



2008

# PLAYOFF EDITION QUARTER FINALS

January 18, 2009



Jay Cutler evades two pass rushers in 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter playoff action against Pickering. Chino would advance to the Conference Final after notching a 34-28 victory.

## CUTLER LEADS CONVICTS OVER SPARTANS!

*YOUNG CHINO QB THROWS FOR  
2 TDS, RUNS FOR ANOTHER TO  
EARN CONVICTS A TRIP TO  
CONFERENCE FINAL*

### PACIFIC-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE



CHINO

34



PICKERING

28

PIKCERING – **Jay Cutler** staked his claim this week to the Chino Convicts. After experiencing the humiliation of being benched in his first regular season appearance against the player he used to apprentice to, and the only quarterback to lead an EFL team to a Championship win, the young Chino signal-caller emerged partially from **Donovan McNabb's** long shadow over this franchise with a shining playoff performance against the Pickering Spartans. In the process, he led his team decisively over a challenging hurdle and into the Conference Final this upcoming week against Iowa City.

Pickering had a simple game plan going into their first playoff game in their history – to not allow **LaDainian Tomlinson** to beat them. It was a plan that, in the end, only half-worked if it worked at all. **LT** was indeed held to a paltry 43 yards on 16 carries for a 2.7 yard rushing average, but the strategy of the Pickering defense that kept **LT's** ground game in check opened up room for **Jay Cutler**, and for **LT**, in the passing game. Chino's regular season MVP ended up leading the team in receiving yards with 91, on 6 receptions, and converted two of those catches to touchdowns. Cutler, meanwhile, took over the role that **LT** usually plays in the offence, and moved the chains with an efficient, short passing, ball control style that occasionally resulted in breakaways into the open spaces created by the Spartans' steady blitzing.

The game began with both teams stalling on their opening drives. But on their second try, Cutler picked apart the Pickering blitz to march the Convicts 80 yards in 11 plays, finishing it off himself with a 1-yard sneak for a TD to take a 7-0 lead. The Spartans answered promptly with a lengthy drive of their own, keyed by a 46 yard run by **Chris Johnson** down to the 2 yard line, where two plays later, McNabb found **Darrell Jackson** in the corner of the end zone, tying the game quickly at 7 apiece as the 1st quarter ended.

A 65-yard kick return by **Joshua Cribbs** gave the Convicts great field position, and although an 8-yard sack of Cutler by **Thomas Howard** made it more challenging, **Jeff Reed** made the trip worthwhile with a 48 yard field goal to take a 10-7 lead. Pickering answered that, surviving two of their own fumbles and riding another big run, this one 37 yards by **Fred Taylor**, to kick an equally long 37 yard field goal to tie the score at 10.

Another big return by Cribbs, of 43 yards, gave the Convicts good field position again. They took advantage, moving the remainder of the distance to the Pickering end zone in 7 plays, the last a 24-yard pass on a short out pattern to Tomlinson for the big score and a 17-10 lead. A missed 41-yard field goal attempt by Pickering's **Lawrence Tynes** in the final minute of the first half kept the score at 17-10 as the teams went to the locker room.

A 22-yard run by **Chris Johnson** on Pickering's opening possession of the second half helped lead them to the Convict 30 yard line, where Tynes converted his second field goal of the game, this one of 47 yards, to cut the lead to 17-13. With both teams opting for the slow road on offense, two possessions resulting in a trade of punts was all it took to take the game into the fourth quarter.

The pace of the game began to quicken starting with Chino's first drive in the fourth quarter. Starting from their own 20, Cutler led the team down the field in the same manner that he had earlier in the second quarter and once again it culminated in a touchdown on a short out-pass to **LT**, this one going for 29 yards to make the score 24-13 for the Convicts with just under 11 minutes to play. When Pickering went 3-and-out, it looked like the Convicts would be able to run off some time and put some more points on the board. However, 2 plays later, **Anquan Boldin** fumbled and Anthony Henry scooped it up and ran it back 55 yards for the defensive TD. A 2-point convert on a pass from McNabb to Johnson made the 24-21 for Chino with 8 and half minutes to play. Thermopylae stadium was suddenly rocking.

**Joshua Cribbs** quieted the crowd with a 61 yard kickoff return. However the defense was able to keep the Convicts out of the end zone, having them settle for a 34-yard field goal with just over 5 minutes to play to lead 27-21. McNabb's rally attempt ran into a speed bump after a holding penalty on rookie, Jake Long led to a failed 4<sup>th</sup> down conversion at their own 40 yard line. With 2:48 remaining, Pickering was in a big hole. Rather than try to run out the clock, Cutler came out firing with receptions to **Tory Holt** and Tomlinson taking them down the 12 yard line. Tomlinson then, with his biggest run of the day, took a sweep right for 12 yards and the TD with 2:10 remaining, staking the Convicts to a 34-21 lead. But the Spartans still had fight. Much like their credo, "by Spartan Law, no retreat, no surrender," the Spartans capped off a 76-yard drive, keyed by two fourth down conversion by **Michael Jenkins**, with a 28 yard TD pass to **Reggie Williams** with 7 seconds left, closing the gap to 34-28. A nail-biting moment followed for Chino after Pickering recovered the onside kickoff with 2 seconds left on the clock. But McNabb's long pass to **Dennis Northcutt** fell a little short of the mark, giving the Convicts the victory on the road against the team that is fast becoming their nemesis.

