

WEEK 12



EFL

2023

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

We're Number 1!

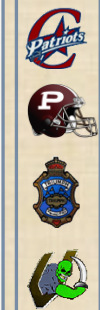
December 24, 2023

TYREEK THE FREAK!

EAST



CENTRAL



WEST



NORTH



COASTAL



SOUTH



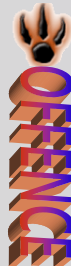
Tyreek Hill Viriden Violators

Violators wide receiver, *Tyreek Hill*, does a backflip after crossing the goal line for a touchdown in Week Twelve action in Bruxelles. The celebration pictured above came after Hill snared a pass on the run from *Patrick Mahomes* and outraced the Bombers' secondary for a 27-yard score to put Viriden in front 23-13 with 7:55 left in the 4th quarter. The Viriden defence held on for the remainder. The Violators, 12-0, now lead the Central by 3 games. (Story inside)



Who was slick
in Week
Twelve?

“Brylcreem” THE
EFL'S FIRST SPONSOR



Cooper Kupp
WR
Durham
Thunder Lizards

10 Rec, 169 Yds, 36 Lg, 4 TDs. In 2nd
game back exploded to key big win.



Yannick Ngakoue
OLB
Cowtown
Corn Kings

4 Tk, 2 Sacks, 2 QB Hits, 1 FF. Strip-
sack led to TD, presence in backfield.


31
13

Deebo Samuel fumbled away the ball at mid-field on the game's opening possession, setting up a 14-yard TD pass from **Ryan Tannehill** to **Courtland Sutton** to kickstart a 21-point 1st half and set the pace for a decisive Peg City victory. Tannehill connected on TD passes of 6 yards to **Jakobi Meyers** and 40-yards to **Brandon Aiyuk** and **Jalen Ramsey** scooped up **Aidan Hutchinson's** strip sack of **Daniel Jones** for a 37-yard fumble return TD to round out the major scoring. **Matt Stafford** started at QB for NJ but was ineffective and replaced by Jones in the 2nd quarter.

12-31-2023 Stone Pony Shore Temp:49 Wind:5-15 None Line:PCC by 1 MVP:Tannehill HFA:

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Peg City (9-3)	7	14	0	10	31
2023 New Jersey (5-7)	0	3	3	7	13

Passing

PCC: Tannehill 24/20 295 Yds 3 TDs

NJ: Jones 31/23 274 Yds, Stafford 8/5 19 Yds

Rushing

PCC: Barkley 17/38, Tannehill 7/21, Kamara 2/4, Ingold 1/2

NJ: Jones 6/41 TD, Samuel 1/9, McKinnon 2/6, Montgomery 2/2

Receiving

PCC: Meyers 5/54 TD, Sutton 4/49 TD, Everett 3/53, Kamara 3/51, Aiyuk 3/66 TD

NJ: Hutchinson 9/151, McLaurin 7/46, Montgomery 5/10, Doubs 3/30, McKinnon 3/44

Defense

PCC: Allen 3-Sks 4-Tk, Hutchinson 2-Sks FF 2-Tk, Jones 2-Sks 5-Tk, Ramsey 10-Tk

NJ: Odighizuwa 2-Sks 6-Tk, Heyward Sk 8-Tk, Newsome II Sk 5-Tk, Hughes Sk 3-Tk

Injuries

PCC:

NJ: Allen 4, Awuzie 3

Misc

PCC: Humphrey FR, Ramsey FR TD, Koo 1/1 FG 42 Lg

NJ: Samuel F-L, Jones F-L, Ryland 2/2 FG 48 Lg


38

0

The game began with two big red zone stops. Buffalo was turned away on 4th & 5 at the Triumph 7. In turn, the Triumph were turned away when **Jeff Wilson** fumbled at the Derailler 10. The game broke when **Kerby Joseph** picked off **Lamar Jackson** at the Buffalo 7 late in the 1st half. **Trevor Lawrence** checked it down to Wilson for the opening TD, which set off a string of 38 unanswered Triumph points. Lawrence threw 3 more TD passes and Wilson would run one in from 3 yards, while Buffalo was buried on two 4th down gambles in their own end in a vain comeback attempt.

12-31-2023 Highmark Stadium Temp:28 Wind:Calm Light Snow Line:TCT by 4 MVP:Lawrence HFA:

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Twin Cities (8-4)	0	14	14	10	38
2023 Buffalo (3-9)	0	0	0	0	0

Passing

TCT: Lawrence 37/26 364 Yds 4 TDs

BUF: Jackson 33/25 180 Yds Int

Rushing

TCT: Wilson 14/56 TD, Edwards-Helaire 6/39, Abanikanda 6/22, Duvernay 1/15

BUF: Dillon 11/47, Abdullah 4/6, Woods 1/1

Receiving

TCT: Duvernay 5/103, Lockett 5/66, Higbee 5/52 2 TDs, Moore 4/75 TD, Wilson 3/16 TD

BUF: Westbrook-Ikhine 5/69, Abdullah 4/24, Woods 4/37, Fant 4/22, Toney 3/11

Defense

TCT: Joseph Int 7-Tk, Hunter Sk 6-Tk, McNeill Sk 3-Tk, Wagner 8-Tk

BUF: Wilson FF 9-Tk, Sneed 10-Tk

Injuries

TCT: Stingley Jr. 3

BUF: Reynolds 2, Thibodeaux 1, Horn 1

Misc

TCT: Wilson F-L, Hopkins 1/1 FG 26 LG

BUF: Thibodeaux FR



14



23

A **Montrell Washington** fumble at the Cobb County 28 set up an early 15-yard TD pass from **Kenny Pickett** to **Travis Kelce** and a 43-yard kickoff return by **Isaiah Rodgers** led to Kelce's second TD, from 21 yards, to give the Pats an early 14-3 lead. But **Travis Etienne** responded immediately on the Coyotes next possession with a 75-yard TD run to make it 14-10. From then on, the Coyotes took control on both sides of the ball. **Bryce Young** hit **DeVante Parker** for a 16-yard TD pass to gain the lead, the 'D' held, and **Jake Moody** added two FGs to push the game out of reach.

12-31-2023 Coyote Field Temp:71 Wind:Calm None Line:CB by 7 MVP:Young HFA:ON(3)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Charleswood (3-9)	14	0	0	0	14
2023 Cobb County (5-7)	10	7	3	3	23

Passing

CHP: Pickett 25/17 152 Yds 2 TDs Int
CB: Young 31/21 286 Yds TD

Rushing

CHP: Pacheco 19/97, Pickett 6/31, Singletary 6/15, Gibson 5/8
CB: Etienne 14/103 TD, Cook 5/5, Young 3/4

Receiving

CHP: Kelce 7/85 2 TDs, Smith-Schuster 4/25, Agholor 3/16, Gibson 2/25, Singletary 1/1
CB: Addison 6/108, Pittman Jr. 6/55, Musgrave 4/55, Parker 3/58 TD, Cook 1/3

Defense

CHP: Carter 2-Sks 8-Tk, Queen 9-Tk, Holland 8-Tk
CB: Oluokun 15-Tk, Bates Int 7-Tk, Uche Sk 3-Tk, Graham Sk 3-Tk

Injuries

CHP: Ojabo 4, Chark 3, Dobbins 2, Jenkins 1
CB: Turner 4, Jackson 2, Adams 2, Allen 1, Musgrave 1

Misc

CHP: Tunsil FR, Smith-Schuster F-L, Rodgers 3/99 KR 43 Lg, Lutz 0/1 FG
CB: Washingtonn F-L, Bates FR, Moody 3/5 FG 43 Lg



23



13

Patrick Mahomes dodged the blitz and found **Tyreek Hill** for a 27-yard TD pass at the 7:55 mark of the 4th to put Virden in front by two scores, 23-13. Safety, **Trevon Moehrig** then intercepted **Justin Fields** at the Virden 16 with 2:03 left to all but clinch the game and keep the Violators perfect on the season. The divisional leaders battled to a 13-13 draw in the 1st half. Mahomes hit Hill deep for a 42-yard TD pass to open the scoring, but Bruxelles answered with a 38-yard TD pass to **DeAndre Hopkins**, while the kickers traded a pair of FGs each. Picks against both QBs kept things slow in the 3rd.

