



2009

WEEK NINE

November 29th, 2009



MANNING TAKES CONTROL OF CONVICTS!

PATS' QB SNIPES AT CHINO DEFENSE FOR 2 TD PASSES / CUTLER FRUSTRATED



CHARLESWOOD

23

7 - 2



CHINO

9

6 - 3

Peyton Manning picked his moments to pick apart the vaunted "Lockdown Crew" in Week Nine action against Chino. Here he looks downfield for Tony Gonzalez in fourth quarter action, finding him for a 22-yard TD pass and a 23-6 lead. The Pats would go on to win handily against their Conference rival, 23-9.

CHINO – The game was billed in Chino as a preview of the Conference Final. Convicts fans hope that if it was, the script will be trashed and substituted with one featuring a happier ending. For Pats fans, the game showed that the "Lockdown Crew" is a beast readily tamed by the deft hand of a veteran quarterback and the determination of a punishing runner.

It was known entering this contest that Chino's defense would need to play the lead role to achieve victory. But the early signs indicated that the defense was not quite up to the task. After stopping *Adrian Peterson* cold on the first play from scrimmage and inducing a holding penalty by *Jake Scott* on the next play, the Chino defense stood back on their heels as *Bernard Berrian* and *Tory Holt* racked up 22 and 50 yards respectively on consecutive short slant passes from *Peyton Manning*. Then a frustrated *Julius Peppers* tugged on Peterson's face mask after a 6-yard run and the penalty put the Pats just inside the 10 yard line. Another quick slant, this time to Jason Witten, and the Pats were in the end zone to top off a quick opening drive and take a 7-0 lead.

The Convicts opened with a three-wide set on offence but were met by 7 defensive backs on the Patriots side, forcing them to test the ground. But *L.T.* was unable to make the Pats pay for their investment in air defense, and this would have repercussions throughout the game. With confidence approaching insolence the Pats defense deployed 5 to 7 defensive backs on almost every play while daring the Convicts to run the ball. They tried, but it gained them very little ground. The Convicts offence would fail to gain a first down in the first quarter and as a result found themselves trailing 10-0 heading into the second frame.

Chino got on the board thanks partly to a pass interference call on Charleswood corner, *Sheldon Brown* that allowed them to convert a third-and-long and bring them to the Charleswood 39 yard line. From there they ran it 16 yards before hitting the wall and calling on *Jeff Reed* to convert the field goal from 40 yards away. The Pats quickly got that back by pounding the Chino line with Peterson and receiving a little help from consecutive penalties on *Pat Williams* and *D'Qwell Jackson*. *Stephen Gostkowski* kicked it true from 33 yards out to give the Pats a 13-3 lead at half time.

Joshua Cribbs boosted his team with a 40-yard kickoff return to start the second half and the Chino offence responded with a nickel-and-dime drive that made it all the way to the Charleswood five yard line before *Knowshon Moreno* was stuffed for a three-yard loss on third down and three. Reed salvaged the effort with his second field goal of the game to bring the Convicts to within a touchdown of the Pats. However, that would be the high water mark for the home team. A botched surprise onside kickoff

the ball to Charleswood at the Convicts' 45 yard line. The Pats moved it into Gostkowski's range and his 33-yard field goal regained their two-score lead, 16-6.

Chino made their offensive highlight of the day on their next possession when **Jay Cutler** connected with **Randy Moss** for 31 yards on a long fly pattern. But Chino would give the ball up at the Charleswood 33 yard line when **LenDale White** was stuffed for a one-yard loss on fourth down and 1. The Pats chewed up some clock by running Peterson 6 consecutive plays on their next possession, but wound up turning the ball over at the Chino 32 yard line when Manning missed **Tony Gonzalez** on 4th down 6. It would not hurt them, however, as the Convicts went three-and-out and were forced to punt after **Casey Rabach** was flagged for holding on 4th down and 3.

Manning finished the Convicts off on their next possession, hitting Holt for 30 yards on another short slant and two plays later finding Gonzalez open for a 22-yard TD pass to make the score 23-6. The Convicts, without viable options in the deep passing game against 7 defensive backs, were forced to play "small ball" to score their final field goal with 53 seconds left. A failed onside kick and a couple of knees from Manning later made it official. The Pats had dominated to rise to 7-2 on the year.

11-23-2009 The Big House. Temp: 79 Wind: Calm None MVP: **Peyton Manning**

2008 Charleswood (7-2) 10 3 3 7 - 23
2008 Chino (6-3) 0 3 3 3 - 9

1 12:15 Charleswood TD Manning 9 pass to Witten (Gostkowski) (8-83-2:45) 7-0
1 0:54 Charleswood FG Gostkowski 24 (10-51-6:03) 10-0
2 10:46 Chino FG Reed 40 (11-37-5:04) 10-3
2 3:43 Charleswood FG Gostkowski 33 (12-55-6:58) 13-3
3 8:51 Chino FG Reed 25 (12-51-6:09) 13-6
3 5:05 Charleswood FG Gostkowski 33 (5-29-3:42) 16-6
4 3:17 Charleswood TD Manning 22 pass to Gonzalez (Gostkowski) (7-77-5:50) 23-6
4 0:53 Chino FG Reed 21 (13-61-2:24) 23-9

	CHP	CHI
First Downs	18	14
Rushes	34-129	31-97
Passes	21-15-218	29-19-164
Sacked	1-3	0-0
Fumble	2	0
Penalties	7-48	7-59
Turnovers	0	0
Time	35:59	24:01
Third Down	5-12	5-15
Fourth Down	1-2	1-5
Red Att/Td/Fg	6/1/3	2/0/2
Net Offense	344	261

KEY PERFORMANCES: CHP – **Peyton Manning** completed 15 of 21 for 218 yards and 1 TD; **Adrian Peterson** rushed for 98 yards on 23 carries; **Tony Gonzalez** caught 5 passes for 58 yards and 1 TD; **Tory Holt** caught 2 passes for 80 yards; **Stewart Bradley** made 11 tackles and 2 stuffs. CHI – **Jay Cutler** completed 19 of 29 for 164 yards; **LaDainian Tomlinson** rushed for 32 yards on 11 carries and caught 6 passes for 31 yards; **Hines Ward** caught 4 passes for 30 yards; **Adewale Ogunleye** had 6 tackles, 1 run stuff, 2 pressures and 1 forced fumble.



