

WEEK 2



EFL

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE



Elite Football League

How sweet it is! 2022

October 16, 2022

ROAD KILL!

EAST



CENTRAL



WEST



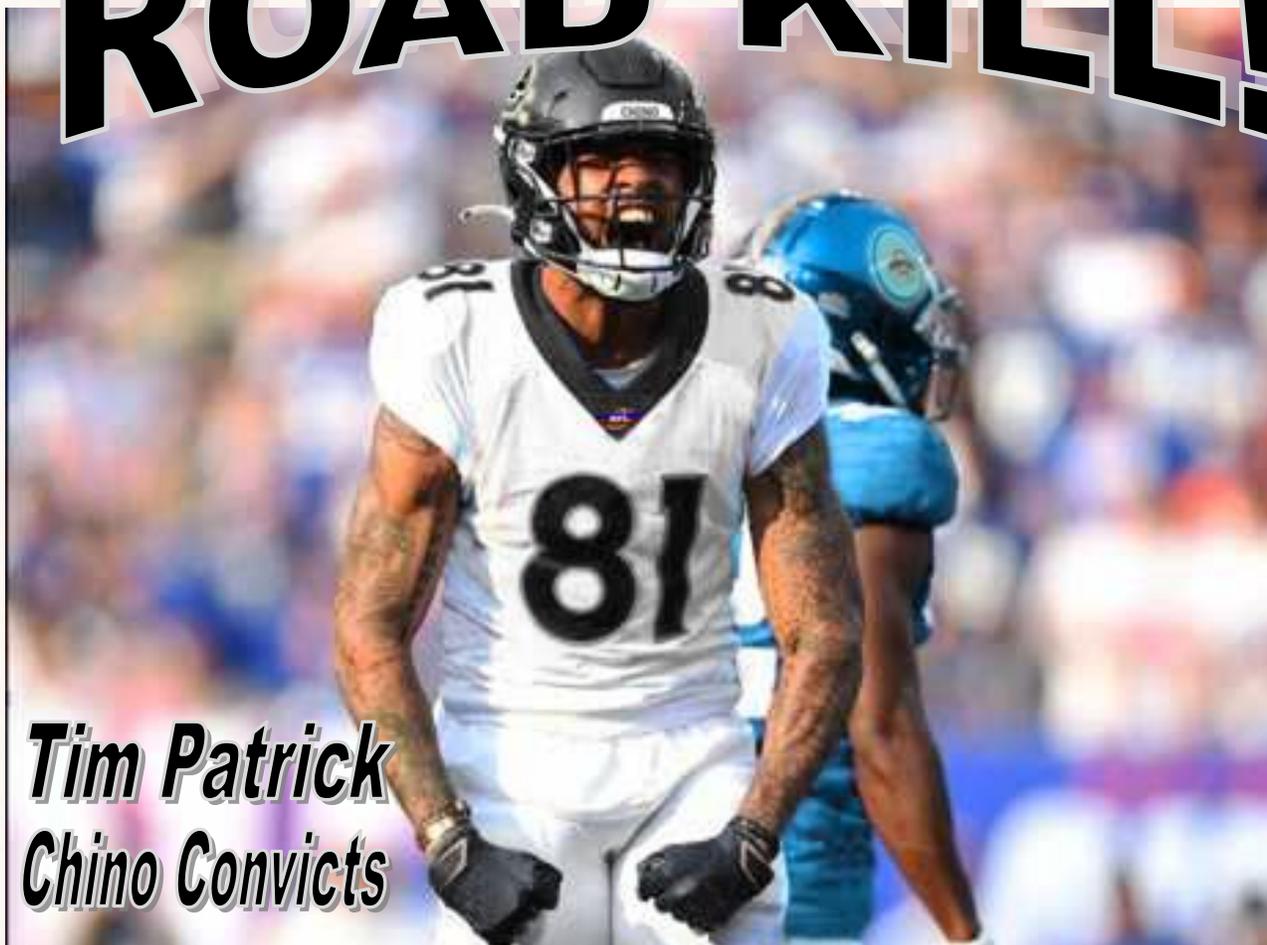
NORTH



COASTAL



SOUTH



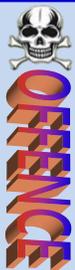
Tim Patrick
Chino Convicts

Convicts' wide receiver, *Tim Patrick* roars in triumph after scoring on Chino's first possession of overtime, bringing sudden death to the Derailers at New Era Stadium in Buffalo in a 33-27 victory. Patrick stood out all afternoon, hauling in all 10 of his targets for 147 yards and 2 TDs. This exciting match was marred by controversy when a roughing the passer call against Chino allowed Buffalo to tie the game with a FG at the buzzer. *(Story inside)*



*Who was slick
in Week Two?*

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



Tim Patrick
WR
Chino
Convicts

10 Rec, 147 yds, 2 TDs. Capped big day with winning TD catch in OT



Chris Jones
DL
Peg City
Crusaders

4 T, 3 Sk, 2 PD, 1 FF. Led swarming Peg 'D' with 3 of 9 sacks of TC QB.



27

Matthew Stafford connected with Keenan Allen for a 24-yard TD pass with 0:29 remaining in the 4th to pull off a 27-24 victory over the Pilots. It capped a 75-yard in less than two minutes after Seattle's **Drew Lock** ran it in from 10 yards out for a TD, his second of the game, to take the lead, 24-20. **David Montgomery** had one of his best days, rushing for 148 yards and 1 TD on 17 carries. His 46-yard run set up his own 1-yard TD run to open the scoring. The Pilots hung in strongly in this one, and nearly scored an upset. **Evan McPherson** had two FGs blocked by **Calais Campbell**.

24

10-15-2022 Kingdome Temp:70 Wind:Calm Line:NJ by 10 MVP:Campbell HFA:ON(1)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 New Jersey (2-0)	10	7	3	7	27
2022 Seattle (0-2)	7	7	3	7	24

Passing

NJ: Stafford 38/25 290 Yds TD
SEA: Lock 40/27 301 Yds TD Int

Rushing

NJ: Montgomery 17/148 TD, Samuel 6/34 TD, Robinson 2/4
SEA: Walker III 17/86, Lock 6/21 2 TDs, Hunt 1/3

Receiving

NJ: Samuel 7/104, Allen 7/85 TD, McLaurin 6/65, Montgomery 3/20, Hooper 1/7
SEA: Lamb 10/155, Renfrow 8/103, Hunt 5/22 TD, Walker III 2/10, Deguara 1/5

Defense

NJ: Stewart Sk 5-Tk, Winfield Jr. Int 3-Tk, Floyd Sk 3-Tk
SEA: Jack FF 10-Tk

Injuries

NJ: Alexander 4, Adams 4, Awuzie 1
SEA: Akers 13, Joseph-Day 9

Misc

NJ: Samuel FL, Campbell Blk-FG, Boswell 2/2 FG 54 Lg
SEA: White FR, McPherson 1/3 FG 33 Lg



33

Wide receiver **Tim Patrick** caught a 7-yard TD pass from **Dak Prescott** to cap an 11-play, 75-yard drive in overtime to lift the Convicts over the Derailers. The overtime was forced by a controversial roughing the passer penalty on **William Gholston** on 4th down that put Buffalo in field goal range to tie the game with 0:01 left. The Convicts got off to a quick start and led 14-3 after an **AJ Terrell** pick of **Lamar Jackson** set up a 9-yard **Christian McCaffrey** TD run. But the Derailers came back with two TDs in the 2nd quarter to set up an exciting back-and-forth battle in the 2nd half.

27

10-15-2022 New Era Stadium Temp:71 Wind:0-10 None Line:CHI by 18 MVP:Patrick HFA:

	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
2022 Chino (2-0)	7	10	7	3	6	33
2022 Buffalo (0-2)	3	14	0	10	0	27

Passing

CHI: Prescott 35/29 358 Yds 2 TDs 2 Int
BUF: Jackson 33/25 202 Yds 2 TDs Int

Rushing

CHI: McCaffrey 19/62 TD, Prescott 2/4, Jones II 3/4, Jackson 1/4 TD
BUF: Jackson 12/47, Dillon 9/35 TD, Davis 9/34, Robinson 1/28

Receiving

CHI: Patrick 10/147 2 TDs, McCaffrey 8/86, Jones 5/76, Mooney 2/13, Abdullah 2/5
BUF: Toney 6/46, Gage 5/39, Fant 5/67 TD, Reynolds 3/32, Dillon 3/1, Robinson 1/5 TD

Defense

CHI: Miller Sk FF 7-Tk, McDowell Sk 10-Tk, Addison Sk 3-Tk, Maye 8-Tk
BUF: Williams Sk FF 4-Tk, Evans Sk 6-Tk, Abram 10-Tk, Oruwariye Int 3-Tk, Flowers Sk

Injuries

CHI: Smith 12
BUF: Horn 10, Greenard 4

Misc

CHI: 8/79 Pen, Prescott FL, Addison FR, Butker 2/2 FG 35 Lg
BUF: 8/52 Pen, Jackson FL, Rowe FR, Elliott 2/2 FG 46 Lg



Cubs' running back **Joe Mixon** rushed for 134 yards and 2 TDs on 22 carries and caught another, and **Russell Wilson** threw 4 TD passes, two to **Christian Kirk**, as the Cubs outscored the Coyotes, 48-35. The Cubs got ahead early and stayed in front, but had to weather a continuous air assault from **Ryan Tannehill**, who threw for 364 yards and was deadly from a distance in throwing 4 TD passes of 19 yards or more, two of those to **Brandin Cooks**, who had 11 receptions for 154 yards. Two failed 4th-down conversions inside the Cubs' 10-yard line were costly for the Coyotes.

10-15-2022 Iowa City Superplex Temp:74 Wind: Line:CB by 2 MVP:Mixon HF

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Cobb County (0-2)	0	7	14	14	35
2022 Iowa City (1-1)	7	17	14	10	48

Passing

CB: Tannehill 40/27 364 Yds 4 TDs Int
 ICC: Wilson 25/18 293 Yds 4 TDs

Rushing

CB: Cook 10/78 TD, Strong Jr. 8/39, Tannehill 2/35, Hasty 6/14
 ICC: Mixon 22/134 2 TDs, Carter 7/25, Wilson 5/9

Receiving

CB: Cooks 11/154 2 TDs, Pittman Jr. 6/86 TD, Parker 4/62 TD, Howard 2/15, Robinson 2/23
 ICC: Kirk 4/85 2 TDs, Moore 3/84, Carter 2/27, Njoku 2/18, Philips 2/11, Brown 2/54 TD

Defense

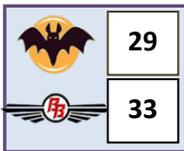
CB: Oweh Sk FF 6-Tk
 ICC: Okwara Sk 7-Tk, Taylor Sk 7-Tk, Chenal FF 6-Tk, Hall 9-Tk, Jones Int 3-Tk

Injuries

CB: Lawrence 8
 ICC: Brown 8

Misc

CB: 32 1st D, Robinson FL, Pittman FL
 ICC: Hainsey FR, Hall FR, Tucker 2/2 FG 60 Lg



Leonard Fournette exploded through the center of the line and sprinted 62 yards for his second TD of the game to give Bruxelles as 30-29 lead in the 3rd quarter. The score would stand as the game-winner, as the Bombers defence held its ground, starting with a denial of **Justin Herbert** on 4th & short at their Bats' 12-yard line, which set up a **Matt Prater** FG to make it 33-29. **Chase Claypool** also starred in the highlight reel for Bruxelles, with 2 TDs on 6 catches for 134 yards. Herbert connected with **Cole Beasley** in the back of the end zone in the 2nd quarter for his first TD pass of the year.

