



2009

WEEK SEVEN

November 15th, 2009



Iowa City's Chris Gamble mocks the crowd at Tillman Field after returning a fumble 71 yards for a TD. The Cubs went on to beat the Corn Kings 24-17.

"GAMBLING" CUBS GIVE CORN KINGS "FITZ!"

GAMBLE RETURNS FUMBLE FOR TD / FITZGERALD SNAGS 9 BALLS IN WEEK SEVEN UPSET



IOWA CITY

24

3 - 4



COWTOWN

17

3 - 4

COWTOWN – The last time the Iowa City Cubs traveled to Cowtown for a game was in Week Two of the EFL's inaugural season in 2007. On that occasion they feasted off 7 Corn Kings turnovers in handing Cowtown their first loss, 37-17. It was considered at the time to be a major upset. This week they came into Cowtown as the underdogs once more, getting little respect from Vegas or media analysts after a rocky start to the season. But the situation was not as grim for the Cubbies as it first appeared. The Corn Kings sported a 3-3 record, but many felt they had let two of those losses get away, showing in the process a disconcerting lack of offensive finish in the clutch and occasional wholesale breakdowns on defense. The smart money saw the 8 points on the board for Iowa City, snatched it and ran. As it turned out, the smart money was right.

From the start there were small signs that Cowtown would struggle. A promising opening drive out of the gate suddenly stalled when the normally reliable tackle, David Diehl was called for a hold on Richard Seymour, pushing the Kings back to midfield. On the next play, the normally great Jordan Gross missed a blocking assignment and Vince Wilfork walked in untouched to bury Chad Pennington. The fired up Cubs defense forced the punt and the Cubs offense took over.

Looking like the cool and smart QB that Bill Walsh had said he was, Trent Edwards looked in perfect control as he led his team up the field against a Corn King defense that seemed content to sit back and watch the show. Taking advantage of a shift in the defense's attention to the running game as the Cubs entered the red zone, Edwards threw a ball underneath to Lee Evans, who ran it through the Corn King 'D' and into the end zone from 17 yards out for the opening score.

The Corn Kings answered that major score with a minor, moving the ball 72 yards but being forced to settle for a 25-yard Jason Hanson field goal after a dropped pass by Zach Miller on third down. However, their offence would soon get another chance as the Cubs surprised everyone by going for it on 4th down and 1 at their own 44 yard line on their next possession. Brandon Jacobs was held to no gain and the Corn Kings took over in great field position. That set up the play of the game, but not by the Corn Kings. Marion Barber, carrying the ball across the Cubs' 30, was stripped by Marcus Washington and the bouncing pigskin was neatly snatched up by cornerback, Chris Gamble, who sprinted 71 yards for the touchdown and a 14-3 Cubs lead.

Back-to-back bookend TD drives to end the first half and begin the second half brought Cowtown back from the edge and put

them momentarily in control 17-14. But the Cubs wrestled back the momentum and the lead with a brilliant 80-yard TD drive that finished in fine style with a 21-yard play action pass from Edwards to **Larry Fitzgerald** as the Corn Kings bit on the run. Sensing panic in the Cowtown camp, the Cubs' star pass rusher **Mario Williams** let loose against the Cowtown line, disrupting Pennington as he tried to steady his team and sacking him twice on third down to force punts on consecutive drives.

Despite surrendering a field goal to make it 24-17 for Iowa City, the Corn Kings were not completely out of it. With 3 minutes remaining, they took the field facing an 86 yard challenge after **Glenn Holt's** 16-yard kickoff return from inside the end zone. They moved the ball across midfield and into Cubs' territory with 44 seconds and 2 timeouts remaining. But Diehl was flagged for another holding penalty that seemed to suck the life out of the offence. When Pennington completed a 6-yard pass to **Greg Camarillo** on 4<sup>th</sup> down and 20 it was all over at Tillman Field and the Cubs danced on the sidelines.

11-14-2009 Tillman Field. Temp: 60 Wind: 5-15 None *Internet* MVP: <b>Gamble</b>		ICC	COW
2008 Iowa City (3-4)	7 7 7 3 - 24	First Downs	17
2008 Cowtown (3-4)	0 10 7 0 - 17	Rushes	25-86
		Passes	22-18-194
		Sacked	0-0
1 2:04 Iowa City	TD Edwards 17 pass to Evans (Rackers) (13-80-7:09)	Fumble	2
2 8:46 Cowtown	FG Hanson 25 (14-72-8:18)	Penalties	3-20
2 4:24 Iowa City	TD Gamble 71 yd fumble recovery (Feely) (0-0-0:00)	Turnovers	1
2 0:00 Cowtown	TD Pennington 1 run (Hanson,J) (11-59-4:24)	Time	29:33
3 12:41 Cowtown	TD Pennington 9 pass to Walter (Hanson,J) (3-37-1:29)	Third Down	2-7
3 6:24 Iowa City	TD Edwards 21 pass to Fitzgerald (Feely) (10-80-6:17)	Fourth Down	1-2
4 3:10 Iowa City	FG Rackers 19 (11-60-8:26)	Red Att/Td/Fg	2/1/1
		Net Offense	280
			313

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** ICC – **Trent Edwards** completed 18 of 22 passes for 194 yards, 2 TDs and 1 INT; **Larry Fitzgerald** caught 9 passes for 111 yards and 1 TD; **Ronnie Brown** rushed for 35 yards on 13 carries, **Mario Williams** had 2 Sacks and 3 Pressures, **Marcus Washington** had 6 tackles, 1 deflection, 1 stuff and forced the fumble that **Chris Gamble** returned for a TD. COW – **Chad Pennington** completed 26 of 36 passes for 249 yards, 1 TD pass and ran for 1 TD; **Marion Barber** rushed for 70 yards on 18 carries; **Santana Moss** caught 6 passes for 83 yards; **Charles Godfrey** made 1 INT



