



2009

WEEK
TEN

December 6th, 2009



Durham's Austin Collie nabs game-winner in Week Ten.

COLLIE COLLARS GAME WINNING TD!

*RIVERS AND ROOKIE RECEIVER
COME TO THE RESCUE TO
SALVAGE WIN*



2 - 8

RINGGOLD

17



8 - 2

DURHAM

20

DURHAM – The Thunder Lizards are one step closer to clinching a playoff spot and the North Division title after a thrilling last minute drive to win the game against the luckless Crimson Hawks. They can thank their young quarterback and a green rookie receiver for salvaging what could have been their most dispiriting loss this year. Instead, the often-criticized *Philip Rivers* and the unknown *Austin Collie* hooked up at the crucial moment to give Durham fans a highlight they will not soon forget.

It was a dramatic finish to a contest that for three quarters was trapped in drudgery. Like the polite chipmunks in the old Warner Brothers cartoon, neither team seemed willing to go through the door of victory without waiting for the other to go through first. When Durham finally broke through with the game's first touchdown, a 14-yard pass from Rivers to *Steve Breaston* with 5 minutes remaining in the game, it prompted a sudden burst of action on the field that had fans, coaches and commentators holding their breath until the final gun.

The Lizards got off to an uncommonly slow start and stayed slow for most of the game. On the third play from scrimmage, Rivers threw a floater that was picked off by *James Sanders* and returned to the Durham 43 yard line. But the Hawks had to settle for a field goal when *Andre Johnson* came up one yard short on third down. The Lizards replied with a drive to the Ringgold 14 yard line where they also came up short and settled for a 31-yard field goal by *Mason Crosby* to tie the game.

The teams exchanged a couple of punts each before the Crimson Hawks got rolling on offence. Starting at their own 12 yard line, *Ben Roethlisberger* engineered a remarkably tenacious drive all the way to the Durham 6 yard line where they faced 1st down and goal. But in a scene Ringgold fans have come to expect and bitterly accept, offensive precision suddenly broke down in the clutch. The Lizards attacked the line and stopped *Beanie Wells* for no gain. On the next two plays *Ty Warren* stepped up and stuffed *Maurice Jones-Drew* for a 3-yard loss, then bull rushed through *Chris Chester* to sack Big Ben for a 4-yard loss. On fourth down *Shaun Suisham* kicked it through the uprights from 30 yards for the temporary lead. But Chester was flagged for holding, pushing the ball back to the 23. On the second try, Suisham hooked it to let the Lizards off the hook and hold the score at 3 apiece.

Ringgold got the ball to start the second half and was on the move in Durham territory when Warren struck again, forcing a fumble by Jones-Drew that was recovered by the Dinosaurs. Starting at their 35 yard line, the Lizards drew the Ringgold defense into the box with consecutive runs by *Michael Turner* then Rivers completed three straight passes to three different receivers, including a 21-yard pass to *Calvin Johnson*, to stab deep into Ringgold territory. But the Crimson Hawks' defense stiffened with their backs to the wall and Durham had to settle for a 25-yard field goal by Crosby to take the lead 6-3.

A determined Big Ben went to work moving the ball back across midfield with 3 passes to **Eddie Royal** for 35 yards. But in his resolution to make something happen he stood in the pocket too long and got sacked and stripped by Marcus Stroud to spoil the drive. After an exchange of punts, the Lizards finally got on track offensively by turning to the ground game. 6 rushes by Turner and **Michael Bush** helped set up strategic passes, including a 14-yard “kill shot” on a short slant from Rivers to Breaston to put Durham in the driver’s seat, 13-3. Overcome by urgency, Big Ben threw caution to the wind on the next drive, completing 6 out of 7 passes for 56 yards and finishing it off by finding **Martellus Bennett** in the end zone from 11 yards to pull within 3 points.

A failed onside kick by Ringgold gave Durham the chance to control their destiny. But Rivers called an audible at the line and threw a pass to Johnson. **Corey Webster** stripped him of the ball and **Paul Posluszny** picked it up, returning it 64 yards for a TD and a 17-13 lead with 1:46 left in the game. For Durham it was an appalling turn of events; for Ringgold, a watershed.

Rising to the moment at perhaps their lowest point, Rivers calmly took control of the offense. Beginning at their 22 yard line, with all 3 timeouts left, he calmly went to work, connecting on a key 31-yard long cross to Johnson in the face of a swarming Ringgold secondary, and a 15-yard hitch to Bush to bring the ball to the 13. A pass to **Austin Collie** on the next play was bobbled and dropped in the end zone to the dismay of fans. Then, with 8 seconds left and every big name T-Lizards receiver covered in the end zone, Rivers returned to Collie, who hung on for the winning TD despite being blanketed by **Kerry Rhodes**. In that moment of glory, the roar from the crowd in Jurassic Park would have deafened a T-Rex. Will it echo through the remainder of the year?

12-05-2009 Jurassic Park. Temp: 75 Wind: Calm None MVP: **Rivers**

2008 Ringgold (2-8) 3 0 0 14 - 17
2008 Durham (8-2) 3 0 3 14 - 20

1 12:16 Ringgold FG Suisham 39 (4-21-2:03) 3-0
1 5:03 Durham FG Crosby 31 (11-57-7:10) 3-3
3 6:26 Durham FG Crosby 25 (8-57-4:32) 3-6
4 5:03 Durham TD Rivers 14 pass to Breaston (Crosby) (10-71-6:29) 3-13
4 1:51 Ringgold TD Roethlisberger 11 pass to Bennett (Suisham) (9-71-3:12) 10-13
4 1:46 Ringgold TD Posluszny 64 yd fumble recovery (Suisham) (0-0-0:00) 17-13
4 0:08 Durham TD Rivers 13 pass to Collie (Crosby) (8-78-1:38) 17-20

KEY PERFORMANCES: DUR – Philip Rivers went 21 of 36 for 280 yards, 2 TDs and 1 INT; **Calvin Johnson** caught 8 passes for 133 yards; **Michael Turner** rushed for 52 yards on 12 carries; **Ty Warren** had 3 sacks, 10 tackles, 2 run stuffs, and 1 forced fumble. **RCH – Ben Roethlisberger** went 22 of 28 for 237 yards and 1 TD; **Eddie Royal** caught 10 passes for 114 yards; **Martellus Bennett** caught 6 passes for 62 yards and 1 TD; **Maurice Jones-Drew** rushed for 39 yards on 14 carries

