



# PLAYOFF EDITION

## QUARTER FINALS

February 4, 2008

### “PACMAN” EATS UP LIZARDS – CONVICTS ADVANCE!

#### JONES STEALS WIN WITH 3 TDS ON PUNT RETURNS



Adam “Pacman” Jones listens to the crowd roar as he finishes off his third of three punt returns for touchdowns in quarter final playoff action against Durham. Thanks to Jones, the Convicts went on to beat the Thunder Lizards, 44-27.



**DURHAM**

**27**



**CHINO**

**44**

CHINO – Durham’s Frank “Dino” Gore is well-known for devouring opposing defenses, but it was Chino’s Adam “Pacman” Jones who did all the eating on the field last week. Jones chewed through the Durham special teams coverage not once, not twice, but an astounding *three* times for punt return touchdowns of 82, 87, and 80 yards. The natural touchdown “hat trick” knocked the Thunder Lizards back on their heels and out of the playoffs, and helped Chino to victory and a berth in the West Division final next week.

A game that Durham was controlling and leading

13-6 midway through the second quarter started to get away from them when Jones fielded a Durham punt at his 18 yard line and made a quick cut to the sideline into the open field. The last defender, punter Kyle Larson, slipped as he tried to position himself for the tackle and Jones was home free, scoring a touchdown that tied the game at 13-13.

Donovan McNabb, reappearing in game action after spending the last three weeks “in the hole” for an unspecified infraction, took control on the Convict’s next possession, hitting Anquan Boldin for a 29-yard touchdown pass to put the Convicts ahead for the first time. Vinatieri added a field goal at the end of the half to make the score 23-13, Chino.

Durham got the ball to start the second half but Gore and Portis were stonewalled by the Chino run defense, forcing a punt. Fielding the punt at his own 13 yard line, Jones once again made a cut to the sideline, avoiding a spearhead of defenders in the middle, and broke into the open field, where only punter, Kyle Larson remained between him and the goal line. Again, Larson slipped as he cut to the side to make the tackle and Jones was home free for the TD, putting his team ahead. 30-13.

Durham's offense looked completely out of synch on the next series as Rivers threw three straight incomplete passes to force another punting situation. Then, the game that had promised at one time to be such a tough contest, degenerated into farce in a "Groundhog Day" kind of way. Larson once again booted deep to a waiting "Pacman." Jones, who, facing a swarm of Lizards plugging the middle of the field, cut one more time to the sideline and into the open field. Kyle Larson, running to his right side, fell as he positioned himself for the tackle, and Jones was home free for his third straight punt return for a touchdown and a commanding 37-13 lead.

The Chino defense stepped up and played their part, shutting down the Durham offense until the game was well out of reach, while their offense added another touchdown toward the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter – a 3-yard run by LaDainian Tomlinson to make the score 44-13 heading into the final quarter.

Disgusted with his team's third straight loss to Chino, none of them close, Durham's Coach Kaldis refused to speak with reporters after the game. He was represented instead by the team Water Boy, who noted that the team had consumed more water than usual that day. Coach Nazar, who had posted "Jimmy the Geek's" prediction of a Durham upset on the locker room bulletin board (crossing out "Geek" and writing in "Weasel"), would only say, "we match up against them well, but we also seem to get the breaks when we play them. That's the way it goes sometimes and when it goes that way a lot, I think it gets into their heads. They were not the same team after Pacman's second touchdown."