**37**

**PICKERING**



**28**

**WINNEMUCCA**

## DOG FIGHT IN SKY OVER WINNEMUCCA

**GAME POINTS:** On a day when air power ruled, the Spartans' **Chester Taylor** rushed for 3 touchdowns, including the game winner on a 10-yard draw in the third quarter, to put Pickering over the top in a dog fight with Winnemucca. Both teams combined for over 900 yards of offence against injury-riddled secondaries. After Pickering posted a 13-7 halftime lead, **Percy Harvin** returned the opening kickoff of the second half 92 yards for a touchdown. Pickering regained the lead on **John Kasay's** 45-yard field goal, but the Outlaws survived a fumble by **Julius Jones** to come back on the next play with a 49-yard TD pass from **David Garrard** to **Laveranues Coles** to take it back, 21-16. **Eli Manning** responded with 4 straight completions for 71 yards to set up Taylor's winning TD run. The Outlaws folded like a tent after that, Pickering blowing it open with two early fourth quarter touchdowns to put the game out of reach.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Eli Manning** went 15 of 25 for 320 yards and 1 TD; **Chester Taylor** rushed for 58 yards and 3 TDs on 10 carries; **Vincent Jackson** caught 5 passes for 159 yards. **David Garrard** completed 26 of 45 for 331 yds and 2 TDs; **Laveranues Coles** caught 9 passes for 124 yards and 1 TD.

11-13-2009 Temp:5 0 Wind: 15-25 None MVP: Eli Manning		PIC	WMO
2008 Pickering (3-4)	3 10 10 14 - 37	First Downs	18
2008 Winnemucca (1-6)	7 0 14 7 - 28	Rushes	26-100
		Passes	25-15-320
		Sacked	2-9
1 5:26 Winnemucca	TD Harvin 17 run (Graham,S) (15-91-7:15)	Fumble	2
1 2:46 Pickering	FG Kasay 37 (5-35-2:40)	Penalties	9-60
2 9:52 Pickering	FG Kasay 33 (6-23-2:57)	Turnovers	1
2 0:12 Pickering	TD Manning 34 pass to Bruce (Kasay) (8-80-1:28)	Time	25:34
3 14:47 Winnemucca	TD Harvin 92 kick return (Graham,S) (0-0-0:13)	Third Down	4-13
3 11:01 Pickering	FG Kasay 45 (7-44-3:46)	Fourth Down	0-0
3 7:55 Winnemucca	TD Garrard 49 pass to Coles (Graham,S) (5-69-3:02)	Red Att/Td/Fg	5/3/2
3 5:42 Pickering	TD Taylor 10 run (Kasay) (5-81-2:13)	Net Offense	411
4 13:13 Pickering	TD Taylor 13 run (Kasay) (3-78-1:44)		490
4 10:23 Pickering	TD Taylor 2 run (Kasay) (6-22-2:26)		
4 0:08 Winnemucca	TD Garrard 41 pass to Williams (Graham,S) (5-80-0:50)		



MARKHAM



LOS ANGELES

23

24

## KNIGHTS BATTLE BACK TO SURVIVE STARS

**GAME POINTS:** Two turnovers on fumbles by Knights' running back **Steven Jackson** led to 10 opposition points and helped **Donovan McNabb** and the North Stars build a surprising 20-7 lead at half time. In the second half, the Knights' defense staved off Markham's attack, holding them to a field goal, while **Jason Campbell** led two touchdown drives and **Matt Wilhelm's** interception of McNabb in Markham territory led to a 46-yard **Kris Brown** field goal to fuel the LA comeback. The Knights survived a nervous moment when **Jamaal Charles** fumbled in Markham's territory with 1:32 remaining. But LA recovered and 5 plays later Campbell hit **Steve Smith** for the winning TD.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Jason Campbell** completed 19 of 27 passes for 194 yards and 3 TDs; **Steve Smith** caught 10 passes for 87 yards and 2 TDs; **Calvin Pace** had 10 tackles, 1 sack, 3 stuffs and 1 forced fumble. **Donovan McNabb** went 17 of 23 for 183 yards, 2 TDs and 2 INTs; **Chad Johnson** caught 5 balls for 75 yards and 1 TD; **Takeo Spikes** forced 2 fumbles.

11-13-2009 Round Table Stadium. Temp: 90 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: **Campbell**

2008 Markham (1-6) 7 13 0 3 -23  
 2008 Los Angeles (5-2) 7 0 10 7 -24

1 13:20 Markham TD McNabb 21 pass to Johnson (Longwell) (2-27-0:52) 7-0  
 1 8:10 Los Angeles TD Campbell 10 pass to Heap (Brown,K) (9-83-5:10) 7-7  
 2 11:10 Markham FG Longwell 44 (14-60-7:16) 10-7  
 2 3:10 Markham TD McNabb 22 pass to Sproles (Longwell) (4-47-2:22) 17-7  
 2 0:25 Markham FG Longwell 51 (5-23-1:35) 20-7  
 3 7:44 Los Angeles TD Campbell 2 pass to Smith (Brown,K) (9-52-4:48) 20-14  
 3 4:37 Los Angeles FG Brown 46 (3-9-1:56) 20-17  
 4 2:52 Markham FG Longwell 44 (9-38-4:50) 23-17  
 4 0:54 Los Angeles TD Campbell 4 pass to Smith (Brown,K) (9-71-1:53) 23-24