	RCH	DTL
First Downs	19	20
Rushes	27-89	23-101
Passes	28-22-237	36-21-280
Sacked	4-15	1-6
Fumble	2	1
Penalties	4-40	4-21
Turnovers	2	2
Time	31:54	28:06
Third Down	7-11	4-11
Fourth Down	0-0	1-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/0	4/2/2
Net Offense	311	375



LOS ANGELES



CHARLESWOOD

6

14

POUNDING PETERSON PUSHES PATS PAST LA

GAME POINTS: It was a defensive contest throughout as both offenses struggled to move the ball. LA opened the scoring, turning an **Adrian Peterson** fumble into 3 points. But Charleswood quickly answered when **Jerious Norwood** took the ensuing kickoff 79 yards and Peterson would finish off a short drive with a 1-yard TD run. LA would kick another FG to make it a 1 point game late in the 3rd. Peterson and **Peyton Manning** took over in the 4th quarter with a 17-play drive, using just over 10 minutes of game clock before Peterson would run in his 2nd TD of the game and gave the Pats an 8-point lead. **Tarvaris Jackson** relieved **Jason Campbell** for the LA rally attempt, but ran out of time.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Peyton Manning completed 11 of 17 for 86 yards and 1 INT; **Adrian Peterson** rushed for 93 yards and 2 TDs on 27 carries; **Stewart Bradley** made 10 tackles and 4 run stuffs. **Jason Campbell** completed 13 of 24 for 124 yards; **Roddy White** caught 4 passes for 55 yards; **Bradie James** had 8 tackles, 1 deflection, 1 run stuff and 1 forced fumble.

12-04-2009 Patriot Place. Temp: 75 Wind: MVP: **Norwood**

2008 Los Angeles (7-3) 0 3 3 0 - 6
2008 Charleswood (8-2) 0 7 0 7 - 14

2 11:26 Los Angeles FG Brown 47 (3-3-2:02) 3-0
2 9:34 Charleswood TD Peterson 1 run (Gostkowski) (3-17-1:46) 3-7
3 0:35 Los Angeles FG Brown 25 (12-72-6:52) 6-7
4 1:36 Charleswood TD Peterson 2 run (Gostkowski) (17-74-10:28) 6-14

	LAK	CHP
First Downs	11	11
Rushes	31-87	31-89
Passes	30-17-168	17-11-86
Sacked	1-5	2-6
Fumble	2	3
Penalties	5-42	5-45
Turnovers	0	3
Time	30:03	29:57
Third Down	1-14	4-12
Fourth Down	1-1	1-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	1/0/1	2/2/0
Net Offense	250	169



13

WINNEMUCCA



30

MOHAVE

OWENS HANGS TWO ON OUTLAWS

GAME POINTS: Terrell Owens caught three passes, each for over 30 yards and two of them for touchdowns to lead the Hellfire over the Outlaws at The Fiery Depths. Brian Urlacher intercepted David Garrard to turn aside a threat early in the second quarter and set up Mohave's first TD, a 1-yard run by Brian Westbrook to make it 10-0. They added another major before the half when Kurt Warner found Owens open in the end zone on a long hitch route for 31 yards. A 47-yard run by Pierre Thomas set up a 9-yard TD pass from Garrard to Michael Crabtree to open the second half. With a chance to pull within 10 points near the end of the 3rd quarter, the Outlaws gambled on 4th down & 8 in the red zone and lost. Mohave ground it out the rest of the way, pulling away on Owens' second TD reception with less than two minutes remaining.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Kurt Warner went 19 of 27 for 298 yards and 2 TDs; Terrell Owens caught 3 passes for 103 yards and 2 TDs; Donald Driver caught 5 passes for 77 yards. David Garrard went 19 of 29 for 167 yards, 1 TD and 1 INT; Pierre Thomas rushed for 60 yards on 7 carries.

12-04-2009 The Fiery Depths. Temp: 94 Wind: Calm None MVP: Warner

2008 Winnemucca (1-9)	0	0	7	6	-13
2008 Mohave (4-6)	3	14	3	10	-30

1 4:17 Mohave	FG Bironas 26 (6-55-3:04)	0-3
2 6:29 Mohave	TD Westbrook 1 run (Bironas) (10-53-5:13)	0-10
2 0:31 Mohave	TD Warner 31 pass to Owens (Bironas) (4-41-1:15)	0-17
3 13:02 Winnemucca	TD Garrard 9 pass to Crabtree (Graham,S) (5-65-1:58)	7-17
3 7:49 Mohave	FG Bironas 28 (9-72-5:13)	7-20
4 8:45 Mohave	FG Bironas 31 (11-70-7:41)	7-23
4 2:53 Winnemucca	TD Jones 1 run (2 - failed) (13-74-5:48)	13-23
4 1:45 Mohave	TD Warner 38 pass to Owens (Bironas) (4-46-1:08)	13-30

	WMO	MOH
First Downs	14	19
Rushes	27-122	26-69
Passes	29-19-167	27-19-298
Sacked	1-7	2-21
Fumble	0	0
Penalties	6-52	5-36
Turnovers	1	0
Time	29:44	30:16
Third Down	5-14	4-12
Fourth Down	2-3	1-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/2/0	5/1/3
Net Offense	282	346

CUBS ADD INSULT TO ROMO'S INJURY

GAME POINTS: Tony Romo fell awkwardly after throwing a pass in the 4th quarter and had to leave the game, taking the Bears' chance of a comeback against the Cubbies with him. Kutztown fell behind early as Iowa City tested the Bears' defensive line, rushing 8 times on the opening drive, finishing with an 11-yard TD run by Brandon Jacobs. Brodie Croyle, subbing for injured Trent Edwards, completed passes of 22 yards to Lee Evans and 27 yards to Kellen Winslow to set up Jacobs' 9-yard TD run early in the 2nd quarter. Antoine Winfield's interception in the 3rd quarter set up a 7-yard TD run by Le'Ron McClain to make it a one-point game, 14-13. But Ronnie Brown rushed 6 times for 34 yards and a TD on the Cubs' next possession to extend their lead to 21-13.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Brandon Jacobs rushed for 120 yards and 2 TDs on 21 carries; Ronnie Brown rushed for 66 yards on 16 carries; Brodie Croyle went 12 of 18 for 135 yards and 1 INT. Tony Romo went 17 of 23 for 211 yards and 1 INT; Greg Jennings caught 8 passes for 103 yards.