12-31-2023 The Fortress Temp:77 Wind: Line:WV by 5 MVP:Mahomes HFA:ON(4)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Virden (12-0)	7	6	3	7	23
2023 Bruxelles (8-4)	3	10	0	0	13

Passing

WV: Mahomes 45/25 307 Yds 2 TDs Int
BRX: Fields 20/15 171 Yds TD 2 Int

Rushing

WV: Mahomes 6/44, Mitchell 3/19, Freeman 6/13, Akers 3/8
BRX: Herbert 7/37, Foreman 8/34, Fournette 9/22, Fields 9/4

Receiving

WV: Freeman 6/21, Hill 5/111 2 TDs, Hockenson 4/44, Olave 4/63, Davis 3/51
BRX: Collins 5/46, Hopkins 4/77 TD, Fournette 3/26, Dulcich 2/18, Wilson 1/4

Defense

WV: Judon 2-Sks 6-Tk, Williams Sk 9-Tk, Mosley 12-Tk, Moehrig Int 6-Tk, Clark Sk
BRX: Wilson 13-Tk, Smith Int 6-Tk

Injuries

WV: Mitchell 4, Mills 3, Morse 2, Humphries 1, Conner 1, Akers 1
BRX: Maye 4, Hopkins 3

Misc

WV: Prater 3/3 FG 48 Lg
BRX: Maher 2/2 FG 48 Lg



23



34

The turning point came in the 3rd quarter when **Lorenzo Carter** picked off **Derek Carr** and returned it 21 yards to the Cub's 13. That set up a 13-yard TD pass from **Jared Goff** to **Sterling Shepard** to give Chino a 24-16 lead. They would not look back. It was the second of 3 TD passes for Goff, who threw a 7-yard score to **Hayden Hurst** and a 6-yard TD to **Tyler Boyd** to complete the hat trick. The Cubs led 16-14 at halftime, with 3 **Justin Tucker** FGs supplementing a 13-yard TD pass from **Russell Wilson** to **Christian Kirk**. Carr added a 77-yard TD bomb to **AJ Brown** to complete the scoring.

12-31-2023 The Big House Temp:62 Wind:0-10 None Line:CHI by 4 MVP:Goff HFA:ON(

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Iowa City (4-8)	10	6	0	7	23
2023 Chino (7-5)	7	7	17	3	34

Passing

ICC: Wilson 19/13 196 Yds TD, Carr 13/9 168 Yds TD 3 Int

CHI: Goff 34/26 287 Yds 3 TDs

Rushing

ICC: Johnson 11/60, Wilson 4/13, Carter 5/11, Evans 1/6

CHI: McCaffrey 12/120 TD, Shenault 1/45, Jackson 4/25, Jones 2/11, Goff 1/2

Receiving

ICC: Brown 5/166 TD, Kirk 5/62 TD, Carter 4/65, Johnson 3/29, Palmer 2/15, Miller 2/18

CHI: Boyd 6/64 TD, Shepard 5/73 TD, Hurst 4/46 TD, Jones 4/27, Campbell 3/35

Defense

ICC: Jewell 10-Tk, Cross FF 5-Tk

CHI: Franklin 2-FF 8-Tk, Smith Sk 5-Tk, Ward Int 5-Tk, Anudike-Uzomah Sk 4-Tk

Injuries

ICC: Johnson 4, Brown 4, Paschal 3, Hooker 1

CHI: Mooney 4, Igwebuike 4, Miller 1

Misc

ICC: Hainsey FR, Tucker 3/3 FG 53 Lg

CHI: Baun F-L, Butker 2/2 FG 32 Lg



20



12

Signed off the practice squad during the week, RB **Darrel Williams** scored on his first series with the Pilots, taking a pitch 17 yards for the game's opening TD. Seattle stayed in front the rest of the way, running the ball a total of 53 times for a total of 213 yards and 2 TDs to overcome the Bats. Another practice squad signing, RB **Darrynton Evans**, scored the Pilots' other TD on a 2-yard dive up the middle late in the 3rd quarter to make it 20-6 at the time. The Bats gained just 172 total yards on 10 1st downs, scored just 1 TD in 4 trips to the red zone and turned the ball over on downs 3 times.

12-31-2023 Veteran Field Temp:38 Wind:0-10 Light Rain Line:SEA by 2 MVP:Williams HFA:ON(

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Seattle (3-9)	7	3	10	0	20
2023 Billtown (1-11)	3	3	0	6	12

Passing

SEA: Wentz 13/9 60 Yds Int

BB: Herbert 31/16 139 Yds TD

Rushing

SEA: Williams 24/89 TD, Hunt 13/83, Evans 12/43 TD, Deguara 1/1

BB: Breida 9/30, Spears 6/22, Herbert 2/22

Receiving

SEA: Dell 3/19, Lamb 1/8, Deguara 1/13, Hunt 1/2, Evans 1/8, Miller 1/6, Moreau 1/5

BB: Dulin 5/62 TD, Watkins 4/32, Beck 2/11, Breida 2/17, Kincaid 1/11, Brown 1/6

Defense

SEA: White 13-Tk, Mack Sk 5-Tk, Metellus Sk 4-Tk, Nwosu Sk 3-Tk

BB: Davis 20-Tk, Wise Jr. 8-Tk

Injuries

SEA: Washington 4, Renfrow 3, Sermon 2, Murphy-Bunting 2, McDuffie 2, Jackson 1

BB: Thomas 8, Bryant 6, Harris 3, Elliss 3, Hodgins 1, Leonard 1, Vea 1, Fuller 1

Misc

SEA: McPherson 2/3 FG 59 Lg

BB: Fairbairn 2/2 FG 34 Lg



17



43

Josh Allen threw 5 TD passes, 4 to Cooper Kupp and all of them in the 1st half, to lead the Thunder Lizards to a complete blowout of the Cadillac. It started when Cody Barton intercepted Teddy Bridgewater on the game's first play from scrimmage and returned it 39 yards for a TD. Kupp tacked on the first of his TDs, a 36-yard catch-and-run, before Nyheim Hines offered resistance with a 104-yard kickoff return for a TD. Allen then peeled off TD passes of 17, 26 and 5 yards to Kupp, the second set up by Barton's second interception. The game was essentially over after 30 minutes.

12-31-2023 Jurassic Park Temp:73 Wind:Calm None Line:ERI by 2 MVP:Kupp HFA:ON(

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Erieau (5-7)	7	3	7	0	17
2023 Durham (9-3)	27	13	0	3	43

Passing

ERI: Bridgewater 18/8 45 Yds 2 Int

DTL: Allen 20/14 240 Yds 5 TDs, Mayfield 5/3 27 Yds

Rushing

ERI: Bridgewater 4/49 TD, Harris 12/35, Pierce 7/25, Hines 1/2

DTL: Allgeier 16/82, Mattison 11/50, Allen 4/37, Tucker 8/26, Mayfield 3/7

Receiving

ERI: Andrews 3/10, Waddle 1/19, Henry 1/6, Higgins 1/4, Harris 1/3, Michel 1/3

DTL: Kupp 10/169 4 TDs, Waller 3/30, Samuel 2/60 TD, Mattison 2/8

Defense

ERI: Garrett Sk 6-Tk, Crosby FF 8-Tk, Hamilton 10-Tk, Golden 10-Tk, McLeod 9-Tk

DTL: Barton 2-Int(TD) 3-Tk, Burns Sk 9-Tk, Hendrickson Sk 5-Tk

Injuries

ERI: Robinson 4, Jones 1, Takitaki 1

DTL: Penny 3, Oliver 1

Misc

ERI: Golden FR, Hines 1/104 KR 104 Lg TD, Myers 1/1 FG 26 Lg

DTL: Tucker F-L, Santos 1/1 FG 44 Lg



10



22

Yannick Ngakoue sacked Jacoby Brissett twice and forced a fumble that Patrick Peterson returned 63 yards for a TD to give Cowntown a 19-7 lead late in the 2nd. Joey Slye then tacked on a 48-yard FG as time expired in the 1st half to give the Corn Kings all the points they would need. Eddie Pineiro's 35-yard FG the only score of the 2nd half, as the Cowntown defence held firm. The Irish led early on a Zach Charbonnet 6-yard TD run, set up by a Marcus Epps interception, that gave the Irish an early lead. It was erased by a 44-yard TD pass from Andy Dalton to Kendrick Bourne.