* Playoff * 02-02-2008	Temp: 63 Wind: 10-20	Line: Even	MVP: Jones		
2006 Durham (0-1)	6 7 0 14	-27			
2006 Chino (1-0)	0 23 21 0	-44			
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1 11:06 Durham	FG Scobee 46 (4-19-2:28)		3-0		
1 6:49 Durham	FG Scobee 31 (6-43-2:45)		6-0		
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2 14:47 Chino	FG Vinatieri 44 (10-43-4:41)		6-3		
2 11:30 Durham	TD Rivers 14 pass to Gates (Scobee) (6-69-2:59)		13-3		
2 7:04 Chino	FG Vinatieri 44 (7-52-4:19)		13-6		
2 6:25 Chino	TD Jones 82 punt return (Vinatieri) (0-0-0:00)		13-13		
2 2:28 Chino	TD McNabb 29 pass to Boldin (Vinatieri) (8-70-2:41)		13-20		
2 0:18 Chino	FG Vinatieri 53 (6-55-1:01)		13-23		
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3 12:35 Chino	TD Jones 87 punt return (Vinatieri) (0-0-0:00)		13-30		
3 12:01 Chino	TD Jones 80 punt return (Vinatieri) (0-0-0:00)		13-37		
3 4:41 Chino	TD Tomlinson 3 run (Vinatieri) (9-68-5:06)		13-44		
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4 8:09 Durham	TD Rivers 19 pass to Branch (Scobee) (10-80-5:32)		20-44		
4 7:44 Durham	TD McAlister 51 yd fumble recovery (Scobee) (0-0-0:00)		27-44		
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	DTL	CHI
First Downs	22	20
Rushes	35-100	23-96
Passes	37-20-235	36-24-293
Sacked	1-6	1-8
Fumble	0	2
Penalties	2-10	3-15
Turnovers	0	2
Time	32:42	27:15
Third Down	5-16	1-9
Fourth Down	1-2	3-3
Net Offense	329	381

  

STAT SNAP:  
 PASSING – DTL – Rivers 36-20-0-235, 94.1; CHI – McNabb 30-19-0-228, 97.6.  
 RUSHING – DTL – Gore 27-94, Turner 2-8, Rivers 2-0, Porits 3-(-1), Quinn 1-(-1); CHI – Tomlinson 17-78, Brown 1-19, Johnson, J. 1-2, McNabb 2-(-3).  
 RECEIVING – DTL – Ward 5-70, Gates 4-48, Portis 3-25, Branch 3-47, Gore 3-21, Curry 1-12, Johnson, C. 1-12; CHI – Holt 9-133, Tomlinson 5-49, Boldin 5-60, McMichael 3-32, Brown 2-19.

**“BULLSEYE” BULGER  
 THROWS 4 TD PASSES AS  
 HELLFIRE SINGE DRAGONS  
 BRADY STRUGGLES / FLORIDA COMMITS 4  
 TURNOVERS AS DRAGONS BOW OUT OF  
 TITLE RACE**



**FLORIDA**

**13**



**MOHAVE**

**28**

*Two teams met,  
 At The Fiery Depths,  
 To battle for their very lives.  
 Only one could advance,  
 But they took that chance,  
 Wielding weapons called Bombs and  
 Dives.*

*The Dragons were better,  
 Despite the hot weather,  
 And held the Hellfire in check.  
 But they could not protect,  
 And poor Brady was picked,  
 Again and again, what a wreck.*

**-Bobby Elder**

MOHAVE – It wasn't exactly the dominating performance Hellfire fans hoped for to begin their playoff run, but it was good enough to advance as Mohave knocked off the bumbling Florida Dragons, 28-13. The main story of the game was turnovers – 4 of them for Florida and only 1 for Mohave. Although Florida controlled the play – converting more first downs, holding the ball longer, and converting more third downs – their 4 turnovers, 2 of which killed potential scoring drives, derailed them.

While Florida repeatedly shot themselves in the foot throughout the day, Hellfire QB, Marc Bulger improved as the game progressed. He finished strongly; throwing two 4<sup>th</sup> quarter TD passes – a 22-yarder to L.J. Smith and 41-yard bomb to Terrell Owens – to break things open and put the game on ice. Hitting the deep ball, a problem for Bulger in recent weeks, was his strength this game as he hit 4 passes over 25 yards, including 41 & 49-yard bombs to Owens and a 45-yard strike to Laveranues Coles.