10-15-2022 The Fortress Temp:77 Wind:Calm Line:BRX by 6 MVP:Claypool HFA:ON(2)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Billtown (1-1)	10	13	6	0	29
2022 Bruxelles (2-0)	7	10	13	3	33

Passing

BB: Herbert 35/19 217 Yds TD
 BRX: Goff 32/22 275 Yds 2 TDs Int

Rushing

BB: Conner 15/54 2 TDs, Cook 12/49, Herbert 5/45, Harris 2/2
 BRX: Fournette 7/73 2 TDs, Mitchell 16/60, Goff 1/9

Receiving

BB: Beasley 9/130 TD, Conner 4/50, Jeudy 2/10, Hardman 2/15, Watkins 1/7, Cook 1/5
 BRX: Fournette 8/25, Claypool 6/134 2 TDs, Godwin 3/47, Juszczuk 3/50, Wilson 1/6

Defense

BB: Williams 9-Tk, Leonard 9-Tk, Ngakoue Sk 4-Tk, Cox Int 4-Tk
 BRX: Smith 15-Tk, Robinson Sk 9-Tk, Woods Sk 4-Tk

Injuries

BB: Griffin 1, Rhodes 1
 BRX: Anderson 11, Ragnow 10, Whitehead 2

Misc

BB: Judon FR, Fairbairn 3/3 FG 43 Lg
 BRX: Roberts 4/102 KR 2F 1L, Prater 2/2 FG 42 Lg



Patrick Mahomes threw TDs of 20 yards to **Chris Olave** and 54 yards to **DK Metcalf** on back-to-back 4th quarter possessions to vault the Violators over the Patriots. Until Mahomes' breakout, the underdog Patriots had given the Violators all they could handle and actually led 17-14 on a 4th quarter FG by **Nick Folk**. Virden was initially held in check by two interceptions of Mahomes by Pats' safety **Jevon Holland** in the 2nd quarter, which kept the Virden lead at 14-7. A 38-yard TD pass from **Kenny Pickett** to **Odell Beckham** to start the 2nd half evened the score and set the stage for a tight finish.

10-15-2022 TERRORDOME Temp:73 Wind:Calm None Line:VV by 28 MVP:Mahomes HFA:ON(5)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Charleswood (0-2)	7	0	7	6	20
2022 Virden (2-0)	7	7	0	14	28

Passing

CHP: Pickett 35/22 251 Yds 2 TDs 2 Int
 VV: Mahomes 40/24 373 Yds 4 TDs 2 Int

Rushing

CHP: Singletary 16/143, Pickett 6/20, Kamara 8/18
 VV: Elliott 16/89

Receiving

CHP: Meyers 6/52, Kelce 6/69 TD, Beckham 4/69 TD, Kamara 3/23, Bell 3/38
 VV: Olave 6/68 2 TDs, Hockenson 5/41, Chase 5/124, Elliott 4/27 TD, Metcalf 4/113 TD

Defense

CHP: Holland 2-Int 6-Tk, Landry Sk FF 4-Tk, Queen Sk 6-Tk, Sweat Sk 4-Tk
 VV: Mosley 10-Tk, James Int 5-Tk, Ogbah Sk FF Tk, Bolton 9-Tk, Williams Sk 3-Tk

Injuries

CHP: Ojemudia 12, Stanley 11, Tunsil 10, Samuel Jr. 3
 VV: Barr 4

Misc

CHP: Pickett FL, Folk 2/2 FG 48 Lg
 VV: Moseley FR, Badgley 0/1 FG



The Crusaders' defence registered 9 sacks and 4 QB hits in a display of dominance over **Jameis Winston** and the Triumph. Led by **Chandler Jones** with 3, six different Peg City defenders got to Winston for a loss, forcing a lot of hurried and bad throws, one of them leading to **JC Jackson's** first pick of the year. The Peg City offence joined in with some big plays. **Kyle Pitts** broke two tackles to score from 62 yards on a pass from **Mac Jones**. **Saquon Barkley** took a screen pass 26 yards to the house to make it 26-3 in the 4th, Jones finished the day with 286 passing yards and 3 TD passes.

10-15-2022 Willhalla Stadium Temp:70 Wind:Calm Line:TCT by 27 MVP:Jones HF

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Peg City (1-1)	7	7	3	9	26
2022 Twin Cities (1-1)	0	3	0	7	10

Passing

PCC: Jones 30/18 286 Yds 3 TDs
 TCT: Winston 35/17 162 Yds Int

Rushing

PCC: Barkley 14/40, Hubbard 12/32, Jones 6/16, Drake 2/11
 TCT: Henderson Jr. 20/86, Winston 5/27 TD, Edwards-Helaire 1/2, Hall 1/1

Receiving

PCC: Pitts 4/108 TD, Barkley 3/35 TD, Drake 3/37, Aiyuk 3/37 TD, Sutton 3/43
 TCT: Henderson Jr. 7/46, Moore 4/57, Bateman 3/33, Brown 3/26

Defense

PCC: Jones 3-Sks FF 4-Tk, Godchaux 2-Sks 5-Tk, Allen Sk 7-Tk, Jackson Int 3-Tk
 TCT: Ford Sk 6-Tk, Sweat 10-Tk, Brooks 10-Tk, Wagner 10-Tk

Injuries

PCC:
 TCT: Alexander 11, Moseley 5

Misc

PCC: Koo 1/1 G 30 Lg
 TCT: Duvernay 3/48 PR, Hopkins 1/1 FG 43 Lg



With Oshawa trailing by 3 and driving in the 4th quarter, Cowtown safety **Jeremy Chinn** stripped **Adam Thielen** after a 30-yard catch-and-run and returned it 49 yards to the Oshawa 22-yard line. On the next play, **Devontae Booker** turned the corner and broke free for a 22-yard TD run to put Cowtown up 20-10. The teams traded long FG drives before the Pink Panthers took over at their own 25, down by 10 with 2:06 left. They elected to kick a FG with 0:44 remaining to pull within 7 but did not get the ball back. After 2 sacks, **TJ Watt** was injured early in the 3rd and did not return.

10-13-2022 GM Megadome Temp:72 Wind:Calm Line:COW by 6 MVP:Booker HFA:ON(1)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Cowtown (2-0)	3	10	0	10	23
2022 Oshawa (0-2)	7	0	3	6	16

Passing

COW: Garoppolo 40/28 285 Yds Int
 OSH: Ryan 43/25 278 Yds

Rushing

COW: Booker 10/64 TD, Williams 10/27 TD, Bourne 1/13, Garoppolo 2/2
 OSH: Gordon 11/64 TD, Ryan 3/14

Receiving

COW: Booker 5/31, Bourne 5/56, Harris 5/71, Evans 4/48, Alie-Cox 4/21, Lazard 2/31
 OSH: Gordon 7/20, Adams 7/98, Thielen 4/70, Goedert 4/46, Gesicki 1/24, Berrios 1/14

Defense

COW: Watt 2-Sks 2-Tk, Chinn FF 9-Tk
 OSH: Reddick Sk 5-Tk, Simmons Sk 5-Tk, Adebo Int 4-Tk, Davenport Sk 3-Tk

Injuries

COW: Hicks 6, Watt 1, Havenstein 1
 OSH: Watt 9

Misc

COW: Chinn FR 49-yds, Slye 3/3 FG 48 Lg
 OSH: Thielen FL, Gonzalez 3/3 FG 49 Lg



Josh Allen lobbed a deep check down to running back **Antonio Gibson**, who went out at the Georgia 1-yard line, setting up a 1-yard TD run by **Alexander Mattison** for the Lizards' second TD of the game. That score would prove to be the game-winner, as Durham rolled on unopposed to score 27 points in the first 21 minutes. **Cooper Kupp** caught a 66-yard TD pass from Allen and the first of 2 picks by **Kenny Moore II** set up a short **Cade York** FG to cap the 1st half scoring. The Durham defence stifled the Glads' comeback attempt, intercepting **Big Ben** 3 more times in the 2nd half

10-15-2022 Deep Woods Off Stad Temp:79 Wind:0-10 None Line:DTL by 2 MVP:Allen H

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Durham (2-0)	14	13	0	7	34
2022 Georgia (1-1)	0	0	0	7	7

Passing

DTL: Allen 36/19 302 Yds 2 TDs
 GEO: Roethlisberger 45/23 125 Yds 4 Int

Rushing

DTL: Gibson 9/28, Edmonds 4/22, Allen 2/18 TD, Mattison 5/6 TD, Allgeier 1/3
 GEO: Robinson 8/82 TD, Jacobs 12/72, Agnew 1/4

Receiving

DTL: Kupp 8/160 TD, Gibson 4/77, Allgeier 1/7, Knox 1/7, Mattison 1/-2, Boyd 1/12
 GEO: Johnson 8/60, Jacobs 4/2, Ertz 4/31, Pringle 3/7, Moore 1/7, Shakir 1/14

Defense

DTL: Burns Sk FF 7-Tk, Moore II 2-Int 5-Tk, Hendrickson Sk FF 5-Tk, Simmons Int 8-Tk
 GEO:

Injuries

DTL:
 GEO: Fulton 2

Misc

DTL: York 2/2 FG 34 Lg
 GEO:



On 4th & goal from half a yard away, **Kyler Murray** burrowed across the goal line to put the Cadillac in front 21-7 late in the 1st half. The score would turn out to be the game-winner as the Erieau defence held off **Joe Burrow** and the Blue Eagle offence until late in the game, when rookie, **Jahan Dotson** caught his first career TD pass with 0:53 left in the 4th quarter. Murray had a hand in the first two Erieau TDs, sweeping to the right from 4 yards for a TD and checking down to **Dameon Pierce** for a 15-yard TD pass. **Trevon Diggs** picked off Burrow to deny a score at the end of the half.

10-15-2022 The Eagle's Nest Temp:71 Wind:0-5 None Line:ERI by 7 MVP:Murray HFA:

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Erieau (1-1)	7	14	3	0	24
2022 Scarborough (0-2)	7	0	0	7	14

Passing

ERI: Murray 27/19 187 Yds TD
 SBE: Burrow 37/26 252 Yds TD Int

Rushing

ERI: Pierce 17/103, Harris 6/38, Murray 12/38 2 TDs, Hines 1/1
 SBE: Gaskin 7/23, Perine 5/19 TD, Johnson 4/10, Burrow 4/4

Receiving

ERI: Pierce 6/40 TD, Andrews 4/39, Waddle 3/51, Henry 2/25, Higgins 2/28, Janovich 1/-2
 SBE: Robinson 6/73, Gaskin 4/25, Dotson 3/14 TD, Uzomah 3/38, Crowder 2/16

Defense

ERI: Van Noy Sk 6-Tk, Houston Sk FF 3-Tk, Diggs Int 3-Tk, Garrett Sk 3-Tk
 SBE: Hightower 11-Tk, Amos 8-Tk, Bosa 8-Tk

Injuries

ERI: Gilmore 7
 SBE: Collins 1

Misc

ERI: Pierce FL, Hines 5/73 PR, Myers 1/1 FG 23 Lg
 SBE: Ryan FR, Dotson 3/34 PR



The Swordfish held the ball for 7:06 and 16 plays to open the game but came away with nothing when **Dalton Schultz** came up short on 4th & 5 at the Irish 25. 4th down stops by the Irish were a crucial factor in the game, depriving scoring Sebastian of scoring chances and setting up a key TD in the 3rd that was the margin of victory. In all, the Swordfish converted just 1 of 7 4th down attempts. **Ronald Jones** starred for the Irish offence, gaining 85 yards on 15 carries, including a 50-yard TD to open the scoring. **Kirk Cousins** tossed 2 TDs but threw a bad pick late in the 1st half that led to a FG.