12-27-2023 Tillman Field Temp:30 Wind:5-15 *Internet* Line:COW by 7 MVP:Ngakoue HFA:ON(3)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 East Elmhurst (5-7)	7	0	3	0	10
2023 Cowntown (7-5)	3	19	0	0	22

Passing

EE: Brissett 25/12 116 Yds Int, Darnold 19/7 80 Yds

COW: Dalton 22/15 169 Yds TD Int

Rushing

EE: Charbonnet 12/49 TD, Brissett 5/46, Huntley 8/26, Darnold 2/10

COW: Williams 12/57, Murray 12/27, Benjamin 2/14, Dalton 4/10

Receiving

EE: Metcalf 9/147, Moore 5/33, Skowronek 2/17, Charbonnet 1/0, Williams 1/2

COW: Bourne 4/71 TD, Evans 4/32, Lazard 3/44, Murray 3/17, McKenzie 1/5

Defense

EE:

COW: Smith 19-Tk, Ngakoue 2-Sks FF 4-Tk, Jefferson 2-Sks 2-Tk, Watt Sk 4-Tk

Injuries

EE: Barrett 3, Smith 1

COW: Chinn 3, Ioannidis 3, Davis 1

Misc

EE: Brissett F-L, Pineiro 1/1 FG 35 Lg

COW: Peterson FR TD, Slye 3/4 FG 48 Lg



Jahmyr Gibbs broke through the middle of the line for a 14-yard TD run, CJ Stroud hit Dallas Goedert for a 16-yard TD pass and Greg Joseph was a perfect two of two kicking field goals but missed both his extra-point attempts to account for 18 LaPlata points. This was enough to overcome Sebastian on a day when **Kirk Cousins** was sacked 9 times and pressured relentlessly in the pocket. **Haason Reddick** led the sack parade with 4, while **JJ Watt** had 2 sacks and 2 QB hits. **Nick Chubb** marked the board for Sebastian with a 5-yard TD run and **Skyy Moore** added a late TD catch.

12-31-2023 The Fish Tank Temp:76 Wind:Calm Line:LPB by 2 MVP:Reddick HFA:ON(

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 LaPlata (6-6)	0	15	0	3	18
2023 Sebastian (2-10)	0	0	0	13	13

Passing

LPB: Stroud 30/21 228 Yds TD
 SS: Cousins 35/21 178 Yds TD

Rushing

LPB: Gibbs 13/68 TD, Boone 10/34, Stroud 7/21, Mixon 5/12
 SS: Chubb 15/45 TD, Moss 1/7, Cousins 1/2, Horvath 1/2

Receiving

LPB: Adams 8/106, Gibbs 5/32, Goedert 4/50 TD, Thielen 4/40
 SS: Schultz 7/51, Peoples-Jones 4/62, Chubb 3/11, Jones 3/17, Moore 2/19 TD

Defense

LPB: Reddick 4-Sks 4-Tk, Watt 2-Sks 4-Tk, Clark 10-Tk, Simmons Sk 3-Tk
 SS: Jenkins 9-Tk, Reid FF 6-Tk

Injuries

LPB: Vera-Tucker 2, Adebo 2, Mixon 1
 SS: Taylor 5, Vickers 4, Fulton 2, Deablo 2, Gallup 1, Perryman 1

Misc

LPB: Joseph 2/2 FG 45 Lg
 SS:



Marcus Mariota finished a 17-play, 80-yard drive with a 5-yard TD pass to **Diontae Johnson** to put the Gladiators in control 24-7 with 1:25 left in the 3rd. **Joe Burrow** responded with TD passes of 24 and 15 yards to **Marvin Mims Jr** but those scores were matched by two **Tyler Bass** FGs, of 56 and 43 yards, to keep Georgia comfortably in front. The Glads got off to an early 14-0 lead, scoring on an 18-yard checkdown to **Rhamondre Stevenson** and a **Josh Jacobs** 1-yard TD run on their first two possessions of the game. **Samaje Perine** scored on a 4-yard run for the first Blue Eagles score.

12-31-2023 The Eagles Nest Temp:33 Wind:0-10 None Line:GEO by 6 MVP:Mariota HFA:0

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Georgia (8-4)	14	3	7	6	30
2023 Scarborough (2-10)	0	7	7	8	22

Passing

GEO: Mariota 25/19 205 Yds 2 TDs
 SBE: Burrow 25/20 182 Yds 2 TDs Int

Rushing

GEO: Jacobs 23/125 TD, Mariota 11/53, Stevenson 7/41
 SBE: Cook 12/57, Perine 2/13 TD

Receiving

GEO: Cooper 7/96, Johnson 6/55 TD, Stevenson 5/47 TD, Ertz 1/7
 SBE: Cook 5/17, Landry 4/46, Mims Jr. 3/51 2 TDs, Perine 2/12, Robinson 2/11

Defense

GEO: Smith Sk 5-Tk, Jones Sk FF Tk, Ward Int 3-Tk, McCloud Sk 3-Tk
 SBE: Smith-Williams Sk 5-Tk, Walker Sk 4-Tk, Bosa 8-Tk, Speed 8-Tk

Injuries

GEO:
 SBE:

Misc

GEO: Bass 3/3 FG 56 Lg
 SBE: Haskins 1/61 KR 61 Lg



38



3

Jalen Hurts TD runs of 1 and 11 yards sandwiched a 1-yard TD pass to Patrick Ricard on Pickering's first three possessions and Mile Sanders added TD runs of 6 and 14 yards on their next two to vault the Spartans into an insurmountable 35-0 lead over York by halftime. Two of those TDs were set up by interceptions of Tom Brady by Javon Kinlaw and Kyle Dugger. Rookie QB, Anthony Richardson saw his first sustained action for York, replacing Brady in the 3rd, but was unable to change the direction of the game. Sanders rushed for over 100 yards for his fourth straight game.

12-31-2023 Camelot Temp:42 Wind:0-5 None Line:PIC by 6 MVP:Hurts HFA:ON(3)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Pickering (11-1)	14	21	0	3	38
2023 York (6-6)	0	0	3	0	3

Passing

PIC: Hurts 15/11 151 Yds TD, Wilson 4/4 34 Yds
YOR: Brady 18/8 51 Yds 2 Int, Richardson 9/4 30 Yds

Rushing

PIC: Sanders 16/112 2 TDs, Gray 15/74, White 8/26, Hurts 5/21 2 TDs, Wilson 1/3
YOR: Henry 12/47, Scott 5/39, Richardson 5/13, St. Brown 1/10

Receiving

PIC: Smith 5/57, Pickens 2/30, White 2/24, James Jr. 2/47, Sanders 1/8, Ricard 1/1 TD
YOR: St. Brown 8/62, Williams 2/12, Davis 1/3, Kmet 1/4

Defense

PIC: Lawrence FF 6-Tk, Woolen 8-Tk
YOR: Holcomb 13-Tk

Injuries

PIC: Brown 4, Graham 2, Gay 1
YOR: Thomas 6, Tonga 5, Mathis 3, Zuniga 3, Guy 2, Smith 2, Ojulari 1, Williams 1

Misc

PIC: 37:15 TOP, Zuerlein 1/1 FG 33 Lg
YOR: Scott 3/111 KR 41 Lg, Gould 1/1 FG 48 Lg



33



6

The Hawks drove inside the Budapest 5-yard line on their first two possessions and came away with FGs. Their early 6-0 lead was wiped out by a 98-yard kickoff return for a TD by Cordarrell Patterson, but Nick Folk missed the extra point to keep it tied. Brooklin then went for it on 4th & inches at their own 35 but were denied, setting up a short drive that ended with Aaron Rodgers sneaking it in from 2 yards out to make it 13-6. Two turnovers by Geno Smith to start the 2nd half set up 10 Budapest points in the 3rd, then in the 4th, Patterson added a 3-yard TD run to claim his game-MVP title.

12-31-2023 Hawkeye Park Temp:25 Wind:0-5 None No Line MVP:Patterson HFA:ON(3)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2023 Budapest (9-3)	6	7	10	10	33
2023 Brooklin (6-6)	6	0	0	0	6

Passing

BUD: Rodgers 22/12 100 Yds
BRH: Smith 19/14 87 Yds Int

Rushing

BUD: Patterson 12/72 TD, Mostert 7/31 TD, Achane 7/11, Reynolds 1/9, Rodgers 2/1 TD
BRH: Robinson 13/113, Ekeler 14/98, Davis 5/21, Smith 5/8

Receiving

BUD: Mostert 4/17, Kittle 3/37, Diggs 2/26, Jefferson 1/11, Achane 1/2, Patterson 1/7
BRH: Ekeler 7/27, Hollins 3/19, Engram 2/14, London 1/18, Claypool 1/9

Defense

BUD: Stewart Sk 8-Tk, Fitzpatrick Int 5-Tk, David 10-Tk
BRH: Tranquill 10-Tk

Injuries

BUD:
BRH: McKinney 5, Bolles 5, Clark 3, Curl 2, Hubbard 1

Misc

BUD: David FR, Patterson 2/129 KR 98 LG TD, Folk 2/2 FG 38 Lg
BRH: Smith F-L, Bullock 2/2 23 Lg