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IOWA CITY



13

KUTZTOWN

12-04-2009 Lincoln Financial. Temp: 40 Wind: Calm None MVP: Jacobs

2008 Iowa City (5-5)	7	7	7	3	-24
2008 Kutztown (5-5)	0	6	7	0	-13

1 5:52 Iowa City	TD Jacobs 11 run (Rackers) (13-76-7:20)	7-0
2 15:00 Kutztown	FG Kaeding 34 (11-62-5:52)	7-3
2 10:07 Iowa City	TD Jacobs 9 run (Rackers) (9-68-4:48)	14-3
2 1:55 Kutztown	FG Kaeding 53 (5-44-1:12)	14-6
3 12:14 Kutztown	TD McClain 7 run (Kaeding) (3-24-0:56)	14-13
3 4:29 Iowa City	TD Brown 7 run (Rackers) (16-71-7:45)	21-13
4 5:30 Iowa City	FG Rackers 43 (3-2-2:50)	24-13

	ICC	KUT
First Downs	21	17
Rushes	41-185	17-65
Passes	19-13-146	33-23-274
Sacked	1-6	1-3
Fumble	1	2
Penalties	7-46	9-57
Turnovers	1	3
Time	36:23	23:37
Third Down	6-12	1-7
Fourth Down	1-1	1-3
Red Att/Td/Fg	5/3/0	2/1/1
Net Offense	325	336



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CHINO



20

VIRDEN

WHITE CHARGES UP CHINO WITH 75-YARD RUN

GAME POINTS: **Deon Grant** intercepted **Jay Cutler** at the Chino 7 yard line on the first play from scrimmage. Two plays later, **Drew Brees** connected with **Devin Hester** for a 13-yard TD pass and an early 7-0 lead for the Violators. Chino crawled back to take a 10-7 lead when **LenDale White** topped off an 83-yard drive with an 11-yard sweep for a TD. **Josh Wilson** fumbled a kick return to hand the ball to the Convicts at the Virden 18 and set up a 9-yard pass from Cutler to **Tedd Ginn Jr.** to make it 20-7 for Chino. The Violators fought back to within 3 points midway in the 3rd quarter, but White broke free along the sideline on a sweep for a 75-yard TD run to break the game open for the Convicts.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **LenDale White** rushed for 180 yards and 2 TDs on 22 carries; **Jay Cutler** went 19 of 22 for 190 yards, 2 TDs and 1 INT; **Hines Ward** caught 5 passes for 65 yards and 1 TD. **Drew Brees** completed 20 of 29 for 213 yards and 1 TD; **Clinton Portis** rushed for 111 yards on 15 carries; **Devin Hester** caught 7 passes for 104 yards and 1 TD.

12-04-2009 TERRORDOME. Temp: 66 Wind: Calm None MVP: White					CHI	VV		
2008 Chino (7-3)	3	17	7	7	-34	First Downs	22	19
2008 Virden (3-7)	7	3	7	3	-20	Rushes	33-225	24-139
1 14:22 Virden	TD Brees 13 pass to Hester (Vinatieri) (3-7-0:22)	0-7	Passes	22-19-190	29-20-213	Sacked	0-0	0-0
1 3:39 Chino	FG Reed 30 (11-45-7:17)	3-7	Fumble	0	2	Penalties	8-64	12-97
2 11:16 Chino	TD White 11 run (Reed,J) (10-83-4:42)	10-7	Turnovers	1	2	Time	32:38	27:22
2 1:46 Chino	FG Reed 31 (14-73-5:56)	13-7	Third Down	4-8	5-11	Fourth Down	1-1	1-1
2 0:46 Chino	TD Cutler 9 pass to Ginn Jr. (Reed,J) (3-18-0:55)	20-7	Red Att/Td/Fg	5/2/2	5/2/1	Net Offense	415	352
2 0:03 Virden	FG Vinatieri 47 (3-58-0:43)	20-10						
3 8:03 Virden	TD Addai 1 run (Vinatieri) (13-69-6:57)	20-17						
3 6:58 Chino	TD White 75 run (Reed,J) (2-77-1:05)	27-17						
4 13:27 Chino	TD Cutler 34 pass to Ward (Reed,J) (7-83-3:16)	34-17						
4 8:44 Virden	FG Vinatieri 27 (9-52-4:43)	34-20						

McKELVIN STEALS GAME FOR GLADS

GAME POINTS: **Leodis McKelvin** returned a kickoff 101 yards for a TD and returned an interception 66 yards for another to keep the Gladiators' playoff hopes alive in the hostile Dawg Pound in Markham. Gwinnett's offence was stagnant overall but did just enough to keep the game close for McKelvin's heroics to make the difference. The North Stars controlled the ball on the ground, but had little to show for it. **Donovan McNabb** threw 2 interceptions and **Mark Sanchez** lost a fumble on the final drive to sabotage the Markham offence. If that wasn't enough, 6 penalties for 69 yards did the rest.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Matt Cassel** completed 11 of 19 for 126 yards and 1 TD; **Thomas Jones** rushed for 41 yards on 13 carries; **Reggie Wayne** caught 6 passes for 85 yards. **Donovan McNabb** went 15 of 29 for 190 yards and 2 INTs; **Jamal Lewis** rushed for 52 yards on 14 carries; **Bobby Wade** caught 5 passes for 77 yards; **Akin Ayodele** had 7 tackles and forced 2 fumbles.