COWTOWN



FLORIDA

6

28

DRAGONS ROAST CORN KINGS

GAME POINTS: **Michael Griffin** intercepted **Chad Pennington** and ran it back 41 yards for a touchdown to give the Dragons a 14-0 lead in the first quarter. Offensive breakdowns by the Corn Kings in the first half led to plenty of opportunities for the Dragons' attack and they took full advantage. **DeAngelo Williams** ploughed through a stacked line for a 2-yard touchdown run in the second quarter, his second TD of the game, to give Florida a virtually insurmountable 21-0 lead. A 28-yard punt return by **Santana Moss** set up Cowtown's first field goal, but any hope of a comeback was snuffed out by a third quarter 39-yard TD pass from **Aaron Rodgers** to **Brandon Marshall**.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Aaron Rodgers** completed 20 of 29 passes for 231 yards and 1 TD; **DeAngelo Williams** rushed for 80 yards on 20 carries, scoring 2 TDs; **Terrell Suggs** had 7 tackles, 4 sacks, 1 deflection and 1 forced fumble. **Chad Pennington** went 15 of 27 for 129 yards and 1 INT.

11-26-2009 Dragonmount Temp: 85 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: **DeAngelo Williams**

2008 Cowtown (3-6) 0 0 3 3 - 6
2008 Florida (9-0) 14 7 7 0 - 28

1 6:43 Florida TD Williams 2 run (Elam,J) (12-87-5:14) 0-7
1 4:49 Florida TD Griffin 41 interception return (Elam,J) (0-0-0:00) 0-14
2 11:31 Florida TD Williams 2 run (Elam,J) (12-76-5:59) 0-21
3 11:29 Cowtown FG Hanson 30 (4-20-1:39) 3-21
3 3:09 Florida TD Rodgers 39 pass to Marshall (Elam,J) (7-82-4:21) 3-28
4 6:20 Cowtown FG Hanson 40 (8-21-4:43) 6-28

	COW	FLD
First Downs	12	22
Rushes	22-76	27-102
Passes	27-15-129	29-20-231
Sacked	7-55	1-4
Fumble	1	0
Penalties	8-70	3-22
Turnovers	1	0
Time	29:25	30:35
Third Down	0-13	6-11
Fourth Down	3-3	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/0/2	2/2/0
Net Offense	150	329



21

MOHAVE



IOWA CITY

24

CUBS RUN HELLFIRE INTO THE GROUND

GAME POINTS: Oshiomogho Atogwe returned an interception 64 yards with 1:50 remaining in the game to launch the Cubs past the Hellfire 24-21. The Cubs had to come back from a 14-point deficit after they failed to convert a 4th down and 5 at their own 46 yard line, leading eventually to 7 Hellfire points on a 5-yard TD pass from Kurt Warner to Donald Driver to make it 21-7 late in the third quarter. Keeping the ball on the ground, the Cubs put together drives of 72 and 73 yards to post 10 points before handing the ball back to Mohave with 2 minutes remaining. Going for the jugular, Warner threw deep but was bit back hard when Atogwe made a play on the under-thrown ball.

KEY PERFORMANCES: JP Losman completed 3 of 3 for 38 yards; Ronnie Brown rushed for 181 yards and 1 TD on 38 carries; Brandon Jacobs carried 27 times for 121 yards and 1 TD. Kurt Warner completed 23 of 30 for 253 yards, 2 TDs and 2 INTs; Owen Daniels caught 8 passes for 116 yards and 1 TD; Brian Westbrook rushed for 23 yards on 7 carries.

11-29-2009 Joe Ferguson Stadium. Temp: 48 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: Ronnie Brown			MOH	ICC
2008 Mohave (3-6)	7 7 7 0	- 21	First Downs	16
2008 Iowa City (4-5)	0 7 0 17	- 24	Rushes	21-40
1 8:42 Mohave	TD Warner 10 pass to Daniels (Bironas) (7-57-3:53)	7-0	Passes	30-23-253
2 12:26 Mohave	TD Westbrook 7 run (Bironas) (12-80-7:10)	14-0	Sacked	1-8
2 2:27 Iowa City	TD Jacobs 4 run (Rackers) (9-57-4:23)	14-7	Fumble	1
3 0:30 Mohave	TD Warner 5 pass to Driver (Bironas) (4-48-2:05)	21-7	Penalties	4-30
4 10:53 Iowa City	TD Brown 9 run (Rackers) (12-72-4:37)	21-14	Turnovers	3
4 2:13 Iowa City	FG Rackers 24 (16-73-6:20)	21-17	Time	23:41
4 1:50 Iowa City	TD Atogwe 64 interception return	21-24	Third Down	4-10
			Fourth Down	1-1
			Red Att/Td/Fg	3/3/0
			Net Offense	285
				336

KUTZTOWN BEARS DOWN ON OUTLAWS

GAME POINTS: Tony Romo threw a pair of touchdown passes and Le’Ron McClain rushed for two more as the Golden Bears handed the Outlaws their 8th loss of the season. The turning point in the game came early: Winnemucca’s Cullen Jenkins sacked Romo and forced a fumble on Kutztown’s opening possession, but tackle Jon Stinchcomb recovered to keep Kutztown’s drive alive. They went on to score 3 plays later on a 6-yard run off tackle by McClain to make it 7-0. The Outlaws replied with their best drive of the day, reaching the Kutztown 1-yard line. But Aaron Smith sacked David Garrard on 4th and goal and the Outlaws were never in the game after that.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Tony Romo completed 20 of 27 for 298 yards, 2 TDs, and 1 INT; Greg Jennings caught 6 passes for 104 yards and 1 TD; Chris Cooley caught 6 passes for 98 yards; Le’Ron McClain rushed for 38 yards and 2 TDs on 12 carries. David Garrard went 19 of 34 for 212 yards, 1 TD and 1 INT; Percy Harvin caught 6 passes for 102 yards and 1 TD.



