long slant for the go-ahead score. If the Bombers ever recover this year, which is still unlikely, bookmark this play as pivotal.

At Wilhalla Stadium in Twin Cities, the Pink Panthers slinked by the Triumph 21-19 for their second straight victory. Despite the happy final outcome for the rookie coach under siege, **Scott Dennis**, the manner in which the game played out does not inspire much confidence in this team moving forward. The good news is that the Panther defence picked off **Mitch Trubisky** on three consecutive possessions, leading to a pair of Oshawa touchdown drives and taking almost certain Triumph points off the board on **Erik Harris'** pick at his own 2-yard line. The bad news is that without those takeaways, the Pinkies would have probably lost. Trubisky recovered his poise in the 2nd half and the Triumph run game piled up yards and clock time but ultimately not enough points to overcome the turnovers.

At Ferenc-Liszt Internatioanl Airport Stadium in Budapest, the North Stars scored on their first six possessions, five of those touchdowns, as they out-paced the Coyotes, 38-20 to remain undefeated. The Budapest offence continues to be explosive and efficient, as encapsulated in **Aaron Rodgers'** 309 yards 4 TDs passing, spiking his season passer rating to 134.1, good for tops in the league. The Coyotes' **Ryan Tannehill**, who last year enjoyed that position at the top of the leader board, had to fight for all 212 of his passing yards and 2 TDs. Sadly, he will be most remembered in this game for his bad first-play interception that put the Stars' victory train in motion.

At Monsignor McClancy Memorial Stadium in East Elmhurst, the Violators shaved the Irish, 27-24 on a 53-yard **Michael Badgley** field goal with 1-minute left in overtime to stay in striking distance of the Pats in the Central Division. This was a tit-for-tat, perfectly balanced game with the Irish playing the *tit* to Virden's *tat* up until the first possession of overtime, when a **Leonard Williams** sack of **Baker Mayfield** tipped the balance in forcing the punt that set up the Violators' eventual limping march to victory. While the Violators are no slouch, **Chris Ferraro** will see this loss as a missed opportunity at home against a Virden team that played with only 4 healthy defensive linemen and 2 healthy linebackers. What's left of the pillaged Virden roster appears to still have fight in them.

At New Era Stadium in Buffalo, the visiting Hawks swooped down and plucked a 31-21 victory from the favoured Derailers and did it in unusual fashion; with their defence. On a day when the wind was swirling in Orchard Park, the Brooklin 'D' forced 4 turnovers, three of those by **Lamar Jackson**, and put up 12 points on a pick-six and a fumble return. It was a horrible day for Lamar through the air, but his 95 yards rushing kept his team in the game up until the point when **Daniel Jones** hit **DeAndre Hopkins** for a 54-yard TD pass with 6:00 left in the 4th quarter to put the visitors in front to stay. The Hawks now look a tad more dangerous in the basement at 3-4.

At Kingdome in Seattle, rookie **Trey Lance** got the start and finished off his first win as a pro, leading the Pilots over the slumping Blue Eagles, 23-13. After **Joe Burrow** put up a TD on the game's opening drive, the Pilots took over and strung together 23 points, with Lance tossing his 3rd TD pass of the season and **Evan McPherson** kicking 3 long field goals, including a 57-yarder. The Pilots can breathe now that they are off the schneid while the Blue Eagles continue to choke badly.

At True North Field in Winnipeg, the Crusaders added the Cadillac to the list of opponents they have made look better than they are, falling to them decisively, 31-10; while at Tillman Field in Cowtown, the Convicts came in and locked up **Ryan Fitzpatrick** and the Corn Kings while **Teddy Bridgewater** managed the Convicts' offence like a true top-tier back-up to captain a dreary, but easy, 23-10 win.

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Jimmy's WEEK EIGHT PICKS

BRUXELLES @ VIRDEN (line – VIOLATORS by 4)

INJURIES: Bruxelles – Jordan Phillips (OUT), Isaiah Wynn (OUT); Virden – Ja'Marr Chase (QUESTIONABLE), Danny Shelton (DOUBTFUL), Geno Atkins (OUT), Anthony Barr (OUT), John Brown (OUT), Austin Bryant (OUT), Dee Ford (OUT), Malik Hooker (OUT), Lane Johnson (OUT), Kelechi Osemele (OUT), Solomon Thomas (OUT), Oshane Ximines (OUT).