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GWINNETT



16

MARKHAM

12-04-2009 The Dawg Pound. Temp: 45 Wind: 10-20 Light Rain MVP: McKelvin					GWG	MAR		
2008 Gwinnett (5-5)	7	13	3	7	-30	First Downs	10	17
2008 Markham (3-7)	10	3	0	3	-16	Rushes	24-62	33-129
1 9:13 Markham	FG Longwell 24 (10-54-5:47)	0-3	Passes	19-11-126	33-17-211	Sacked	2-11	2-14
1 8:54 Gwinnett	TD McKelvin 101 kick return (Brown,J) (0-0-0:15)	7-3	Fumble	4	1	Penalties	3-26	9-69
1 2:41 Markham	TD Pittman 1 run (Longwell) (13-68-6:13)	7-10	Turnovers	1	3	Time	24:52	35:08
2 13:40 Gwinnett	FG Brown 34 (7-63-4:01)	10-10	Third Down	2-10	5-16	Fourth Down	0-0	1-1
2 9:15 Markham	FG Longwell 49 (7-48-4:20)	10-13	Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/1	5/1/2	Net Offense	177	326
2 4:50 Gwinnett	FG Brown 49 (8-31-4:21)	13-13						
2 0:45 Gwinnett	TD McKelvin 66 interception return (Brown,J) (0-0-0:00)	20-13						
3 11:14 Gwinnett	FG Brown 21 (8-46-3:46)	23-13						
4 8:27 Markham	FG Longwell 42 (10-32-4:45)	23-16						
4 3:01 Gwinnett	TD Cassel 8 pass to Edwards (Brown,J) (4-13-2:44)	30-16						



17

GARLAND



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COWTOWN

COWS OUTPACE MUSTANGS

GAME POINTS: Chad Pennington threw 3 touchdown passes, 2 to Greg Camarillo, to lead the Corn Kings past the Mustangs in a “must-win” game for the home team at Tillman Field. Trailing 7-3 early in the 2nd quarter, the bold and brash Mustang offence stayed on the field to try to convert 4th down and 4 at their own 40 yard line. When Matt Ryan threw incomplete, the Corn Kings took over in great field position and scored 3 plays later on a 12-yard pass from Pennington to Marion Barber to make it 14-3 for Cowntown. The Mustangs were forced into catch-up mode after back-to-back field goals by Jason Hanson put the Corn Kings ahead 20-3 at one point. Ryan engineered two nice TD drives in difficult conditions but it was not enough to erase the early deficit.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Chad Pennington completed 18 of 28 for 281 yards, 3 TDs and 1 INT; Greg Camarillo caught 7 passes for 108 yards and 2 TDs; Marion Barber rushed for 92 yards on 17 carries; Kirk Morrison made 10 tackles, 1 sack, 1 deflection, 1 run stuff and 1 forced fumble. Matt Ryan went 23 of 38 for 242 yards and 2 TDs; Frank Gore rushed for 76 yards on 16 carries.

12-04-2009 Tillman Field. Temp: 43 Wind: 10-20 Rain MVP: Pennington			GDM	COW
2008 Garland (5-5)	3 0 7 7	-17	First Downs	20
2008 Cowntown (4-6)	7 10 10 0	-27	Rushes	26-102
			Passes	38-23-242
1 6:32 Garland	FG Gould 38 (15-68-8:28)	3-0	Sacked	2-9
1 0:52 Cowntown	TD Pennington 30 pass to Camarillo (Hanson,J) (9-80-5:35)	3-7	Fumble	3
2 12:57 Cowntown	TD Pennington 12 pass to Barber (Hanson,J) (4-40-1:46)	3-14	Penalties	6-51
2 0:06 Cowntown	FG Hanson 40 (11-49-2:26)	3-17	Turnovers	1
3 11:22 Cowntown	FG Hanson 41 (7-58-3:38)	3-20	Challenges	0-0
3 5:22 Garland	TD Ryan 8 pass to Carlson (Gould) (12-72-5:57)	10-20	Time	34:47
3 4:01 Cowntown	TD Pennington 7 pass to Camarillo (Hanson,J) (5-60-1:21)	10-27	Third Down	10-17
4 3:58 Garland	TD Ryan 5 pass to Welker (Gould) (18-96-9:26)	17-27	Fourth Down	2-5
			Red Att/Td/Fg	4/2/1
			Net Offense	335
				398

DRAGONS CRUISE TO No. 10!

GAME POINTS: Back-to-back interceptions on the first two series promised a crazy day at Thermopylae Stadium until Florida took control with a workman-like drive on their second possession. Aaron Rodgers engineered a 74-yard drive that finished with a 10-yard pass to Heath Miller to make it 7-3 for Florida. The Spartans fought to keep it close until Andre’ Goodman intercepted Eli Manning and returned it 53 yards to the Pickering 8 yard line. Two plays later, Rodgers connected with Miller a second time to boost the Dragons lead to 17-6 at halftime. That was all the offence Florida would need. They switched to “cruise” control to add two more touchdowns in the second half to win handily.

KEY PERFORMANCES: Aaron Rodgers completed 21 of 27 for 239 yards, 3 TDs and 1 INT; Jonathan Stewart rushed for 105 yards on 22 carries; Brandon Marshall caught 6 balls for 102 yards. Eli Manning went 10 of 20 for 101 yards and 2 INTs; Chris Johnson rushed for 96 yards on 26 carries.



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FLORIDA



13

PICKERING

12-04-2009 Thermopylae Stadium. Temp: 42 Wind: Calm None MVP: Rodgers			FLD	PIC
2008 Florida (10-0)	7 10 7 7	-31	First Downs	23
2008 Pickering (3-7)	3 3 0 7	-13	Rushes	30-121
			Passes	27-21-239
1 8:20 Pickering	FG Kasay 43 (3-7-2:08)	0-3	Sacked	0-0
1 3:05 Florida	TD Rodgers 10 pass to Miller (Elam,J) (9-74-5:09)	7-3	Fumble	1
2 14:10 Pickering	FG Kasay 32 (8-33-3:55)	7-6	Penalties	1-5
2 8:09 Florida	FG Elam 31 (12-70-5:56)	10-6	Turnovers	2
2 4:42 Florida	TD Rodgers 7 pass to Miller (Elam,J) (2-8-0:44)	17-6	Time	33:00
3 8:32 Florida	TD Williams 1 run (Elam,J) (12-80-6:28)	24-6	Third Down	2-7
4 14:42 Pickering	TD Henry 47 yd fumble recovery (Kasay) (0-0-0:00)	24-13	Fourth Down	2-2
4 9:22 Florida	TD Rodgers 3 pass to Miller (Elam,J) (8-71-5:20)	31-13	Red Att/Td/Fg	5/4/1
			Net Offense	360
				183



AROUND THE EFL With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – Presidential Candidate Barack Obama continues to amaze with his wisdom and foresight. This week he announced his plan for the war in Afghanistan – an exceedingly complex and difficult adventure in the world’s most confounding theatre. Obama considered the two principal options: a phased withdrawal or a troop increase; and announced to the world that he would do both. The plan is to send in more troops and then withdraw them. The common presumption is that the two options are mutually exclusive, but Obama has demonstrated that they are not – if conducted in sequence. Brilliant!