28

KUTZTOWN



10

WINNEMUCCA

11-29-2009 Hole in the Wall. Temp: 29 Wind: 10-20 None MVP: Romo			KUT	WMO
2008 Kutztown (5-4)	7 14 7 0	- 28	First Downs	26
2008 Winnemucca (1-8)	3 0 0 7	- 10	Rushes	28-89
1 9:14 Kutztown	TD McClain 6 run (Kaeding) (9-72-5:46)	7-0	Passes	27-20-298
1 1:12 Winnemucca	FG Graham 33 (4--8-2:00)	7-3	Sacked	1-6
2 6:17 Kutztown	TD Romo 3 pass to Gonzalez (Kaeding) (8-38-4:44)	14-3	Fumble	2
2 0:20 Kutztown	TD McClain 2 run (Kaeding) (8-63-3:36)	21-3	Penalties	6-65
3 7:20 Kutztown	TD Romo 23 pass to Jennings (Kaeding) (8-82-4:35)	28-3	Turnovers	2
4 1:33 Winnemucca	TD Garrard 24 pass to Harvin (Graham,S) (10-49-4:27)	28-10	Time	31:21
			Third Down	3-5
			Fourth Down	0-0
			Red Att/Td/Fg	3/3/0
			Net Offense	381
				273



7

VIRDEN



34

LOS ANGELES

KNIGHTS SLASH THRU VIOLATORS' "D"

GAME POINTS: Substituting for a resting **Steven Jackson**, **Cedric Benson** broke a third down run for 31 yards to help set up the Knights' first touchdown, a 4-yard pass from **Jason Campbell** to **Steve Smith** to make the score 7-0 mid-way through the first quarter. After surrendering a field goal to make it 10-0 for LA, the Violators struck back with a 17-yard TD pass from **Drew Brees** to **Devin Hester** to pull within 3 points. But the Knights took complete control of the game after that, running the ball well with Benson to set up a 3-TD pass performance by Campbell. Rookie, **Shonn Greene** wrapped up the scoring with a 45-yard TD run with 11 minutes remaining in the fourth quarter.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Jason Campbell** went 22 of 33 for 255 yards and 3 TDs; **Cedric Benson** rushed for 130 yards on 18 carries; **Shonn Greene** rushed for 60 yards and 1 TD on 4 carries; **Roddy White** caught 9 passes for 110 yards and 1 TD; **Steve Smith** caught 4 passes for 41 yards and 2 TDs. **Drew Brees** completed 13 of 21 for 153 yards, 1 TD and 1 INT; **Devin Hester** caught 5 passes for 79 yards and 1 TD; **Clinton Portis** rushed for 44 yards on 15 carries.

11-26-2009 Round Table Stadium. Temp: 66 Wind: Calm None MVP: Campbell					VV	LAK		
2008 Virden (3-6)	0	7	0	0	- 7	First Downs	12	27
2008 Los Angeles (7-2)	7	10	10	7	- 34	Rushes	22-65	29-219
						Passes	21-13-153	36-23-263
1 8:01 Los Angeles	TD	Campbell	4 pass to Smith (Brown,K)	(8-79-4:34)	0-7	Sacked	0-0	0-0
2 13:10 Los Angeles	FG	Brown	22	(15-81-7:14)	0-10	Fumble	2	1
2 8:05 Virden	TD	Brees	17 pass to Hester (Vinatieri)	(8-64-5:00)	7-10	Penalties	6-37	7-42
2 0:54 Los Angeles	TD	Campbell	15 pass to Smith (Brown,K)	(15-80-7:11)	7-17	Turnovers	1	0
3 7:18 Los Angeles	FG	Brown	23	(13-74-7:42)	7-20	Time	23:59	36:01
3 0:29 Los Angeles	TD	Campbell	9 pass to White (Brown,K)	(8-59-3:14)	7-27	Third Down	3-10	7-13
4 10:59 Los Angeles	TD	Greene	45 run (Brown,K)	(3-64-1:36)	7-34	Fourth Down	0-2	2-2
						Red Att/Td/Fg	1/1/0	5/3/2
						Net Offense	218	482

DINOS TRUDGE PAST GLADS

GAME POINTS: Two 20-yard passes from **Philip Rivers** to **Dwayne Bowe** early in the fourth quarter sparked the drive that broke open a stiflingly close game. Leading 9-6 with just over 9 minutes remaining, Philip Rivers hit **Kevin Faulk** for a 21-yard TD pass to give the Thunder Lizards a 16-6 advantage. The Gladiators fought back to within a touchdown with a 41-yard field goal by **Josh Brown** at the 5:49 mark. But the Lizards sealed the win by passing on third down with 1:17 remaining, converting and more with 43-yard TD pass to **Calvin Johnson** to inflate the final score.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Philip Rivers** completed 18 of 31 for 275 yards and 2 TDs; **Calvin Johnson** caught 1 passes for 126 yards and 1 TD; **Michael Turner** rushed for 61 yards on 16 carries; **Jared Allen** had 9 tackles, 2 sacks, 1 deflection and 3 QB pressures. **Matt Cassel** completed 14 of 23 for 140 yards; **Thomas Jones** rushed for 89 yards on 19 carries.



23

DURHAM



9

GWINNETT

11-26-2009 Gwinnett Coliseum. Temp: 48 Wind: 10-20 None MVP: Rivers					DTL	GWG		
2008 Durham (7-2)	6	3	0	14	- 23	First Downs	18	13
2008 Gwinnett (4-5)	0	3	0	6	- 9	Rushes	27-99	29-135
						Passes	31-18-275	24-15-126
1 7:35 Durham	FG	Crosby	23	(13-58-7:25)	3-0	Sacked	1-10	3-25
1 3:15 Durham	FG	Crosby	34	(3-6-1:30)	6-0	Fumble	1	2
2 9:26 Durham	FG	Crosby	33	(12-47-6:26)	9-0	Penalties	5-45	6-47
2 5:20 Gwinnett	FG	Brown	36	(8-33-4:02)	9-3	Turnovers	0	1
4 12:16 Gwinnett	FG	Brown	41	(14-56-8:09)	9-6	Time	29:40	30:20
4 9:29 Durham	TD	Rivers	21 pass to Faulk (Crosby)	(7-56-2:40)	16-6	Third Down	4-12	5-13
4 5:49 Gwinnett	FG	Brown	19	(9-59-3:40)	16-9	Fourth Down	0-0	0-1
4 1:03 Durham	TD	Rivers	43 pass to Johnson (Crosby)	(5-50-0:48)	23-9	Red Att/Td/Fg	3/0/2	2/0/2
						Net Offense	364	236



14

PICKERING



31

GARLAND

RYAN LIGHTS UP "SPARK'EMS"

GAME POINTS: Will Smith recovered a fumble by Eli Manning and returned it 21 yards to the Pickering 8 yard line. Matt Ryan cashed in that opportunity 3 plays later with a 7-yard TD pass to Wes Welker to put Garland ahead 14-0 in the first quarter. The Mustangs would confirm their dominance in this contest with an efficient 81 yard touchdown drive to begin the second half, starting through the air and finishing on the ground with a 4-yard TD run by Kevin Smith to make it 28-7, Garland. The Spartans packed it in after that, helping Garland run out the clock by giving rookie Brandon Jackson a workout.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Matt Ryan completed 23 of 32 for 311 yards and 3 TDs; Wes Welker caught 5 passes for 99 yards and 3 TDs; 9 different receivers caught passes for the Mustangs; Bryan Thomas had 6 tackles and 3 run stuffs; Frank Gore rushed for 36 yards on 10 carries. Eli Manning completed 14 of 21 for 180 yards and 2 TDs; Vincent Jackson caught 3 passes for 51 yards and 2 TDs; Brandon Jackson rushed for 57 yards on 17 carries.