	MAR	LAK
First Downs	13	19
Rushes	29-73	33-127
Passes	23-17-183	27-19-194
Sacked	1-5	0-0
Fumble	1	4
Penalties	5-35	4-37
Turnovers	3	2
Time	30:38	29:22
Third Down	5-14	3-12
Fourth Down	1-1	1-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	0/0/0	4/3/0
Net Offense	251	321

## DINOS CONTROL CONVICTS

**GAME POINTS:** **Philip Rivers** hooked up with **Calvin Johnson** for a 63-yard TD pass on the first play from scrimmage to give Durham a quick 7-0 lead. After Chino fullback, **Mike Sellers** fumbled in T-Lizard territory, the teams traded punts before Rivers hit **Dwayne Bowe** for 19 yards and Johnson for 22 more to key an 87-yard drive that ended on a 3-yard TD run by **Michael Bush**. Chino was never really in the game and struggled on both sides of the ball. It was all over when **Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie** picked off **Jay Cutler** with 7 minutes left and Durham ahead by a score of 20-6.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Philip Rivers** went 17 of 22 passes for 303 yards, 1 TD and 1 INT; **Calvin Johnson** caught 6 passes for 177 yards and 1 TD; **Michael Turner** rushed for 73 yards on 20 carries; **Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie** had 2 interceptions. **Jay Cutler** went 12 of 30 for 92 yards and 2 INTs; **LenDale White** had 51 yards in 12 carries; **Haloti Ngata**, 1 INT and 1 FF.



CHINO



DURHAM

6

20

11-13-2009 Jurassic Park. Temp: 84 Wind: Calm None MVP: **Rivers**

2008 Chino (5-2) 0 3 3 0 -6  
 2008 Durham (5-2) 7 7 3 3 -20

1 14:31 Durham TD Rivers 63 pass to Johnson (Crosby) (1-63-0:29) 0-7  
 2 11:42 Durham TD Bush 3 run (Crosby) (11-87-5:29) 0-14  
 2 5:12 Chino FG Reed 27 (11-49-6:30) 3-14  
 3 10:01 Chino FG Reed 31 (11-44-4:59) 6-14  
 3 4:48 Durham FG Crosby 45 (9-42-5:07) 6-17  
 4 10:56 Durham FG Crosby 18 (4-61-3:54) 6-20

	CHI	DTL
First Downs	13	15
Rushes	31-122	27-92
Passes	30-12-92	22-17-303
Sacked	1-8	0-0
Fumble	2	2
Penalties	7-45	5-48
Turnovers	3	2
Time	28:10	31:50
Third Down	6-15	3-10
Fourth Down	0-2	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	2/0/2	2/1/1
Net Offense	206	395



**GARLAND**



**KUTZTOWN**

**21**

**24**

### **KUTZTOWN WIN IS THE REAL McCOY!**

**GAME POINTS:** LeSean McCoy scored two touchdowns – one on the ground and one through the air – to lead a balanced Kutztown attack that stemmed their 3-game losing streak and halted Garland’s 3-game winning streak. The Mustangs took the lead three times on 3 TD passes from **Matt Ryan**, two of those to **Dustin Keller**, but the Bears kept assembling long drives to tie the game. The struggle broke in favour of the home team late in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter when **Fred Smoot** intercepted Ryan at the Garland 43 yard line. The Bears brought it to the Garland 1 where **Le’Ron McClain** was stonewalled on 3<sup>rd</sup> and goal, leaving **Nate Kaeding** to boot it in from 18 yards for the game winning score.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** LeSean McCoy rushed for 72 yards on 11 carries, caught 3 passes for 26 yards and scored 2 TDs; **Le’Ron McClain** carried 21 times for 93 yards and 1 TD; **Greg Jennings** caught 8 passes for 130 yards. **Matt Ryan** went 21 of 28 for 213 yards, 3 TDs and 1 INT; **Matt Forte** rushed for 77 yards on 7 carries, including a 55-yard run to set up the opening TD.

11-13-2009 Lincoln Financial. Temp: 64 Wind: 5-15 None MVP: <b>McCoy</b>								
2008 Garland (4-3)	7	7	7	0	-21	First Downs	GDM 18	KUT 26
2008 Kutztown (3-4)	7	7	7	3	-24	Rushes	21-136	35-168
1 7:37 Garland	TD Ryan 15 pass to Welker (Gould) (8-98-3:08)	7-0	Passes	28-21-213	30-19-228	Sacked	0-0	0-0
1 0:26 Kutztown	TD McCoy 4 run (Kaeding) (15-80-7:11)	7-7	Fumble	1	0	Penalties	2-23	2-10
2 7:18 Garland	TD Ryan 1 pass to Keller (Gould) (14-69-8:08)	14-7	Turnovers	2	1	Time	25:07	34:53
2 1:53 Kutztown	TD McClain 2 run (Kaeding) (9-76-5:25)	14-14	Third Down	6-9	7-10	Fourth Down	3-3	1-1
3 9:52 Garland	TD Ryan 10 pass to Keller (Gould) (9-72-5:08)	21-14	Red Att/Td/Fg	4/3/0	4/3/1	Net Offense	349	396
3 4:20 Kutztown	TD Romo 7 pass to McCoy (Kaeding) (9-82-5:32)	21-21						
4 7:47 Kutztown	FG Kaeding 18 (14-55-9:15)	21-24						