\* Playoff \* 01-16-2009 Thermopylae Stadium Temp: 21 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: Cutler

2007 Chino (1-0) 7 10 0 17 - 34  
2007 Pickering (0-1) 7 3 3 15 - 28

1 4:31 Chino TD Cutler 1 run (Reed,J) (11-80-4:51) 7-0  
1 0:05 Pickering TD McNabb 3 pass to Jackson (Tynes) (7-75-4:13) 7-7  
2 12:13 Chino FG Reed 48 (6-7-2:47) 10-7  
2 9:43 Pickering FG Tynes 37 (4-39-2:12) 10-10  
2 5:36 Chino TD Cutler 24 pass to Tomlinson (Reed,J) (7-58-3:49) 17-10  
3 10:01 Pickering FG Tynes 47 (7-56-4:54) 17-13  
4 10:56 Chino TD Cutler 29 pass to Tomlinson (Reed,J) (8-80-4:32) 24-13  
4 8:39 Pickering TD Henry 55 yd fumble recovery (2 - Johnson) (0-0-0:00) 24-21  
4 5:20 Chino FG Reed 34 (5-22-3:04) 27-21  
4 2:10 Chino TD Tomlinson 12 run (Reed,J) (4-36-0:38) 34-21  
4 0:07 Pickering TD McNabb 28 pass to Williams (Tynes) (10-76-1:45) 34-28

< Chino >

< Pickering >

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	In	Td	Rate
Cutler	30	25	292	3	0	2	129.4

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	In	Td	Rate
McNabb	27	16	152	2	0	2	99.6

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	Lg	TD
Tomlinson	16	43	2.7	2	12	1
Cutler	3	6	2.0	2	3	1
Brown	1	-4	-4.0	0	0	0
	20	45	2.3	4	12	2

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	Lg	TD
Taylor	23	152	6.6	5	32	0
Johnson	9	91	10.1	3	46	0
McNabb	3	5	1.7	0	5	0
	35	248	7.1	8	46	0

Receiving	No	Yds	Ave	FD	Lg	TD
Boldin	8	81	10.1	4	15	0
Holt	8	91	11.4	4	23	0
Tomlinson	6	91	15.2	1	29	2
Graham	2	22	11.0	2	12	0
Fasano	1	7	7.0	0	7	0

Receiving	No	Yds	Ave	FD	Lg	TD
Jackson	5	36	7.2	3	12	1
Williams	4	53	13.3	2	28	1
Johnson	3	18	6.0	1	9	0
Smith	2	24	12.0	2	13	0
Jenkins	2	21	10.5	2	11	0

	CHI	PIC
First Downs	19	20
Rushes	20-45	35-248
Passes	30-25-292	27-16-152
Sacked	3-19	2-18
Fumble	3	3
Penalties	3-20	6-41
Turnovers	1	1
Time	28:13	31:47
Third Down	5-8	6-15
Fourth Down	0-0	3-4
Net Offense	318	382



**GAME MVP**  
**JAY CUTLER**  
**CHINO CONVICTS**

**AFTER THE GAME**

"I always believed in myself, that I could win this game. Some people said I couldn't do it, but I proved them wrong. Now we're going to the EFL Championship Game after we take out Iowa next week." - **Jay Cutler**

# MANNING TORCHES HELLFIRE AS PATS ROMP TO FIRST ROUND VICTORY!

## CAN-AM CONFERENCE



**MOHAVE**

**10**



**CHARLESWOOD**

**37**

### MANNING AND PHILLIPS STAR IN FIRST HALF ONSLAUGHT

CHARLESWOOD – **Peyton Manning** set the tone for this game on the Pats' very first drive, opening an MVP performance by completing his first 4 passes for 82 yards, including a 34-yard TD toss to streaking tight end, **Jason Witten** for the game's opening score. As Mohave focused on stopping the ever dangerous **Adrian Peterson**, holding him to 28 yards on 14 carries, Peyton was only too happy to take advantage.

Mohave answered Charleswood's opening salvo by holding on to the ball for 11 plays, finally settling for a field goal when **Brian Westbrook** came up 1-yard short on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8, to make it 7-3. But field goals would not be enough for Mohave on this day. Manning charged right back, completing his next 5 passes and going 6 for 7 for 78 yards on the drive, finishing it off with another TD pass to Witten on a hitch pattern from 7 yards out to make the score 14-3 Charleswood.

On Mohave's next possession, the Pats' defense took center stage as **Kyle Vanden Bosch** and **Shaun Phillips**, both key in-season trade acquisitions at the deadline, sacked **Kurt Warner** twice to force a punt that was blocked by **DJ Williams**. The loose ball was picked up by Phillips, who ran it back 11 yards for another TD and a 21-3 lead less than a minute into the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Sensing complete disarray on the Mohave sideline, the Pats maintained the pressure by dipping into the special section of the playbook. A 27-yard end around by Wes Welker keyed another Charleswood scoring drive, this one ending with **Adrian Peterson** bowling through the Mohave goal line defense from 1 yard out. The Pats wrapped up a dominating first half performance with a 31-yard field goal by **Stephen Gostkowski** to make it 31-3, Pats, after **Shaun Phillips** capped off a stellar first half defensive display by intercepting Warner in the final minute and returning it 24 yards into scoring range.

Mohave opened the second half with a TD following a 19-play drive that featured 14 carries by Westbrook, but they ate up over 10 minutes of valuable clock time to get it done. They would not threaten again as Charleswood's vaunted pass defense kept the Hellfire on the ground while their offence added two field goals to smother any hope of a comeback.