10-15-2022 The Fish Tank Temp:76 Wind:Calm Line:EE by 1 MVP:Jones HFA:ON(3)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 East Elmhurst (2-0)	7	6	13	0	26
2022 Sebastian (0-2)	0	7	7	6	20

Passing

EE: Wentz 32/16 123 Yds 2 TDs 2 Int
 SS: Cousins 43/22 207 Yds 2 TDs Int

Rushing

EE: Jones 15/85 TD, Michel 13/43, Moore 1/8
 SS: Taylor 16/50 TD, Chubb 11/42, Cousins 1/15

Receiving

EE: Everett 6/35, Hill 5/46 TD, Lockett 3/21, Landry 2/21 TD
 SS: Gallup 8/102 TD, Schultz 6/41, Taylor 3/21, Green 2/24, Cooper 2/10 TD

Defense

EE: Ogunjobi Sk 9-Tk, Parsons Sk 4-Tk, Allen Sk 4-Tk, Barrett Sk 4-Tk
 SS: Schobert Sk FF 9-Tk, Street Int 5-Tk, Fuller Int 3-Tk, Edmunds 8-Tk

Injuries

EE:
 SS: Vickers 12, Reid 2

Misc

EE: Moore 3/125 KR 92 Lg, Blankenship 2/3 FG 40 Lg
 SS: 1/7 4th Dwn, Peoples-Jones 5/48 PR



3



31

Markus Golden stuffed Derek Carr for a 2-yard loss on 4th & goal from the 1-yard line near the end of the 1st half to turn away the last best chance for the Hawks to keep this game within reach. Starting the 2nd half with a 14-3 lead, the North Stars proceeded to run away with it, with Ke'Shawn Vaughn finishing off the opening drive of the 2nd half with a 10-yard TD run and two takeaways – a Carr pick and fumble – leading to 10 more points, including Aaron Rodgers' second TD pass of the game. With a 31-3 lead heading into the 4th quarter, both teams inserted their back-ups QBs to run out the

10-15-2022 Ferenc-Liszt Intl A Temp:79 Wind:0-5 None Line:BUD by 8 MVP:Rodgers H

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Brooklin (1-1)	0	3	0	0	3
2022 Budapest (2-0)	7	7	17	0	31

Passing

BRH: Carr 22/18 171 Yds Int, Love 6/5 40 Yds Int

BUD: Rodgers 15/12 153 Yds 2 TDs

Rushing

BRH: Ekeler 9/30, Carr 5/12, Jefferson 2/5, Love 2/3, London 1/2

BUD: Ford 8/61, Patterson 9/33, Johnson 7/33, Patterson 6/31 TD, Vaughn 4/27 TD

Receiving

BRH: London 5/70, Gronkowski 5/30, Ekeler 5/29, Hopkins 3/35, Conklin 2/17

BUD: Diggs 5/70, Jefferson 4/65 2 TDs, Johnson 2/8, Agholor 1/10

Defense

BRH: Bates 8-Tk

BUD: Diggs Int 8-Tk, David 8-Tk, Dean Int 3-Tk, Golden Sk 3-Tk, Cooper Sk 3-Tk

Injuries

BRH:

BUD: Jenkins 7

Misc

BRH: Carr FL, Bullock 1/1 FG 34 Lg

BUD: David FR, McManus 1/1 FG 38 Lg



23



27

Rookie Greg Rousseau stoned Jalen Hurts at the line on 4th & goal from the 1 to deny the Spartans an opportunity to take the lead in the 4th quarter. On Pickering's next series, DeForest Buckner sacked Hurts on 4th & 2 near mid-field to set up a late FG to make it 27-23 for York with 0:25 left. The Excaliburs won in spite of 4 turnovers, 3 of those picks by Tom Brady that led to 17 Pickering points. Derrick Henry rushed for 138 yards on 25 carries and Brady did throw a pair of red zone TDs to power the York attack. Hurts completed just 5 passes, but one was a 57-yard TD to Marquise Brown.

10-15-2022 Camelot Temp:67 Wind:Calm None Line:YOR by 8 MVP:Henry HFA:ON(3)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2022 Pickering (0-2)	7	10	3	3	23
2022 York (1-1)	7	10	7	3	27

Passing

PIC: Hurts 14/5 105 Yds TD

YOR: Brady 41/27 232 Yds 2 TDs 3 Int

Rushing

PIC: Sanders 22/82, Hurts 10/51 TD, Swift 5/18

YOR: Henry 25/138, Williams 4/9 TD, Brady 1/1

Receiving

PIC: Sanders 2/10, Smith 1/26, Brown 1/57 TD, Ridley 1/12

YOR: Burks 9/53 TD, Kmet 5/38, St. Brown 4/77, Henry 3/6, Williams 3/10 TD

Defense

PIC: Hyde Int 10-Tk, Wilson Int 7-Tk, Woolen Int 5-Tk

YOR: Buckner 2-Sks 6-Tk, Holcomb 11-Tk, Guy Sk 4-Tk

Injuries

PIC: Okwara 10, Gay 4, Dugger 1

YOR: Zuniga 12, Scherff 5

Misc

PIC: Dotson FR, Zuerlein 3/3 FG 35 Lg

YOR: Swain FL, Gould 2/2 FG 50 Lg



WEEK TWO

STANDINGS & STATS

EFL 2022 - Week 2 Standings

East	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Bruxelles	2	0	0	1.000	W2	50	25.0	39	19.5	5.5	1 0 0	1 0 0	2 0 0
New Jersey	2	0	0	1.000	W2	50	25.0	31	15.5	9.5	0 0 0	1 0 0	2 0 0
Buffalo	0	2	0	.000	L2	34	17.0	56	28.0	-11.0	0 2 0	0 1 0	0 2 0
Cobb County	0	2	0	.000	L2	45	22.5	65	32.5	-10.0	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 2 0
Central	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Viriden	2	0	0	1.000	W2	51	25.5	33	16.5	9.0	1 0 0	2 0 0	2 0 0
Peg City	1	1	0	.500	W1	39	19.5	33	16.5	3.0	0 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Twin Cities	1	1	0	.500	L1	55	27.5	29	14.5	13.0	0 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Charleswood	0	2	0	.000	L2	23	11.5	73	36.5	-25.0	0 1 0	0 2 0	0 2 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Chino	2	0	0	1.000	W2	63	31.5	40	20.0	11.5	0 0 0	1 0 0	2 0 0
Billtown	1	1	0	.500	L1	52	26.0	49	24.5	1.5	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 1 0
Iowa City	1	1	0	.500	W1	61	30.5	65	32.5	-2.0	1 1 0	0 1 0	1 1 0
Seattle	0	2	0	.000	L2	40	20.0	50	25.0	-5.0	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 2 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham	2	0	0	1.000	W2	75	37.5	21	10.5	27.0	1 0 0	1 0 0	2 0 0
Cowtown	2	0	0	1.000	W2	55	27.5	41	20.5	7.0	1 0 0	1 0 0	2 0 0
Sebastian	0	2	0	.000	L2	45	22.5	58	29.0	-6.5	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 2 0
Scarborough	0	2	0	.000	L2	28	14.0	65	32.5	-18.5	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 2 0
Coastal	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Budapest	2	0	0	1.000	W2	58	29.0	16	8.0	21.0	2 0 0	2 0 0	2 0 0
Brooklin	1	1	0	.500	L1	26	13.0	51	25.5	-12.5	1 0 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
York	1	1	0	.500	W1	47	23.5	46	23.0	0.5	1 0 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Pickering	0	2	0	.000	L2	36	18.0	54	27.0	-9.0	0 0 0	0 2 0	0 2 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
East Elmhurst	2	0	0	1.000	W2	39	19.5	30	15.0	4.5	1 0 0	1 0 0	2 0 0
Georgia	1	1	0	.500	L1	20	10.0	40	20.0	-10.0	0 1 0	1 0 0	1 1 0
Erieau	1	1	0	.500	W1	34	17.0	27	13.5	3.5	0 0 0	0 1 0	1 1 0
Oshawa	0	2	0	.000	L2	22	11.0	36	18.0	-7.0	0 2 0	0 1 0	0 2 0

EFL 2022 - Week 2 Passing Leaders

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Rodgers	BUD	47	35	74.5	386	1	2.1	32	4	8.5	117.9
2	Wilson	ICC	58	37	63.8	517	1	1.7	44	5	8.6	113.9
3	Prescott	CHI	58	46	79.3	571	2	3.4	38	3	5.2	110.6
4	Jones,M	PCC	59	32	54.2	453	0	0.0	62	4	6.8	101.9
5	Allen	DTL	60	35	58.3	489	0	0.0	66	3	5.0	101.3
6	Goff	BRX	50	33	66.0	353	1	2.0	34	3	6.0	98.2
7	Stafford	NJ	70	45	64.3	573	1	1.4	51	3	4.3	98.1
8	Mahomes	VV	89	55	61.8	652	2	2.2	54	5	5.6	93.5
9	Garoppolo	COW	65	43	66.2	475	1	1.5	29	2	3.1	91.5
10	Lock	SEA	40	27	67.5	301	1	2.5	30	1	2.5	87.6
11	Brady	YOR	73	51	69.9	521	3	4.1	47	3	4.1	86.6
12	Cousins	SS	78	46	59.0	518	1	1.3	50	3	3.8	86.4
13	Murray,K	ERI	60	40	66.7	449	2	3.3	48	2	3.3	86.0
14	Burrow	SBE	72	51	70.8	472	3	4.2	27	3	4.2	85.0
15	Winston	TCT	57	32	56.1	351	1	1.8	31	3	5.3	84.8
16	Hurts	PIC	37	18	48.6	208	0	0.0	57	2	5.4	84.1
17	Tannehill	CB	76	43	56.6	506	2	2.6	45	4	5.3	83.6
18	Carr	BRH	65	46	70.8	458	2	3.1	48	1	1.5	82.7
19	Herbert	BB	64	36	56.3	438	0	0.0	48	1	1.6	82.7
20	Wentz	EE	65	41	63.1	381	2	3.1	32	3	4.6	81.6
21	Jackson.L	BUF	65	46	70.8	333	2	3.1	37	2	3.1	79.8
22	Darnold	SEA	48	30	62.5	286	1	2.1	24	1	2.1	77.3
23	Ryan	OSH	88	51	58.0	497	0	0.0	30	0	0.0	73.9
24	Pickett	CHP	65	39	60.0	416	5	7.7	38	2	3.1	57.0
25	Roethlisbe	GEO	81	47	58.0	331	4	4.9	22	1	1.2	51.0

EFL 2022 - Week 2 Kick Return Leaders

		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Moore	EE	4	148	37.0	92 0
2	Rodgers	CHP	3	97	32.3	35 0
3	McCloud	PCC	6	176	29.3	37 0
4	Dallas	SBE	3	77	25.7	31 0
5	Roberts	BRX	7	173	24.7	37 0
6	Smith,T	CHI	3	72	24.0	28 0
7	Phillips	VV	5	118	23.6	31 0
8	Carter	BUF	3	68	22.7	24 0
9	Agnew	GEO	3	59	19.7	22 0
10	Hasty	CB	4	76	19.0	30 0
11	Pringle	GEO	1	31	31.0	31 0
12	Berrios	OSH	1	30	30.0	30 0
13	Pierce	TCT	1	29	29.0	29 0
14	Ballentine	YOR	1	28	28.0	28 0
15	Walker	SEA	1	27	27.0	27 0
16	Tremble	ICC	1	22	22.0	22 0
17	Cook	CB	2	41	20.5	26 0
18	Spencer,D	NJ	2	41	20.5	22 0
19	Isabella	BRH	2	40	20.0	28 0
20	Erickson	VV	1	19	19.0	19 0
21	Dulin	BB	2	32	16.0	18 0
22	Schwartz	BUF	1	14	14.0	14 0
23	Harris	COW	1	12	12.0	12 0
24	Philips	ICC	2	19	9.5	18 0
25	Moore	TCT	1	9	9.0	9 0