### **RINGGOLD RALLIES ON JOHNSON’S BIG DAY**

**GAME POINTS:** Andre Johnson accounted for 91 yards of a 96-yard touchdown drive, scoring on a 30-yard strike from **Ben Roethlisberger** to give the Crimson Hawks a 7-0 lead in the second quarter. The Violators closed the gap to 1 point with two field goals before half time then took a 16-10 lead early in the fourth quarter on a 17-yard TD pass from **Drew Brees** to **Marvin Harrison** and a 54-yard field goal by **Adam Vinatieri**. Big Ben turned to **Andre Johnson** to rally Ringgold, completing a 12-yard TD pass on third down and goal with less than 3 minutes remaining. The Hawks added another TD for insurance after the Violators turned the ball over on downs at their 24 yard line.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Ben Roethlisberger** went 20 of 29 for 247 yards and 2 TDs; **Andre Johnson** caught 9 passes for 167 yards and 2 TDs; **Maurice Jones-Drew** rushed for 48 yards and 1 TD on 20 carries; **Charles Johnson** had 2 sacks, 1 run stuff and 1 Pressure. **Drew Brees** completed 16 of 27 passes for 168 yards and 1 TD; **Marvin Harrison** caught 7 passes for 87 yards and 1 TD.



**RINGGOLD**



**VIRDEN**

**24**

**16**

11-14-2009 TERRORDOME Temp: 72 Wind: Calm None MVP: <b>Andre Johnson</b>								
2008 Ringgold (2-5)	0	7	3	14	-24	First Downs	RCH 15	VV 15
2008 Virden (2-5)	0	6	7	3	-16	Rushes	25-64	33-85
2 6:27 Ringgold	TD Roethlisberger 30 pass to Johnson (Suisham) (7-96-4:09)	7-0	Passes	29-20-247	27-16-186	Sacked	2-9	3-26
2 3:22 Virden	FG Vinatieri 34 (6-27-3:05)	7-3	Fumble	2	1	Penalties	5-25	6-50
2 0:02 Virden	FG Vinatieri 26 (8-49-1:49)	7-6	Turnovers	2	0	Time	26:57	33:03
3 6:22 Ringgold	FG Suisham 29 (7-17-3:34)	10-6	Third Down	5-14	4-12	Fourth Down	1-3	1-3
3 0:01 Virden	TD Brees 17 pass to Harrison (Vinatieri) (11-60-6:17)	10-13	Red Att/Td/Fg	5/2/0	3/1/2	Net Offense	302	245
4 11:40 Virden	FG Vinatieri 54 (5--6-1:43)	10-16						
4 2:42 Ringgold	TD Roethlisberger 12 pass to Johnson (Suisham) (8-56-2:08)	17-16						
4 1:20 Ringgold	TD Jones-Drew 6 run (Suisham) (5-24-0:43)	24-16						



28

CHARLESWOOD



0

GWINNETT

### PATS GIVE THUMBS DOWN TO GLADS

**GAME POINTS:** Charleswood came to the Coliseum and knocked out the Gladiators swiftly and convincingly. **Adrian Peterson** opened the scoring with a 20-yard TD run on the game's first drive then busted a 69-yard run on a sweep, with the Gladiators gunning for him, to help the Pats widen their lead to double digits on an **Ovie Mughelli** 1-yard TD run. After Gwinnett went 3-and-out, **Jacoby Jones** outran the pursuit for a 79-yard punt return TD to make it a quick 21-0. **Peyton Manning** would wrap up the scoring early, completing 3 passes to **Bernard Berrian** – the final one a 26-yard TD – to key an 84-yard drive that exhausted the first half. The Glads pushed back with a 55-yard drive to open the 2nd half, but were stopped on 4<sup>th</sup> down at the 6 and denied the rest of the way.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Adrian Peterson** rushed for 154 yards and 1 TD on 20 carries; **Peyton Manning** went 17 of 20 for 204 yards and 1 TD; **John Abraham** notched 2 sacks, 3 deflections and 3 QB pressures. **Matt Cassel** completed 18 of 39 for 168 yards and 2 INTs; **Thomas Jones** ran for 45 yards.

11-13-2009 Gwinnett Coliseum. Temp: 72 Wind: 0-10 Rain MVP: <b>Adrian Peterson</b>				CHP	GWG	
2008 Charleswood (6-1)	7	21	0 0	-28	First Downs 19	12
2008 Gwinnett (4-3)	0	0	0 0	-0	Rushes 35-165	17-62
					Passes 22-18-212	39-18-168
1 7:15 Charleswood	TD Peterson 20 run (Gostkowski) (13-83-7:45)	7-0			Sacked 0-0	5-33
2 10:11 Charleswood	TD Mughelli 1 run (Gostkowski) (4-83-2:35)	14-0			Fumble 2	1
2 7:40 Charleswood	TD Jones 79 punt return (Gostkowski) (0-0-0:00)	21-0			Penalties 9-66	11-86
2 1:05 Charleswood	TD Manning 26 pass to Berrian (Gostkowski) (10-84-3:46)	28-0			Turnovers 0	2
					Time 36:38	23:22
					Third Down 3-13	6-16
					Fourth Down 1-1	0-3
					Red Att/Td/Fg 4/2/0	1/0/0
					Net Offense 377	197

### DRAGONS INCINERATE HELLFIRE

**GAME POINTS:** Mohave came out blazing, going for it on 4<sup>th</sup> and 1 at their own 29 yard line on the game's opening drive. They fell short, handing Florida an easy field goal to start the scoring. The Hellfire did better on their next possession until **Darrelle Revis** picked off **Kurt Warner** at the Dragons' 25. A 43-yard pass to **Brandon Marshall** followed by a 13-yard TD run by **DeAngelo Williams** put Florida quickly up 10-0. In a 2-minute span Mohave suddenly grabbed the lead on a 61-yard TD pass to **Donald Driver** and a **Kelvin Hayden** 42-yard interception return for a TD. But Florida patiently moved the ball on the ground, as they would all day, and Williams busted through the center for a 14-yard TD run (his second of 4 TDs in the game), to give them the lead to stay.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **DeAngelo Williams** rushed for 148 yards and 4 TDs on 23 carries; **Aaron Rodgers** went 16 of 21 for 165 yards and 2 INTs. **Kurt Warner** went 8 of 15 for 112 yards, 1 TD and 2 INTs; **Steve Slaton** carried 22 times for 72 yards; Mohave made just 1 first down in the second half.