* Playoff * 01-14-2009	Patriot Place	Temp: 75, Wind:	MVP: Manning		<b>MOH</b>	<b>CHP</b>
2007 <b>Mohave</b> (0-1)	3	0	7	0	-10	
2007 <b>Charleswood</b> (1-0)	14	17	0	6	-37	
1 12:02 Charleswood	TD Manning	34 pass to Witten (Gostkowski)	(5-80-2:58)	0-7		
1 6:12 Mohave	FG Bironas	40 (11-53-5:37)		3-7		
1 1:04 Charleswood	TD Manning	7 pass to Witten (Gostkowski)	(10-80-5:03)	3-14		
2 14:17 Charleswood	TD Phillips	blk punt ret -11 (Gostkowski)	(0-0-0:00)	3-21		
2 1:53 Charleswood	TD Peterson	1 run (Gostkowski)	(7-53-4:06)	3-28		
2 0:03 Charleswood	FG Gostkowski	31 (3-11-0:31)		3-31		
3 4:34 Mohave	TD Warner	8 pass to Owens (Bironas)	(19-79-10:14)	10-31		
4 15:00 Charleswood	FG Gostkowski	19 (9-78-4:34)		10-34		
4 6:55 Charleswood	FG Gostkowski	35 (3-6-2:13)		10-37		

	<b>MOH</b>	<b>CHP</b>
First Downs	16	18
Rushes	33-151	23-66
Passes	24-12-101	25-20-301
Sacked	5-26	1-11
Fumble	1	1
Penalties	6-48	4-34
Turnovers	2	0
Time	31:44	28:16
Third Down	5-15	4-9
Fourth Down	2-5	0-1
Net Offense	226	356

< Mohave >

< Charleswood >

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	In	Td	Rate	Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	In	Td	Rate
Warner	24	12	101	5	2	1	40.5	Manning	25	20	301	1	0	2	143.5

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	Lg	TD	Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	Lg	TD
Westbrook	33	151	4.6	7	11	0	Peterson	14	28	2.0	1	5	1
	33	151	4.6	7	11	0	Welker	1	27	27.0	1	27	0
							Norwood	5	7	1.4	1	5	0
							Jones	2	5	2.5	0	3	0
							Manning	1	-1	-1.0	0	0	0
								23	66	2.9	3	27	1

Receiving	No	Yds	Ave	FD	Lg	TD	Receiving	No	Yds	Ave	FD	Lg	TD
Westbrook	5	33	6.6	3	11	0	Witten	7	115	16.4	6	34	2
Owens	3	31	10.3	3	12	1	Johnson	5	102	20.4	4	56	0
Williams	2	19	9.5	1	11	0	Driver	4	47	11.8	3	14	0
Daniels	1	7	7.0	0	7	0	Welker	3	29	9.7	1	12	0
McDonald	1	11	11.0	1	11	0	Norwood	1	8	8.0	0	8	0



**GAME MVP**  
**PEYTON MANNING**  
**CHARLESWOOD**

**AFTER THE GAME**  
"This just shows you how dangerous Adrian is. They came after him hard and they pretty much stopped him, but that opened up a lot of room for our receivers and fortunately I was able to find them." – **Peyton Manning**

# FLORIDA TAKES AWAY GWINNETT'S CHANCE TO ADVANCE!



**GWINNETT**

**10**



**FLORIDA**

**27**

## *TOM BRADY EXACTS STEEP PRICE FOR 4 TURNOVERS BY GLADIATORS*

FLORIDA – Safety, **Ken Hamlin** returned the second of his two 1<sup>st</sup> quarter interceptions to the Gwinnett 7 yard line where Tom Brady converted the golden scoring opportunity in one play – a perfectly thrown touch pass to **Heath Miller** in the corner of the end zone to stake the Dragons to a 6-0 lead. **Mike Nugent** would partly atone for missing the extra point with a 32-yard field goal to make it 9-0, Florida before the Glads scraped their way back into the game toward the end of the first half. Boosted by a 29-yard Pass Interference penalty against Florida's **Leigh Boddien**, Gwinnett moved the ball into the Dragons' red zone where **Carson Palmer** completed short to **Leon Washington**, who turned it up-field for a 16-yard TD pass play to narrow the gap to 9-7, Florida at half time.

After taking three sacks while trying to complete the deep ball in the first half, **Tom Brady** and the Dragons' offense turned to a ball control style to begin the second half. **DeAngelo Williams** and **Steven Jackson** converted two key third downs to help move Florida into the Gwinnett red zone where they eventually faced a 4<sup>th</sup> down and inches at the Glads' 13 yard line. With the crowd at Dragonmount cheering lustily the Dragons did not hesitate to go for it. Facing a tight goal line formation, Brady play-action faked and threw a dart to **Brandon Marshall** sprinting wide open across the end zone for a 13-yard TD pass. The two-point conversion was good, increasing Florida's lead to 17-7.

Gwinnett pushed back immediately. A 31-yard pass from Palmer to **Braylon Edwards** spiked a foray deep into Florida territory where the Glads looked poised to score with a 1<sup>st</sup> and goal opportunity at the 7 yard line. But Palmer threw to a double-covered **Reggie Wayne** in the corner of the end zone and was picked off by **Darrelle Revis** who downed it for the touchback. The Dragons crossed midfield on their next possession before Brady found Marshall wide open again across the middle and the star wide receiver took advantage of the space to sprint the rest of the way for a 47-yard TD pass to break the game open for Florida, 24-7. The teams traded field goals to finish off the final frame, and the first round of the Can-Am Conference playoffs, in the way most had predicted it would finish – with the powerhouse Dragons advancing.