The first half was a comedy (or tragedy) of errors for both teams. Sloppy execution in all phases of the game led to a paltry 7-3 lead for Mohave. When the second half kicked off, it looked as though Mohave had failed to correct anything during the break. On 2nd and 18, following a holding penalty on RG Brian Waters, Marc Bulger was pressured and forced a throw into the arms of Dragon DB Charles Tillman. Two plays later, Steven Jackson rumbled 10 yards on a power sweep to the left for the go-ahead touchdown.

Mohave finally got the offensive break it was looking for when Bulger met a streaking Terrell Owens at the deep post against a run stuffing defense. Owens was tripped up at the one but two plays later, TE LJ Smith caught the first of his two touchdowns and the Hellfire were right back in the lead 14-10.

After swapping punts, Florida took charge once again. On a key 3rd and 5 call from their own 35, Jackson dashed 24 yards on another sweep to the left, out of a 3-wide set. Brady then hit a couple of quick passes to Jackson but the drive stalled inside the Mohave 10, leading to a field goal. Mohave clung to a one-point lead to being the final quarter.

Whether it was the desert heat finally getting to the visiting team, or the exhaustion of selling out defensively on each play, the swash-buckling style of coach Jim Heaton began to slowly unravel as the game burned on. Brian Westbrook's 15-yard run on a draw play on 3rd and 15 was the first clue. Bulger to Owens on 3rd and 7 for 17 yards against a run key was further evidence. Bulger struck gold two plays later, again beating a run stuff call, hitting Smith again from 22 yards out for an eight point lead with less than 10:00 left to play.

Florida showed they still had life on the offensive side of the ball, driving to midfield quickly before Tom Brady found receiver Bernard Berrian wide open deep across the middle for a 24-yard gain. But just four plays later, with Jackson on the bench sucking wind, DeAngelo Williams was stuffed on 4th and 2 at the Mohave 14. With just enough time left in a one-score game, Bulger went deep twice in a row, connecting first with Laveranues Coles for 45 yards, then finding Owens again for a 41-yard touchdown and a 28-13 playoff win.

Brady finished 14 of 33 for 191 yards and two interceptions, both by rookie safety Reggie Nelson. Bulger completed 16 of 23 for 307 yards, one interception and four scores. Jackson blistered the Hellfire run defense all day, rushing for 182 yards and one touchdown on 33 carries. He also caught five passes for another 82 yards. Owens snagged five balls for 145 yards and a score.

02-01-2008    Temp: 95 Wind: Calm    Line: Even    MVP: <b>Bulger</b>					<b>FLD</b>	<b>MOH</b>	
2006 <b>Florida</b> (0-1)	0	3	10	0	-13		
2006 <b>Mohave</b> (1-0)	7	0	7	14	-28		
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1 8:56 Mohave	TD Bulger 20 pass to Coles (Carney) (3-47-1:33)				0-7		
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2 12:14 Florida	FG Nugent 37 (10-60-4:25)				3-7		
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3 11:55 Florida	TD Jackson 10 run (Nugent) (3-27-1:26)				10-7		
3 9:13 Mohave	TD Bulger 1 pass to Smith (Carney) (5-59-2:33)				10-14		
3 0:20 Florida	FG Nugent 24 (8-63-4:30)				13-14		
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4 9:59 Mohave	TD Bulger 22 pass to Smith (Carney) (10-75-5:09)				13-21		
4 3:51 Mohave	TD Bulger 41 pass to Owens (Carney) (2-86-1:17)				13-28		
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					First Downs	21	15
					Rushes	38-185	25-80
					Passes	33-14-191	23-16-307
					Sacked	0-0	2-16
					Fumble	3	0
					Penalties	8-58	4-50
					Turnovers	4	1
					Time	33:33	26:27
					Third Down	10-17	4-9
					Fourth Down	0-1	0-1
					Net Offense	376	371
STAT SNAP:							
PASSING – FLD – Brady 33-14-2-191, 36.3; MOH – Bulger 23-16-1-307, 133.6.							
RUSHING – FLD – Jackson 33-182, D. Williams 2-3, Brady 3-0; MOH – Westbrook 10-51, Lynch 12-30, Bulger 3-(-1).							
RECEIVING – FLD – Jackson 5-82, Cotchery 3-41, Berrian 3-47, Wilcox 2-10, Houshmandzadeh 1-11; MOH – Owens 5-145, Coles 4-95, L.J. Smith 3-28, Lynch 3-25, Westbrook 1-14.							