WEEK TWELVE

STANDINGS & STATS

2023 EFL - Week 12 Standings

East	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Bruxelles	8	4	0	.667	L2	308	25.7	230	19.2	6.5	4 2 0	3 1 0	6 3 0
Cobb County	5	7	0	.417	W1	288	24.0	308	25.7	-1.7	3 3 0	3 1 0	4 5 0
New Jersey	5	7	0	.417	L3	211	17.6	236	19.7	-2.1	1 5 0	1 3 0	4 5 0
Buffalo	3	9	0	.250	L3	197	16.4	322	26.8	-10.4	2 4 0	1 3 0	3 6 0
Central	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Virден	12	0	0	1.000	W12	432	36.0	141	11.8	24.3	6 0 0	3 0 0	9 0 0
Peg City	9	3	0	.750	W1	262	21.8	228	19.0	2.8	4 2 0	2 1 0	8 1 0
Twin Cities	8	4	0	.667	W1	326	27.2	231	19.3	7.9	4 3 0	1 2 0	6 3 0
Charleswood	3	9	0	.250	L2	225	18.8	320	26.7	-7.9	1 6 0	0 3 0	1 8 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Chino	7	5	0	.583	W1	245	20.4	260	21.7	-1.3	4 2 0	3 1 0	5 4 0
Iowa City	4	8	0	.333	L4	315	26.3	394	32.8	-6.6	1 4 0	3 1 0	4 5 0
Seattle	3	9	0	.250	W1	196	16.3	336	28.0	-11.7	1 5 0	2 2 0	3 6 0
Billtown	1	11	0	.083	L7	180	15.0	322	26.8	-11.8	0 7 0	0 4 0	1 8 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham	9	3	0	.750	W4	362	30.2	258	21.5	8.7	4 2 0	3 1 0	7 2 0
Cowtown	7	5	0	.583	W3	278	23.2	240	20.0	3.2	3 3 0	3 1 0	6 3 0
Sebastian	2	10	0	.167	L3	224	18.7	365	30.4	-11.8	0 5 0	1 3 0	2 7 0
Scarborough	2	10	0	.167	L1	257	21.4	329	27.4	-6.0	0 5 0	1 3 0	1 8 0
Coastal	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Pickering	11	1	0	.917	W2	390	32.5	156	13.0	19.5	6 0 0	4 0 0	8 1 0
Budapest	9	3	0	.750	W3	308	25.7	222	18.5	7.2	4 1 0	1 3 0	6 3 0
York	6	6	0	.500	L1	276	23.0	291	24.3	-1.3	2 4 0	2 2 0	4 5 0
Brooklin	6	6	0	.500	L1	264	22.0	288	24.0	-2.0	4 3 0	1 3 0	4 5 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Georgia	8	4	0	.667	W3	343	28.6	285	23.8	4.8	3 3 0	3 0 0	6 3 0
LaPlata	6	6	0	.500	W2	230	19.2	219	18.3	0.9	4 2 0	2 1 0	5 4 0
East Elmhurst	5	7	0	.417	L1	217	18.1	307	25.6	-7.5	3 3 0	1 2 0	2 7 0
Erieau	5	7	0	.417	L1	256	21.3	302	25.2	-3.8	2 4 0	0 3 0	3 6 0

	Passing	G	Att	Cmp	C%	Yds	Y/C	Lg	25	50	In	I%	Td	Td%	Sk	Rate
1 Hurts	PIC	12	247	167	67.6	2414	14.5	50	22	1	3	1.2	20	8.1	7	121.1
2 Mahomes	VV	12	425	269	63.3	3731	13.9	75	32	0	9	2.1	42	9.9	9	115.5
3 Wilson	ICC	11	197	126	64.0	1750	13.9	67	20	0	4	2.0	14	7.1	14	107.6
4 Tannehill	PCC	8	221	146	66.1	1783	12.2	57	11	0	3	1.4	14	6.3	19	106.2
5 Tagovailoa	GEO	9	302	188	62.3	2713	14.4	49	29	0	11	3.6	26	8.6	5	104.9
6 Stroud	LPB	10	211	147	69.7	1736	11.8	42	9	0	7	3.3	14	6.6	16	102.7
7 Garoppolo	COW	8	259	172	66.4	1955	11.4	57	11	1	5	1.9	13	5.0	14	97.6
8 Burrow	SBE	12	347	230	66.3	2199	9.6	65	14	0	8	2.3	22	6.3	15	95.3
9 Allen	DTL	12	366	212	57.9	2847	13.4	58	25	0	12	3.3	25	6.8	15	91.9
10 Lawrence	TCT	12	402	249	61.9	2827	11.4	44	24	0	7	1.7	18	4.5	14	90.7
11 Smith	BRH	12	423	283	66.9	2709	9.6	47	17	0	9	2.1	18	4.3	20	89.8
12 Rodgers	BUD	12	395	246	62.3	2850	11.6	74	24	0	11	2.8	20	5.1	16	89.3
13 Murray	ERI	8	262	174	66.4	1715	9.9	69	9	0	4	1.5	8	3.1	15	88.5
14 Goff	CHI	12	416	270	64.9	2543	9.4	57	10	0	6	1.4	14	3.4	12	86.8
15 Young	CB	12	412	244	59.2	3021	12.4	52	17	0	12	2.9	20	4.9	25	86.0
16 Brissett	EE	10	307	197	64.2	1850	9.4	44	12	0	5	1.6	11	3.6	26	85.8
17 Jones	NJ	12	336	230	68.5	1926	8.4	54	9	0	5	1.5	9	2.7	33	85.7
18 Jackson	BUF	12	387	259	66.9	2248	8.7	73	9	0	8	2.1	13	3.4	41	84.6
19 Brady	YOR	12	430	273	63.5	2722	10.0	66	13	0	11	2.6	15	3.5	12	82.3
20 Fields	BRX	12	258	162	62.8	1920	11.9	52	18	0	10	3.9	9	3.5	21	80.9
21 Wentz	SEA	11	268	179	66.8	1643	9.2	74	12	0	11	4.1	11	4.1	15	79.9
22 Pickett	CHP	12	356	215	60.4	2085	9.7	45	11	0	10	2.8	14	3.9	31	78.2
23 Herbert	BB	12	455	286	62.9	2548	8.9	72	10	0	11	2.4	13	2.9	34	77.2
24 Cousins	SS	12	460	297	64.6	2782	9.4	62	16	0	15	3.3	13	2.8	35	76.9
25 Carr	ICC	11	223	124	55.6	1730	14.0	77	18	0	14	6.3	14	6.3	5	75.5

	Kick Returns	G	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	Td	Punt Returns	G	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Lg	Td	
1 Powell	PCC	12	25	554	22.2	38	0	1 Covey	YOR	12	37	6	519	14.0	86	1
2 Jackson	CHI	12	18	537	29.8	50	0	2 Turpin	BRX	12	32	13	463	14.5	52	0
3 Hines	ERI	12	13	514	39.5	104	2	3 Washington	CB	12	35	6	362	10.3	91	1
4 Rodgers	CHP	12	16	497	31.1	51	0	4 Carter	COW	12	29	9	361	12.4	27	0
5 Williams	BUF	12	23	493	21.4	36	0	5 Duvernay	TCT	12	30	10	331	11.0	20	0
6 Agnew	GEO	12	19	466	24.5	45	0	6 McCloud	PCC	12	27	14	306	11.3	23	0
7 Nixon	BRX	12	16	452	28.3	39	0	7 Raymond	BUD	12	18	19	282	15.7	63	1
8 Haskins	SBE	12	17	434	25.5	61	0	8 Hines	ERI	12	27	13	267	9.9	30	0
9 Berrios	LPB	12	15	414	27.6	47	0	9 Williams	SS	12	22	12	267	12.1	20	0
10 Scott	YOR	12	12	412	34.3	70	0	10 Taylor	NJ	12	20	10	192	9.6	31	0
11 Carter	COW	12	18	408	22.7	36	0	11 Dell	SEA	12	26	5	181	7.0	29	0
12 Scott	DTL	12	15	373	24.9	40	0	12 Berrios	LPB	12	17	19	169	9.9	17	0
13 Brightwell	NJ	12	16	357	22.3	35	0	13 Agnew	GEO	12	22	9	168	7.6	16	0
14 Jones	ICC	12	12	327	27.3	35	0	14 Woods	BUF	12	26	5	154	5.9	28	0
15 Sims	VV	12	11	322	0.0	48	0	15 Reed	SBE	12	16	8	149	9.3	35	0
16 Duvernay	TCT	12	11	313	0.0	101	1	16 Sims	VV	12	17	22	146	8.6	25	0
17 Williams	SS	12	14	299	21.4	32	0	17 Jones	ICC	12	15	4	122	8.1	12	0
18 Gray	PIC	12	12	291	24.3	42	0	18 Smith	CHI	12	17	4	110	6.5	21	0
19 Patterson	BUD	9	8	280	0.0	98	1	19 Gray	PIC	12	14	17	96	6.9	15	0
20 Washington	BRH	12	15	271	18.1	41	0	20 Rodgers	EE	11	9	10	88	0.0	16	0
21 Washington	CB	12	13	235	18.1	29	0	21 Washington	BRH	12	18	6	83	4.6	16	0
22 Mingo	SEA	12	13	167	12.8	27	0	22 Milne	BUD	10	9	3	79	0.0	16	0
23 Covey	YOR	12	8	166	0.0	27	0	23 Holland	CHP	12	14	3	78	5.6	16	0
24 Spears	BB	12	9	155	0.0	27	0	24 Palmer	DTL	12	8	32	77	0.0	22	0
25 Johnston	EE	12	11	147	0.0	22	0	25 Bryant	BB	12	12	12	74	6.2	15	0