\* Playoff \* 01-16-2009 Dragonmount Temp: 67 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: Brady

2007 **Gwinnett** (0-1) 0 7 0 3 - 10  
2007 **Florida** (1-0) 6 3 8 10 - 27

1 4:15 Florida TD Brady 7 pass to Miller (no good) (1-7-0:08) 0-6  
2 6:19 Florida FG Nugent 32 (12-55-6:12) 0-9  
2 2:07 Gwinnett TD Palmer 16 pass to Washington (Brown,J) (9-72-3:54) 7-9  
3 7:24 Florida TD Brady 13 pass to Marshall (2 - Jackson) (14-75-7:29) 7-17  
4 14:05 Florida TD Brady 47 pass to Marshall (Nugent) (5-80-2:50) 7-24  
4 12:27 Gwinnett FG Brown 47 (4-34-1:30) 10-24  
4 7:44 Florida FG Nugent 19 (9-48-4:30) 10-27

< Gwinnett >

< Florida >

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	In	Td	Rate	Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	In	Td	Rate
Palmer	24	12	141	0	3	1	42.5	Brady	32	19	221	3	1	3	98.6

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	Lg	TD	Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	Lg	TD
Parker	9	38	4.2	1	8	0	Williams	15	112	7.5	5	12	0
Washington	6	25	4.2	2	11	0	Jackson	23	69	3.0	7	8	0
Clark	1	17	17.0	1	17	0		38	181	4.8	12	12	0
Palmer	2	-4	-2.0	0	0	0							
	18	76	4.2	4	17	0							

Receiving	No	Yds	Ave	FD	Lg	TD	Receiving	No	Yds	Ave	FD	Lg	TD
Gonzalez	5	32	6.4	1	14	0	Marshall	8	117	14.6	5	47	2
Wayne	3	19	6.3	2	8	0	Houshmandza	4	35	8.8	3	11	0
Edwards	2	40	20.0	1	31	0	Cotchery	3	45	15.0	1	32	0
Burleson	1	34	34.0	1	34	0	Jackson	2	11	5.5	2	9	0
Washington	1	16	16.0	1	16	1	Miller	2	13	6.5	1	7	1

	<b>GWG</b>	<b>FLD</b>
First Downs	12	24
Rushes	18-76	38-181
Passes	24-12-141	32-19-221
Sacked	0-0	3-30
Fumble	1	0
Penalties	6-30	4-49
Turnovers	4	1
Time	20:28	39:28
Third Down	4-9	7-15
Fourth Down	0-1	3-3
Net Offense	217	372



**GAME MVP  
TOM BRADY  
FLORIDA**

**AFTER THE GAME**

“We took advantage of our opportunities today and we were fortunate to have a few of them. They are a much better team than they get credit for so I believe we did well to beat them by as much as we did.” – **Tom Brady**

## PACIFIC-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE



LOS ANGELES

27



IOWA CITY

30

## CUBS RALLY TO WIN SEE-SAW BATTLE OVER KNIGHTS!

*GARCIA'S THIRD TD PASS A  
WINNER AS VET LEADS CUBS  
BACK FROM THE BRINK!*

IOWA CITY – Joe Ferguson Stadium was packed to the rafters on a beautiful but cold winter's day in farm country as Iowans from all across the State gathered for the Cubs first ever home playoff game. If hosting a playoff game were not enough excitement, the fact that it was a playoff game against the hated Knights lent even more intensity to the atmosphere and tinged the crowd with a rabid edge that appeared, prior to the start of the game, to threaten the security of the contest itself. As *Jeff Dohrn* and his Knights charged on to the field to a deafening chorus of boos and taunts, one over-zealous (and perhaps over-intoxicated) Cubs fan actually leaped from the railing over the ramp from the clubhouse in an attempt to score a direct hit on a Los Angeles player as the team came on to field. But all that knucklehead succeeded in doing was spilling his beer and falling into the hands of Knights' star, **Shawne Merriman**, who, according to Iowa City beat writer, *Sparky McGillicuddy*, "delivered a shoulder tackle that 'Hacksaw' Jim Duggan would be proud of!" It was indeed, "Lights Out," for that Cub fan as he spent the



A helmet-less Roy Williams sprints to the end zone, pursued by Bradie James and Josh Bullocks. Williams scored on the play, putting the Cubs ahead of the Knights to stay, 30-27.

rest of the day in an Iowa City jail. But there were still 70,437 other Cubs fans for the Knights to deal with and, although few more of those strayed on to the field of play, the majority made such a hullabaloo of noise that the Cubs could finally lay claim to a definitive home field advantage. As it turned out, they would need it, as the battle for a berth in the Pacific-Atlantic final turned into a grueling tug-of-war between two equally determined opponents.

A din of cacophonous huzzahs from the crowd greeted the news that the Cubs had won the toss. But elation turned to puzzlement as Coach, **Deron Redding** elected to defer. The fans clearly wanted to draw first blood, but the Cubs coach wisely preferred to put the young Knights' pivot, **Tarvaris Jackson**, to an early test against his star-studded defense. It looked like a good gambit after Jackson, fighting against the noise of an enthused crowd teetering on the edge of becoming an insane mob, failed to gain a first down. The punting unit came on and gave the ball back to the Cubs on their own 42 yard line – but not for long. **Jeff Garcia** was stripped of the ball by **Warren Sapp** on Iowa City's first play from scrimmage and it was recovered by **Shawne Merriman** at the Cubs' 27 yard line! Iowa City's defense held firm, limiting the damage to a 38-yard field goal by **Kris Brown** to give Los Angeles an early 3-0 lead.

The veteran, Garcia calmly righted the ship after that small setback, engineering a 12-play precision drive that featured a heavy dose of **Brandon Jacobs**, interspersed with short passes to **Reggie Bush**, and ending in a Garcia-to-**Larry Fitzgerald** medium pass for an 18-yard score to take a 7-3 lead into the 2nd Quarter.