IOWA CITY

9

# CORN KINGS CLAMP DOWN ON CUBS – “DAVID” DOWN FOR THE COUNT



COWTOWN

26

## KING'S THIRD QUARTER BURST SHAKES OFF TENACIOUS CUBBIES

COWTOWN – The EFL’s “David” came to Cowtown to face “Goliath,” hoping to strike a lucky blow and repeat the upset performance they achieved in Week 2 of the regular season. But this time, it was not to be. The Cubbies hung on for almost three full quarters, their defense making big stops to hold the Corn Kings to field goals, but they could not hang on long enough. Two late third quarter touchdowns in a span of 1:35 minutes vaulted the home team into a virtually insurmountable lead, 23-6. Apart from that offensive outburst, it was a boring game to watch, but that’s just the way the Corn Kings coaches like it...as long as they have a ‘W’ to show for it at the end of the day.

The Corn Kings got off to a good start offensively, moving the ball 61 yards on 13 plays to the Cub’s 13 yard line. But an aggressive Cubs blitz forced Chad Pennington into a bad throw off the mark on third down and four, forcing the home team to settle for a 30-yard Jason Hanson field goal. It was an expensive 3 points. Going down to injury midway through that drive was left tackle Jon Jansen. He would not return and was replaced by Adam Snyder. The change seemed to have an effect on the game, suddenly turning the usually anemic Cubs pass rush into a factor. 3 sacks by the Cubs in the second quarter kept the Corn King’s offense at bay and forced some adjustments in the game plan.

When the Cubs had the ball, the Corn Kings forced them to stick to the ground and short passing games. The often explosive Cubs offense did not look eager to test the Corn Kings secondary deep, which mixed up several different coverage packages. Three different Cubs quarterbacks made appearances at different points in the game, but none did much more than manage a nickel-and-dime attack that by half time had generated only a field goal. The Corn Kings, on the strength of a last second field goal by Hanson, took a 9-3 lead into the locker room.

Iowa City got the ball first in the second half and managed a very good imitation of the Corn Kings, moving the ball methodically and steadily until they faced 3<sup>rd</sup> down and 1 at the Cowtown 13 yard line. Brandon Jacobs bucked the center of the line but found Kelly Gregg and every linebacker on the ‘D’ waiting for him and he did well just to make it back to the line of scrimmage. Facing his first major decision of the game, Coach Redding opted for the field goal to narrow the Cowtown led to 3 points, 9-6.

With the Cowtown running game struggling for consistency, Pennington took to the air on their next series, completing 4 straight passes for a total of 52 yards to move the ball into field goal range. A penalty to the Cubs and a 10-yard burst by Jerious Norwood put the ball inside the red zone. Two plays later, Marion Barber got a nice block from Shawn Andrews and crossed into the end zone from 7 yards out for the game’s first touchdown. The Cubs got the ball back, but not for long. Two plays into their drive, Cowtown’s defensive MVP, Aaron Schobel, stripped Ronnie Brown of the football and the Corn Kings recovered at the Cubs 36. On the very next play, with all day to throw, Pennington found Mike Furrey open deep for a 36-yard touchdown pass, to increase the Corn King’s advantage to a prohibitive 23-6. With the Cub’s offense seemingly unable to strike quickly, the Corn Kings ‘D’ settled into a routine that snuffed out any potential Cubs threat. The teams traded field goals in the fourth quarter as Cowtown cruised to victory, 26-9.