14

MOHAVE



38

FLORIDA

11-13-2009 Dragonmount. Temp: 91 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: <b>DeAngelo Williams</b>				MOH	FLD	
2008 Mohave (2-5)	7	7	0 0	-14	First Downs 6	27
2008 Florida (7-0)	10	14	7 7	-38	Rushes 25-78	40-233
					Passes 15-8-112	21-16-165
1 10:48 Florida	FG Elam 29 (5-17-2:43)	0-3			Sacked 1-8	1-4
1 2:10 Florida	TD Williams 13 run (Elam,J) (4-75-2:25)	0-10			Fumble 1	0
1 0:14 Mohave	TD Warner 61 pass to Driver (Bironas) (3-66-1:56)	7-10			Penalties 5-35	5-53
2 14:50 Mohave	TD Hayden 42 interception return (Bironas) (0-0-0:00)	14-10			Turnovers 3	2
2 8:37 Florida	TD Williams 14 run (Elam,J) (11-68-6:13)	14-17			Time 23:51	36:09
2 6:51 Florida	TD Williams 2 run (Elam,J) (4-23-1:29)	14-24			Third Down 2-11	6-10
3 1:35 Florida	TD Williams 4 run (Elam,J) (13-87-8:19)	14-31			Fourth Down 2-4	0-0
4 4:43 Florida	TD Rice 1 run (Elam,J) (6-26-4:47)	14-38			Red Att/Td/Fg 0/0/0	7/5/1
					Net Offense 182	394



# AROUND THE EFL With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – The sale of 80% of the New Jersey Nets to Russian billionaire, Mikhail Prokhorov got me thinking about the EFL’s prospects of expansion and the eventual arrival of an EFL team to the Big Apple. The absence of professional football from New York is scandalous but not as scandalous as the situation that caused the loss of the Giants and Jets and the collapse of the old NFL.

The Congressional Committee investigating the intricate web of deceit, corruption and criminality connecting professional football, politics, the Media, Wall Street, and organized crime is uncovering more than it can handle apparently. The Committee of Inquiry into the Management of the National Football League, known on the Hill as ‘The Personal Foul Committee,’ keeps announcing delays in the release of its report and recommendations, citing enigmatic administrative difficulties and jurisdictional obstacles. That is *politicese* for “holy shit, have we ever got our hands full with this mess!”

The Internet is swirling with rumours that connect virtually every individual and institution of power and influence in the United States to a massive conspiracy to fleece money from the masses through the manipulation of betting trends and the “fixing” of games. The beneficiaries of some of the fraudulent practices already uncovered are not who they appear to be at first glance. Some speculate that, in fact, corruption in football contributed to the recent market turmoil and collapse of real estate due to the hidden linkage of mortgage-backed securities to the outcome of the 2007 Super Bowl game between Indianapolis and Chicago. Those who thought they saw a dud in Rex Grossman turned out to be correct, but they were in the minority. Grossman was hyped and pumped up all year through a multi-layered conspiracy to be the “Straw Man” for Peyton Manning (known at the time as a perennial big game loser), to knock down on the big stage. You think maybe some money went down on Chicago that would not have gone there if the reality of Grossman’s incompetence had been revealed *before* the big game? And where did that money go?

Anyway, I digress. To return to my original thought, it looks like the key to EFL expansion and a team in New York may end up being found overseas. With so many homegrown individuals and institutions under the microscope, implicated or suspected of participation in a massive fraud, Russian Organized Crime looks surprisingly appealing.

## ***FLORIDA – A TEAM YOU CAN TRUST***

The head-scratching inconsistency of the bulk of competitive teams in the EFL is being balanced precariously by the consistency of the Florida Dragons. Jim Heaton’s unbeaten team has been winning handily and doing it the same way each week. No miraculous last minute turnovers to salvage poor offensive performances for them! Yes, they are getting turnovers – a league-leading 19 with +11 turnover ratio so far this year – but they are getting them consistently and exploiting them expertly. It’s part of their game. With so many leads to hold on to they are running the ball with unparalleled effectiveness, averaging 165 yards a game and failing to gain at least 100 yards as a team only once in 7 games. ***Aaron Rodgers*** has yet to post a 300-yard passing game, but he is delivering consistently when called upon and provides enough of a threat in the passing game to keep opposing defenses from keying on ***DeAngelo Williams*** all day. Going into the season I thought Florida would suffer from the loss of ***Tom Brady*** and a couple of new arrivals on the offensive line. So far it looks to be business as usual for the EFL juggernaut.

## ***RECOGNITION FOR THE GOOD AND THE BAD***

It is always the great defenses that get recognized for standout play with catchy nicknames. Great defenses

win Championships and when they do, it is as much the defense as it is the team as a whole that gets the credit. Football pundits around the league are racing to be the first to name the best defenses in the EFL. Florida's "Firewall" is well-established as the unofficial name for the Dragons' defense, having been first coined by William Wyrmwright of the South Florida Tribune as he tried to shift attention away from **Tom Brady** and onto the defense as the prime cause of Florida's success last year. But that was the only defense deserving of a name last year. This year, as this column has pointed out, there are other candidates for the "Top Stop" team.