RIVERS FLOODS RINGGOLD’S HOPES

The quarterback who gets no respect in his home town finally got some love on Sunday after he led the Thunder Lizards to victory in the final minute against Ringgold. **Philip Rivers** completed 5 of 8 pass attempts for 78 yards and a touchdown in the span of 1:38 against a good defense that knew what was coming its way. It was a virtuoso performance coming on the heels of what was probably the low point of Durham’s season. And it helped to wipe clean the memory of a controversial call that had led, indirectly, to the Lizard’s desperate predicament.

With 1:52 remaining in the game and Durham leading 13-10, Ringgold’s onside kick failed and the T-Lizards took over at the Hawks’ 43 yard line. Rivers stepped up behind center and surveyed the Hawks defense. He saw the linebackers and corners crowding the line and decided that the Hawks were in a run defense. It was a logical presumption since this would be expected under the circumstances. Rivers called an audible at the line and threw a pass underneath to **Calvin Johnson**. However, the Hawks were not in a run defense. Having been burned enough by the same play all day, **Corey Webster** recognized it immediately and, playing tight, punched the ball loose a split second after Johnson gained possession. The ball flew backwards and **Paul Posluszny** picked it up on one bounce and ran it all the way back for a touchdown and a 17-13 Ringgold lead.

That shocking turn of events set up the ensuing drama. If Rivers looked a little more lively than usual on the final drive, it was probably because he knew he was about to be eviscerated after the game when reviewing the game film with coaches. Calling an audible in that situation is recklessly cute. In the sobering silence of Jurassic Park, as Posluszny and the Hawks celebrated what looked like the winning touchdown, Rivers was probably well aware of that and wishing he had just handed the ball off to **Michael Turner**. His urgency during the winning TD drive will be a good thing for Rivers in the long run. For most of the season he has looked as if he is waiting for good things to happen instead of taking control and making them happen. When he found **Austin Collie** in the end zone with 8 seconds left on the clock he simply pumped his fist, pointed at the rookie, and walked off the field. No wild celebration. He knew better.

DRAGONS FIRST TO CLINCH PLAYOFF BERTH

The Florida Dragons quietly clinched a wild card berth with a decisive 31-13 victory on the road against Pickering. I say “quietly” because nobody was really looking very closely at the playoff picture heading into Week Ten. If Florida were to lose its remaining 6 games and somehow lose the Division to either Garland or Gwinnett, it would leave one of those two teams plus Cowtown and Durham potentially tied with them at 10-6. Florida wins the tie-breakers against both Durham and Cowtown, having beaten both of them already. So the Dragons are in the post-season. Now they can relax and let somebody beat them.

McKELVIN SAVES GWINNETT / BRODIE CROYLE RETURNS / WHITE – THE NEW “LT”

Week Ten in the EFL saw some unlikely heroes emerge to save their team’s seasons. **Leodis McKelvin**, a nickel back who until this week was mainly known as the guy wearing no.28 on Gwinnett, shocked the unsuspecting North Stars with two touchdowns: a 101-yard kickoff return, and a 66-yard interception return.

The scores helped the Gladiators overcome another sub-par offensive showing. **Matt Cassel**, the league's top "minimalist" quarterback, posted 126 yards passing and threw one touchdown – the only one scored by the offense in a 30-point game. The show by McKelvin may have saved the Gladiators' season.

Brodie Croyle will not go away. After leaving Hollywood for the broccoli fields of Iowa, the precious few who cared to think about it thought they would probably never hear his name again. Not so. Brodie made an appearance behind center for Iowa City in Kutztown this week because the thought of **JP Losman** occupying the same position was too torturous to consider. Croyle did not look great, but he did not look bad either. He threw a pick, which led to Kutztown's only touchdown, but he also made some important throws to complement the Cubs' vaunted running attack. One, in particular, stood out to me. He hit **Lee Evans** for an 11-yard completion on 3rd down and 7 to Kutztown's 12 yard line. The throw kept the drive alive and **Ronnie Brown** eventually ran it in from 7 yards out to give the Cubs a 21-13 lead. **Tony Romo** went down to injury soon afterwards and the Cubs went on to win 24-13 to raise their record to 5-5 after a 1-4 start. The Cubs are not out of the race yet and they get **Trent Edwards** back this week against Ringgold. Thanks for not screwing this game up, Brodie!

The declining Chino rushing attack got an unexpected boost from **LenDale White**, who ran for 180 yards and 2 touchdowns on 22 carries. Finding themselves in an unexpected dogfight with Virden in the **TERRORDOME**, White turned the tide of the game permanently with a 75-yard touchdown run in the third quarter that gave Chino a 10-point lead. That was the good news. The bad news was that the "Lockdown Crew" surrendered 352 yards of offense to a team with few viable threats other than their quarterback.

THE FOOTBALL GODS WORK IN MYSTERIOUS....AND MISCHIEVIOUS WAYS

It is probably a reflection of society that players are more inclined to promote their personal agendas before the needs of their teams. Regardless, the result is that coaches have less control over game play and their best laid plans often go astray.

It is an open secret around the league that coaches are feeling increasingly helpless. While members of the coaching fraternity privately gripe amongst themselves, only recently is it beginning to tentatively emerge as a topic in the media. No coach is going to admit that his players are insubordinate or undisciplined because that would reflect badly on the coach. But, according to my sources inside the league, impulsive play, or "improv" as the players call it, is rampant and affects every team in the league.

If it feels to you like games are becoming quirky, unpredictable, and prone to capricious and sudden turns of fortune, it is because this is exactly what is happening out there on the gridiron. The "chaos dynamic" is so prevalent, that the previously rare and unexpected must be factored into any analysis. Game plans are fast becoming merely the starting point for adventures into the unknown.