* Playoff* 02-03-2008 Tillman Field Temp: 32 Wind:5-15 Line: Even					
MVP:Furrey					
2006 Iowa City (0-1)	0	3	3	3	- 9
2006 Cowtown (1-0)	3	6	14	3	- 26
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1 8:52 Cowtown	FG Hanson	30	(13-61-5:58)		0-3
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2 13:02 Iowa City	FG Rackers	32	(9-52-5:29)		3-3
2 6:16 Cowtown	FG Hanson	44	(11-46-6:33)		3-6
2 0:03 Cowtown	FG Hanson	44	(5-38-0:58)		3-9
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3 7:08 Iowa City	FG Rackers	30	(12-56-7:40)		6-9
3 2:53 Cowtown	TD Barber	7	run (Hanson,J) (8-79-3:58)		6-16
3 1:18 Cowtown	TD Pennington	36	pass to Furrey (Hanson,J) (1-36-0:16)		6-23
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4 8:57 Iowa City	FG Rackers	27	(10-39-5:08)		9-23
4 2:44 Cowtown	FG Hanson	28	(7-62-5:59)		9-26
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				<b>ICC</b>	<b>COW</b>
First Downs				12	20
Rushes				31-116	29-126
Passes				21-14-101	25-17-227
Sacked				2-11	3-24
Fumble				1	1
Penalties				3-15	5-37
Turnovers				1	0
Time				29:29	30:31
Third Down				3-12	4-11
Fourth Down				1-2	0-0
Net Offense				206	329
STAT SNAP:					
PASSING – ICC – Garcia 16-9-0-74, 68.2, Losman 5-5-0-27, 89.2; COW – Pennington 25-17-0-227, 109.0.					
RUSHING – ICC – Jacobs 11-52, Bush 13-46, Brown 7-18; COW – Maroney 12-56, Barber 8-46, Norwood 6-27, Pennington 3(-3).					
RECEIVING – ICC – Winslow 5-44, Williams 2-17, Evans 2-10, Jacobs 2-10, Fitzgerald 1-10, Bush 1-5, Brown 1-5; COW – Furrey 5-81, Moss 5-79, Moore, 4-40, Maroney 1-11, Mughelli 1-11, Barber 1-5.					

## **JIMMY'S PLAYOFF PLAYS**

### **EAST DIVISION FINAL**

**12:30 PM (CBS)**

**MOHAVE (11-6) @ CHARLESWOOD (13-4) (LINE – PATRIOTS BY 2)**

A true Clash of the Titans. Despite Mohave's free-fall out of first place late in the regular season, the Hellfire have many of the league's top stars on their roster. Some of their past troubles can be attributed to bad luck, some of it to bad execution, but all is water under the bridge at this stage. The Hellfire should be confident heading into this game. Their defense matches up well against the Patriots offense, and their offense has elite weapons that can make any team look bad. Where they fall short, and where they have suffered at times, is at the QB position. There, Charleswood has the advantage and with it their best hope for a win and a berth in the Championship game.

The Patriots have been struggling to score points recently – managing only 13 points in their quarter-final victory over Gwinnett and only 19 points against a vulnerable Florida defense in Week 16 of the regular season. The flip side is that their defense is playing at the highest sustained level that it has all season. They will need another superior performance if they are going to beat Mohave.

INJURIES: *Mohave:* Roman Harper (S), Reggie Nelson (S), Jevon Kearse (DE); *Charleswood:* Sinorice Moss (WR).

MOHAVE GAME PLAN: *Defense* – The Hellfire are missing starting free safety Reggie Nelson and his back-up, Roman Harper. This means Daniel Bullocks will start, creating a certifiable weakness in the secondary that they have never had to contend with before. The answer will be to put pressure on Manning at the line of scrimmage and discourage him from looking deep to exploit that weakness. With Jamal Williams stuffing the middle of the line, and Thomas Jones struggling, the Hellfire can afford to cheat a little to guard against the pass.