The Violators' defensive front seven deserves some kind of medal for holding off the Irish just enough to let Patrick Mahomes and Ezekiel get the job done in overtime last week. But can they do the same against the road-grading Bruxelles offensive line and rising rookie star, Elijah Mitchell? Toss in a mad-as-hell-and-won't-take-it-anymore Drew Brees and it is obvious the decimated Virden defence faces a near-impossible task. The bright news for Virden fans is that the Bombers defence is still one of the league's worst, even if it looked half respectable in victory last week. Don't expect pressure on Mahomes here. The best Bruxelles can hope to achieve is a two-deep safety look scaring Mahomes from trying to cash in deep then pray for a mistake...or three. **PICK: BRUXELLES**

TWIN CITIES @ BUFFALO (line – DERAILERS by 5)

INJURIES: Twin Cities – Clyde Edwards-Helaire (PROBABLE), Melvin Gordon II (QUESTIONABLE), Antonio Brown (OUT), Trent Brown (OUT), Kenny Golladay (OUT); Buffalo – Jayon Brown (OUT), Jaquiski Tartt (OUT).

Mitch Trubisky's carelessness with the ball through a pivotal early stretch of the Triumph's loss to Oshawa last week has fans even more incensed at their coach for keeping their knight in shining armour out of his armour and off the field. Whatever the plan is for the rookie, there is no point trying to guess if he will be starting from week-to-week. So, assuming Trubisky is the guy, one has to expect that turnovers will play a role against the second-highest takeaway defence in the league in Buffalo. The Derailers were derailed (never gets old!) by their own turnover woes in losing to the Hawks last week. It is not a good sign when projected wins go into the loss column, however Buffalo is capable of rebounding here against a Triumph team that is meandering through its season and maybe just about ready to lose interest. Barring an unforeseen pre-game speech by Bobby Wagner, book this one for... **PICK: BUFFALO**

CHARLESWOOD @ NEW JERSEY (line – Pick'Em)

INJURIES: Charleswood – Brandon Linder (OUT), Ronnie Stanley (OUT), Desmond Trufant (OUT); New Jersey – None.

The Pats are coming off another dubious victory, this one a three-point last-minute escape from the plucky but still last-place Glads. It is not often a 6-1 team is ranked no.8 in the power rankings. This could be a sign that they are powerful enough to win when not at the top of their game, or a sign that they are overrated. As we approach the halfway point, odds-makers are leaning toward overrated, as evidenced by the coin flip line against the league's only "unrated" team – the Wrecking Balls. New Jersey defies classification and analysts now just accept them as a team that will show up and have random things happen to them. That theory did not hold last week, though, when they experienced a conventional loss in a coherently-played game against York. If New Jersey outputs are now heading toward more predictable outcomes, it is a good bet they will crash that ball down unusually hard on the Pats. **PICK: NEW JERSEY**

COBB COUNTY @ PEG CITY (line – COYOTES by 7)

INJURIES: Cobb County – None; Peg City – Josh Allen (OUT), Saquon Barkley (OUT), Jonathan Bullard (OUT), Devin Bush (OUT), Tarik Cohen (OUT), Davon Godchaux (OUT), Chandler Jones (OUT), Jalen Thompson (OUT).

The Coyotes were put in their place by Budapest last week. They are now 1-3 in their last four games after a strong 3-0 start and need a compelling win to convince themselves and others that they retain some of the magic that led them to within 1-point of the final last year. Enter, the Crusaders, everyone's "get right" opponent in 2021. Even the Cadillac came out looking good against the Pegs, after

dropping five-in-a-row and looking like one of football's worst teams. Peg City is, to put it mildly, having a rough year. But it could be worse. The players haven't surrendered yet, which makes for tragic-comedic viewing, but also opens the door for lucky bounces to make a difference. Yes, there is always a faint hope if you fight. Just don't expect it to come this week. **PICK: COBB COUNTY**

LAS VEGAS @ CHINO (line – ASSASSINS by 1)

INJURIES: Las Vegas – Darius Leonard (OUT); Chino – AJ Bouye (OUT), Christian McCaffrey (OUT), Lorenzo Carter (OUT), Dak Prescott (OUT), Mike Purcell (OUT).