Rushing		G	Att	Yds	Avg	Gain	10	25	50	FD	Lg	Td	Att/G	Yds/G
1 Henry	YOR	12	275	1197	4.4	82.5	27	0	0	62	79	12	22.9	99.8
2 Sanders	PIC	12	225	1051	4.7	82.7	29	0	0	51	32	11	18.8	87.6
3 Chubb	SS	12	236	999	4.2	82.6	31	0	0	64	44	9	19.7	83.3
4 Jacobs	GEO	12	221	988	4.5	82.8	23	0	0	51	68	6	18.4	82.3
5 Fields	BRX	12	146	932	6.4	80.8	41	0	0	65	56	13	12.2	77.7
6 Cook	SBE	12	203	895	4.4	80.3	19	0	0	42	64	4	16.9	74.6
7 Williams	COW	12	189	823	4.4	81.5	21	2	1	39	55	12	15.8	68.6
8 Jackson	BUF	12	141	817	5.8	72.3	29	0	0	51	74	6	11.8	68.1
9 Wilson	TCT	11	126	806	6.4	80.2	20	1	0	37	52	10	11.5	73.3
10 Robinson	BRH	12	119	710	6.0	84.9	15	0	0	36	63	3	9.9	59.2
11 Gibbs	LPB	12	124	705	5.7	78.2	21	0	0	32	62	5	10.3	58.8
12 Dillon	BUF	12	170	703	4.1	81.8	17	0	0	44	27	3	14.2	58.6
13 McCaffrey	CHI	12	151	698	4.6	73.5	15	0	0	41	54	9	12.6	58.2
14 Etienne	CB	12	138	694	5.0	67.4	19	0	0	28	88	3	11.5	57.8
15 Walker III	SEA	11	145	655	4.5	81.4	20	0	0	30	40	2	13.2	59.5
16 Allgeier	DTL	11	145	651	4.5	80.0	16	0	0	33	27	3	13.2	59.2
17 Jones	NJ	12	121	647	5.3	80.2	24	0	0	60	26	5	10.1	53.9
18 Pacheco	CHP	12	140	642	4.6	82.9	14	0	0	29	36	3	11.7	53.5
19 Foreman	BRX	11	142	630	4.4	76.1	15	0	0	28	58	3	12.9	57.3
20 Barkley	PCC	12	184	598	3.3	78.8	13	1	0	25	35	5	15.3	49.8
21 Ekeler	BRH	12	133	593	4.5	82.0	18	0	0	40	56	10	11.1	49.4
22 Johnson	ICC	12	109	592	5.4	85.3	15	0	0	32	53	4	9.1	49.3
23 Mixon	LPB	12	155	587	3.8	77.4	13	0	0	33	44	4	12.9	48.9
24 Allen	DTL	12	90	570	6.3	78.9	25	1	0	33	31	5	7.5	47.5
25 Patterson	BUD	9	104	551	5.3	84.6	15	0	0	31	39	6	11.6	61.2
26 Jones	CHI	12	110	493	4.5	65.5	19	0	0	32	35	3	9.2	41.1
27 Conner	VV	10	118	473	4.0	83.1	9	0	0	31	23	5	11.8	47.3
28 Murray	COW	9	92	450	4.9	87.0	12	0	0	17	61	1	10.2	50.0
29 Mostert	BUD	11	89	442	5.0	83.1	10	0	0	22	46	3	8.1	40.2
30 Pierce	ERI	12	106	430	4.1	80.2	7	0	0	17	78	1	8.8	35.8
31 Kamara	PCC	10	83	429	5.2	81.9	12	0	0	19	27	2	8.3	42.9
32 Harris	BB	10	77	417	5.4	87.0	12	0	0	24	15	0	7.7	41.7
33 Stevenson	GEO	12	86	406	4.7	75.6	12	0	0	21	35	1	7.2	33.8
34 Hurts	PIC	12	74	403	5.4	86.5	18	0	0	35	32	9	6.2	33.6
35 Fournette	BRX	11	95	381	4.0	81.1	7	0	0	21	22	4	8.6	34.6
36 Pickett	CHP	12	49	374	7.6	95.9	12	0	0	21	29	2	4.1	31.2
37 Harris	ERI	12	103	361	3.5	82.5	7	0	0	21	22	3	8.6	30.1
38 Akers	VV	12	88	342	3.9	83.0	7	0	0	28	22	1	7.3	28.5
39 Mahomes	VV	12	50	340	6.8	86.0	16	0	0	19	20	1	4.2	28.3
40 Montgomery	NJ	11	101	336	3.3	81.2	5	0	0	14	29	1	9.2	30.5
41 Dobbins	CHP	9	63	323	5.1	76.2	11	0	0	15	44	2	7.0	35.9
42 Brissett	EE	10	45	321	7.1	86.7	14	0	0	22	41	2	4.5	32.1
43 Spears	BB	12	69	309	4.5	75.4	10	0	0	21	30	1	5.8	25.8
44 White	PIC	12	78	305	3.9	70.5	8	0	0	13	29	2	6.5	25.4
45 Knight	EE	7	79	303	3.8	72.2	7	0	0	22	55	1	11.3	43.3

Receiving	G	No	Dp	Att	Rac	Yds	Avg	25	50	FD	Lg	Td	Rec/G	Yds/G	
1 Jefferson	BUD	12	81	4	127	232	1167	14.4	11	0	59	64	8	6.8	97.3
2 Hill	WV	12	77	5	128	322	1541	20.0	19	0	59	75	13	6.4	128.4
3 St. Brown	YOR	12	75	2	118	149	684	9.1	1	0	36	56	2	6.3	57.0
4 Metcalf	EE	12	74	4	120	212	988	13.4	7	0	49	37	5	6.2	82.3
5 Adams	LPB	12	74	0	108	236	1140	15.4	8	0	51	62	2	6.2	95.0
6 Lamb	SEA	12	70	3	112	185	939	13.4	10	0	50	46	5	5.8	78.3
7 Williams	YOR	12	68	3	110	230	825	12.1	6	0	47	39	5	5.7	68.8
8 Ekeler	BRH	12	67	2	94	428	367	5.5	0	0	15	20	2	5.6	30.6
9 Brown	ICC	12	65	6	116	404	1476	22.7	22	0	54	77	14	5.4	123.0
10 McCaffrey	CHI	12	63	4	90	576	411	6.5	2	0	23	30	3	5.3	34.3
11 Johnson	GEO	12	61	6	103	235	903	14.8	9	0	47	45	8	5.1	75.3
12 Jeudy	BB	11	60	9	93	213	770	12.8	3	0	34	72	2	5.5	70.0
13 Jones	SS	12	60	4	96	187	602	10.0	4	0	24	62	4	5.0	50.2
14 Chase	WV	10	58	7	88	128	761	13.1	4	0	47	29	8	5.8	76.1
15 Pittman Jr.	CB	12	57	0	92	77	708	12.4	2	0	41	30	1	4.8	59.0
16 Cooper	GEO	12	56	2	93	215	1263	22.6	21	0	52	58	14	4.7	105.3
17 Moore	TCT	12	56	5	96	130	798	14.3	10	0	44	34	6	4.7	66.5
18 Kelce	CHP	12	56	5	99	145	604	10.8	2	0	40	29	6	4.7	50.3
19 London	BRH	12	55	5	89	176	863	15.7	11	0	43	47	8	4.6	71.9
20 Diggs	BUD	12	54	3	107	127	561	10.4	4	0	30	46	5	4.5	46.8
21 Smith-Schuster	CHP	12	53	4	82	85	480	9.1	1	0	29	34	3	4.4	40.0
22 Evans	COW	11	53	7	83	195	698	13.2	6	1	31	51	4	4.8	63.5
23 Smith	PIC	12	52	6	82	124	809	15.6	7	0	42	30	5	4.3	67.4
24 Samuel	DTL	12	52	5	81	186	688	13.2	3	0	43	58	6	4.3	57.3
25 Higbee	TCT	12	52	9	86	110	465	8.9	1	0	33	26	6	4.3	38.8
26 Gage	BUF	10	51	1	77	65	402	7.9	0	0	23	19	2	5.1	40.2
27 Stevenson	GEO	12	51	5	74	542	471	9.2	4	0	19	43	2	4.3	39.3
28 Peoples-Jones	SS	12	50	0	73	126	790	15.8	9	0	37	45	1	4.2	65.8
29 Godwin	BRX	11	50	4	73	185	664	13.3	7	0	32	52	4	4.5	60.4
30 Waddle	ERI	12	50	4	85	182	883	17.7	9	0	34	69	4	4.2	73.6
31 Boyd	CHI	12	49	1	74	62	574	11.7	2	0	32	29	2	4.1	47.8
32 Woods	BUF	12	49	6	73	141	535	10.9	4	0	26	49	3	4.1	44.6
33 Engram	BRH	12	49	3	75	103	493	10.1	1	0	28	32	3	4.1	41.1
34 Schultz	SS	12	49	5	82	59	368	7.5	0	0	14	19	2	4.1	30.7
35 Thielen	LPB	12	48	0	67	110	495	10.3	1	0	31	33	5	4.0	41.3
36 Kirk	ICC	12	47	4	79	99	620	13.2	7	0	32	33	4	3.9	51.7
37 Kmet	YOR	12	47	1	76	143	473	10.1	3	0	25	47	4	3.9	39.4
38 Lockett	TCT	12	47	0	79	147	576	12.3	4	0	33	43	3	3.9	48.0
39 McLaurin	NJ	12	47	4	77	135	496	10.6	2	0	24	80	2	3.9	41.3
40 Allen	NJ	10	46	0	66	129	438	9.5	2	0	22	54	5	4.6	43.8
41 McKinnon	NJ	12	46	0	60	430	344	7.5	3	0	18	38	3	3.8	28.7
42 Cooks	CB	9	45	8	76	187	679	15.1	7	0	35	52	3	5.0	75.4
43 Andrews	ERI	10	45	5	66	119	458	10.2	2	0	20	43	2	4.5	45.8
44 Flowers	CHI	11	44	4	72	152	566	12.9	3	0	32	57	4	4.0	51.5
45 Kamara	PCC	10	44	3	62	454	381	8.7	2	0	20	29	2	4.4	38.1