*Offense* – Bulger had success throwing deep against the Dragons but he will be hard-pressed to repeat it this week against the Patriots. Still, he has to take his shots, if only to loosen the defense for Brian Westbrook and Marshwan Lynch.

CHARLESWOOD GAME PLAN: *Defense* – The Patriots need to be patient. Giving up a few first downs is worth it if that means the Hellfire's big-play boys are held in check. If the offense can draw first blood, the defensive strategy should include some well-timed pressure on Bulger to force an errant throw into a ball-hawking secondary that can take it back the distance.

*Offense* – The Patriots will have to run the ball at some point, despite their problems doing so consistently. Any success with that is a bonus, as the offense will end up turning around Peyton Manning. But how well it turns will be a function of Jones's performance and how much heat he can draw away from the QB. If the running game falters, it will be "Manning or bust!"

RESULT: A close game, possibly into overtime: *Patriots 20, Hellfire 17.*

**PICK: CHARLESWOOD**

## **JIMMY'S PLAYOFF PLAYS**

### **WEST DIVISION FINAL**

**4:00 PM (NBC)**

**CHINO (11-6) @ COWTOWN (14-3) (LINE – CORN KINGS BY 3)**

Managing and coaching philosophies are at stake in this game, not to mention a berth in the Championship. The Convicts have Star Power: “LT,” “Pacman,” and the QB with Mom who serves his team ‘Chunky Soup.’ The Corn Kings have.....Mike Furrey? The Convicts like to spread the field with 3 wide-outs in a standard set and pass to set up the running game. The Corn Kings run a standard Pro set mostly in the I-formation and run to set up the pass. The Convicts play mostly ‘zone’ defenses in a basic 4-3 and 3-3 nickel. The Corn Kings use many defensive formations, play more man coverage, and blitz nearly twice as often. What does all this mean? Not much, because both teams will be looking to surprise their opponent this week with something a little different. The Corn Kings won both of the regular season match-ups against Chino, but both games were very different. The Convicts adjusted after being stymied offensively in the first game and came back to rack up nearly 500 yards in the re-match. Unfortunately for Chino in that game, the Corn Kings managed to keep pace offensively and snatch the win. The challenge for Chino is to find a way to stop the Corn Kings. The secret to Cowtown’s success against Chino so far has been their line-play, both offensively and defensively. But if so, that could bode ill for Cowtown as starting left tackle, Jon Jansen is out.

INJURIES: *Chino*: None; *Cowtown*: Jon Jansen (T).

CHINO GAME PLAN: *Defense* – The Corn Kings have a balanced attack but it is not an explosive one. It can be explosive, however, when defenses gamble since Pennington, the savvy vet, can make them pay. Bending, but not breaking, giving up field goals over touchdowns, is the desired result for the Chino ‘D.’ That means generally conservative play-calling mixed with a few well-timed blitzes.

*Offense* – Throw the ball and see what happens. If McNabb is hot, there is not much even the Corn Kings can do to stop him with Holt and Boldin running free in the secondary. If he’s not, then give the ball to L.T. any way he can get it.

COWTOWN GAME PLAN: *Defense* – Take McNabb’s receivers out of the game and force Nazar to hand the game over to L.T. It may not stop them, but it will slow them down to a “Corn King pace.”

*Offense* – The Corn Kings have already shown that they can run and pass the ball with equal effectiveness against the Convicts. They will look to continue that trend with a balanced attack to begin the game and hope to stay close or in the lead throughout. Plan ‘B’ (the “come-from-behind” plan) is not the preferred option.

RESULT: The Jansen injury is a tangible loss to Cowtown since they rely on their line to increase the effectiveness of their skill players, not the other way around. If Chino can move the ball as they did in Week 13, Cowtown might not be able to keep up this time. The home field advantage better help or Cowtown is going down. *Convicts 31, Corn Kings 24.*

**PICK: CHINO**