The shaky Knights' offense finally made a mark early in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter when **Najeh Davenport** broke through the Cubs' 5-man line and rambled for a 33-yard score to put Los Angeles up 10-7. But it would be a short-lived advantage. Garcia went straight back to work after a 12-yard punt return by **Roscoe Parrish** gave the Cubs good field position at their 47 yard line, completing 3 of 3 for 43 yards, the last completion a 17-yard hitch to Fitzgerald for a TD and a 14-10 Iowa lead. With 31 seconds left in the half, Brown delivered from 40 yards out and the Knights narrowed the margin to 1, trailing 14-13.

Iowa City kept the Knights at bay to start the second half with two 3rd Quarter interceptions of Jackson by ball-hawk, **DeAngelo Hall**, both leading to field goals by Jay Feely to give the cubs a fairly comfortable 23-13 lead with the majority of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter still to play..

Looking for a spark...anything to get his offense going, Coach Dohrn angrily grabbed the struggling **Tarvaris Jackson** by the jersey and swung him back toward the bench. He then motioned to **Brodie Croyle**, who came in and gave the coach exactly what he was looking for. Croyle led the Knights down the field and hit **Roddy White** from 9 yards out for a touchdown to narrow Iowa's lead to 23-20. Then the Los Angeles defense jumped all over the Cubs on the ensuing possession, forcing a fumble, a penalty, and a sack on consecutive plays to cause 4th and 20. **Durant Brooks'** punt was hauled in by **Ted Ginn, Jr.** who went 52 yards for the score! The Knights had stormed back to take the lead, 27-23 with 9:19 to go! Coach Redding's worst nightmares, fueled by the Knights' upset of his team in Week 14, appeared to be coming true.

Fortunately for Iowa City fans, the only person not on the verge of panic in Joe Ferguson Stadium at that moment was grizzled veteran **Jeff Garcia**. He jogged out on to the field and put together a masterful 73-yard scoring drive that featured short passes under pressure, a 24-yard end around trick play by **Roscoe Parrish**, and a dramatic 7-yard TD pass to **Roy Williams** in which the receiver almost lost his head to **Shawne Merriman** before breaking free to the end zone for the major and a 30-27 lead with 6 minutes left in the game. With plenty of time, the Knights plodded forward and reached the Cubs' 40 yard line, but failed to convert on 4<sup>th</sup> down with 1:29 left. The Cubs held on after that, surviving one last desperate gasp by the Knights to advance to the Conference Final against Chino.

\* Playoff \* 01-16-2009 Joe Ferguson Stadium Temp: 25 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: Garcia

2007 **Los Angeles** (0-1) 3 10 0 14 -27  
 2007 **Iowa City** (1-0) 7 7 6 10 -30

1 11:39 Los Angeles	FG Brown 38 (3-6-1:35)	3-0
1 4:37 Iowa City	TD Garcia 18 pass to Fitzgerald (Feely) (12-80-6:58)	3-7
2 13:58 Los Angeles	TD Davenport 33 run (Brown,K) (5-56-1:11)	10-7
2 7:32 Iowa City	TD Garcia 17 pass to Fitzgerald (Feely) (5-53-2:53)	10-14
2 0:31 Los Angeles	FG Brown 40 (7-21-1:39)	13-14
3 7:08 Iowa City	FG Feely 34 (13-53-7:38)	13-17
3 0:53 Iowa City	FG Feely 24 (3-2-1:21)	13-20
4 13:27 Iowa City	FG Feely 21 (4-22-2:18)	13-23
4 11:22 Los Angeles	TD Croyle 9 pass to White (Brown,K) (6-80-1:48)	20-23
4 9:19 Los Angeles	TD Ginn Jr. 52 punt return (Brown,K) (0-0-0:00)	27-23
4 6:00 Iowa City	TD Garcia 7 pass to Williams (Feely) (8-73-3:03)	27-30

< Los Angeles >

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	In	Td	Rate
Jackson	27	14	103	0	2	0	30.3
Croyle	15	9	82	0	0	1	97.1

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	Lg	TD
Young	9	94	10.4	4	55	0
Davenport	8	40	5.0	1	33	1
Jackson	3	6	2.0	0	2	0
Croyle	1	2	2.0	1	2	0
	21	142	6.8	6	55	1

Receiving	No	Yds	Ave	FD	Lg	TD
Young	8	56	7.0	3	16	0
Smith	6	42	7.0	1	11	0
White	4	41	10.3	4	12	1
Davenport	3	29	9.7	1	12	0
Heap	2	17	8.5	1	9	0

< Iowa City >

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	In	Td	Rate
Garcia	30	20	234	3	0	3	123.5

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	Lg	TD
Jacobs	17	74	4.4	4	14	0
Parrish	1	24	24.0	1	24	0
Bush	3	11	3.7	0	7	0
Garcia	6	7	1.2	0	4	0
Vickers	2	6	3.0	1	3	0
Johnson	1	2	2.0	0	2	0
Edwards	1	-1	-1.0	0	0	0
	31	123	4.0	6	24	0

Receiving	No	Yds	Ave	FD	Lg	TD
Winslow	5	61	12.2	3	14	0
Fitzgerald	5	62	12.4	3	18	2
Bush	3	26	8.7	1	17	0
Evans	3	38	12.7	3	14	0
Jackson	2	26	13.0	2	13	0
Vickers	1	14	14.0	1	14	0
Williams	1	7	7.0	1	7	1