AROUND THE



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By PETER PRINCE AND THE TMQB STAFF

INSIDE MY ALL-PRO NOTEBOOK - OFFENCE. WHY THE THUNDER LIZARDS ARE GOING TO BE TOUGH TO BEAT DOWN THE STRETCH

There can only be thirty-three players deemed to be the best at their positions each year – thirteen on offence, fourteen on defence, and six on special teams. A slightly lower number are deemed second best. In the end, around sixty players each year are semi-immortalized with the honour of First or Second Team All-Pro by the Affiliated Press – sixty among 1,296 EFL players, less than five percent. Some people are surprised when they learn that these prestigious All-Pro honors are determined by a national panel of just fifty EFL writers – fifty of several thousands of accredited journalists and countless bloggers and content creators on the internet. I am one of those writers and every year I approach my voting duty with a solemnity born of the knowledge that there are many more than sixty players worthy of recognition for excellence in their field. As All-Pro is a rare distinction for those who receive it, it also casts a shadow on those who are equally deserving but that, for various reasons, did not grab the attention of enough writers to receive their deserved place in EFL history. I looked at my notebook for the offensive skill position players the other day. These are the players I am looking at.

First Team Quarterback: Patrick Mahomes vs Josh Allen vs Jalen Hurts

Not necessarily in that order. But possibly in that order. These jump to mind when I think of quarterbacks who

have impacted the way their teams play. Success plays a part as well. I have colleagues who think Trevor Lawrence should be on the short list. With five games remaining I think it fair to leave an opening for him. Nothing against Lawrence. There are a few who in my opinion outshine him.

Viriden's superstar quarterback has already thrown 42 touchdown passes and has led his team to a perfect twelve wins in twelve games. He looks like the best quarterback in the league and the numbers back it up. He has a great supporting cast, no question. He is using it to its fullest.

Josh Allen is lunchpail. He gets the job done. His passing numbers are impressive, not gawdy. He runs the ball, not as frequently as some, but he runs where no quarterback dares to run. With Cooper Kupp out more than in, Allen is undoubtedly the most impactful player on the Thunder Lizards offence. His gritty, bestial style is translating into another winning season.

Jalen Hurts makes it work to perfection in Gus Konstantakos' offence. One of my friends in the league offence once dismissed him to me as a "system guy." Hurts is more than that. The run-first offence of the Spartans, establishing control of the line of scrimmage, is much easier to execute with a quarterback who can run the ball inside and out. He has a strong arm and underrated accuracy at all ranges. No question he gets the most from DeVonta Smith and Marquise Brown. He is also the top-rated passer in the league. How can you argue with that?

First Team Wide Receivers

There are at least two wide receivers voted to the top team each year, lately three due to modern offences adding a slot receiver in base formation. Here again, in no order, are the ones I have my eyes on.

Tyreek Hill

The Viriden phenom leads all receivers in yards and ranks second in both receptions and touchdowns. The most amazing thing about his production is he is doing it sharing targets with another elite talent in Ja'Marr Chase while facing constant double-teams. When he has the ball in his hands there is nobody more dangerous. "He's not human," Violators receivers coach, Jason Vrable told me when the Violators broke camp this summer.

Justin Jefferson

The North Stars offence has been struggling of late but not because of Jefferson. The best route-runner in the league finds a way to elude persistent double-teams and be open for an amazing 64% catch rate. He leads the league in receptions and averages just under one hundred yards per game. "I don't know where we would be this year without him and Aaron," an anonymous source on the Budapest staff told me recently.

A.J. Brown

The Cubs are in transition. Their prospects this year are fading fast. One bright light giving Cubs' fans hope for the future is Brown. A priority signing for the Cubs this off-season, Brown has delivered on his contract beyond expectations. He is tied for the league lead in touchdown catches and leads the league in average and explosive plays of more than twenty-five yards. He is making both Cubs quarterbacks look good.

Amari Cooper

The arrival of Tua has revealed another weapon in this elite receiver's arsenal. Cooper has evolved from a crisp route-runner and chain-mover in the mold of a Justin Jefferson, into the primary deep threat for the Gladiators. He is tied with Brown for the league lead in touchdowns and second in yards-per-catch. One of my media colleagues in Savannah told me, "Amari is the missing piece that makes this offence elite."

Other Notables

Davante Adams of the Braves is never out of the discussion for All Pro. His production has dipped below his usual standard with a conservative game plan geared to help a rookie QB, which may hurt him in the voting. Ceedee Lamb's production has exploded of late on a Pilots team with an unsettled QB situation. At his current pace he could creep onto the short list. DK Metcalf is quietly propping up the Irish offence and giving fans something to cheer about in a rebuilding year. He needs a strong finish to gain much needed national attention.

First Team Running Backs

With running back becoming the most replaceable position on offence All Pro status one year may mean nothing in subsequent years. Jonathan Taylor is a case in point. A unanimous All Pro last year is a back-up to Nick Chubb this year. My attention is drawn to these faces in 2023:

Derrick Henry

The league's leading rusher and main source of offence for the Excaliburs is a no-brainer pick. He will be a unanimous pick if he continues his current pace.

Christian McCaffrey

He is not in the top ten in rushing yards as he shares those ground duties in Chino with Aaron Jones. McCaffrey's special attribute is his elite receiving ability, making him the top dual threat out of the backfield. "He could play wide receiver on this team," Quentin San Pedro, Chino beat reporter, told me when I was in Chino recently.

Miles Sanders

Sanders is having a breakout year as the undisputed number one running back for the Spartans. Spelled by D'Andre Swift in previous years, the question about Sanders was never about his talent, only whether he could carry the load as a feature back. Now we know the answer to that question.

Nick Chubb

He is third in total rushing yards. He set a league record for rushing yards in a single game. He pushed Jonathan Taylor into a back-up role. He has done all this in a year when his quarterback is struggling, and opponents have a bead on him on almost every down. If he was on a more successful team, who knows?

Other notables

Austin Ekeler is the league's second most dangerous dual threat out of the backfield. If the Hawks make a surge, he could garner enough votes to push him in. Josh Jacobs, the league's fourth-leading rusher, is not finding the end zone as much as other names on this list. That is because his quarterback is throwing a lot of touchdown passes, partly because of Jacobs' keeping pass rushes honest.