11-26-2009 The Corral. Temp: 55 Wind: 0-5 Light Rain MVP: Ryan			PIC	GDM
2008 Pickering (3-6)	7 0 0 7	- 14	First Downs	18
2008 Garland (5-4)	14 7 7 3	- 31	Rushes	34-112
1 6:35 Garland	TD Ryan 13 pass to Welker (Gould) (13-80-5:04)	0-7	Passes	21-14-180
1 3:32 Garland	TD Ryan 7 pass to Welker (Gould) (3-8-1:24)	0-14	Sacked	0-0
1 0:28 Pickering	TD Manning 20 pass to Jackson (Kasay) (5-67-3:04)	7-14	Fumble	1
2 7:33 Garland	TD Ryan 6 pass to Welker (Gould) (15-81-7:55)	7-21	Penalties	3-17
3 7:10 Garland	TD Smith 4 run (Gould) (14-81-7:50)	7-28	Turnovers	1
4 8:42 Pickering	TD Manning 4 pass to Jackson (Kasay) (14-90-7:43)	14-28	Time	27:22
4 3:17 Garland	FG Gould 23 (6-74-5:25)	14-31	Third Down	8-10
			Fourth Down	0-1
			Red Att/Td/Fg	3/2/0
			Net Offense	292
				380

PITTMAN AND LEWIS GROUND HAWKS

GAME POINTS: Michael Pittman drove it home from 1-yard out against an all-out blitz to put the North Stars up 7-0 halfway through the first quarter. The Crimson Hawks marched right back to the Markham 6 yard line, where they went for it on 4th down and goal in an attempt to tie it up. But the maligned Markham pass defense knocked down a pass intended for Eddie Royal and the Stars took over. Markham added a TD at the end of the first half on a 6-yard pass from Donovan McNabb to seldom-used tight end Jared Cook to increase their lead to 14-0. In the second half, the Markham 'D' shut down the Ringgold attack until very late, while their offence added a field goal to win by 10 points.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Michael Pittman rushed for 78 yards and 1 TD on 18 carries; Jamal Lewis rushed for 96 yards on 24 carries; Donovan McNabb went 8 of 12 for 45 yards and 1 TD; Omar Gaither had 6 tackles and 3 sacks. Big Ben went 16 of 28 for 138 yards and 1 TD; Eddie Royal caught 7 balls for 52 yards and 1 TD; Maurice Jones-Drew ran for 7 yards on 2 carries.



17

MARKHAM



7

RINGGOLD

11-29-2009 The Hawk's Nest. Temp: 46 Wind: 10-20 Rain MVP: Pittman			MAR	RCH
2008 Markham (3-6)	7 7 3 0	- 17	First Downs	16
2008 Ringgold (2-7)	0 0 0 7	- 7	Rushes	46-200
1 7:49 Markham	TD Pittman 1 run (Longwell) (12-64-7:11)	7-0	Passes	14-10-65
2 0:33 Markham	TD McNabb 6 pass to Cook (Longwell) (16-74-8:01)	14-0	Sacked	0-0
3 8:29 Markham	FG Longwell 40 (4-25-2:44)	17-0	Fumble	0
4 2:11 Ringgold	TD Roethlisberger 5 pass to Royal (Suisham) (17-80-9:27)	17-7	Penalties	5-25
			Turnovers	0
			Time	35:21
			Third Down	11-17
			Fourth Down	0-0
			Red Att/Td/Fg	3/2/0
			Net Offense	265
				177



AROUND THE EFL With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – Despite the failing economy, crime in New York City is down. Fences can't afford to buy stolen goods.

EFL SUNDAY TICKET – AS EXCITING AS THE SHOPPING CHANNEL

This week was a particularly brutal week in the EFL. The closest game, a 24-21 last minute victory by Iowa City over Mohave, was a curious clash of styles between a modern Mohave offense and a throwback 1920's style Cubs offense. The modern offense looked poised to win until a freak interception return for a touchdown in the final two minutes by the Cubs turned the decision around. What it told me is that I would not have been a football fan in 1921. Watching the Cubs run the same rushing plays over and over again was worse than watching the shopping channel. Watching Mohave fail to adjust to it was even worse than that.

The league's marquis game, Charleswood versus Chino, was a disappointment. It exposed the Convicts' offense as unimaginative and overmatched against a good, but not great, defense. It also showed that defense wins championships only against mediocre offenses. **Peyton Manning** and **Adrian Peterson** made the key plays to put points on the board against the "Lockdown Crew." The game wasn't even close and I flipped the channel, with Chino trailing 16-6, immediately after **LenDale White** was stuffed for a loss on fourth down near the end of the third quarter.

Florida dismantled Cowtown and looked almost merciful doing it. Certainly the score could have been much higher than the 28-6 final if Coach Heaton had elected to give **Aaron Rodgers** more passing plays to practice in preparation for the real teams. Los Angeles toyed with Virden and, frankly, I did not find it at all satisfying to see the Violators' bubble burst with such a potent pop. Kutztown handled Winnemucca with surprising ease – well, not really surprising; but you never really know with the Golden Bears. It was interesting to watch Markham dominate an opponent with talent. But then, that talented opponent was Ringgold, the team with the most accident prone offense in the league. So did Markham really dominate, or did Ringgold control the game through its bumbling? The Durham/Gwinnett game was un-watchable. The supposed best offense in the league looked indifferent while Gwinnett plumbed the depths of mediocrity.

EMOTIONAL KUTZTOWN FANS LOVE THEIR PLAYERS

The **Tony Romo-to-Greg Jennings** connection is the league's hottest QB-WR tandem, accounting for 58 completions, 7 TD passes and 816 yards of offense. Fans in Kutztown are looking for a nifty nickname for the pair and recently dubbed them the "Dynamic Duo." As a nickname it's a good one, except that its association with Batman and Robin takes away some of the novelty. But that is nothing new in Kutztown.