EFL 2022 - Week 2 Punt Return Leaders

		No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Holland	CHP	3	0	57	19.0	36 0
2	Duvernay	TCT	4	4	61	15.3	23 0
3	McCloud	PCC	4	2	57	14.3	19 0
4	Harris	COW	3	2	41	13.7	20 0
5	Hines	ERI	8	3	97	12.1	20 0
6	Grant	CHI	4	0	42	10.5	18 0
7	Dotson	SBE	4	2	40	10.0	18 0
8	Peoples-Jo	SS	7	1	61	8.7	14 0
9	Jones,V	PIC	3	1	26	8.7	11 0
10	Renfrow	SEA	3	1	25	8.3	12 0
11	Hardman	BB	3	0	24	8.0	16 0
12	Carter	BUF	3	1	22	7.3	11 0
13	Berrios	OSH	4	1	27	6.8	12 0
14	Roberts	BRX	7	5	44	6.3	11 0
15	Moore	EE	3	3	17	5.7	13 0
16	Shakir	GEO	4	2	22	5.5	8 0
17	Gray	DTL	3	5	16	5.3	9 0
18	Erickson	VV	3	3	16	5.3	13 0
19	Robinson	CB	7	0	10	1.4	4 0
20	Spencer,D	NJ	2	1	21	10.5	14 0
21	Agnew	GEO	2	0	13	6.5	7 0
22	Swain	YOR	1	3	5	5.0	5 0
23	Rodgers,Am	BUD	1	2	1	1.0	1 0

EFL 2022 - Week 2 Rushing Leaders

			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Henry	YOR	48	275	5.7	63	1
2	Mixon	ICC	38	235	6.2	30	2
3	Montgomery	NJ	35	225	6.4	46	1
4	Mitchell	BRX	34	191	5.6	21	1
5	Cook	BB	36	187	5.2	30	3
6	Fournette	BRX	29	185	6.4	62	2
7	Singletary	CHP	27	166	6.1	52	0
8	Ekeler	BRH	31	165	5.3	24	0
9	Taylor	SS	35	163	4.7	39	2
10	Gibson	DTL	26	157	6.0	16	0
11	Sanders	PIC	37	157	4.2	19	0
12	Cook	CB	21	155	7.4	37	1
13	Elliott	VV	35	154	4.4	25	1
14	McCaffrey	CHI	37	151	4.1	23	2
15	Jacobs	GEO	30	148	4.9	28	0
16	Jones,A	EE	27	135	5.0	50	1
17	Walker	SEA	26	134	5.2	33	0
18	Henderson	TCT	34	128	3.8	11	0
19	Williams,J	COW	25	127	5.1	17	1
20	Pierce	ERI	22	124	5.6	31	0
21	Allen	DTL	13	115	8.8	28	4
22	Gordon	OSH	22	113	5.1	26	1
23	Jackson.L	BUF	25	111	4.4	29	1
24	Robinson,J	GEO	14	94	6.7	38	1
25	Patterson	BUD	16	88	5.5	19	2
26	Michel	EE	24	88	3.7	26	0
27	Booker	COW	13	87	6.7	22	1
28	Conner	BB	18	86	4.8	22	2
29	Murray,K	ERI	20	86	4.3	18	2
30	Barkley	PCC	24	78	3.3	8	0
31	Hurts	PIC	18	77	4.3	17	1
32	Dillon	BUF	23	77	3.3	9	1
33	Tannehill	CB	6	76	12.7	23	0
34	Strong Jr.	CB	12	72	6.0	21	0
35	Carr	BRH	12	70	5.8	22	0

EFL 2022 - Week 2 Receiving Leaders

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Lamb	SEA	19	258	13.6	30	1
2	Ekeler	BRH	17	165	9.7	48	0
3	Kmet	YOR	16	118	7.4	11	0
4	Renfrow	SEA	16	188	11.8	26	0
5	Adams	OSH	16	206	12.9	28	0
6	Johnson,D	GEO	15	131	8.7	19	0
7	Cooks	CB	15	178	11.9	45	2
8	Beasley	BB	14	171	12.2	29	1
9	Elliott	VV	14	68	4.9	16	1
10	Pittman Jr	CB	14	174	12.4	29	1
11	Jefferson	BUD	14	208	14.9	32	3
12	Kupp	DTL	14	233	16.6	66	2
13	Patrick,T	CHI	13	195	15.0	26	2
14	Gallup	SS	12	138	11.5	22	1
15	Hill	EE	12	155	12.9	29	1
16	Allen	NJ	12	180	15.0	51	1
17	Hockenson	VV	12	98	8.2	13	0
18	Fant	BUF	11	117	10.6	37	1
19	Chase	VV	11	204	18.5	47	0
20	Kelce	CHP	11	137	12.5	38	1
21	Samuel	NJ	11	188	17.1	41	1
22	Metcalf	VV	11	210	19.1	54	2
23	Burks	YOR	11	127	11.5	47	2
24	Jacobs	GEO	11	59	5.4	22	0
25	Jones,M	CHI	11	178	16.2	38	1
26	Fournette	BRX	10	22	2.2	9	0
27	London	BRH	10	110	11.0	37	0
28	Green	SS	10	148	14.8	50	0
29	Schultz	SS	10	74	7.4	12	0
30	Meyers	CHP	10	99	9.9	13	0
31	Henderson	TCT	9	53	5.9	21	0
32	McCaffrey	CHI	9	89	9.9	19	0
33	Robinson	SBE	9	114	12.7	17	0
34	Godwin	BRX	9	89	9.9	25	1
35	Toney	BUF	9	65	7.2	9	0



AROUND THE



With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – There are times during the regular season when I don't have a lot to say about what is going on in the EFL, or in the world at large. By that, I mean I have no deep insights to share or pressing matters to focus on. All I have are casual observations – the kind that may or may not be important to anybody else.

The COVID-19 pandemic is fizzling out – finally – even if *Pfizer* is still spending its ill-gotten gains liberally on sponsorship of mainstream media to keep its crappy products in the public consciousness. If corrupt politicians don't attempt again to force these injections on the population, I am okay with the drug companies peddling their wares to the fearful and gullible. Not that it's right, it's just what we are all used to by now ever since Pharma became "Big."

The war in the Ukraine continues and, for some reason, the mainstream media and those who follow it are obsessed with the outcome. As a student of history, I do not see why, geographically speaking, we should care. The Ukraine is in Russia's back yard and the portions being contested right now were part of Russia for centuries until the Communist Party decided to gift them to Soviet Republic of Ukraine in the 1920s and 1950s. The people living in those areas are almost all Russian-speaking. When the current Ukrainian regime overthrew the elected government of the Ukraine in 2014, one of the first things they did was restrict the Russian language and mandate the mongrel Slavic dialect called 'Ukrainian' in those areas. Imagine that the Quebec government suddenly took over our country through a violent coup and told you, dear readers, that you could no longer use English in official transactions and had to speak French instead! And, if you refused, you would be beaten and taped to a pole in the public square. (That's just one of many shocking things about the Ukraine that you won't hear on *CNN* – that, and the Nazi ideology of the Azov Battalion). Anyway, without going too much further into it, it is clear to me that the main reason we care about what happens to the Ukraine is that, geopolitically-speaking (as opposed to geographically), we want to weaken Russia, overthrow its government, break it up into manageable parts and exploit its vast reserves of gas, oil and strategic metals – you know, the thing we always try to do overseas in places like Iraq and Libya. If that is indeed our goal, it is no wonder that Russia is objecting. Anyway, the talk and fear about Russia using nukes in the Ukraine is all nonsense. We are not approaching Armageddon. When the mid-terms are over and it is clear to all that our support for the Ukrainian regime is a lost cause, we will withdraw and declare victory like we did in Afghanistan.

Prices are going up everywhere. Biden is emptying the strategic oil reserve to keep gas prices down and the masses from revolting before the mid-terms. But what happens afterwards? I guess it depends on how badly the Democrats get spanked in those mid-terms. Will Biden be forced to declare Martial Law for some invented reason just to maintain control of the House and Senate? Sounds crazy – and it *is* – but I would not put it past whoever is controlling our senile President behind the curtain.

On the EFL front, many of you want to know what I think about the Las Vegas/Billtown franchise situation. Well, I have nothing much to add beyond what has already appeared in other EFL media. I tend to view it through the same lens as **Cowan Bullherd** of *Morning Bull*: I am disturbed, but not surprised. I will give the EFL Committee credit in this case for reacting quickly and decisively to the news of **Anthony Holguin's** indictment for the murder of former LA Knights coach, **Jeff Dohrn**. In the words of Committee Co-Chair, **Yorrgo Kaldis**: "*There is no room for murder in our league.*" The league's subsequent decision to keep the newly-named Billtown Bats in Las Vegas for at least one more season is based purely on economics. The offer of officials in Pittsburgh to make Heinz Field available (in line with their arrangement with the Gladiators last year), while new owner **Stephen Michael** builds his new stadium in a Pennsylvania backwater, was rejected outright. There is some logic to it: If any place is suitable for providing emergency facilities for a franchise nominally based elsewhere, it is the tourist destination of Las Vegas. *Somebody* will go to these games, even if they are not Bats fans. I will add that it is fascinating to me that the EFL has been able to shrug off its truly bizarre history (of which the Holguin situation is the latest chapter) to not only survive, but also thrive and grow as a serious professional football league. The SFL, the CFL and the Tex-Mex Football League have not had anything like the drama and upheaval of the EFL, yet those leagues are struggling to survive. The Tex-Mex League reportedly wishes to merge and there are rumblings that the Phoenix Roadrunners of the SFL are looking to jump ship at the next expansion. It is possible that the only thing limiting the growth of the EFL is the current cap at 24 teams. Could another expansion be on the horizon?

Anyway...on to Week Two...

ONLY THE SHADOW KNOWS

One EFL coach is only too happy to see Holguin behind bars – so much so that he offered to house him, at no cost to the State of California, at the Big House in Chino. While the State did not take up **Rob Nazar** on his offer, the Chino coach is still in good spirits

these days. He even said recently that he is thinking of changing his team's helmet again to remove the skull & crossbones logo.

"The skull & crossbones never really made much sense," Nazar admitted in an interview with *Chino Champion* sports writer, **Quentin San Pedro**. "At the time we made the decision, the image of the team was under threat. A drastic change was needed. But now that things are settling down and we are once again recognized as the biggest bad-asses in the Division – in the league in fact – I think we can consider moving back to something more reflective of the convict ethos, something less 'pirate-y.'"

Nazar's Convicts were on the road this week, across the country on the east coast in Upstate New York. It was a rare beautiful game day in Buffalo and Nazar sported a wide perma-smile and a white golf shirt with the original, 2007 version of the Convicts' logo on the left breast. That was another logo that never made a great deal of sense, as nobody could say exactly what it was, let alone connect it to the City of Chino or the nickname, Convicts. However, it was the logo the team had sported the year of its only Championship win and therefore it held a historic place in Convict franchise lore.

Nazar may have been in perma-grin because news had arrived from Europe prior to kick-off that the Bombers had upset the Bats, 33-29. Although it was far too early to celebrate winning the division, the thought may have crossed the mind of the Chino coach, as it had many others, that the Bats might suffer the same difficulties adjusting to their new coach as the former Mustangs had experienced in their move to Oshawa. If they experienced just half of those difficulties, the West Division would be a slam dunk for Chino; considering the Cubs were rebuilding and the Pilots were in disorder. The Convicts would merely have to maintain focus when playing teams outside their division, especially the ones that can bite, like the one they were about to face, the Derailers.