When Man feels he has no control over his own destiny, he turns to God. In the EFL, despairing coaches are joining fanatic fans in the collective worship of 'The Football Gods.' It is an underground religion that is fast becoming Mainstream. It is based on the pseudo-scientific theoretical principal of "Gumption." The theory postulates that, without a collective central goal on which to focus energy, a player's individual will to achieve becomes the dominant force. But, with 22 individual wills competing against one another on every play, the result must be arbitrated by a superior force. That superior force is created as a by-product of the interaction of every individual will focused on the outcome of any given play, including that of coaches and spectators. Over time, that force takes on quasi-physical properties and becomes "alive" and "sentient." In other words, a "Football God."

The Football Gods can be extremely jealous and perverse. Having nothing to do but watch football, they guard their domain with stubborn purpose. Any mere mortal who presumes to think that he can, through thought, deliberation and tactical strategy, control the sacred flow of any game, is a target for the Football Gods. To be unthinking is to be better off when facing them. Their temptations are placed there deliberately. The apparent holes in your opponent's schemes are a trap – attempt to exploit them and you will pay the price more often than not. Unless, of course, your opponent himself is out of favour with the Football Gods, in which case his weaknesses are illuminated for your convenience and there is nothing he or you can do to prevent you having your way with him.

The general workings of the Football Gods are known to faithful worshippers. They know, for instance, to call 'RUN' when they expect a pass from their opponent, and 'PASS' when they expect a run, once it is clear that no correct key or double-team will stop the advance against them. It may work, it may not, but it cannot make the situation worse. They also know that their top receiver will drop the ball on a perfectly designed play, but will catch a dump-off pass and gain a first down in an impossible situation. Therefore, to bring his top receiver into play, he must take care to throw to someone else. They also know NEVER to blitz in a passing situation, since this indicates 'Force of Will' by the coach, which is perceived by the Football Gods as a challenge to their natural order of things. Unless it is a "sanctioned blitz" (and we can never know

when it will be sanctioned because the sanctification takes place *after* the blitz is called) it will be miraculously “blocked well” by whatever happens to be on the field for the offense at the time and the resulting vacancy in coverage will be exploited to deleterious effect against the defense.

Sometimes...rarely...the Football Gods are sleeping. When they are, players lose their egos and listen, meaning a coach can actually influence the outcome of games with strategy and tactics. But when they are awake, only Divine Intervention is at play to bring about the same influences on game outcomes. Therefore, coaches have turned to prayer and even ‘Player Sacrifice’ to get what they want. It is a murky world, not well understood by outsiders, but my investigation into it is just beginning. Next week, I examine strange and fantastic outcomes and begin to name the Football Gods.

NEW YORK GRIPES

Count me in as one of those Pennington-haters. Yes, the guy is smart. Yes, he’s a leader who inspires confidence in the huddle. Yes, he’ll pick you apart occasionally. But for Crissakes, get an arm, Chad! The guy should be a coach, not playing in the league. I say this after he threw for 281 yards and 3 touchdowns to beat Garland. But it’s not the touchdowns that tell the tale for me – two of them came on short passes and were helped by yards after the catch; the other was a medium hitch into the end zone from 7 yards away. The thing that sticks with me is the interception he threw in the second quarter. With 1st and 10 at the Garland 34, leading 14-3, the Corn Kings were going in for the kill. That’s when Chad lofts a short floater over the middle that hangs in the air so long his receiver runs past it and Ron Bartell, a safety, comes in from 10 yards away to snatch it from its gravity-defying mid-air suspension. Luckily for Cowtown, the Mustangs did not capitalize on Chad’s gift. But that’s the thing with Chad – he gives these things away. The defense doesn’t take them, he gives them.

How can **Matt Ryan** look so good in a loss? He did against Cowtown because he threw for 242 yards, 2 touchdowns and no interceptions. Sure, he fumbled twice, but he looked good on those fumbles – they weren’t his fault. So, why don’t we just set up a friggin’ altar for no.2 and declare him a friggin’ “Football God??”

SPATS.



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

PLAY OF THE WEEK

SITUATION

Ringgold 17, Durham 13, 4th Quarter, 00:21 mark, Thunder Lizards in possession, 2nd down & 10 at Ringgold 13 yard line.

4 WR set vs. 3-2-6 Dime package, medium MAN coverage, PASS defense, double team 3.

RESULT

Philip Rivers checks down to Austin Collie, who runs it in for the game-winning touchdown.

ANALYSIS

Collie had dropped a pass on the previous play. Rivers going back to him showed extraordinary leadership. The win may have set the tone for T-Lizards for rest of year.

WEEK TEN LEADERS

PASSING

RUSHING

RECEIVING

Warner (MOH) 27-19-298
 Pennington (COW) 28-18-281
 Rivers (DTL) 36-21-280
 Ryan, M. (GDM) 38-23-242
 Rodgers (FLD) 27-21-239

White, L. (CHI) 22-180
 Jacobs, B. (ICC) 21-120
 Portis (VV) 15-111
 Stewart, J. (FLD) 22-105
 Johnson, Chris (PIC) 26-96

Johnson, Ca. (DTL) 8-133
 Royal, E. (RCH) 10-114
 Camarillo (COW) 7-108
 Hester, D. (VV) 7-104
 Owens, T. (MOH) 3-103

LEADER BOARD

STANDINGS

PACIFIC-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood	8	2	0	0.800	259	25.9	134	13.4	12.5	4 1 0	2 1 0	6 1 0
Kutztown	5	5	0	0.500	202	20.2	213	21.3	-1.1	2 3 0	2 1 0	3 4 0
Mohave	4	6	0	0.400	207	20.7	228	22.8	-2.1	3 1 0	2 1 0	3 4 0
Virden	3	7	0	0.300	181	18.1	248	24.8	-6.7	1 5 0	0 3 0	2 5 0