Fans of the Golden Bears get pretty excited – an emotional bunch, they get riled up over almost anything. In the heat of the moment, they tend to throw out the first nicknames that come to mind – names that leap into consciousness quickly because they already exist. Unfortunately, some of them stick. When **Le'Ron McClain** powered his way through the Virden line for a 1-yard TD run in Week Two, a few excited fans, who remembered how **Mike Alstott** used to run, started calling McClain "A-Train." McClain himself vaguely understands it, assuming the rhyme "A-Train McClain" is the reference, and is now adding the tag to his autograph. Similarly, when Kutztown radio announcer, **Orson Midas**, called **LeSean McCoy's** 52-yard run from scrimmage against Mohave a "sweet way to start the game," overheated fans started calling McCoy "Sweetness." That name lasted a few weeks until a concerted media campaign and friends of Walter Payton pushed fans to finally start calling LeSean the "Real McCoy" instead.

Their penchant for naming their stars is rampant. When **Justin Miller** dodged and weaved his way through the Florida wedge en route to an 88-yard kickoff return for a TD fans likened him to a "Gallop Ghost," a name that has stuck with him in Kutztown ever since – although elsewhere on the Continent the

name conjures up memories of **Red Grange**. When rookie *Aaron Maybin* sacked *Peyton Manning* in Week One, Midas euphorically exclaimed in the broadcast, “lights out, Peyton!” The next day fans were calling Maybin “Lights Out.” This led to angry confusion the next week when the Golden Bears visited Virden, home of the original “Lights Out,” *Shawne Merriman*, and saw placards in the **TERRORDOME** calling for “Lights Out” to “put Tony Romo to bed.” When *Greg Jennings* revealed in an interview that he was taking Spanish lessons so that he could talk to his girlfriend’s family, fans dubbed him ‘Ocho Cinco’ after his jersey number. This apparently had *Chad Johnson* incensed enough that he applied to legally change his name to Ochocinco to formally stake his claim on the nickname. Occasionally they hit on a good one. When *Tony Romo* threw 6 TD passes in one game for the second time in the 2007 season against Anchorage in Week Six, fans started calling him “Golden Boy.” It’s one of their cleverer efforts, but I still remember my father talking about his favourite team, the Green Bay Packers and “Golden Boy” **Paul Hornung**.

I sort of understand how these names were arrived at – even if the link between the player and the name is tenuous or suspicious at best. But when the voice of the Golden Bears, Orson Midas announced during a critical moment in last week’s game against Winnemucca that “Mean Joe” was lining up as a linebacker I had no idea he was referring to *Aaron Smith*. I have since made a number of inquiring calls, but nobody in Kutztown seems prepared to explain how *Aaron Smith* got the nickname “Mean Joe Greene.”

IT’S NOT OVER UNTIL THE FAT LADY SINGS!

Not wanting to dignify her shameful behaviour any longer, I have tried to avoid devoting any more precious ink to Markham’s Gretta Clapper, better known as ‘The Fat Lady in Row 54.’ But the recent movement to make a massive martyr out of this appalling human being is too much for my self-restraint. Somebody has to stand up and say, “*enough!*” Only in a country like Canada would sympathy, official and otherwise, grow exponentially in favour of such a grotesque creature in direct proportion to her provocative outrages.

If you subscribe to that booze-soaked rag, the Markham Economist and Sun, you will know everything you ever wanted to know, and more, about the saga of the Fat Lady. However, if you read civilized papers and periodicals, you may only be dimly aware of recent events in Markham. Since these events have potential repercussions in the civilized world, I will take it upon myself to inform those who of you who are blissfully ignorant, about these recent developments.

As agreed upon in her well-publicized Bail Review, the Fat Lady presented her flabby frame for removal from The Dawg Pound by a Military airlift after the North Stars’ Week Six game against Chino. During this operation, involving a CH-47 Chinook medium-left helicopter, members of the League of Large Ladies formed a human “Girdle of Hope” around the stadium, chanting slogans and singing songs between bites of Blimpy’s triple-cheese bacon burgers and swigs of extra thick Chocolate Oreo milk shakes. They were joined by thousands of North Stars fans and supporters, including elected officials and organizations such as Greenpeace (the connection did not escape me). This conglomeration of the perpetually dissatisfied watched as the Chinook, straining to its limits, slowly and strenuously raised Gretta Clapper from her seat and toward a waiting flat bed truck. However, as she came into view of the spectators she suddenly raised her arms above her head, fists clenched, and shaking with righteous rage bellowed, “*YYEEEEAAAAA OOOOWWWWWW!!!*” In mid-screach one of the steel cables holding her snapped and Clapper tilted violently sideways, coming part way out of her harness and causing the Chinook to veer sharply downward. Trying to avoid a crash, the pilot flipped a switch, releasing the human cargo and causing Clapper to fall about one hundred feet back into the stadium. She landed with a splat at the edge of the 500 level, bursting both of her calves.

The images from the news helicopter footage are horrible. The rain of grease and blood that flowed from the split seams of the Fat Lady’s legs knocked a stadium cleaner over the edge and showered a flock of nearby pigeons that were feeding off garbage in the seats. The cleaner is now in intensive care, clinging to life in a Toronto hospital while the pigeons, deprived of flight, struggle to free themselves from the viscous substance that has coated their wings. Meanwhile, the Fat Lady, apart from an unsightly bloody mess below her knees, is perfectly fine. It turns out that the fat and grease released from her legs actually absorbed most of the shock and prevented serious damage to rest of her frame. The shock of the fall caused a few broken bones in her feet and a concussion, nothing more. She remains ensconced in The Dawg Pound, although in a different section and row. Doctors say she cannot be moved.

One would think the Fat Lady would be facing a new set of charges for recklessly endangering the helicopter pilot, herself, and all of the people on the ground in the immediate area, with her outburst of primal fury. But not only is she not facing charges, she is being eulogized as a victim. It is the pilot of the Chinook who is facing an inquiry and possible charges for jettisoning Clapper from the craft. And now the Crown Attorney is considering dropping all of the original charges against Clapper, for “compassionate” reasons. This, apparently, makes perfect sense in the world where Lanny McDonald was born.

NEW YORK GRIPES

As innocuous and futile as it appeared at the time, **Jason Hanson's** late 40-yard field goal for Cowtown was significant in that it was the first score surrendered by the Florida Dragons in the fourth quarter this season.