The football situation in Buffalo after just one week was the opposite of sunny. Owner/Coach **Daryl Brothers** was under tremendous pressure to step down as coach after his team's meal ticket, **Lamar Jackson** showed obvious signs of mental and physical regression in Week One against New Jersey. This regression was being blamed squarely on Buffalo's neophyte coach:

"Don't you think it looks like Daryl Brothers has no clue what he's doing? Don't you think he is leaning on Lamar because of it? If so, you've got to get him out of there!" stated **Mike Schopp** of *WGR 550 Radio* in Buffalo on the rush hour talk show, *Mike Schopp and the Bulldog*, after last week's loss. "But who takes him out? He's the owner! How do you get the owner to fire himself? That's our challenge here as Buffalo sports fans – getting Daryl Brothers to fire himself as coach, but stay on as owner."

The fear that Brothers is in the process of ruining Jackson is well-founded. This is concerning, because all know that without Jackson functioning at a high level, the Derailers have no shot at a post-season run. While undeniably talented, Jackson is still only one player on a 53-player team. If his body gets injured and his confidence gets bruised, he could be washed up way too early, like **RGIII**.

The perennially hopeful Buffalo fans were nevertheless in good form as the Derailers got set to receive the opening kickoff from **Harrison Butker**. Week One was forgotten for the moment. It would be remembered again if this game were to turn out badly, but for now, *Hope* consumed all 71,00 of them, as hope was the only football currency circulating in Buffalo at the moment.

It did not take them long for the fans to become unsettled. Chino scored on their first possession after forcing a Derailer three-and-out. **Dak Prescott** looked dialed in, opening the drive with a 16-yard pass to **Tim Patrick** and ending the drive with an 18-yard touchdown pass to Patrick. Before the TD strike, he hit **Marvin Jones** in stride on a short slant for a 38-yard gain. Prescott bounced back to the Chino sideline with a self-satisfied grin. **Rob Nazar** threw him a fist bump as he passed.

After the kickoff, Buffalo rookie wide receiver **Wan'Dale Robinson** got the crowd back in the game with a 28-yard jet sweep to the Chino 45 on the first play from scrimmage. Three plays later, however, they faced 4th & 4 at the Chino 39. It was the edge of field goal range for **Jake Elliott** and the wind was against them. It was close to a no-brainer to go for it and the Derailers did, causing the fans to roar in approval as Jackson settled under center. He dropped back and quickly fired to **Noah Fant** on a slant route for a first down as the fans cheered. Momentum was building. **Daryl Brothers** was visibly excited on the sideline – looking like a fan more than a coach.

Mike Davis got the ball next, then **AJ Dillon**. Two carries advanced them 7 yards before a check down to Dillon netted 0 yards to bring up 4th & 3 at the Chino 23. Brothers let out a curse then waved furiously at his offence to stay on the field. He did this without hesitation, as if by some predatory instinct: 'MUST KEEP BALL! MUST KEEP BALL!' came the command from his limbic system.

That's when observers noted a shadowy figure dressed in a dark trench coat, wearing a broad brimmed fedora tilted down over his eyes, emerge from the midst of the crowd of players and assistants around the Derailer coach, sidle up to Brothers, and whisper in his ear. In an instant the Derailer coach's look went from crazed and glazed to sharp and focused – as if someone had flipped a switch. He promptly yelled out to Jackson and motioned him back to the sideline. He then turned to Elliott and waved him on to the field.

The kick was good from 41 yards. The Derailers were on the board. The stranger in the trench coat watched the kick sail through the uprights, nodded to Brothers, and stepped back into the knot of assistants crowded behind the coach. He managed to almost disappear, but if one looked closely, one could see the top and edge of his fedora poking out from the group.

Fast forward to the 2:17 mark of the 1st quarter. Buffalo had the ball at the Chino 16 after Cornerback, **Amani Oruwariye** picked off Prescott on the second play of Chino's subsequent drive. Buffalo had moved there from the Chino 46 entirely on the ground, with 21 of those yards coming on a Jackson scramble. The crowd was raucous until Jackson was stoned for no yards by **Sheldon Rankins** trying to bust through the middle on 3rd & 6, bringing up 4th down. This was no gimme – the majority of the crowd understood that, as indicated by the absence of a swelling roar egging them to go for it. In the quiet moment of un-piling the players, Brothers could be heard cursing as he hopped along the sideline toward the line of scrimmage, motioning frantically at Jackson to stay on the field. When he was parallel with the line, he clenched both his fists and started jumping. 'MUST KEEP BALL! MUST KEEP BALL!'

The dark figure in the trench coat emerged from behind a water boy and strode quickly and purposefully toward Brothers, but



A mysterious figure known only as 'The Shadow' talks to **Daryl Brothers** on the sideline as the Derailer coach contemplates whether or not to go for it on 4th & 20. The Derailers showed signs of life in a Week Two loss to the Convicts, signalling a possible return to contention in the EFL's East Division. 'The Shadow' is being credited with positively influencing Brothers' often erratic play-calling.

before he was able to close the gap the frantic Derailer coach spun around and ran toward the stands, yelling and waving his arms up in the air to stir up the crowd. By the time the mysterious figure reached him it was too late; Jackson took the snap in the pistol formation, acting as the run option himself (as, strangely, there was no running back trailing), twitched as if to run then fired a quick out to **Russell Gage**. Safety, **Marcus Maye** closed quickly, lassoing Gage by the legs. As the Buffalo receiver went down, he lunged forward, but the ball landed clearly short of the line of gain by half a foot. A measurement confirmed the result and Buffalo turned it over on downs.

Brothers let out another stream of invective, crumpled up his play sheet then stormed back to his customary position on the sideline on the opponent's side of the 50-yard line, where he carefully uncrumpled his play sheet. The figure in the trench coat paused as he walked by him and tilted his head disapprovingly, before dissolving once more into the background.

The decision to go for it was a "Lemmon Move." By that, I mean it made no logical sense, whether judged by analytics or common sense. Early in the game, down by 4, there was no pressing need to keep the ball and score a touchdown at the risk of foregoing a very makeable field goal try. Getting the first down was no guarantee of anything other than another down. I cannot think of too many scenarios where this gamble would have made sense, but apparently the Buffalo coach thought field goals would not be enough against Chino on this day. Or else he is – as I think is more likely – an impatient fan disguised as a coach.

Despite passing up an early golden opportunity at points for the booby prize behind Door #2, this contest would eventually develop into the best overall effort by Jackson and the Derailers since Week Ten of last year, when they snuffed out the Pilots. An extra field goal in this game might have made for a more fortunate end for the home team, given what was to transpire later.

Strategically, the Derailers made a concerted effort to run the ball with their running backs. (If this approach continues it will ultimately be good for Jackson's health). They also spread the ball around to multiple receivers, and the defence didn't play like it was on crack. If I didn't know better, I might have thought somebody else was coaching this team. The mysterious man (I assume he is a man) in the trench coat reappeared at Brothers' side at different points in the game, notably spending the entirety of Buffalo's final drive of the 1st half glued to his hip. That drive was a measured advance that took advantage of the Convicts' focus on threat of Lamar to run. There was only one designed run call for Lamar in the 11-play, 75-yard TD drive, the weight of the plays being short, difficult-to-mess-up hitches that benefitted from that split second hesitancy of the coverage to commit to the receiver due to one eye being on Lamar. Brothers even remembered to use his timeouts, something the "fan" in him had forgotten on previous occasions in the heat of the moment. The drive ended in a 5-yard check down to Robinson for the touchdown that would tie the game at 17 heading into the 2nd half.

While the coaching on the Buffalo side was, for the most part, superior to what we have become accustomed to seeing, the execution by Jackson was riddled with mistakes that might have cost him this game early had it not been for his opponent, **Dak Prescott**

matching him turnover-for-turnover. Early in the 2nd quarter Jackson looked for Gage on a short slant and overthrew him directly into the hands of Chino corner, **AJ Terrell**. That set up the Convicts at the Buffalo 30 and led to a 9-yard touchdown run by **Christian McCaffrey** to make it, at the time, 14-3 for Chino. Buffalo responded with a nice drive that was keyed by a 37-yard catch-and-run to **Noah Fant** (Jackson's longest pass play of the day) and ended with four consecutive runs by **AJ Dillon** to notch their first TD of the game, which narrowed the deficit to 4 points.

The Derailers soon had a golden opportunity to score points off a turnover when Prescott was picked off again, this time by **L'Jarius Sneed**, setting up Buffalo at the Chino 41. But Jackson, looking uncomfortable from the start, was stuffed for a 3-yard loss on a run option then, in an attempt to make it all up in one play, got careless with the ball while running out of the pocket and had it swatted out of his hand by **Von Miller**. It was recovered by **Mario Addison** on one bounce then lateralled to **Jimmy Ward** for a 15-yard return to the Buffalo 27, setting up an eventual field goal.

The twists and turns of a crazy first half eventually evened out and a much more conventional contest unfolded in the second half. Chino started the last half with a long drive that consumed 8 minutes of the 3rd quarter and ended with a 4-yard TD run by **Justin Jackson** to give the Convicts a 24-17 lead. The drive had been sparked and kept alive by Patrick, who churned out 20 RAC yards on a 23-yard play and found the sticks on 3rd & 14 with a 15-yard, wide receiver screen. It is safe to say that without Patrick, Prescott and the Chino attack would have been mostly lost on this day.

The Derailers answered with an impressively long drive of their own, covering 82 yards in 7 minutes and ending with a 14-yard touchdown pass to Fant to tie it at 24. The man in the trench coat had again stood close to Brothers during that entire drive, even giving him the affirmative nod when the offence faced 4th & 4 at their own 40. Going for it was another high-risk gamble, but clearly somebody on the Buffalo sideline (hint: wearing a fedora) spotted an exploitable tendency of the Chino defence that made it appear less so. The Derailers successfully converted on a counter-intuitive straight off-tackle run by Davis that went for 7 yards to keep the drive alive.

By the 4th quarter, the score was tied. The teams exchanged nervous three-and-outs before Buffalo caught what looked like the break of the game: Buffalo lineman **Quinnen Williams** stripped Prescott of the ball as he took off running and it was scooped up and returned by **Eric Rowe** to the Chino 39-yard line. This put the Derailers in position to take the lead for the first time in the game. A tripping call on **Rodger Saffold** derailed that chance and Jackson could not get the offence back on track, throwing twice incomplete on both ends of a doomed jet sweep by Gage. Although it probably crossed Brothers' mind to go for it on 4th & 20 near mid-field, the man in the fedora made a curt shake of the head, causing the Derailer fan/coach to send the punting unit onto the field.

The Convicts had dodged a bullet and knew it – at least **Tim Patrick** knew it and did something about it. The Convict wideout hauled in another short pass that he turned into a 23-yard gain to bring Chino across mid-field. McCaffrey then darted for 19 yards into field goal range. Four plays later, on 4th & 1, a composed **Rob Nazar** waved the field goal unit on the field without hesitation. He was not going to pass up a good shot at a field goal for the prize behind Door #2, or a handful of magic beans. **Harrison Butker** drilled it home to give the Convicts a 27-24 lead with 3:43 left to play.

For all the mistakes, it had been an entertaining game to this point. The delicate balance between errors, rebounds and the liberal sprinkle of highlight-reel plays on both the offensive and defensive sides of the ball had made it as engrossing as any full-blown shootout. **Lamar Jackson** and his coach now had a chance to set the tone for a season of success with a game-tying or game-winning drive if they could execute the finely-calibrated and sensitive four-minute drill – move steadily, but not too quickly, progressing incrementally, avoid large chunks unless it goes for all the marbles, and score without leaving time for the enemy to counter-attack. The Derailers were capable of such a drive and, if they got close to mid-field, fourth down would come into legitimate play.