In Los Angeles, the "Blue Shield" emerged as the best that West Coast journalism had to offer after columnist Gabrielle Laurent-Vainluven's attempt to put her stamp on the team with the moniker, "*Chevaliers Glorieux*" fell flat because nobody could pronounce it. In Chino, the defense named itself the "Lockdown Crew" before the start of the season and members of the group make a point of reminding the Media of that fact. When asked recently about the key to the success of their "*defense*," **James Harrison** responded to the baffled reporter, "Sorry, did you mean to ask about the *Lockdown Crew*? I don't know about no *defense*." Charlie Wood of the 'Manitoba Moose and Standard' created the tag "National Guard" for the Patriots' highly rated and effective pass defense and it has stuck despite a mild protest from south of the border that it is disrespectful to the real National Guard.

Well, all this praise for excellence is well and good, but what about recognition for extraordinary lack of achievement on defense? Does it not also affect the outcome of games? Does it not also win championships....for others? I can think of a few candidates at the Week Seven mark of the regular season for the most dreadful 'D' and I feel strongly that they should be recognized for it; if for no other reason than to do so brings balance and perspective to some of the offensive achievements in a year when most offences are struggling to score points.

If points-against is the ultimate measure of the success or failure of a defense, then Pickering's "Spark'ems" and Winnemucca's "Jailbreakers" are in a dead heat for the worst defense in the league. If total-yards surrendered is the best gauge of a poor defense, then Garland's "Thoroughheads" and Mohave's "Fire Starters" have to join Pickering for notable ineptness. If yards-per-play is the standard, then the "Fire Starters" win the prize. Some defenses are good at one thing and terrible at something else. Should *part* of a defense be recognized in such a way? If so, then Markham's "No-Star Secondary" deserves honours for worst overall pass defense while Garland's "Thin Blue Line" grabs the award for worst run defense.

#### **WINNEMUCCA HAS A NEW OWNER....FOR NOW**

The League finally found a buyer for the Winnemucca Outlaws. He is **David Neely**, a retired scorpion farmer who bought a metal detector to pass the days after scorpions and ended up discovering the world's only known source of a rare earth metal used in nuclear technology, called "*Neelium*" after its founder. Proceeds from the find have financed his various hobbies and indulgences, one of which is now the Winnemucca Outlaws. But the deal struck by Neely and the League is more of a lease-to-buy than an outright purchase of the team. There are conditions attached to the agreement that may cause the Outlaws revert back to the League at the end of the season. These conditions were not made public by either party but it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out what might be causing Neely to balk at a large investment in Winnemucca. 'Hole in the Wall,' where the Outlaws play, is arguably more inhospitable as a venue than Mohave's Fiery Depths and Durham's Jurassic Park. It would take a truly dedicated fan to make the trip to the stadium each week even if the Outlaws were a playoff contender. With the Outlaws in an all-out battle for last place overall for the second consecutive year, only a few insane fans show up religiously. As a result, Winnemucca leads the league in local television blackouts and is last in gate revenue. According to market surveys, sales of jerseys and other Outlaws paraphernalia are stagnant after a spike immediately following the acquisition of **Tom Brady**. With Brady out for the year, and the future of the team in question, few other than memorabilia collectors are buying anything 'Winnemucca.' Neely reportedly wants to move the team somewhere on the West Coast, but will face opposition from Chino and Los Angeles if he tries to bring the team south of Monterey.

#### **MY NEPHEW THE CUBS FAN**

My 8-year old nephew, Josh loves the Iowa City Cubs although he lives in Connecticut, nowhere near Iowa. I once asked him why he liked the Cubs and he answered, "Because they have **Larry Fitzgerald**," as if I was clueless to some obvious attribute that Fitzgerald has over, say, any other good wide receiver. I was at my brother's house to watch this week's games and Josh was there. When Cubs' corner **Chris Gamble** recovered **Marion Barber's** fumble and returned it 71 yards for a touchdown, Josh went to work with his coloured pencils and by the end of the game had produced an artistic masterpiece (reproduced on the following page). He showed it to me and I commented with a smirk, more for the adults in the room than for Josh, "Ah, Trent Edwards scrambling with the ball after not being able to find Larry Fitzgerald again?" Josh looked up at me with a measure of irritation and answered, "No, it's Chris Gamble scoring on the fumble!"

I stared at the picture. Yes, it had “Chris” scribbled at the bottom (that should have been a clue) but the person is clearly white, not black, and Gamble is obviously black. After an uncomfortable pause, I offered a suggestion in the form of a question, “Are you going to colour in his face?” He looked up at me as if I was stupid and answered, “No, why would I do that?” I started to answer, but realized that people in the room had quieted to hear the exchange. Instead, I patted him on the head and said, “Nice drawing, Josh.” I’m still thinking about what this means and wondering whether Josh is a product of a new generation of innocence or simply a Rain Man-type idiot.



My nephew’s rendition of a white Chris Gamble scoring a touchdown against Cowtown.

**NEW YORK GRIPES**

‘IS LeSEAN THE REAL McCOY?’ read the headline this week in Kutztown after the Golden Bears’ running back scored two touchdowns and Romo rallied the troops to beat red hot Garland. How many times are we going to hear that line before people get tired of it or McCoy fades back into obscurity? Kutztown is getting a surprise boost from the rookie running back this year, exacting a measure of respect from opponents for their previously non-existent ground game. Or is it *because* nobody respects the Kutztown ground game that McCoy is getting room to run? If he keeps this up teams will have to watch him and then we’ll see which one it is.