What exactly was going on Iowa City this week? The Cubs set EFL records for most rushing attempts and fewest passing attempts in one game in their 24-21 victory over Mohave. Coach, **Deron Redding** clearly had no confidence in a jittery **JP Losman** to do anything except hand the ball off to **Ronnie Brown** and **Brandon Jacobs** all day. Having no confidence in Losman is not the incredible part. The failure of the Hellfire defense to adjust to the Cubs strategy is what is mind-boggling. Coach **Bobby Elder**, architect of the "Run-and-Run" offence, is certainly not beyond devising controversial game plans. But in this case it appears Elder had nothing to do with it directly as he was not even at Joe Ferguson Stadium on game day. Elder was reportedly still digesting an exceedingly large Thanksgiving Dinner and, instead of flying with the team, elected to stay home and eat leftovers. He sent, in his place, a computer program he refers to as the "Call-O-Matic 1000." The Defensive Coordinator was given the task of entering the previous play, down-and-distance, and time remaining into the "Call-O-Matic 1000" after each offensive play and the device would instantly spit back a defense. There were, apparently glitches in the program as it called "run" only four times in 67 rushing plays. While that explains the terrible defensive strategy, nobody is stepping up to take credit for the decision to throw a bomb with a 4-point lead and 2 minutes remaining in the game. That throw was intercepted by **Oshiomogho Atogwe**, who ran it back 64 yards for the winning score.

Markham Economist and Sun correspondent, Lanny McDonald, saw fit to take a run at me in this week's edition of EFL 2009. McDonald takes exception to my observations of the North Stars's performance thus far in 2009, reserving particular scorn for the well-earned C- grade I awarded them in my mid-season "Report Card." Well, all I have to say to the bulbous-nosed, walrus-faced sot from Boonyville, Canada is, *eat my bat shorts you inebriated Joker!!*

SPATS.



IF SPATS LIKES IT....IT'S GOOD!!

PLAY OF THE WEEK

SITUATION

Mohave 21, Iowa City 17, 4th Quarter, 2:00 mark, Hellfire in possession, 1st down & 10 at own 28 yard line. PRO set vs. 3-4-4 Basic package, short ZONE coverage, RUN defense.

RESULT

Kurt Warner throws a bomb to Donald Driver who has outrun his coverage. The only player in the area is safety Oshiomogho Atogwe, who zeroes in on the ball and makes the pick, returning it 64 yards for a touchdown.

ANALYSIS

If Atogwe misses this, it is a TD for Mohave and game over for Iowa City. The Cubs were caught flat-footed but Atogwe saved them and won the game. Cool!

WEEK NINE LEADERS

PASSING

Ryan, M. (GDM)	33-23-311
Romo (KUT)	27-20-298
Rivers (DTL)	31-18-275
Campbell (LAK)	33-22-255
Warner (MOH)	30-23-253

RUSHING

Brown, R. (ICC)	38-181
Benson (LAK)	18-130
Jacobs, B. (ICC)	27-121
Peterson, A. (CHP)	23-98
Lewis, J. (MAR)	24-96

RECEIVING

Johnson, C. (DTL)	7-126
Daniels, O. (MOH)	8-116
White, R. (LAK)	9-110
Jennings (KUT)	6-104
Marshall (FLD)	6-103

LEADER BOARD

STANDINGS

PACIFIC-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood	7	2	0	0.778	245	27.2	128	14.2	13	3 1 0	2 1 0	5 1 0
Kutztown	5	4	0	0.556	189	21	189	21	0	2 3 0	1 2 0	2 4 0
Mohave	3	6	0	0.333	177	19.7	215	23.9	-4.2	2 1 0	2 1 0	2 4 0
Virden	3	6	0	0.333	161	17.9	214	23.8	-5.9	1 4 0	0 3 0	2 4 0

West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Los Angeles	7	2	0	0.778	217	24.1	126	14	10.1	4 1 0	2 1 0	5 1 0
Chino	6	3	0	0.667	180	20	113	12.6	7.4	3 1 0	2 1 0	4 2 0
Iowa City	4	5	0	0.444	157	17.4	183	20.3	-2.9	2 3 0	1 2 0	2 4 0
Winnemucca	1	8	0	0.111	121	13.4	239	26.6	-13.1	0 6 0	1 2 0	1 5 0

CAN-AM CONFERENCE

North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham	7	2	0	0.778	190	21.1	140	15.6	5.6	3 1 0	3 0 0	4 2 0
Cowtown	3	6	0	0.333	174	19.3	203	22.6	-3.2	1 2 0	1 2 0	2 4 0
Markham	3	6	0	0.333	139	15.4	185	20.6	-5.1	2 3 0	1 2 0	2 4 0
Pickering	3	6	0	0.333	169	18.8	239	26.6	-7.8	1 3 0	1 2 0	2 4 0

South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Florida	9	0	0	1	272	30.2	103	11.4	18.8	5 0 0	3 0 0	6 0 0
Garland	5	4	0	0.556	218	24.2	217	24.1	0.1	4 2 0	1 2 0	4 2 0
Gwinnett	4	5	0	0.444	158	17.6	187	20.8	-3.2	1 3 0	2 1 0	3 3 0
Ringgold	2	7	0	0.222	134	14.9	220	24.4	-9.6	1 4 0	0 3 0	1 5 0

PASSING

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Ryan, M	GDM	256	174	68	2186	7	2.7	69	21	8.2	110.3
2	Manning, P	CHP	241	169	70.1	1997	6	2.5	50	16	6.6	106.8
3	Campbell, J	LAK	224	149	66.5	1650	4	1.8	47	14	6.3	101.6
4	Rivers, P	DTL	253	157	62.1	2292	5	2	80	13	5.1	100.4
5	Warner	MOH	226	157	69.5	1736	7	3.1	61	14	6.2	99.7
6	Brees	VV	242	145	59.9	1786	7	2.9	51	13	5.4	88.6
7	Manning,E	PIC	234	139	59.4	1916	8	3.4	74	12	5.1	88.6
8	Rodgers	FLD	223	147	65.9	1631	5	2.2	46	7	3.1	88.6
9	Cassel	GWG	226	140	61.9	1438	4	1.8	41	9	4	86.1
10	Cutler	CHI	268	174	64.9	1710	7	2.6	63	7	2.6	80.6
11	Romo	KUT	266	159	59.8	1735	8	3	41	11	4.1	80.3
12	Roethlisberger	RCH	248	136	54.8	1507	5	2	41	11	4.4	79.5
13	Pennington	COW	295	184	62.4	1933	9	3.1	37	9	3.1	78.8
14	McNabb	MAR	219	131	59.8	1443	7	3.2	67	8	3.7	78.2
15	Edwards, T	ICC	172	110	64	1111	5	2.9	23	3	1.7	76