	LAK	ICC
First Downs	16	21
Rushes	21-142	31-123
Passes	42-23-185	30-20-234
Sacked	0-0	3-16
Fumble	0	2
Penalties	5-30	5-29
Turnovers	2	1
Time	27:09	32:48
Third Down	6-14	7-14
Fourth Down	0-2	0-0
Net Offense	327	341



**GAME MVP**  
**JEFF GARCIA**  
**IOWA CITY**

**AFTER THE GAME**

"I'd just like to thank the fans for all their support. What a reception! I'm honoured to be a part of this community." – **Jeff Garcia**

"It was another close one against that son-of-a-gun, Jeff! His team never ceases to put forth its best effort against us for some reason. I congratulate him on a great season. I was happy with our effort, but we've got to improve on special teams next week against Chino." – Iowa Coach, **Deron Redding**

**INJURY REPORT - Out in Quarter Finals Playoff Action**

**CHARLESWOOD** – None; **CHINO** – None; **FLORIDA** – None; **IOWA CITY** – R. Brown (knee), Lawson (Achilles).





# AROUND THE EFL With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – Immediately upon hearing the news that a flock of geese “flew directly” into both engines of **US Airways Flight 1549** as it took off from LaGuardia Airport, the first thought to jump into my head was that these were *Al-Qaeda* Suicide Birds on a mission. I initially kept the absurd and inappropriate thought to myself until I heard that all the passengers and crew had survived the crash-landing in the Hudson River. Then, somewhat relieved and a little drunk from my lunch time martini, I quipped to a co-worker that *Al-Qaeda*’s mission to bring down another plane over Manhattan had failed. He chuckled and added, “I thought the same thing!” So I made the comment again to another co-worker who also laughed and blurted out, “that’s what I thought!” Wondering just how many other sick people shared my office space, I decided to test the comment with my sensitive secretary, who often chides me for being insensitive to other people’s pain and who regularly donates to PETA. She flushed when she heard it, suppressed a fleeting smile, and carried on work on her computer, but didn’t say anything right away. When I pushed it further, she blurted out, “you’re awful, Spats, those people could have died! You shouldn’t say such a thing!” She said I shouldn’t have *said* it, but if I read her right, she was thinking it *too*, and if she was thinking it, then *everybody* was thinking it! What the hell is wrong with us all? Is it because we work in a high rise office building in Manhattan? Because they got lucky once (if, indeed, it actually *was* them and not the Saudis or someone else) we’re obsessed with a fragmented, tiny clutch of lunatics who hide in mountains and caves and can’t even produce a good propaganda video!

## ***GARCIA PERFORMS ANYWAY***

**Jeff Garcia** gets my vote for ‘Player of the Week’ for his performance in last week’s Quarter Final playoff game against Los Angeles. It appears almost certain that Garcia will not be back with the Cubs next year based on an acrimonious contract dispute with management and a rocky relationship with Head Coach, **Deron Redding**. Pulled without warning from the starting line-up this season in order to give young competitors, **JP Losman** and **Trent Edwards** work whenever his coach felt he could get away with it, Garcia has been as shunned and shut out of the Iowa City inner circle as a starting quarterback could possibly be. Despite all of that, with the game on the line in the fourth quarter and momentum apparently turning in the Knights’ favour, Garcia rescued his Head Coach from what would have been an embarrassing loss at home to 8-8, Los Angeles, with some quick-thinking to outwit a sly Knights’ coverage scheme at the goal line. With 1<sup>st</sup> and goal-to-go at the Knights’ 7 yard line, Redding called **Larry Fitzgerald’s** number on a hitch route that had worked like a charm earlier on Iowa City’s second touchdown of the game. But the Knights had laid a trap for Fitzgerald on the play by putting **Nnamdi Asomugha** out as bait in tight man-to-man coverage. On the snap, Asomugha bumped Fitzgerald to the inside where Garcia spotted Los Angeles safety, **Antoine Bethea** cheating towards him, ready to jump the route. The veteran pump faked to Fitzgerald and Bethea bit hard, opening up room at the goal line. He then fired a dart over the middle to a partially open **Roy Williams**, who had his helmet stripped as he dodged an attempt to decapitate him by Shawne Merriman and then sprinted untouched into the end zone through the gap abandoned by Bethea. It was a masterful piece of work by the savvy vet and hands down my favourite play of the week.

## ***CUTLER BATTLES FOR RESPECT***

The Media has been increasingly critical of **Jay Cutler** ever since he was chased from the game in Chino’s regular season loss to **Donovan McNabb’s** Pickering Spartans. This week, when it counted, he came to bat in Chino’s Quarter Final victory over those same Spartans. While he didn’t exactly hit a Grand Slam, he

did go 4-for-4 with a double over the bag at third, a run scored, and two RBIs. That was good enough to take the heat off of him for now, but what is in store for young Jay if his Convicts fall to Iowa City in the Conference Final? Anything short of a berth in the EFL Championship coupled with a good shot at the Gayle Sayers Trophy is likely to be met with disapproval in the hard-hitting Chino Press. **Quentin San Pedro**, who follows the Convicts for the *Chino Bars & Stripes* and is a frequent commentator on ESPN's 'EFL Today,' reported last week that the *Jake Delhomme* "Posse" is gathering support both within the team and outside of the team. San Pedro, who has questioned Cutler's decision-making ability under pressure, is openly talking about the possibility that Delhomme will make an appearance in Iowa City next week. Now, I am not exactly known for my tact and timing, but is questioning your starting quarterback's ability right after he has earned a 'Player of the Game' award in a playoff win, *on the road* no less, the kind of journalistic contribution likely to *help* the Chino cause?