Las Vegas finally lost one, falling to the potent Thunder Lizards last week, but remain in the eyes of the AP power rankings the team to beat in the Pacific Conference. The Convicts want to challenge that assumption but must accept the fact that they are a different team without Dak Prescott and Christian McCaffrey. Teddy Bridgewater is doing a find job of filling in, but Ronald Jones II lacks that second dimension in the passing attack that forces linebackers to play coverage. All the same, this hot black-on-black rivalry tends to bring out the punk in the Convicts and a willingness to play dirty in the pile. It will be interesting to see how the loss of Darius Leonard affects the performance of the Assassins' defence. Nick Kwiatkoski will take over inside and Demario Davis will move to Leonard's spot. If the linebackers hold up, it could be long day for Chino as Justin Herbert finds air in the Convicts' secondary. **PICK: LAS VEGAS**

SEATTLE @ IOWA CITY (line – CUBS by 4)

INJURIES: Seattle – Michael Brockers (PROBABLE), Myles Jack (QUESTIONABLE); Iowa City – None.

Reeling after being blown away by the Swordfish offence last week, the Cubs are in a vulnerable spot here against their nemesis, the Pilots. Seattle always plays the Cubs tough and they are coming off a confidence-building win for their rookie QB, Trey Lance, who has started two of the last three games and appears to be the new no.1 replacing Gardner Minshew II. I would be surprised if the Seattle coach went back to Minshew, or even Sam Darnold, but his track record indicates it is certainly possible. The lack of stability at the QB position is the biggest factor in Seattle's disappointing start; whereas the Cubs' Russell Wilson provides that consistency and high-level ability that gives them a chance against any opponent week-in, week-out. He won't let this one get away. **PICK: IOWA CITY**

DURHAM @ BROOKLIN (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 7)

INJURIES: Durham – Rashaad Penny (OUT); Brooklin – Austin Ekeler (OUT), Taylor Lewan (OUT), Xavier McKinney (OUT).

The Thunder Lizards cleared the stench of their prior two outings with a solid win over the previously undefeated Assassins last week. Josh Allen rose to an elite level against the league's no.2 ranked defence. His ceiling against the Hawks promises to be much higher, but he would be wise to exercise a bit of caution against an opportunistic secondary ranked 2nd in the league in interceptions. Brooklin is getting production from its pass rush, leading to rushed throws and takeaways from their opponents. As good as the Hawks are in this area, Durham's defence is far above them and everybody else in takeaways with 16. Unlike last year when ball security was the key to his success, Derek Carr has been holding the ball too long and turning it over on the ground and through the air. DeAndre Hopkins faces constant double-teams and nobody else is getting open. Against Durham, that is a dangerous mix. **PICK: DURHAM**

COWTOWN @ BUDAPEST (line – NORTH STARS by 13)

INJURIES: Cowtown – Jimmy Garoppolo (OUT), Eric Saubert (OUT); Budapest – None.

The Corn Kings showed their worst side against the Convicts last week after displaying playoff potential against Durham two weeks earlier. They have been up-and-down offensively and, while their defence has generally shown up, it cannot be relied upon to hold the line against the better offences without offensive support. The North Stars are looking their perfect record and, for the first time in the franchise's illustrious history, are dominating offensively with Aaron Rodgers looking better than he ever has. The Cowtown defence cannot expect to stop this Budapest juggernaut, but they can give their offence a chance to keep pace if they can force turnovers of the kind Rodgers does not often make. Ryan Fitzmagick is the Joker in the deck capable of defying gravity and keeping the Corn Kings in the game – at least that is what the networks are selling to keep you interested. Don't buy it and take the points. **PICK: BUDAPEST**

PICKERING @ SEBASTIAN (line – SWORDFISH by 5)

INJURIES: Pickering – Darqueze Dennard (OUT), Richie Incognito (OUT); Sebastian – Jadeveon Clowney (DOUBTFUL).

It was another banner day for the Swordfish offence last week. Kirk Cousins continues to make the most of throwing opportunities presented by the threat of arguably the most dangerous running tandem in the league in Jonathan Taylor and Nick Chubb. Stopping the Sebastian offence is no longer a viable goal for opposing defensive coordinators – the best they hope for now is to force them into fourth-and-medium situations and pray for an aggressive gamble on the part of the madman with the headset on the other sideline. This strategy can work, but it now requires more fourth down fails than it did last year. The Spartans have the offensive firepower, in theory, to hang in the game against a Swordfish defence as patchy and vulnerable as the offence is supreme. They will be forced to rely on Philip Rivers being able to maintain his best attention for an entire four quarters, however, something that he seems to struggle with these days. One

notable in the Spartans' favour is Xavien Howard's ability to lock down TY Hilton. It might help, it might not. **PICK: SEBASTIAN**

YORK @ SCARBOROUGH (line – EXCALIBURS by 4)

INJURIES: York – Cole Holcomb (QUESTIONABLE), CJ Henderson (OUT); Scarborough – Nick Bosa (OUT), Landon Collins (OUT), DeSean Jackson (OUT), Zack Martin (OUT).