RUSHING

		Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1	Williams, D	FLD	165	936	5.7	48	16	8	Brown, R	ICC	130	578	4.4	53	3
2	Peterson, A	CHP	165	762	4.6	69	4	9	Barber, M	COW	123	484	3.9	14	5
3	Turner, M	DTL	173	744	4.3	85	3	10	Slaton	MOH	138	443	3.2	80	4
4	Jones, T	GWG	157	691	4.4	69	6	11	Johnson, C	PIC	87	430	4.9	69	3
5	Portis	VV	196	681	3.5	36	0	12	Charles, J	LAK	61	425	7	34	1
6	Lewis, J	MAR	155	635	4.1	17	1	13	McCoy, L	KUT	72	413	5.7	52	1
7	Jacobs, B	ICC	127	614	4.8	49	7	14	Jackson, S	LAK	89	377	4.2	18	1
8	Brown, R	ICC	130	578	4.4	53	3	15	Stewart, J	FLD	80	369	4.6	46	2

RECEIVING

		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD		
1	Jennings, G	KUT	58	816	14.1	62	7	8	Welker	GDM	43	572	13.3	69	8
2	Gonzalez, T	CHP	56	613	10.9	34	7	9	Harrison, M	VV	43	548	12.7	51	7
3	White, R	LAK	56	607	10.8	27	5	10	Marshall, B	FLD	43	612	14.2	43	3
4	Johnson, A	RCH	52	710	13.7	41	5	11	Hester, D	VV	42	650	15.5	35	3
5	Royal, E	RCH	50	426	8.5	33	3	12	Coles	WMO	42	461	11	49	2
6	Boldin	CHI	46	521	11.3	63	3	13	Fitzgerald	ICC	42	500	11.9	31	2
7	Ward, H	CHI	44	501	11.4	37	2	14	Johnson, C	DTL	41	794	19.4	80	4
8	Welker	GDM	43	572	13.3	69	8	15	Houshmandzad	FLD	41	394	9.6	19	0



BRYLCREEM PLAYERS OF THE WEEK *WHO WAS SLICK IN WEEK NINE?*

Brylcreem continues to be a proud sponsor of the EFL

OFFENSE



QB – Peyton Manning, Charleswood Patriots

21 Att, 15 Comp, 218 yards, 2 TDs, 0 INTs, 136.6 QB Rating.
Made key throws to win against a very tough Chino defense.

DEFENSE



OLB – Terrell Suggs, Florida Dragons

7 Tackles, 4 Sacks, 1 Deflection, 1 Forced Fumble.
Snuffed out every promising Cowtown drive.

SPECIAL TEAMS



PR –Santana Moss, Cowtown Corn Kings

4 PR, 0 FC, 87 yards, 21.8 avg., 29 Long.
On a “slow news day” for special teams, Moss was the offence.

INJURY REPORT - *Week Nine*

CHARLESWOOD – A. Thomas (OUT), Burgess (OUT), Alama-Francis (QUESTIONABLE); **CHINO** – Newman (OUT), Boldin (OUT), Cribbs (OUT); **COWTOWN** – Schobel (OUT), Steinbach (OUT), Chatman (OUT); **DURHAM** – None. **FLORIDA** – None; **GARLAND** – M. Williams (OUT), Cushing (OUT); **GWINNETT** – McGee (OUT), D. Smith (OUT), Hardwick (OUT), Burleson (OUT); **IOWA CITY** – Hartsock (OUT), R. Bush (OUT), T. Edwards (DOUBTFUL); **KUTZTOWN** – T. Porter (OUT), D. Landry (OUT), F. Jones (OUT), J. Miller (OUT); **LOS ANGELES** – S. Young (OUT); **MARKHAM** – Engram (OUT), Shockey (OUT), Askew (OUT), A. Hall (OUT), Robbins (OUT); **MOHAVE** – C. Bailey (OUT), Wharton (DOUBTFUL); **PICKERING** – J. Joseph (OUT), F. Davis (OUT), D. Harris (OUT), T. Harris (OUT) Vanden Bosch (OUT); **RINGGOLD** – None. **VIRDEN** – B. Davis (OUT), R. Royal (PROBABLE), S. Rice (OUT); **WINNEMUCCA** – L. Smith (OUT), J. Walker (OUT), J. Griffith (OUT), McAlister (OUT), S. Graham (QUESTIONABLE).



BUG THE BOOKIE!

**JIMMY THE GEEK GIVES YOU HIS PICKS FOR WEEK
TEN EFL ACTION**

YOUR SOURCE FOR FANTASY AND ON-LINE BETTING SOLUTIONS



JIMMY'S WEEK TEN PICKS

GWINNETT @ MARKHAM (LINE – NORTH STARS BY 4)

The Gladiators' offence has dropped off the map and nobody is sure why. I say it's because they aren't getting enough yards per play. (I should really get paid for this!) They are not doing anything obviously wrong – they just aren't getting it done. They are slow off the mark, getting outscored in the first quarter, and tend to get penalized at the exact wrong times. But other than that, everything looks *okay* even though Matt Cassel's top passing game was a meager 205-yard effort against Pickering. The defense is not performing to expectations but those expectations were high. On the other side, the Stars are picking up their game – pushing LA to the wall in a losing cause before winning two straight. Still, they are Markham and can stop playing well without warning. After a bad start, their defense is improving, but does it have the horses, with Fred Robbins out, to shut down the Glads? I say Cassel finally has a 250+ yard passing game.

PICK: GWINNETT

FLORIDA @ PICKERING (LINE – DRAGONS BY 11)

The Spartans continue to lead the league in critical injuries, this week adding Tommie Harris to the list of starters out. When healthy, Pickering can keep it close against the good teams for about three quarters. In their current depleted state, they can't stop anyone and can't keep up with most. Against the seemingly invincible Dragons, this is a very bad combination. The home field and the running game are the only things that could possibly keep them inside the spread in this one. Don't bet on it, though.

PICK: FLORIDA

GARLAND @ COWTOWN (LINE – CORN KINGS BY 2)

Cowtown's slide continues. Although I knowingly went out on a limb predicting them to upset Florida last week, I did not think it was unreasonable to expect a good, close game, regardless of the outcome. Boy, was I wrong! Chad Pennington, who is beginning to look like the main source of the problems in Cowtown, was sacked 7 times and the usually stout Corn king offensive line was pushed around all day. This week they host 2009's Cinderella Squad, the Garland Gladiators and their heroic Prince, Matt Ryan. He tore apart Pickering last week and leads the league in passing. The Garland defense is suspect but not suspect enough to allow the Corn Kings to keep pace offensively. Can things get worse in Cowtown? Yes, they can.