Unsung Heroes getting the job done on poor teams are worth watching but nobody really does. This week I have my eye on Markham’s **Barrett Ruud**. The middle linebacker leads the league in tackles with 72 and stuffs with 8. Where would Markham’s ‘D’ be without him? Probably earning a nickname like “Spark’ems” or “Thoroughheads.”

**SPATS.**



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

**PLAY OF THE WEEK**

**SITUATION**

Charleswood 7, Gwinnett 0, 2nd Quarter, 12:04 mark, Patriots in possession, 1st down & 10 at own 28 yard line. 3 TE/2 RB set vs. 4-3-4 Basic package, tight MAN coverage, line IN, RUN defense, KEY - Peterson.

**RESULT**

Adrian Peterson sweeps to the right around outside linebacker Daryl Smith and breaks down the sideline for a 69-yard gain to the Gladiator’s 3 yard line.

**ANALYSIS**

The Gladiators knew it was coming and they could not stop this beast from asserting his will. The Pats scored two plays later and Gwinnett was beaten.

**WEEK SEVEN LEADERS**

**PASSING**

Garrard (WMO)	45-26-331
Manning, E. (PIC)	25-15-320
Rivers, P. (DTL)	22-17-303
Pennington (COW)	36-26-249
Roethlisberger (RCH)	29-20-247

**RUSHING**

Peterson, A. (CHP)	20-154
Williams, D. (FLD)	23-148
McClain, L. (KUT)	21-93
Portis (VV)	32-81
Jackson, S. (LA)	19-79

**RECEIVING**

Johnson, Ca. (DTL)	6-177
Johnson, A. (RCH)	9-167
Jackson, V. (PIC)	5-159
Jennings (KUT)	8-130
Coles (WMO)	9-124



# LEADER BOARD

## STANDINGS

### PACIFIC-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood	6	1	0	0.857	198	28.3	93	13.3	15	3 0 0	2 1 0	4 1 0
Kutztown	3	4	0	0.429	133	19	165	23.6	-4.6	2 2 0	2 1 0	2 3 0
Mohave	2	5	0	0.286	125	17.9	175	25	-7.1	1 1 0	2 1 0	2 3 0
Virden	2	5	0	0.286	116	16.6	152	21.7	-5.1	1 4 0	0 3 0	2 3 0

West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Chino	5	2	0	0.714	147	21	83	11.9	9.1	2 0 0	2 1 0	4 1 0
Los Angeles	5	2	0	0.714	159	22.7	112	16	6.7	3 1 0	2 1 0	4 1 0
Iowa City	3	4	0	0.429	120	17.1	145	20.7	-3.6	1 2 0	1 2 0	1 4 0
Winnemucca	1	6	0	0.143	97	13.9	184	26.3	-12.4	0 5 0	1 2 0	1 4 0

### CAN-AM CONFERENCE

North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham	5	2	0	0.714	150	21.4	118	16.9	4.6	3 1 0	3 0 0	3 2 0
Cowtown	3	4	0	0.429	161	23	151	21.6	1.4	1 2 0	1 2 0	2 3 0
Pickering	3	4	0	0.429	148	21.1	184	26.3	-5.1	1 2 0	1 2 0	2 3 0
Markham	1	6	0	0.143	95	13.6	164	23.4	-9.9	1 3 0	1 2 0	1 4 0

South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Florida	7	0	0	1.000	218	31.1	73	10.4	20.7	4 0 0	3 0 0	5 0 0
Garland	4	3	0	0.571	159	22.7	165	23.6	-0.9	3 1 0	1 2 0	3 2 0
Gwinnett	4	3	0	0.571	133	19	133	19	0	1 2 0	2 1 0	3 2 0
Ringgold	2	5	0	0.286	113	16.1	175	25	-8.9	1 2 0	0 3 0	1 4 0

## PASSING

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Manning, P	CHP	192	137	71.4	1600	5	2.6	34	13	6.8	108
2	Ryan, M	GDM	190	126	66.3	1597	6	3.2	52	15	7.9	105.5
3	Rivers, P	DTL	194	124	63.9	1825	5	2.6	80	9	4.6	99.3
4	Campbell, J	LAK	162	107	66	1168	4	2.5	47	9	5.6	95.4
5	Warner	MOH	158	107	67.7	1119	5	3.2	61	9	5.7	93.8
6	Rodgers	FLD	166	110	66.3	1240	5	3	46	6	3.6	87.9
7	Cassel	GWG	180	114	63.3	1187	4	2.2	41	8	4.4	87.9
8	Manning, E	PIC	196	116	59.2	1640	8	4.1	74	9	4.6	84.6
9	Pennington	COW	243	154	63.4	1667	7	2.9	37	9	3.7	83.8
10	Brees	VV	193	110	57	1359	6	3.1	51	7	3.6	78.1
11	Cutler	CHI	198	124	62.6	1269	6	3	63	5	2.5	76.8
12	Edwards, T	ICC	159	103	64.8	1035	5	3.1	23	3	1.9	76.4
13	Roethlisberger	RCH	170	92	54.1	1050	5	2.9	38	8	4.7	76.3
14	Garrard	WMO	190	113	59.5	1143	6	3.2	49	5	2.6	72.3
15	Romo	KUT	207	120	58	1214	7	3.4	26	5	2.4	68.8