The Blue Eagles are approaching that stage of the season where something has to give. It may be too late, but if any post-season hopes remain, they must add some “Ws” to their record starting this week. How they rebound after giving Seattle its first win of the year will tell us which way they are headed; straight to the basement or up into the muddy waters of the Atlantic wildcard pool. Joe Burrow has not been the main reason the team has struggled, but he is clearly not ready to carry a team with holes in the roster to greater heights than the talent warrants. The Excaliburs, on the other hand, have a nice little season going and look to strengthen their grip on the first wildcard spot with a win. While the York defence has not distinguished itself to a high degree to this point, Tom Brady is taking full advantage of King Henry to deliver deep strikes through the air, adding a new dimension that will keep the rolling here. **PICK: YORK**

ERIEAU @ GEORGIA (line – CADILLAC by 3)

INJURIES: Erieau – Brian Poole (OUT), Tyron Smith (OUT); Georgia – Melvin Ingram III (OUT).

The Crusaders appeared on the Cadillac schedule in the nick of time to avoid an imminent first half collapse. Kyler Murray exploited three turnovers generated by the defence to keep his ‘Franchise QB’ credentials from being revoked. It was a convincing win and they needed it to be convincing to give them confidence going into a division game against an underrated Gladiators squad. If Georgia had a better defence, they would definitely be in the mix to win a division abruptly abandoned by its customary landlords. Sadly, they don’t have that defence yet. Not that the Erieau offence is likely to overwhelm them. Before breaking out for a season-high 346 total yards against the league’s patsies last week, the inept Cadillac were ahead of only those patsies in offensive efficiency. No pro bowlers required to keep the Caddies off the main roads. Expect the Glads’ vastly superior attack to make the difference at home. **PICK: GEORGIA**

OSHAWA @ EAST ELMHURST (line – IRISH by 9)

INJURIES: Oshawa – Julian Edelman (OUT), Eric Kendricks (OUT), K’Waun Williams (OUT); East Elmhurst – None.

It is rare that a Week 8 showdown carries such enormous weight in the playoff picture, but the outcome of this game could have lasting implications. The Pink Panthers, coming off their second win in a row, cannot afford to lose this game. It is as close to a must-win as it gets without being an actual elimination game. The Irish, who currently have the strongest bid for the division title, can solidify that position and dig the graves of all their divisional opponents a little deeper with a win. The fact that they are such big favourites is as shocking as the standings. Nobody would have predicted this scenario at the start of the season. So, if Oshawa is as good as people thought they were, could it be they are being grossly underestimated as they emerge tentatively from their early season funk? It is hard to tell, but if they play to their established talent level, they should at least be able to keep the game close. **PICK: OSHAWA**



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This Week in EFL History
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Sterling Smitherman

FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – Week Seven of the 2015 EFL season was the coming out party for Cannibals’ QB, **Marcus Mariota**. He threw for 289 yards and 5 TDs in an earth-shattering 52-17 victory over the Aurora Mustangs. “Earth-shattering” not only because it was a complete blowout in defiance of the odds, but that it ended the Mustangs’ historic winning streak at 25 games. To top it off, it was a nice little bit of revenge for **Kenny Main**, who fell to these same Mustangs in the Championship the year before.

Across the world, EFL Asia managed to finish off

its second week of games and, to the surprise of the many doubters, registered an uptake in ratings thanks to two international incidents arising from game results. The Seoul Calm were temporarily detained in North Korea after defeating the Pyongyang Sun, 23-10; while Chinese Destroyers flooded the straits of Taiwan in response to taunt of the PRC by the Chairman of the Taiwan Solidarity Union after the Taipei Sharks crushed the Beijing Red Dragons, 23-3, forcing a US Aircraft carrier to make an emergency deployment. While alarming to most, the EFL was ecstatic about it all.

Back in the Western World, The Durham Thunder Lizards scored 24 points in the 4th quarter to blow out Twin Cities, 38-23, prompting a violent outburst from Twin Cities coach, **Guy Williams**, who forgot he was mic’d up by FOX Network and was recorded making outrageous threats to players, referees and even the Lizards’ owner, **Celine Dion** while his team, that had been leading 23-14 after 3 quarters and controlling the game to that point, collapsed utterly in the 4th.

While Mariota earned Offensive Player of the Week for his heroics against Aurora, Defensive honours went to the low-key but steady performance of **Telvin Smith**, who recorded 17 tackles 3 stuffs and a key FF in Pickering’s win over LA.