First Team Tight End: Travis Kelce vs Dallas Goedert vs George Kittle vs Evan Engram

Tight ends are not producing fantasy points this year as much as they have in the past. Not that fantasy points determine All Pro status, but they reflect involvement in the passing game. Across the board, tight ends seem to be viewed more as a supplementary option than a feature this year. There are a few exceptions:

Travis Kelce is one of the few tight ends being featured in his team's pass attack. That is because he still gets open on almost every play and the Patriots don't have more attractive options at wide receiver. He run blocks at a high level as well. Provided he stays healthy, I cannot see anyone unseating him as First Team favourite.

Dallas Goedert of the Braves is not usually viewed in this elite category. Pay close attention and you will see that he has made as many impact plays as Kelce and serves as an important safety blanket for CJ Stroud.

A healthy George Kittle is always one of the league's elite tight ends, both for his hardnosed playing style and ability to get open in the passing game. It makes one wonder what is happening in Budapest that he has been targeted on average less than five times per game. There is still time to recover some of that lost pass production.

Evan Engram is seeing a lot of action as the third option for Geno Smith in the pass-heavy Hawks' attack. This gives him an opportunity to rise on this short list down the stretch. Not a deep threat by tight end standards, he is highly reliable in the short to medium range and a willing and competent run blocker.

That wraps up my All-Pro view of offensive skill position players. There are surely fans and writers with different views from my own. I think there is room for debate, but in the players on my "watch list" the stats and in-game impact speak for themselves. Next week, I am going to offer you my thoughts on a position for which stats are not as readily available and often subjective: Offensive Line.

Week Twelve Takeaways

The Thunder Lizards are picking up momentum. They won their fourth game in a row this week, beating Erieau 43-17. Remember, Erieau entered this contest on a three-game winning streak, which included a huge upset of Pickering. The Lizards beat them easily. It was over before the first half gun. This beatdown of the Cadillac is clear statement from Durham to the rest of the league: We are back and as strong as ever! George Kaldis' squad has recovered from their championship hangover and will be tough to beat down the stretch.

The Violators are maintaining the kind of momentum they will need if they plan to join the ranks of Florida, Twin Cities and Aurora (twice) and post the league's fifth perfect regular season. They beat Bruxelles 23-13 in a rematch of last year's Divisional Round. The game was tied at halftime as the Bombers did a great job of limiting the damage of the Violators' passing game. They continued to do so in the second half, but sadly for the Bombers, they were shutout the rest of the way. Patrick Mahomes found Tyreek Hill for their second touchdown of the game to pull away in the fourth. The big difference between this year and every other competitive Violators team of the past is the defence. The D held serve on a day when the offence was hitting the net.

It is now likely the Wrecking Balls will miss the playoffs entirely after being dominated at home by Peg City. If so, it will be a setback for the franchise that will be hard to overcome. Matthew Stafford started the game, but Daniel Jones finished it. The quarterback situation risks becoming a fatal distraction. They are clearly no longer all-in on Jones but are apparently uncommitted to Stafford. Rumbings from the Shore suggest coach Sean McDermott's job is in jeopardy if they don't turn things around now.

The Corn Kings took the inside track in the race for the last Atlantic Conference playoff spot with a win over the Irish. Budapest retains its two-game edge in the race for the first wildcard spot after revenging themselves over Brooklin this week. Both these teams play each other in Week Thirteen in a game that will determine if there is a viable race for the first wildcard or not. Should Budapest prevail at home, that will mean the race for the second wildcard will be as crowded as any have been in previous years, while the North Stars gain more breathing room.

At the other end of the competitive spectrum, if the season were to end today, the 3-9 Patriots would finish at the coveted twenty-first seed, giving them the best chance, of the bottom four teams, at the first overall pick in the lottery. They are likely to stay at three wins as their schedule for the remaining five weeks is the toughest of the bottom six teams. What this means will depend on what happens around them, but losing out seems their best bet.

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BILLTOWN @ NEW JERSEY (line – WRECKING BALLS by 8)

INJURIES: **Billtown** – Mecole Hardman (PROBABLE), Joshua Ezeudu (QUESTIONABLE), Jerry Jeudy (DOUBTFUL), Austin Bryant (OUT), Christian Elliss (OUT), Jordan Fuller (OUT), Damien Harris (OUT), Isaiah Hodgins (OUT), Shaquille Leonard (OUT), Vita Vea (OUT), Michael Thomas (IR); **New Jersey** – Deebo Samuel (PROBABLE), Keenan Allen (OUT), Chidobe Awuzie (OUT), Calais Campbell (OUT).

Losers of their last three games and suffering through a crisis of confidence at the quarterback position, the Wrecking Balls are flimsy favourites, especially at home where they have won only one game. But they are playing the Bats, the worst performing team in the league and a seriously banged up bad team to boot. The run game is an after-thought in the pass-happy Billtown offence, but Damien Harris is out, and with him what skimpy fig leaf they had, covering up an inability to run even if they were so inclined. The only drama in this game revolves around when Daniel Jones and Matt Stafford will play, because both will likely see the field. Who gets the start will indicate where the NJ Braintrust sees their 2023 quarterback experiment ultimately heading. **PICK: NEW JERSEY**

BUFFALO @ SEATTLE (line – PILOTS by 4)

INJURIES: **Buffalo** – Wan'Dale Robinson (PROBABLE), Russell Gage (DOUBTFUL), Jaycee Horn (OUT), Josh Reynolds (OUT), Kayvon Thibodeaux (OUT); **Seattle** – Kenneth Walker II (PROBABLE), Marshon Lattimore (QUESTIONABLE), Gabe Jackson (OUT), Trent McDuffie (OUT), Sean Murphy-Bunting (OUT), Hunter Renfrow (OUT), Trey Sermon (OUT), Ar'Darius Washington (IR).

It is around this time of year when Lamar Jackson starts to break down in the Buffalo system that calls for Lamar to do everything. The early signs appeared last week when he finished the game with negative-two rush yards on eight carries and the Derailers failed to score. I think it is safe to say that the Lamar Effect will deliver minimal impact from here on. The Pilots are coming off a win, albeit against miserable Billtown. All the same, they are playing spirited football and Cedee Lamb is becoming a fan favourite in Seattle, despite being limited to one catch last week. Carson Wentz attempted just 13 passes in the game and the Pilots rushed over 50 times, signalling a sudden shift in strategy that was effective once and could well be a blueprint for this game. **PICK: SEATTLE**

COBB COUNTY @ IOWA CITY (line – Pick'Em)

INJURIES: **Cobb County** – Jamal Adams (OUT), Brian Allen (OUT), Adoree' Jackson (OUT), Luke Musgrave (OUT), Payton Turner (OUT); **Iowa City** – David Njoku (PROBABLE), Tre Brown (OUT), Amani Hooker (OUT), Jaylon Johnson (OUT), Josh Paschal (OUT), Tyron Smith (OUT), Russell Wilson (OUT).

The Coyotes steadied up after a weak start against the Pats last week. Bryce Young continues to progress, and the defence is proving quite respectable. After posing as a contender in the weak West through eight weeks, the Cubs have since been in a form of freefall, where they seem able to win but just don't get the job done. Averaging 26 points per game just doesn't cut it when the defence is surrendering almost 33 points per game. The novelty of dueling quarterbacks and big bombs to AJ Brown is starting to wear off and no decent defence is confused any longer. Still, I feel like the Cubs would normally win this one at home, except that they are sinking into a predictable banality typical of a team out of ideas and overwhelmed by the inevitability of failure. **PICK: COBB COUNTY**

CHINO @ BRUXELLES (line – BOMBERS by 8)

INJURIES: **Chino** – Salvon Ahmed (PROBABLE), Eddie Jackson (PROBABLE), Godwin Igwebuike (OUT), Von Miller (OUT), Darnell Mooney (OUT); **Bruxelles** – Chris Godwin (QUESTIONABLE), DeAndre Hopkins (OUT), Marcus Maye (OUT).

Chino's win over Iowa City last week stemmed a three-game losing streak and gave the struggling offence a boost of much-needed confidence. This week, it is back to reality against a Bruxelles defence that isn't what it used to be, but is still capable of performing at

a high level. Holding the Violators to a season-low 23 points was no mean feat and should serve as a warning to Jared Goff that careless errors will not be forgiven. On the other side, Justin Fields will be relieved to face a defence that has done its part to make opposing quarterbacks look good. After just 3 touchdown passes in his last 7 games, he needs a pick-me-up. **PICK: CHINO**

VIRDEN @ TWIN CITIES (line – VIOLATORS by 6)

INJURIES: Virден – Ja’Marr Chase (DOUBTFUL), Cam Akers (OUT), James Conner (OUT), Jalen Mills (OUT), D.J. Humphries (OUT), Keaton Mitchell (OUT), Mitch Morse (OUT); **Twin Cities** – Jaire Alexander (DOUBTFUL), Derek Stingley Jr. (OUT).