It is a shame that literally everything I have described to this point, including the curious and somewhat unsettling presence of the man in the trench coat and fedora next to **Daryl Brothers** – his “shadow” if you will – was all but forgotten and discarded the moment that referee **Jerome Boger** threw the flag that could have cost the Convicts a well-earned victory. It came with 0:26 left in the 4th quarter, and the “Twitterverse” agrees that it was a potential game-changer of the kind the EFL does not need, at least if it wants to maintain the kind of credibility that the old NFL irrevocably lost in 2007.

The Derailers' four-minute drill had been efficient through half-a-dozen plays. They arrived in Chino territory, at the 42, with about 1-minute remaining. Once they secured field goal range, they could take a few shots into the end zone and leave no time for Chino to retaliate in regulation.

Although they had two timeouts remaining, when they reached the 42, Jackson spiked the ball after scrambling for a first down, bringing up 2nd & 10. That was the first mistake. Then Chino lineman, **Malik McDowell** split the gap and sacked an unwitting Jackson for a 7-yard loss. That was the second mistake. On 3rd & 17, Jackson checked down to a tightly covered **Kadarius Toney** for a 4-yard gain, bringing up 4th & 13. That was the third mistake. Then, on 4th & 13, Jackson looked deep toward Robinson, hesitated, then flipped the ball to Fant as Convict lineman, **William Gholston** slammed into him. Fant was dumped immediately by **Jimmie Ward** after a 5-yard gain, turning the ball over on downs. That was the fourth mistake. However, all of these mistakes would be wiped out with the flick of Boger's wrist as he threw the yellow flag on Gholston for roughing the passer.

The desperate Derailer fans cheered the unexpected reprieve. However, Convict fans, not to mention the rest of the non-Buffalo aligned football world, were shocked and outraged – with good reason. Replays offered no clue as to what Gholston may have done wrong. He arrived at the same time as Jackson released the football. He wrapped him up securely around the waist and brought him down in a textbook tackle. It was not a low hit. It was not a head hit. It was a football hit. But Boger saw it differently. It would only be later, at the post-game press conference, that the media would learn the official reason:

“In my judgement, the defender unnecessarily threw the quarterback to the ground,” Boger declared with a straight face. “I stand by that judgement.”

“But isn’t that what tackling is?” piped up a pool reporter. “Taking a player to the ground.”

“Yes, but in this instance, it was unnecessary,” Boger replied – again, with a straight face. He quickly added, “You said ‘taking a player to the ground.’ I said he ‘threw’ the quarterback to the ground. That’s the difference.”

Of course, the replay shows that McDowell at no point actually let go of Jackson. Therefore, he could not have thrown him. Arguing semantics with someone as obtuse as Boger is a fool’s game. Ultimately, I don’t know whether fans and the media were more outraged by the initial call, or by Boger’s defence of it. It is one thing to make an error in judgement in the moment; it is another thing entirely to defend that error hours after the call was made, when the video evidence provides no support for it. Then again, Boger is undoubtedly the worst referee in the EFL now that **Ed Hochuli** is retired. That he would mess this up is not really surprising. What is surprising is that the league continues to let him loose on a football field with a flag and a whistle.

Anyway, that call set up the 46-yard **Jake Elliott** field goal that tied the game at 27 with no time left on the clock. Buffalo fans thundered their approval as the stands at New Era Stadium shook. It did not matter to them how they had tied the game. All that mattered was that they had tied it and were heading to overtime and another cup of beer.

The *Football Gods* (yes, they exist!) looked down on the action from their invisible realm in the ether and frowned. It was *their* purview to determine who got the breaks and lucky bounces! While they tended not to interfere with close calls by the officials – even if they were wrong – the *Football Gods* did not approve of blatant incompetence or deliberate malfeasance. They discreetly intervened in the coin toss, awarding it to Chino, and the rest was taken care of by the Convicts.

Starting at their own 25, Chino took 11 plays to cover the ground needed against the tiring Buffalo defence. Prescott was calm and laser-focused, completing 5 of 6 for 53 yards on the drive. Fittingly, his final two completions were to Patrick, the last a 7-yard short slant for the game-winning touchdown. The Chino bench erupted, Patrick flexed and roared, Prescott looked up and pointed his finger to the sky. Was he discreetly thanking the *Football Gods*? Or was he just claiming to be Number One?

A relieved **Rob Nazar** addressed the media in an uncharacteristically relaxed manner after the game, considering that his team had been forced into overtime needlessly:

“You know, this was a fun game!” he declared, a smile creasing his face. “Sure, both teams made mistakes they’d like to have back, but both teams played hard. I think the referee might want that call back. I think Willy made a clean hit there. But you have to live with that part of the game sometime. The important thing is that my players didn’t let that call get to them. They bounced back and took the game away in the overtime period.”

A nervously exhausted **Daryl Brothers** addressed the media with his usual lack of self-reflection. “I thought we played well today. I just wish we had a chance to possess the ball in overtime. I think the league needs to change that rule.”

When asked about the “stranger” who had been close to him on the sideline at key moments in the game, Brothers replied casually: “Oh, him! I don’t know who he is. He just showed up this week and he’s been kind of like my shadow ever since.” He chuckled. “My brother Darryl – that’s two r’s – my brother Darryl with two r’s invited him to practice and he’s been nosing around since. He gives me advice and stuff. I don’t mind, but I don’t always take it.” He laughed.

So, it appears that somebody in the Brothers family is listening to 550 WGR in Buffalo and to the fans around the city. Who this ‘Shadow’ is remains a mystery. How long he will stick around is not known. How his influence may affect the Derailers’ fortunes remains to be seen. These are the burning questions, the answers to which *only the Shadow knows...*

AROUND THE EFL

A couple of my panicky overreactions from Week One were overturned in Week Two. I must be careful though; claiming that a reversal of Week One fortunes in Week Two cancels the reality of Week One and creates the new reality for a team based on Week Two could also be an overreaction to Week Two. For example, it is possible that by interpreting Charleswood’s dogged push back on Virden in Week Two as a sign that Charleswood might become a factor in the division under **Kenny Pickett**, I could actually be moving my overreaction to Week Two and will find out later that the Pats are actually as bad as they looked in Week One. I hope you understand what I am trying to say, because I’m not sure I do. *Geez!* It is clear, however, that Week Two looked a lot different from Week One. With a few notable exceptions, I expect this trend to continue throughout the season, with ‘narratives’ around teams changing, in some cases, on a weekly basis. ‘Parity’ will do this and parity is here.

The Bombers thrilled fans at a half-filled Fortress in Bruxelles with a 33-29 upset of Billtown. No, Belgium is not still taking measures to curb the pandemic by limiting attendance. With all seats available, an announced crowd of 24,524, little more than half the seating capacity of 44,550, showed up to cheer on the home team in person. This is a worrying sign that fewer Belgians are interested in American football today than before the pandemic. It is too early to say exactly why that might be, but player turnover, the loss of several stars and having **Jared Goff** at quarterback are likely contributing factors. Still, if the Bombers were to continue to play as they did this week, there may be hope after all. While attendance is worrisome for Bruxelles, the Bats under new management may not be quite the beast we thought they were at the start of the season. **Cole Beasley** is proving, so far, to be a less than adequate no.1 WR and that could adjust the calculus when evaluating their prospects. Beasley has caught 14 passes and has the only TD reception on the team so far, but he has been targeted 25 times for an unimpressive 56% completion rate. That does not count the times he was no.1 on the route tree and simply did not get open. *Pro Football Focal Point* is less than impressed with him, as they rate him a pedestrian 60.4. The

Bats could be one of those teams that plays best with the lead due to a lack of explosiveness in the outside passing game. How well rookie coach **Stephen Michael** can create opportunities for his pass-catchers in a run-heavy scheme will ultimately determine how well this offence can keep pace with the league's other top teams. In this game, though, a questionable play-call on 4th & short at his team's own 12-yard has quickly become the first controversy of Michael's two-game tenure. The decision to go for it so deep in this own end is controversial in its own right; the Bats were trailing 30-29 late in the 3rd quarter at the time. However, the decision to pass the ball – and to pass it short and toward the middle of a stacked Bomber line is what has Billtown media irritated. The Bombers were crowding the line expecting a handoff or sneak and sent two linebackers on the run blitz. **Justin Herbert** immediately felt the pressure and had to unload early. The pass sailed incomplete and the Bombers took over at the Bats' 12. **Matt Prater** then kicked an easy FG to put Bruxelles up by 4. It was a big 3 points, as the new deficit meant the Bats had to play for the TD, not the FG. As it turned out, they never got close again as the Bombers' defence, much improved over last year, held firm the rest of the way. Bomber wide receiver **Chase Claypool** took the game MVP honours with 6 catches for 134 yards and 2 touchdowns. For one game, at least, these looked like **Kenny Main**'s Bombers.

At the Fish Tank in Sebastian, the Irish defence denied the Swordfish six out of seven times on 4th down to secure a 26-20 victory. This game was a disaster for **Russ Lemmon**. What can I say about this latest episode that I haven't said already about Lemmon's fourth down lunacy? One-of-seven on 4th down is bad enough, but some of these fourth down attempts were beyond any logic. Like a sick gambler chasing the high of a longshot bet at the roulette wheel, the Sebastian coach just can't help himself. Incredibly, he has his defenders – and they are all people who haven't played a down of real football. Those would be found in the so-called "analytics" crowd, who believe sincerely that life in the moment of decision can be distilled down to numbers if we just detach ourselves from the emotion and look at probabilities. The problem is; I don't think the Sebastian coach's gambles are actually based on analytics. I am pretty sure that the *Fut-Gen* stats model does not advocate going for it on 4th & 1 from your own 14 in the second quarter of a 10-point game. Yet, that is what the Sebastian coach did against an Irish defence that had *already* stopped his team 3 times on 4th down to that point. At what point does the menacing, frothing grin of a **Micah Parsons** or the grim clenched jaw of a **Jonathan Allen** not communicate blatantly that the Irish were fully confident in their ability to stop this wannabe offensive juggernaut? This is a very good Irish defence and they showed why in crushing the line of scrimmage all day. Had the Swordfish been less impatient and played the field position game instead, this game likely would have turned out much differently. The Irish offence under **Carson Wentz** was struggling to sustain drives. Fortunately, they did not have to travel far as the Swordfish continued to turn the ball over on downs in their own end. On what turned out to be the winning touchdown, the Irish were gifted great field position at the Sebastian 30 after Parsons sacked **Kirk Cousins** on 4th down and 3. This came late in the 3rd quarter of a one-score game. The Irish proceeded to unleash **Sony Michel** for 22 yards and let Wentz finish off the remaining 8 yards with a TD pass to **Jarvis Landry** to make it 26-14. The stats say that Sebastian won the turnover battle 2-to-1. The reality is that their fourth down failures created the effect of a 2-to-7 turnover deficit. No team will win that way.

At Camelot in York, the Excaliburs rebounded from their Week One own-goal at Brooklin to take down a tough Spartans squad, 27-23. It is a sign of just how dominant the Excaliburs were in all other phases of the game that they were able to overcome a significant loss in the turnover battle. **Freddie Swain** lost a fumble and **Tom Brady** was picked off 3 times while the Spartans played turnover-free, yet York still won the game. You don't see this very often: a team with a minus-four turnover differential winning, and not coming from behind to do it. York went 9 of 13 on third down to keep the Spartans' defence on the field and **Derrick Henry** rushed for 138 yards on 25 carries to further wear them down. Brady made the throws he needed to make – nine to rookie receiver **Treyton Burks** – to generate just enough offence. The defence did the rest, suppressing **Jalen Hurts** through the air and stopping him on 4th & goal at the 1-yard line in the 4th in a one-point game. Another fourth down controversy, this time – unusually – in Pickering. Had it not been for the turnovers, this would have been a York cakewalk.