#### **BRADY BOOED IN FLORIDA PRESS**

Speaking of demanding Media, I had to wonder what game it was that the collective "Florida Press" was watching on Saturday. It must have been a different game from the one I watched, or maybe a different sport. **William Wyrwright** of the *South Florida Tribune*, a known critic of **Tom Brady** throughout the season, has been joined by *Miami Herald* columnist, **Merlin Pendragon** in what I call Florida's "Chicken Little Network" of Sports commentators. What is their latest complaint? To quote Pendragon's most recent column: "*How much time does a quarterback need? Brave Logan Mankins, stalwart Matt Light, resolute Jammal Brown, each heroically withstanding the withering assault of the Gladiator pass rush – ask one of these Noble Giants and they might answer, 'forever,' for that is surely what it must have felt like as 'Tentative Tom' fussed and dithered over who of several wide open receivers might receive the honour of his attention. On three occasions Florida's Wall of Safety crumbled, then collapsed against the Gwinnett Furies, sadly and all the more tragically because it need not have been that way. Not had a man of quicker wit and more daunting courage been ensconced behind it.*" I'll give Merlin this; he paints an epic and dramatic picture in the mind. Had it been even close to the truth, I might actually admire his style. But, of course, it is more claptrap from the inexplicably negative Florida sports press. Sure Brady went down three times, but in every case his receivers were covered and the line crumbled quite quickly indeed against the EFL's most successful pass rush. From the standpoint of curiosity, and only that, I am eager to read what they have to say about Tom when he leads the Dragons to the Gayle Sayers Trophy this year.

#### **MANNING SOAKS UP THE ADULATION IN CHARLESWOOD**

While **Tom Brady** struggles to impress an implacably hostile clique of disturbed sports writers, **Peyton Manning** is basking in the glory of another MVP-caliber outing. After dismantling Mohave in the Quarter Final, the greater Charleswood Community, good and simple folk that they are, showed their appreciation in the traditional manner – by showering the local hero with gifts. Manning received the Key to Charleswood from the Mayor (for the 12<sup>th</sup> time in two years) and was offered his daughter's hand in marriage (politely turned down for the 6<sup>th</sup> time), a Mercedes SUV from the appreciative owner of a local dealership, a free trip for 4 to the Bahamas from a local travel agent, 9 new local endorsement contracts, 2 new national corporate sponsorships arranged by the Charleswood Chamber of Commerce, a year's supply of gas from Enron, 6 wide screen plasma TVs, a special edition gold and platinum Apple I-Phone, a flatbed of Gatorade, 10 cases of Bounce laundry sheets, a case of Tiger Balm, 2 Robert Bateman prints – one featuring a Mountain Lynx and the other a family of Black Ducks, a Nike golf bag, 12 decorative ceramic hamsters, a bust of Elvis with blinking lights, a whole cow from a beef wholesaler, 8 cases of Campbell's Chunky Soup, a year's supply of wings and beer from Hooters, a truckload of Kraft Dinner, an Inuit soapstone carving bearing a vague resemblance to a seal, a battery-operated singing trout, a subscription to 'Popular Mechanics,' one of those 8-knives-in-one kitchen gadgets, a horse, a 6-foot wooden nutcracker, a chinchilla farm, and a Free Admission pass to the Red River Museum of Flax. Come to think of it, I'm not sure who's worse off; **Tom Brady** or **Peyton Manning**?

#### **NEW YORK GRIPES**

The EFL All-Pro Ballots have been sent out to eligible sports writers across the nation. So, who is eligible? Apparently not me! When I asked why, I was told that my column is classified as "entertainment," not "sports." The All-Pro voting is reserved for the serious sports columnist – somebody, I imagine, who does not see the humour in grown men sacrificing their bodies so that other grown men can spend literally months out of the year absorbing the images, words and numbers of a game that they don't actually play. **Merlin Pendragon**, who penned an article I wish I had penned first, but as a satire as opposed to a sports editorial, is apparently a "serious" sports writer!

# **BUG THE BOOKIE!**

**JIMMY THE GEEK GIVES YOU HIS PICKS FOR  
CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP ACTION  
YOUR SOURCE FOR FANTASY AND ON-LINE BETTING SOLUTIONS**



## **JIMMY'S CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP PICKS**

### **CAN-AM CONFERENCE FINAL**

#### **CHARLESWOOD @ FLORIDA (LINE – DRAGONS BY 4)**

Well, it's finally here, the match up we have all been waiting for. Many outside of Chino and Iowa City are calling this contest the "True EFL Championship" due to the fact that it features, statistically in most categories, the league's two most dominant teams. I have to agree – on paper and in reality these two teams have earned the adjective, "elite" when compared with the rest of the EFL field. It is not by accident that they find themselves standing above the crowd. They have both been managed superbly, on and off the field, and their players carry a confident air that speaks louder than words of their superiority over the common teams. As individuals, the main players are as talented as they come. As teams, they are well-oiled machines and devastating to their opponents. Now they face each other for the second time this season. But this time only one will survive and continue the quest for the EFL's top prize.

The first time these two teams met it was on Florida's home turf and the Pats were clearly unprepared for the Dragons' running game. A steady dose of Steven Jackson and 3 turnovers by the Pats sunk the visitors and turned the highly-hyped tilt into an anti-climactic walkaway win for Florida. At the time, Florida was undefeated and looked invulnerable after handling Charleswood with relative ease. But the next week they fell suddenly and surprisingly to the Chino Convicts, taking some of the shine off their armour and showing what could happen to them when a big play went against them and they lost the turnover battle. The moral of the story: anything can happen in a big game; and this is one big game!