If the outcome was ever in doubt in any of Virден’s twelve wins this year, it was last week against Bruxelles and back in Week One against these same Triumph. Objectively, neither game was nail-bitingly close, but in both the Violators’ opposition at least appeared to belong on the same field. With key injuries to the Virден backfield and the possibility that Ja’Marr Chase will not play, the chance of this being a competitive match improves. However, Jaire Alexander is not expected to play and that will make the task of keeping Tyreek Hill in check daunting to say the least. The Triumph delivered a thumping to Buffalo last week, which was most impressive due to the total shutting down of Lamar. The Triumph game plans are always on point and one can trust they have one in mind for Patrick Mahomes. I expect this plan, whatever it is, to slow the Violators down, but not stop them. Nobody can stop them. **PICK: VIRDEN**

CHARLESWOOD @ PEG CITY (line – CRUSADERS by 11)

INJURIES: Charleswood – Ronald Darby (QUESTIONABLE), Lloyd Cushenberry (DOUBTFUL), D.J. Chark (OUT), J.K. Dobbins (OUT), Teven Jenkins (OUT), David Ojabo (OUT); **Peg City** – None.

The best that can be said about the 2023 edition of the Pats is they beat teams in their league and show respectably against teams that have them outclassed. In other words, they win the games they should win...but there aren’t many of those. The Crusaders picked themselves up after an embarrassing loss to Scarborough by trashing the Wrecking Balls last week. In College ball, the fact that the Pats beat Scarborough and Peg City lost to them would be a factor here in evaluating the odds. In the pros, we understand the talent differential between all teams is less and anything can happen on a given Sunday. On this given Sunday, the Crusaders have little to fear with the bottom line. Unless they go with their ‘B’ squad because they think the Pats are pushovers. **PICK: CHARLESWOOD**

DURHAM @ PICKERING (line – SPARTANS by 7)

INJURIES: Durham – Jack Conklin (PROBABLE), Al-Quadin Muhammad (PROBABLE), Ed Oliver (OUT), Rashaad Penny (OUT); **Pickering** – D’Andre Swift (PROBABLE), Marquise Brown (OUT), Willie Gay (OUT), Ta’Quon Graham (OUT).

The Lizards have won four straight and are coming off one of the easiest victories in their history last week. Recall, the Caddies had won three straight going into that game, so Durham knocked them down at their so far seasonal peak. Meanwhile, the Spartans demolished York, making it look easy against an arguably better team. This game is shaping up to be clash of the titans and a possible preview of the Atlantic Conference final. Oddly the Sages of the Sand Dunes seem to think this is not going to be so titanic a struggle and favour the Spartans by a converted touchdown. Injuries are not a significant factor, so this can be rightly construed by the Durham locker room as plain disrespect. Nothing like bulletin board material to raise the level of play. This game could balance on a razor’s edge or implode quickly for Durham if Josh Allen gets too loosie-goosy. Expect a close contest to break suddenly in the 4th quarter. **PICK: PICKERING**

COWTOWN @ BUDAPEST (line – NORTH STARS by 6)

INJURIES: Cowtown – Carlton Davis (DOUBTFUL), Jeremy Chinn (OUT), Matt Ioannidis (OUT), Michael Pierce (OUT); **Budapest** – None.

The Corn Kings enter with a nice little win streak of three games, a small consolation for the four-game losing streak that all but knocked them out of contention for the North Division title. Now they seek to maintain a wildcard position against a Budapest team that seems to be heading, much more confidently, in the same direction. It is unfortunate for the Stars that inhabiting the strongest division in the conference will likely limit their playoff standing, but they can console themselves that they are healthy and much better, fundamentally, than their opponent this week. Not that Cowtown will lie down here, but Andy Dalton vs Aaron Rodgers just doesn’t evoke a feeling of panic or concern in the Budapest fanbase, even with Rodgers doing the minimum to get by lately. **PICK: BUDAPEST**

YORK @ SEBASTIAN (line – EXCALIBURS by 3)

INJURIES: York – Derrick Henry (PROBABLE), Rashan Gary (OUT), Lawrence Guy (OUT), Azeez Ojulari (OUT), Brandon Smith (OUT), Javonte Williams (OUT), Jabari Zuniga (OUT), Phidarian Mathis (IR), Tavierre Thomas (IR), Khyiris Tonga (IR); **Sebastian** – Divine Deablo (OUT), Kristian Fulton (OUT), Michael Gallup (OUT), Denzel Perryman (OUT), Jonathan Taylor (OUT), Kendal Vickers (OUT).

Both teams are hampered by multiple injuries, which in turn hampers analysis due to unknown, untested back-ups being thrust front and center. The forward-facing stars on both teams are mostly present still, unless one considers Jonathan Taylor more than a back-up now

that Nick Chubb has eaten up most of the Swordfish carries. The tread on Derrick Henry's tires may be thinning out, as he is listed a probable for this game. Similarly, Tom Brady looked his age against Pickering last week. Neither of these teams are ascending or impressing, but the Excaliburs have more to lose by not rising to the occasion in a game they should win. **PICK: YORK**

BROOKLIN @ SCARBOROUGH (line – HAWKS by 2)

INJURIES: Brooklin – Damone Clark (OUT), Kamren Curl (OUT), Sam Hubbard (OUT), Xavier McKinney (OUT), Garrett Boles (IR); **Scarborough** – Randall Cobb (PROBABLE), James Smith-Williams (DOUBTFUL), Jahan Dotson (OUT).

Three weeks after pulling off their season's signature win on the road versus Budapest, the Hawks were humbled by those same North Stars last week. As bad as the loss looked on paper, it was exacerbated by turnovers of both the four-down and the regular varieties. From a ball control standpoint, the Hawks were solid and that should carry on that theme this week against a Blue Eagles team that cannot stop the run. Scarborough reverted to its season-long pattern of inadequacy last week versus Georgia after shocking Peg City the week before. The Eagles' high moments, few and far between, have come against very good teams, and the prospect of another big upset can be an attractive bet when looking for a dark horse to finish the ultimate parlay. In this case, however, Brooklin is not good enough to bring out the best in Joe Burrow and the ragtag Scarborough offence. Expect this to be a run-of-the-mill Eagle plucking. **PICK: BROOKLIN**

ERIEAU @ LAPLATA (line – BRAVES by 5)

INJURIES: Erieau – Braden Smith (QUESTIONABLE), Dre'Mont Jones (OUT), Sione Takitaki (OUT), Aaron Robinson (IR); **LaPlata** – J.J. Watt (QUESTIONABLE), Paulson Adebo (OUT), Joe Mixon (OUT), Alijah Vera-Tucker (OUT).

After winning three straight with Kyler Murray under center, the Cadillac turned abruptly to Teddy Bridgewater last week and the blowout loss that resulted speaks for itself. Whether the Caddies are competitive in this game will boil down to who starts at QB. With Murray not listed on the injury report, there is no reason short of aggravated tanking that Erieau should not go with him and take their best shot at evening up their division standing with LaPlata. The Braves, coming off a clunky win over Sebastian, are hoping to see more of that big arm C.J. Stroud displayed in college. He has kept the Braves in the post-season mix by effectively game-managing but must do more to reach the next level. Too much, too soon, with Joe Mixon out? We'll see. **PICK: ERIEAU**

EAST ELMHURST @ GEORGIA (line – GLADIATORS by 12)

INJURIES: East Elmhurst – Kylan Granson (DOUBTFUL), Jaylon Smith (DOUBTFUL), Shaquil Barrett (OUT); **Georgia** – Germaine Pratt (QUESTIONABLE).

I like the direction the Gladiators are heading as much as any astute observer would and see the cracks appearing in the façade of Irish competitiveness for the South Division, but I instinctively balk at the opening double-digit line favouring Georgia at home. The Irish are coming of a lacklustre showing against middle-of-the-road Cowtown but let us not forget they knocked off Bruxelles the week before and have been impressively competitive defensively against Budapest and Durham. Perhaps giving up 49 points to the Glads in their last meeting is the tell-all for this line. That game was a barnburner, with the teams combining for over 1,000 yards and Tua in command. But Georgia has been rolling out Marcus Mariota in place of Tua at random moments and when they do, the offence is not close to being as explosive as it is under Tua. The starter has not been announced for this game, which makes me nervous. **PICK: EAST ELMHURST**



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