At Wilhalla Stadium in Minneapolis, the Crusaders notched their first win of the season by soundly trouncing the Triumph, 26-10. **Jameis Winston** came crashing to earth in this game after throwing 3 touchdown passes and no picks last week. Winston was savaged by the Crusaders' pass rush, led by **Chris Jones**. He was sacked 9 times and hit another 4 times as the Peg City defence loudly announced its presence to the league (just in case the trouble they gave Virden for three quarters last week was lost in the 4th quarter collapse). Jones was the catalyst that made life hell in the pocket for the Triumph quarterback. In addition to 3 sacks, Jones also deflected two passes and forced a fumble. **Davon Godchaux**, with 2 sacks, and rookie **Aidan Hutchinson**, with 1 sack and 2 quarterback hits, were among the main beneficiaries of Jones' line-wrecking turbulence. On the other side, **Mac Jones** did more than manage the game, throwing for 286 yards and 3 TD passes as the running attack ground out just 99 yards on 34 carries. It is still too early to know how much noise the Pegs are going to make this year, but we are certainly going to hear more positive things from them than we did last year.

At **TERRORDOME** in Virden, the Violators came from behind in the 4th quarter to overtake the Patriots, 28-20. Charleswood, humiliated in their home opener against the Triumph last week, played inspired football for three quarters under the, sometimes, steady hand of rookie QB, **Kenny Pickett**. The 24-point underdogs (yes, 24 points!) took a 17-14 lead early in the 4th quarter on a 46-yard field goal by **Nick Folk**, causing the freakier hometown fans in the end zone mosh pits of **TERRORDOME** to scream hellishly at **Patrick Mahomes** and the sputtering Violator offence. The Virden star responded with TD passes of 20 yards to **Chris Olave** and 54 yards to **DK Metcalf** on back-to-back series and the Virden defence clamped down on Pickett's comeback attempt with an interception by **Derwin James** to escape with the 'W.' For the second straight week the Violators had to rely on 4th quarter heroics from their quarterback in order to subdue a weaker opponent, causing Virden fans to worry that perhaps the rest of this team is not as good as they thought.

The first ever game at Deep Woods Off Stadium in Richmond Hill, Georgia, was one that **Dave Birdsall**, Georgia football fans,

and **Ben Roethlisberger** would like to forget. The highlight of this game came before the game started, in the opening ceremony that saw retired Gladiator star safety **Troy Polamalu** awarded the team's first *Golden Helmet of Heroes Award* and his number '43' officially retired. This came as unexpected news to Glads' safety, **John Johnson III**, the current wearer of number 43, who had to have equipment staff put white tape on his jersey immediately before game time in order to turn the '3' into an '8.' The good feeling brought on by memories of the Gladiators' glory years vanished as quickly as those glory years did in the rout that followed. Durham – probably the second-worst team to host in your new park's inaugural game – administered a good, old-fashioned 34-7 whupping on the Glads. **Big Ben** threw 4 picks in the game, two to corner **Kenny Moore II**, to help dig a hole Georgia could not escape from. It was another half-a-game for Durham. As in Week One, they stormed out of the gate to build a big lead and successfully sat on it the rest of the way. **Josh Allen** won player-of-the-game for the second consecutive week with his 4th TD run of the season and 2 more TD passes, bringing his season total to 3. Yes, Allen has more TD runs than TD passes, but don't expect that to hold up much longer. Allen and **Cooper Kupp** haven't started anything serious yet. As for the Glads, it is not fair to say that, as a team, they were as bad as the score indicates. Their woes can be blamed squarely on their quarterback in this one. Good ol' Ben looked awful, and one has to wonder if the Glads' coach is ready to pull the trigger on Tua as the permanent starter.

At Kingdome in Seattle, the Wrecking Balls lunged past the Pilots in the game's final minute to prevail 27-24. Heavily-favoured New Jersey got all they could handle from the plucky Pilots. In the end, they relied on **Matt Stafford** to lead a 75-yard touchdown drive in the final two minutes, connecting with **Keenan Allen** for a 24-yard score to pull out the victory. While the Wrecking Balls got the win, much of the buzz from this game was due to the play of surprise Seattle starter, **Drew Lock**, who sparked an impressive 24-point, 404-yard effort against one of the league's more talented defensive units. Lock threw for 301 yards and a TD and rushed for 2 more touchdowns, while throwing 1 interception, to put his team in a position to win the game. There was no hint from Seattle coach, **Mitch Gangwish**, that Lock would get the start. **Sam Darnold**, the Week One starter, had taken most of the first team snaps in the week leading up to the game, with **Trey Lance** and Lock sharing the remainder. The Wrecking Balls certainly did not look ready for him. Not that there is a whole lot to get ready for in Lock, but if a team has spent all week preparing for Lance's legs and Darnold's arm, the appearance of a mediocrity like Lock might be just enough to throw the plan off. Regardless, as of now the Seattle QB derby has three horses in the race.

At the Iowa City Superplex in – you guessed it – Iowa City, the Cubs outraced the Coyotes 48-35 to register their first win in their gleaming new stadium. This was a wild game, but not a particularly close one. The Cubs jumped out to a 24-7 lead in the first half on a pair of **Joe Mixon** touchdown runs, a 42-yard TD pass from **Russell Wilson** to **AJ Brown**, and a 60-yard field goal by "Mr. Automatic," **Justin Tucker**. The second half consisted of Cobb County trying to catch up and the Cubs responding with enough offence to maintain a comfortable advantage. Wilson threw 4 TD passes and Mixon rushed for 134 yards at 6.1 yards per carry and 2 TDs to star for the Cubs. In a big red flag for the Iowa defence, the Coyotes gained 520 yards and 32 first downs. **Ryan Tannehill** also threw 4 TD passes and passed for 364 yards, while his favourite target, **Brandin Cooks**, caught 11 balls for 154 yards and 2 TDs. That these teams could combine for 83 points under any circumstances seems surprising, but the Cubs' defence really lacks developed talent as well as a leader, and Wilson is still one of the better quarterbacks in football, capable of getting the most out of an offence.

At the GM Megadome in Oshawa, the Corn Kings got the better of the hard luck home team, defeating the Pink Panthers, 23-16. Neither offence displayed a great deal of finish, but the Corn Kings controlled the ball more and ultimately caught the game's biggest break when, with Oshawa driving in the 4th quarter and looking to at least tie the game, **Jeremy Chinn** knocked the ball loose from **Adam Thielen** at the Cowtown 29 and returned it 49 yards to the Oshawa 22-yard line. On the next play, **Devontae Booker** turned the corner on a pitch, dodged a tackle, and streaked 22 yards down the sideline for a critical touchdown to give Cowtown a 20-10 lead. The visitors managed to hold **Matt Ryan** and the Oshawa offence to a pair of field goals from that point while adding one themselves to round out the scoring. It is now pretty clear to me that Ryan is not the same quarterback under **Scott Dennis** that he was under **Rich Liotta**, but the new coach retains the same confidence in him. His gamble on 4th & goal at the Cowtown 3-yard line in the 3rd quarter supports that state of confidence, but the result – an unpressured misfire to **Davante Adams** on a short cross – does not. Coincidentally, both Watt brothers – **JJ** for Oshawa and **TJ** For Cowtown – had to leave the game with injuries.

At the Eagle's Nest in Toronto, the Blue Eagles fell convincingly to the Cadillac, 24-14. Okay, so it was not the coming out party for the new-and-improved 'Cadillac Attack' that Erieau fans had been hoping for, but it was a fine effort by **Kyler Murray** and an eye-opening performance by rookie running back, **Dameon Pierce**, who rushed for 103 yards on 17 carries. Pierce also added 40 yards receiving and a touchdown catch. Just as important for Erieau's ultimate success, the defence stepped up with 4 sacks, 6 QB hits, one pick and a forced fumble. Scarborough QB, **Joe Burrow** was clearly under duress – both real and imagined – and his running backs did little to help him, rushing for just 56 yards in 20 carries. This is shaping up already to be another bad season for the Blue Eagles, unless they can find away to turn things around very soon.

And finally, at Ferenc-Liszt International Airport Stadium in Budapest, the North Stars suppressed the Hawks, 31-3, in a game that contained as much suspense as a turkey-carving at Thanksgiving. For those in the Brooklin media and the hundred-odd Brooklin fans who made the trip to Hungary to watch the game in person, who hoped that the Hawks' Week One upending of a confused and doddering York squad would lead to another "classic" Hawks upset at *The Seat of Power* in the EFL, those hopes were dashed with certainty when **Derek Carr** was stuffed for a 2-yard loss on 4th & 1 at the Budapest 6-yard line near the end of the first half, trailing 14-3. Yep, they needed a TD much more than a FG, but they couldn't get the yard needed to give them a chance. The writing was on the wall at that point. **Aaron Rodgers** attempted just 15 passes but made them count, completing 12 for 153 yards a 2 TDs. The Running Back Committee rushed for 207 yards on 36 carries, with no member carrying the ball more than 9 times. Another win for the machine.

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Jimmy's WEEK THREE PICKS

CHARLESWOOD @ NEW JERSEY (line – WRECKING BALLS by 17)

INJURIES: Charleswood – Michael Ojemudia (OUT), Asante Samuel Jr., (OUT), Ronnie Stanley (OUT), Laremy Tunsil (OUT);
New Jersey – Jamal Adams (OUT), Kwon Alexander (OUT), Chidobe Awuzie (OUT).

The Patriots showed promising signs of life last week, pushing back against Virden and forcing the Violators to play their trump card in Patrick Mahomes in the final quarter. Coming off a shellacking by the Triumph in Week One this places the Pats in a bit of a grey zone: Are they horrible; or are they just bad? The denizens of the desert seem to think they are just bad, as the fat line above is trimmed down from the dizzying heights of Week Two against Virden. The Pats got a career day from Devin Singletary last week, which set the table for Kenny Pickett to be the best raw rookie QB he can be. But the Wrecking Balls' defence will not be such an easy mark, despite some nervous moments last week versus Drew Lock. It boils down to Pickett versus a good Balls' defence, against Matt Stafford versus a caretaker secondary in Charleswood. Who in their right mind would take the former? **PICK: NEW JERSEY**

BUFFALO @ PEG CITY (line – CRUSADERS by 4)

INJURIES: Buffalo – Jonathan Greenard (OUT), Jaycee Horn (OUT); Peg City – None.

Two weeks in, the Pegs have the top-ranked defence in the league and the Derailers have the 24th-ranked offence. These rankings will not stand the test of time but right now they explain why a team that won just one game last year is favoured over a team that some expect to be a playoff contender this year. The Derailers are the better team...and if one says it often enough one can believe it. The nervous fact is that Buffalo has created an offence with just one weapon – Lamar Jackson. Keep him in the pocket, though, and he can become a liability. Containing such an elusive talent in the pocket is easier said than done, but the Pegs have a mobile and sticky linebacking corps capable of containing Jackson. Does Peg City have the offence to keep pace with a defence led by Aaron Donald? On a good day, perhaps, but expect a desperate Derailer team to make it a less than good day for Mac Jones. **PICK: BUFFALO**

TWIN CITIES @ COBB COUNTY (line – TRIUMPH by 7)

INJURIES: Twin Cities – Chris Wormley (DOUBTFUL), Jaire Alexander (OUT), Emmanuel Moseley (OUT); Cobb County – Greedy Williams (PROBABLE), DeMarcus Lawrence (OUT), Odafe Oweh ((OUT).