*WHEN CHARLESWOOD HAS THE BALL:* The "dual threat" of the Peyton Manning-led passing game coupled with the twin engine ground attack of Adrian Peterson and Jerious Norwood will pose a challenge to the Florida defensive coordinator, who likes to gamble. A wrong guess against the Pats could spell trouble, however. Will they play it safe or roll the dice and go in for the kill? The Dragons 'D' was by far the league leader in forcing opponent's turnovers, with 41, helping the team finish the regular season with an astonishing +29 takeaway ratio! It's quite possible; even probable, that Osi Umenyiora will force a fumble or Antonio Cromartie will make a pick regardless of what plays the Defensive Coordinator calls. Manning will have to be sharp as a tack, use his running game, and carefully prepare his shots downfield against this Hungry Dragon 'D.'

*WHEN FLORIDA HAS THE BALL:* The knock on Florida that turned into common wisdom in the second half of the season was that they were becoming too conservative and not using all of their air weapons. That argument may have had merit at different times this season, but it does not apply to every team in every situation. Charleswood is one of those teams that can be beaten on the ground, as Florida did in Week Ten this year, and one look at their secondary should tell you that perhaps that is the *only* way they can be beaten. Having said that, if any quarterback can crack the 'Patriot's Air Defense System' it is Tom Brady, and if any receiver can get open against Asante Samuel or Marcus Trufant, it is TJ Houshmandzadeh or Brandon Marshall. The Dragons need to be a bit conservative against the top rated defense in the league, but they also need to take a shot or two just to keep them honest. Look for large doses of Steven Jackson and DeAngelo Williams and the occasional deep ball to Brandon Marshall.

*THE BOTTOM LINE:* Charleswood has steadily improved defensively as the season progressed while Florida opened up their passing attack. I think the Pats are a better team than they were in Week Ten and for this reason I like them more than I did then. If this contest were at Patriot Place, I would call an upset. But the game is in Dragonmount and the Dragons are just too dangerous in every area, especially on defense. If it is one thing Peyton Manning will do that Tom Brady rarely does, it is turn the ball over. It will be the difference, again, this week.

**PICK: FLORIDA**

## **PACIFIC-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE FINAL**

### **CHINO @ IOWA CITY (LINE – CUBS BY 2)**

This game may not have the impeccable pedigree of the Can-Am Conference Final, but it does feature the two best teams in the Pacific-Atlantic Conference and the current EFL Champions, which has to count for something in the ratings. In fact, this one could likely end up being more exciting because both coaches will pull out every trick in their playbook if they need to in order to win and both of their defenses and special teams units are capable of making the big play.

In the regular season, Iowa City won both games between these two teams; pulling away in the second half at Joe Ferguson Stadium to start the season and handing the Convicts their only loss at ‘The Big House’ on a late TD by Ronnie Brown in Week Twelve. Although the second game was much closer, the Cubs clearly demonstrated in both that they could pass against the Convicts and force the big turnover. Jeff Garica also showed consistency while Jay Cutler was cold in Week One and hot in Week Twelve.

*WHEN CHINO HAS THE BALL:* LaDainian Tomlinson ran roughshod over the Cubs in both regular season games against them, so expect him to get his fair share of work. The Cubs may opt to let him run a bit to slow the pace of the Chino offense down, or they may decide, as Pickering did in the Quarter Finals, to shut LT down completely on the ground and take their chances with Jay Cutler in the passing game. It is a decision Coach Redding has to make but if I were betting Cubbies, I would be a lot happier if I knew LT was going to get lots of special attention from Patrick Willis and DeMeco Ryans. Look for the Convicts to protect Cutler as long as they can with lots of high percentage plays to LT and to their wide receivers, Tory Holt and Anquan Boldin. If the Convicts fall behind, they may still stick with that strategy as any of Cutler’s targets in the passing game is capable of turning something small into something big.

*WHEN IOWA CITY HAS THE BALL:* The Cubs have all the ingredients for a balanced and effective attack, outranking Chino slightly in yards per game but not scoring as many points. They can attack you both ways; with Brandon Jacobs on the ground and Jeff Garcia-to-Larry Fitzgerald through the air. With Ronnie Brown still out due to injury, the ground game will not be as strong as it was when these two teams faced each other earlier in the season, but it is still capable of scoring hits on the highly-rated Chino run defense. Iowa City will have to run the ball at some point, maybe even more than expected, but look for them to turn to the passing game, in particular Larry Fitzgerald, to do the damage against the Convicts’ defense.

*THE BOTTOM LINE:* The home field advantage should help the Cubs, but I would not overestimate by how much. The problem with predicting either of these two teams is that they both play with emotion and are capable of big highs and big lows. If Iowa City hits a low point while Chino hits a high point – watch out, the game could take a surprising twist against the Cubbies! Joshua Cribbs is turning out to be the league’s most dangerous return man, his 46.8 yard average on 5 kick returns last week making a huge difference in their game against Pickering. Iowa City’s answer to Cribbs is punt returner, Roscoe Parrish, who averaged over 16 yards a return and brought one home for a TD. If either of these two players has a great game, my carefully crafted projections could go completely awry. My head says that the Cubs will dispatch the Convicts because they should dispatch the Convicts. However, my hunch tells me that the Cubs are quietly declining while the Convicts are quietly peaking. Perhaps my hunch is wrong, but I always kick myself when I don’t go with my hunch and it turns out to be correct – and it is almost always correct.

**PICK: CHINO**

**SHOULD YOU LISTEN TO A THING I SAY??????**

**HOW I’M DOING AGAINST THE SPREAD**

**LAST WEEK: 3-1-0**

**OVERALL: 98-34-0**