West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Chino	7	3	0	0.700	214	21.4	133	13.3	8.1	3 1 0	2 1 0	5 2 0
Los Angeles	7	3	0	0.700	223	22.3	140	14	8.3	4 1 0	2 1 0	5 2 0
Iowa City	5	5	0	0.500	181	18.1	196	19.6	-1.5	2 3 0	1 2 0	3 4 0
Winnemucca	1	9	0	0.1000	134	13.4	269	26.9	-13.5	0 6 0	1 2 0	1 6 0

CAN-AM CONFERENCE

North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham	8	2	0	0.800	210	21	157	15.7	5.3	4 1 0	3 0 0	5 2 0
Cowtown	4	6	0	0.400	201	20.1	220	22	-1.9	2 2 0	1 2 0	3 4 0
Markham	3	7	0	0.300	155	15.5	215	21.5	-6	2 4 0	1 2 0	2 5 0
Pickering	3	7	0	0.300	182	18.2	270	27	-8.8	1 4 0	1 2 0	2 5 0

South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Florida (y)	10	0	0	1.000	303	30.3	116	11.6	18.7	5 0 0	3 0 0	7 0 0
Garland	5	5	0	0.500	235	23.5	244	24.4	-0.9	4 2 0	1 2 0	4 3 0
Gwinnett	5	5	0	0.500	188	18.8	203	20.3	-1.5	1 3 0	2 1 0	4 3 0
Ringgold	2	8	0	0.200	151	15.1	240	24	-8.9	1 4 0	0 3 0	1 6 0

z-clinched Division

y-clinched wildcard

PASSING

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Ryan, M	GDM	294	197	67	2428	7	2.4	69	23	7.8	108.5
2	Manning, P	CHP	258	180	69.8	2083	7	2.7	50	16	6.2	103.2
3	Warner	MOH	253	176	69.6	2034	7	2.8	61	16	6.3	103.1
4	Rivers, P	DTL	289	178	61.6	2572	6	2.1	80	15	5.2	99.1
5	Campbell, J	LAK	248	162	65.3	1774	4	1.6	47	14	5.6	98.4
6	Rodgers	FLD	250	168	67.2	1870	6	2.4	46	10	4	92.6
7	Brees	VV	271	165	60.9	1999	7	2.6	51	14	5.2	90
8	Cassel	GWG	245	151	61.6	1564	4	1.6	41	10	4.1	86.8
9	Cutler	CHI	290	193	66.6	1900	8	2.8	63	9	3.1	83.7
10	Manning, E	PIC	254	149	58.7	2017	10	3.9	74	12	4.7	83.4
11	Roethlisberger	RCH	276	158	57.2	1744	5	1.8	41	12	4.3	83.1
12	Pennington	COW	323	202	62.5	2214	10	3.1	41	12	3.7	82.2
13	Romo	KUT	289	176	60.9	1946	9	3.1	41	11	3.8	80.6
14	Edwards, T	ICC	172	110	64	1111	5	2.9	23	3	1.7	76
15	McNabb	MAR	248	146	58.9	1633	9	3.6	67	8	3.2	74.2

RUSHING

			<u>Att</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Ave</u>	<u>Lg</u>	<u>TD</u>				<u>Att</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Ave</u>	<u>Lg</u>	<u>TD</u>
1	Williams, D	FLD	168	937	5.6	48	17	8	Brown, R	ICC	146	644	4.4	53	4
2	Peterson, A	CHP	192	855	4.5	69	6	9	Barber, M	COW	140	576	4.1	40	5
3	Turner, M	DTL	185	796	4.3	85	3	10	Johnson, C	PIC	113	526	4.7	69	3
4	Portis	VV	211	792	3.8	36	0	11	Slaton	MOH	149	477	3.2	80	4
5	Jacobs, B	ICC	148	734	5	49	9	12	Stewart, J	FLD	102	474	4.6	46	2
6	Jones, T	GWG	170	732	4.3	69	6	13	White, L	CHI	106	471	4.4	75	8
7	Lewis, J	MAR	169	687	4.1	17	1	14	McCoy, L	KUT	80	448	5.6	52	1
8	Brown, R	ICC	146	644	4.4	53	4	15	Gore	GDM	101	445	4.4	46	1

RECEIVING

			<u>No</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Ave</u>	<u>Lg</u>	<u>TD</u>				<u>No</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Ave</u>	<u>Lg</u>	<u>TD</u>
1	Jennings, G	KUT	66	919	13.9	62	7	8	Welker	GDM	49	628	12.8	69	9
2	White, R	LAK	60	662	11	27	5	9	Johnson, C	DTL	49	927	18.9	80	4
3	Royal, E	RCH	60	540	9	33	3	10	Ward, H	CHI	49	566	11.6	37	3
4	Gonzalez, T	CHP	57	616	10.8	34	7	11	Coles	WMO	48	526	11	49	2
5	Johnson, A	RCH	55	746	13.6	41	5	12	Fitzgerald	ICC	47	545	11.6	31	2
6	Hester, D	VV	49	754	15.4	40	4	13	Houshmandz	FLD	47	442	9.4	19	0
7	Marshall, B	FLD	49	714	14.6	43	3	14	Harrison, M	VV	47	576	12.3	51	7
8	Welker	GDM	49	628	12.8	69	9	15	Boldin	CHI	46	521	11.3	63	3



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

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OFFENSE



RB – LenDale White, Chino Convicts

22 Att., 180 yards, Long 75, 7 first downs, 2 TDs.
75-yard TD run broke game open in third for Convicts.

DEFENSE



DE – Ty Warren, Durham Thunder Lizards

10 Tackles, 3 Sacks, 2 Stuffs, 1 Forced Fumble.
Sack snuffed out Ringgold scoring chance in close Durham win.

SPECIAL TEAMS



KR – Leodis McKelvin, Gwinnett Glads

3 KR, 169 yards, 56.3 avg., 101 Long, 1 TD.
Could have been Defensive MVP as well. Ruled the day for Glads.

INJURY REPORT - Week Eleven

CHARLESWOOD – A. Thomas (OUT), Burgess (OUT); **CHINO** – Newman (OUT), Boldin (OUT), Clements (OUT); **COWTOWN** – Schobel (OUT), Steinbach (OUT); **DURHAM** – Faulk (OUT); **FLORIDA** – None; **GARLAND** – M. Williams (OUT), Cushing (OUT); **GWINNETT** – McGee (DOUBTFUL), D. Smith (DOUBTFUL), Hardwick (OUT), Burleson (OUT); **IOWA CITY** – Hartsock (OUT), R. Bush (DOUBTFUL); **KUTZTOWN** – Romo (OUT), T. Porter (OUT), D. Landry (OUT), F. Jones (OUT), J. Miller (QUESTIONABLE); **LOS ANGELES** – S. Young (OUT); **MARKHAM** – Shockey (OUT), Askew (PROBABLE), A. Hall (OUT), Robbins (OUT); **MOHAVE** – None. **PICKERING** – F. Davis (OUT), D. Harris (QUESTIONABLE), T. Harris (OUT) Vanden Bosch (OUT), J. Joseph (OUT), M. Jackson (OUT); **RINGGOLD** – Burnett (OUT), S. Holmes (OUT); **VIRDEN** – B. Davis (OUT), S. Rice (OUT); **WINNEMUCCA** – J. Griffith (OUT), McAlister (OUT).