PICK: GARLAND

RINGGOLD @ DURHAM (LINE – THUNDER LIZARDS BY 10)

The Crimson Hawks have a link on their team webpage for fans who want to submit offensive play designs to the coaching squad. If your play is used in a game, you win a prize. If your play results in a first down or a touchdown you win a bigger prize. So far, no plays have been used. I think it's time Ringgold tried some of those plays. They can't possibly be worse than the plays they are running now. Meanwhile, the Thunder Lizards continue to sleepwalk through the season, facing virtually no competition in their Division and winning unconvincingly each week. Look for another unconvincing win this week as Ringgold creates some turnovers to keep it close and Mason Crosby misses a couple more field goals..

PICK: RINGGOLD

CHINO @ VIRDEN (LINE – CONVICTS BY 4)

Chino is smarting after being mauled by Charleswood at home. This week they have a chance to air it out against a pretty awful secondary and a lightweight pass rush. Expect Jay Cutler to move the ball well through the air. Virden was slapped down hard by the Knights last week and this week they face an angry "Lockdown Crew" that is looking to re-establish its reputation. There is only so much Drew Brees can do.

PICK: CHINO

IOWA CITY @ KUTZTOWN (LINE – GOLDEN BEARS BY 6)

Even with their problems in the center of the defensive line, the Golden Bears will not let Iowa City repeat what they did on the ground last week against Mohave without a proper fight. That means JP Losman will have to throw the ball at some point and that's good news for Antoine Winfield. The bad news for Kutztown is that they are facing a pretty tough run defense which means no consistent ground support for Tony Romo. The Kutztown "Golden Boy" is playing on his own here and that could mean something very ugly or very exhilarating for the Bear faithful. I predict a see-saw nail-biter.

PICK: KUTZTOWN

WINNEMUCCA @ MOHAVE (LINE – HELLFIRE BY 8)

The Outlaws did a good job of holding Kutztown to under 30 points last week and if they work hard, they may be able to do the same this week against the Hellfire. Their main offensive weapons are all available and only Chris McAlister remains out on the defensive side of the ball. Mohave should have beaten Iowa City last week but their coaching took a holiday. Only a moderate amount of guidance is needed this week to show them the way past Winnemucca at home. It is unknown if Travelle Wharton will be ready by game time but it should not matter very much as Steve Slaton and Brian Westbrook do not need him to run through the Outlaws' line. But if they do struggle, Kurt Warner is ready with his dueling pistols.

PICK: MOHAVE

LOS ANGELES @ CHARLESWOOD (LINE – PATRIOTS BY 4)

This game tops off three consecutive weeks of potential playoff previews for the Pats. That's a lot of stress for a team, but don't expect them to suffer a letdown here against the Knights. (There is time for that in Week 11 against Pickering) Charleswood wants to serve notice that it is the premiere team in the Pacific-Atlantic Conference and, after roughing up Chino last week, Los Angeles remains the only serious challenger. The Knights are playing a different style of defense from previous years – more disciplined with fewer blitzes. So far it has worked wonders for them as they are neck-and-neck with Florida for the best defense in the league. But they are going to have to dial up some pressure on Peyton Manning or risk having surgery performed on them. LA will have to run, run, run to move the ball against the Pats. If they fall into catch-up mode with Jason Campbell at the helm, it will be "knighty night" for the LA signal-caller.

PICK:

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

HOW I'M DOING AGAINST THE SPREAD

LAST WEEK: 4-4-0

OVERALL: 46-25-1

EFL FOCUS

A weekly tour of Media from around the EFL. This week we focus on.....

MARKHAM



MARKHAM Economist and Sun

Lanny McDonald, beat writer for the Markham North Stars, is well known in the Greater Toronto Area as a former Toronto Maple Leafs player and hockey star. He covers football for the Markham Economist and Sun in order to bring local credibility to the sport. Unfortunately, his football knowledge is rudimentary.....so have patience.

MARKHAM RECEIVES BAD RAP FROM NATIONAL MEDIA PUNDITS

Ringgold - I must admit, like most Markham-mites these days, my journalistic talents have been focused on the recent trial and tribulations of the Fat Lady from Row 54. Like most small market area's - we are "starved" for attention at times. Not since the Canada - Russia Hockey Super Series of 1972 have so many TV dinner's been purchased in Markham as we have all "weighed in" on the notion of "freedom of expression" as it relates to the Fat Lady's behaviour at Markham North Stars home games. But I would like to step back for a moment and report on another foul stench that exudes right under the eyes and bellies of the Markham North Star faithful. And that is the lack of respect for the Markham North Star Football Organization itself by various media pundits and impressionarios.

We have read all too often in recent weeks, the likes of Jimmy the Greek and Spats McChad chime on Markham's futility on and off the field. So I am here to set the record straight and if I get two minutes for high-sticking so be it!

First of all - get your numbers straight Jimmy! Markham is not second last in the league in passing defense as you consistently point out in your weekly picks, overall we rank middle of the pack in pass defense. We expect you to give the betting public the right information. So while you boast to have a strong winning % vs the spread in the overall EFL, yet you have an awful 3-5 record in picking against Markham vs the spread. C'mon Jimmy the Geek - like you did 20 years ago when you worked for that now defunct CBS TV Network - you owe Markham -nation an apology!

Secondly, Chad, grow - up! While I have not met Mr McChad in person, since he declined any face to face interviews with yours truly, I can only assume by your smug mug shot in the EFL Weekly Newsletter, that you are no taller 5 feet. I get a chuckle when I ever I see a commercial on the EFL network, where a small boy is dressed up in a Bat Man costume, standing on a picnic table posing with his hands on his hips and staunch belly pointing out, I wonder if that is really you under the mask.

I mean C-"MON, how else would you describe "a scribe" who hands out a C- on a mid-term report card to practically an expansion team who has taken the likes of the mighty Lizard Kings and Knights to last minute on their turf. How can you give a grade of a C- to a team who has won the time of possession battle in all but two of their games, is that not the point of the sport, who has the puck the most? Granted a 3-6 record reminds me of my days as a Colorado Rockie and spending 19 Million on bonus monies this year seems a little in excess and not very prudent - but that's Markham at its finest, living large and enjoying good tough, grind it out at the dinner table football.

The way I see it, I am giving the Markham North Stars and their hearty fans an "A" - and if you look at closely Markham has two A's in our namesake, more than divisional rivals, Pickering, Cowtown and Durham can producecombined!