The Coyotes attack feasted on the lightly armed Cubs 'D' last week. Opponents cannot sleep on the Ryan Tannehill to Brandin Cooks connection. They lost anyway, because their second-rate defence was unable to stand up to a first-rate QB in Russell Wilson and a grinder in Joe Mixon. This week they face Jameis Winston whose only commonality with Wilson is the first and last-two letters of his surname. Still, the Triumph starter has a big arm that could get hot against a Coyote defence missing Dexter Lawrence and its best pass rusher in Odafe Oweh. The Triumph look to bounce back after their offensive line was swallowed whole by the Crusaders last week. So far, the Triumph have been an enigma. It feels dangerous to pick them on the road here, even against a dead-ender like Cobb County. I will likely regret this, but expect Cooks to run free against the banged-up Triumph secondary. **PICK: COBB COUNTY**

VIRDEN @ BRUXELLES (line – BOMBERS by 3)

INJURIES: Virden – Anthony Barr (OUT); Bruxelles – Zach Cunningham (PROBABLE), Michael Owendu (PROBABLE), Henry Anderson (OUT), Frank Ragnow (OUT), Jordan Whitehead (OUT).

Virden got all they could handle from the Pats last week, a team that had looked like a college team the week before against Twin Cities. Might have been the natural letdown of a superior squad facing an inferior squad but forgetting that the line between bad and good is sliced thinly in the pros. It feels like this year is going to have more of such volatility from week-to-week. This line suggests

that Vegas agrees. The Violators are clearly the better team on paper but the Bombers are perfect after two weeks and are coming off what many consider a major upset of Billtown. Factor in the Bruxelles homefield and long trip for the visitors and a plausible case can be made that the home team indeed has some kind of edge worthy of giving points away. I understand the math, but I don't buy the result. This is still a duel between Patrick Mahomes and Jared Goff. The Bombers may own the trenches when they are on offence, but Mahomes owns the skies when the going gets tough in the 4th quarter, when this game will likely be decided. **PICK: VIRDEN**

BILLTOWN @ CHINO (line – CONVICTS by 8)

INJURIES: Billtown – Shaquill Griffin (OUT), Xavier Rhodes (OUT); Chino – AJ Terrell (QUESTIONABLE), Za'Darius Smith (OUT).

This is an early pivotal game in the battle for the West. The Bats falling to Bruxelles was a confidence-shaker for Billtown boosters. The loss exposed the limits of their passing attack in a come-from-behind scenario. It also showed that their esteemed defence can be attacked deep. The secondary is banged up again this week, with the loss of Shaquill Griffin and Xavier Rhodes providing an opening for Dak Prescott, who leads the league in completion percentage, at a stratospheric 79.3%, and is a top three quarterback after two weeks. Chino fended off Buffalo and a decent outing by Lamar last week to take control of the West Division. They hope to ride this wave of early success to victory here over their main competition. I do not doubt the possibility, but it won't be as easy as the puffed-up line implies. Dak will need to rely on more than Tim Patrick to crack the Billtown 'D'. Christian McCaffrey is not rolling like he can yet and fans are still waiting for Darnell Mooney to breakout. Meanwhile, Dalvin Cook is a power and speed back rolled into one. **PICK: BILLTOWN**

IOWA CITY @ SEATTLE (line – PILOTS by 6)

INJURIES Iowa City – Chauncey Golston (DOUBTFUL), Tre Brown (OUT); Seattle – Cam Akers (OUT), Sebastian Joseph-Day (OUT).

The quarterback carousel continues in Seattle and nobody but the coach knows who will start this game. The offence jumped on the Drew Lock rocking horse last week and made New Jersey sweat out a win, just as they had pushed Billtown with Sam Darnold the week before. This did not happen because of the defence, which is ranked last in the league. It certainly wasn't because of the offence either. So, what is making the Pilots competitive in a losing effort? Who knows! But whatever it is will work its magic on the oopily-doopily Cubs and keep Seattle in this contest and in a position to win until at least the fourth quarter. That is where Russell Wilson is traditionally at his best, however. The Cubs' offence unloaded for 48 points last week. It came against the woeful Coyotes but, heck, 48 points is 48 points. The sad thing is that the Cubs' defence is capable of giving up the same. The team that scores last will win. **PICK: IOWA CITY**

YORK @ DURHAM (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 7)

INJURIES: York – Brandon Scherff (OUT), Jabari Zuniga (OUT). Durham – None.

The Lizards haven't played a full sixty minutes in a game this year. For two weeks they have moved to a slow-down offence in the third quarter after building up huge half time leads. Josh Allen leads the league in rushing TDs with 4 and has tossed 3 TD passes to have a hand in 42 points, more than 11 teams have total so far this year. The defence has a league-leading 6 interceptions and opposing QBs have a miniscule 47.1 passer rating against them. This is all very impressive, even if the dominance was over the Blue Eagles and Gladiators. This week they face a much stronger opponent in York. Things will not go as easily against a well-armed Tom Brady. The Excaliburs rebounded last week to topple a good Pickering team, but memories of their Week One debacle in Brooklin are still fresh and damning. The York players may lay it all out, but if their coach is playing checkers in a chess match, it won't matter. **PICK: DURHAM**

SEBASTIAN @ BROOKLIN (line – SWORDFISH by 6)

INJURIES: Sebastian – Justin Reid (OUT), Kendal Vickers (OUT); Brooklin – Sam Hubbard (DOUBTFUL).

I don't know how my brothers on the strip set the line for games involving the Swordfish. Long before last week's parody of themselves, Sebastian was a permanent wild card (not in the playoff sense) due to their fourth down unpredictability. Not that being aggressive on fourth down is a bad thing; it is when too many high-risk / low-reward fourth down gambles are mixed in with the medium risk / high reward gambles when things become wacky. Who can trust their money on a team like that; or dare to bet against them? The moral here is to avoid betting on Swordfish games, especially when the underdog they are visiting is ferocious at home. **PICK: BROOKLIN**

BUDAPEST @ COWTOWN (line – NORTH STARS by 10)

INJURIES: Budapest – Cameron Jordan (OUT), Elton Jenkins (OUT); Cowtown – Akiem Hicks (OUT), Rob Havenstein (OUT), T.J. Watt (OUT).

When T.J. Watt appeared as 'out' on the injury report the line moved dramatically toward the North Stars. That is because it is hard to imagine how the Corn Kings' defence, mediocre to average at best at most positions, will stop Aaron Rodgers and the irresistible Budapest offence without one of the best defensive players in the game on the field. It is true that the Stars' best defender and perennial

All-Pro Cameron Jordan is also officially 'out' for this game, but it is a stretch to imagine that Jimmy Garoppolo will be able to exploit this loss to the same degree, especially when his blindside protector, Rob Havenstein is also out. The home field could play a roll in slowing down the Budapest Express but expect that train to eventually reach its destination on time. **PICK: BUDAPEST**

SCARBOROUGH @ PICKERING (line – SPARTANS by 1)

INJURIES: Scarborough – Corey Linsley (QUESTIONABLE), Zack Martin (QUESTIONABLE), Landon Collins (OUT); Pickering – Kyle Dugger (OUT), Willie Gay (OUT), Romeo Okwara (OUT).

Barring an unlikely tie, one of these win-less teams will lose that designation this week. Both have faced tough competition to this point but the Spartans must feel like they let one get away at the York 1-yard line last week. Both teams are against the wall just three weeks into the season. In a competitive conference, an 0-3 start is difficult to overcome for a team with playoff aspirations. The Spartans have more than the homefield edge; they have the superior roster and the capacity on offence to play the possession game and keep the ball away from Scarborough's most dangerous asset, Joe Burrow. Many analysts remain unconvinced that Jalen Hurts is the Spartans' answer at QB. The path to a home victory is on the ground and the Blues Eagles have the league's worst run defence. **PICK: PICKERING**

GEORGIA @ ERIEAU (line – GLADIATORS by 3)

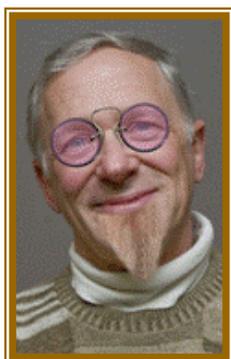
INJURIES: Georgia – Kristian Fulton (OUT); Erieau – Joey Bosa (DOUTBFUL), Stephon Gilmore (OUT).

Another line from the Twilight Zone suggests that the oddsmakers need more proof that Kyler Murray's Cadillac are ready to drive. The Glads beat Oshawa in rare style in Week One, dominating on defence, but they looked themselves last week versus Durham. The Caddies lost a tough one on the road against the Irish and dispatched Scarborough in style in Week Two. Erieau outranks Georgia in both phases of the game, they have homefield, and they have the more dynamic quarterback. I don't want to dismiss Georgia here, but I am not sure what there is not to like about the Caddies in their home opener. Yes, Joey Bosa is listed as 'out' and they are missing Stephon Gilmore as well, but this is more about what the new-and-improved Erieau offence can do to the humdrum Glads' defence. **PICK: ERIEAU**

OSHAWA @ EAST ELMHURST (line – IRISH by 2)

INJURIES: Oshawa – J.J. Watt (OUT); East Elmhurst – Spencer Buford (PROBABLE), Dexter Lawrence (DOUBTFUL).

The Pink Panthers look pretty bad so far. That is due to their stagnating offence under the suddenly geriatric-looking Matt Ryan. It's only Week Two, but Oshawa needs some traction soon. They will have to earn it here on the road against the undefeated Irish, who have yet to really "wow" anybody despite modest perfection. Irish truthers would like to see a more assertive and successful offence to reinforce their world view of Irish supremacy. They may have to wait a while as the Oshawa defence, even with J.J. Watt out, will not be easily pushed aside by the intemperate Carson Wentz. This could well be another defensive struggle with the outcome relying on something more innocuous, like special teams play, or a critical turnover. Expect luck to go away from the Irish for once. **PICK: OSHAWA**



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This Week in EFL History
With Professor Sterling Smitherman

FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – Week Two of the 2016 EFL season featured the scandal of Opening Day at Twin Cities shiny new Wilhalla Stadium. The Triumph faced the expansion St. Charles Chargers and evidently decided that a hazing, of sorts, was in order. The Triumph pounded the Chargers 43-7, but that was not what was remarkable. What grabbed the attention of national media and ultimately earned the undying enmity of the Charger owner, was the pre-meditated decision by the Triumph to go for it on every 4th down and attempt a two-point conversion on every touchdown. They would disable their brakes and go for as

many points as possible on this important home opening day. It was impressive and comical at the same time. The Triumph succeeded on 4 of their 5 4th down tries (**Russ Lemmon** would be proud) and scored 7 touchdowns, but they failed on all 6 of their two-point conversion attempts. They waved the white flag on their final touchdown and sent out **Roberto Aguayo** to kick the extra point. The Triumph coach, **Guy Williams** never properly addressed accusations that he deliberately ran up the score. He claimed his team needed to "practice" two-point conversions. The Chargers would get their revenge, much later.

The play of the week was in Scarborough, where **DeSean Jackson** did his thing, catching a short slant from **Aaron Rodgers** and weaving and sprinting his way to a 71-yard score. That would turn out to be the game-winning TD as the Blue Eagles dumped York 20-17.

Brooklin QB, **Alex Smith** won Offensive Player-of-the-Week by throwing 4 TD passes in the red zone to lead the Hawks over Virden, 40-21.

Smith's teammate, **Vontaze Burfict**, earned Defensive Player-of-the-Week, with 10 tackles and 2 interceptions, including a 23-yard pick-six to cap the scoring. These came against **Derek Carr**, who would later become the Hawks' QB.