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JIMMY'S WEEK ELEVEN PICKS

LOS ANGELES @ FLORIDA (LINE – DRAGONS BY 9)

The Knights and Dragons are neck-and-neck for top EFL defense, but the Dragons have a significant edge in takeaways. Both teams are healthy and will be able to go at each other with full force. The key difference between the teams lies in the skill positions. The Dragons' offence has a proven track record while the Knights' offence, though much improved, is inconsistent by comparison. That means that, all things being equal, Florida should win. Whether or not they can cover the generous spread will depend on how well Los Angeles can hold onto the ball. If the Knights can avoid turnovers, expect a slower and closer game. If the Dragons can work their turnover magic, it will degenerate into a low-grade blowout. I can't see LA coming out with a win here, but I can see them protecting the ball enough to keep it close.

PICK: LOS ANGELES

WINNEMUCCA @ GWINNETT (LINE – GLADATORS BY 7)

The Gladiators' continue to tread on the edge of contention due to their second rate offense. Matt Cassel is middle-of-the-pack in QB rating, but near the bottom in yards passing. He has thrown for over 200 yards just once (205) in 10 starts this season. The offensive line cannot hold off the better teams and the defense is not aggressive enough taking the ball away to make up the difference, notwithstanding last week's showing against Markham. Enter Winnemucca – the perfect opponent to make everything seem alright again and bolster confidence. Like a drug, however, playing the Outlaws treats only the symptoms, not the cause of the problem. The Glads should win and cover, but should remember not to get too high afterwards.

PICK: GWINNETT

RINGGOLD @ IOWA CITY (LINE – CUBS BY 6)

The Crimson Hawks keep finding ways to lose. In fact, they have developed a culture of losing that would make a fascinating study for some scientist or anthropologist or something. In predicting how they will lose this week, it is safe to say that they will not be able to run the ball at all against the Cubs and, with Santonio Holmes out, will have a tough time passing the ball as well. So they can rule out scoring on offense as a reliable option. Iowa City gets Trent Edwards back; which may or may not be a good thing. Having Edwards back could make them tempted to pass again and they were doing just fine running the ball all day with Brandon Jacobs and Ronnie Brown. Passing could get them into trouble.

PICK: IOWA CITY

GARLAND @ CHINO (LINE – CONVICTS BY 7)

At first glance this match-up looks like a walk-in-the-park (or a walk-in-the-yard) for Chino at ‘The Big House.’ But the Convicts’ secondary is banged up and their offence is missing one of its principal weapons in Anquan Boldin. Matt Ryan is for real – expect him to successfully exploit the temporary weakness of “The Lockdown Crew” and put some points on the board. Can Jay Cutler keep pace flinging it deep against the “Thoroughheads?” I would not bet on it unless the Convicts can keep LenDale White and the budding running game on track. Do I like Garland enough to say they will win? No. Can they beat the spread? Yes.

PICK: GARLAND

KUTZTOWN @ DURHAM (LINE – THUNDER LIZARDS BY 5)

The Thunder Lizards could not have picked a better time to face the Golden Bears. With Tony Romo out, JaMarcus Russell takes over and there is nobody behind him if he goes down during the game. Ringing Russell’s bell should be a priority for the Durham defense while picking apart their wounded secondary should be their next. I can’t believe the spread is only 5 points. Is it a trap? No way.

PICK: DURHAM

VIRDEN @ COWTOWN (LINE – CORN KINGS BY 6)

The Corn Kings may have saved their season by beating Garland last week, but it will only stay saved if they keep on winning. Every game is a must-win for Cowtown at this point and, on paper, they should be able to take care of business against Virden. Unfortunately for them the game is not played on paper. Virden is a tougher opponent than they appear. Drew Brees is making the most of limited options in the passing game – an area where the Corn Kings defense has struggled – and Clinton Portis is showing flashes of effectiveness. The Corn Kings should not take anything for granted here and I don’t think they will.

PICK: COWTOWN

PICKERING @ CHARLESWOOD (LINE – PATRIOTS BY 12)

The Spartans defense continues to get shredded weekly due to injuries in the secondary and the defensive line. There is no relief this week as they try to stop Peyton Manning at Patriot Place. “Stop” maybe isn’t the right word – “contain” would be more reasonable. Actually, “contain” would be too optimistic – maybe “watch” is more appropriate. Yes, the Spartans defense will *watch* Peyton Manning and hope that their own offence, led by Eli Manning, will stay on the field long enough to allow them to catch their breath so they can *watch* some more. At least somebody will be watching this game.

PICK: CHARLESWOOD

MARKHAM @ MOHAVE (LINE – HELLFIRE BY 5)

The Hellfire have an explosive offence if they choose to use it. The Markham defense is gradually improving after a rocky start but they remain vulnerable to the pass. This week they face a further challenge with their best defensive lineman, Fred Robbins, out due to injury. Donovan McNabb is hot and cold and cannot be relied on while Champ Bailey returns from injury to give the underperforming Mohave defense a much needed lift. All the signs point to a Mohave blowout here which is enough cause to pause and consider carefully before putting your money down on them. Markham plays the tough teams tough and the Hellfire are known to take the occasional day off work.

PICK: MARKHAM

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

HOW I'M DOING AGAINST THE SPREAD

LAST WEEK: 6-2-0

OVERALL: 52-27-1