## RUSHING

			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	Williams, D	FLD	115	662	5.8	48	13	8	Charles, J	LAK	61	425	7	34	1
2	Peterson, A	CHP	127	609	4.8	69	4	9	Barber, M	COW	99	400	4	14	5
3	Jones, T	GWG	124	566	4.6	69	6	10	Slaton	MOH	117	389	3.3	80	3
4	Turner, M	DTL	131	558	4.3	85	3	11	Brown, R	ICC	87	365	4.2	53	2
5	Portis	VV	158	526	3.3	29	0	12	Harrison, J	MOH	39	358	9.2	31	0
6	Lewis, J	MAR	112	462	4.1	16	1	13	Jacobs, B	ICC	80	346	4.3	23	5
7	Johnson, C	PIC	87	430	4.9	69	3	14	Stewart, J	FLD	69	334	4.8	46	1
8	Charles, J	LAK	61	425	7	34	1	15	McCoy, L	KUT	55	324	5.9	52	1

## RECEIVING

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	Boldin	CHI	46	521	11.3	63	3	8	Coles	WMO	35	391	11.2	49	2
2	Jennings, G	KUT	45	591	13.1	62	2	9	Hester, D	VV	34	525	15.4	35	2
3	Johnson, A	RCH	44	576	13.1	38	4	10	Moss, S	COW	32	343	10.7	19	1
4	White, R	LAK	43	455	10.6	27	4	11	Marshall, B	FLD	32	455	14.2	43	2
5	Gonzalez, T	CHP	43	465	10.8	34	5	12	Royal, E	RCH	32	266	8.3	33	1
6	Evans, L	ICC	39	451	11.6	44	1	13	Walter, K	COW	32	479	15	37	5
7	Fitzgerald	ICC	37	440	11.9	31	2	14	Witten	CHP	31	402	13	28	5
8	Coles	WMO	35	391	11.2	49	2	15	Houshmandz	FLD	30	289	9.6	19	0



## BRYLCREEM PLAYERS OF THE WEEK *WHO WAS SLICK IN WEEK SEVEN?*

Brylcreem continues to be a proud sponsor of the EFL

### OFFENSE



#### RB – DeAngelo Williams, Florida Dragons

23 Carries, 148 yards, 6.4 Avg., 15 Lg., 4 TD.

Consistent and effective and money in the red zone versus Mohave.

### DEFENSE



#### CB – Chris Gamble Iowa City Cubs

7 Tackles, 1 forced fumble, 1 fumble recovery TD.

Returned a fumble 71 yards for a TD to flip the momentum.

### SPECIAL TEAMS



#### PR – Jacoby Jones, Charleswood Patriots

4 PR, 106 yards, 26.5 Avg., 79 Long, 1 TD.

His 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter punt return for a TD broke the game open for Pats.

## INJURY REPORT - Week Eight

**CHARLESWOOD** – Samuels (PROBABLE), A. Thomas (OUT); **CHINO** – McKinnie (OUT), Newman (OUT), Boldin (OUT); **COWTOWN** – Schobel (OUT), S. Jones (QUESTIONABLE), Chatman (OUT); **DURHAM** – R. McDonald (OUT); **FLORIDA** – Miller (QUESTIONABLE); **GARLAND** – J. Bell (OUT); **GWINNETT** – D.J. Williams (OUT), English (QUESTIONABLE); **IOWA CITY** – Winslow (OUT), A. Curry (OUT); **KUTZTOWN** – T. Porter (OUT), L. Hill (OUT), F. Jones (OUT), J. Miller (OUT), Okoye (OUT); **LOS ANGELES** – S. Young (OUT); **MARKHAM** – Engram (OUT), Furrey (DOUBTFUL), Askew (OUT), A. Hall (OUT); **MOHAVE** – Sims (OUT), C. Bailey (OUT), Wharton (OUT); **PICKERING** – J. Phillips (OUT), M. Jackson (OUT), B. Jackson (OUT), F. Davis (OUT), Scheffler (OUT), Vanden Bosch (OUT), C. Johnson (OUT); **RINGGOLD** – M. Jenkins (OUT), Albert (DOUBTFUL); **VIRDEN** – None; **WINNEMUCCA** – Washington (OUT), L. Smith (OUT), J. Walker (OUT), D. Manning (OUT), J. Griffith (OUT), P. Thomas (OUT).



## BUG THE BOOKIE!

### JIMMY THE GEEK GIVES YOU HIS PICKS FOR WEEK EIGHT EFL ACTION

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## JIMMY'S WEEK EIGHT PICKS

### WINNEMUCCA @ MARKHAM (LINE – NORTH STARS BY 5)

Both of these teams are neck-and-neck near the bottom of the league in both offense and defense. David Garrard has shown flashes but he has been hampered by having no viable option next to Laveranues Coles in the passing game. Fortunately for Garrard, the Markham secondary will allow him to find other receivers this week while Charles Tillman fights off Coles. Donovan McNabb has struggled this year but at least he found the end zone twice last week. He sits behind an unheralded but punishing offensive line that should be able to buy him time against an innocuous defense. I can't find a good reason to like Winnemucca on the road except that the Stars tend to rise up as the underdog and sweat it against the weaker teams.

**PICK: WINNEMUCCA**

### LOS ANGELES @ PICKERING (LINE – KNIGHTS BY 3)

The Knights are healthy, while the Spartans are banged up, especially on offense where they are missing both tight ends and star running back, Chris Johnson. With Chester Taylor starting in the backfield this week there is nothing to dissuade the "Blue Shield" from teeing off on Eli. Pickering has been moving the ball efficiently, especially through the air against weaker defenses, but this is where all of that stops. Unless Jason Campbell falls off the ledge again (certainly possible), the Knights should cover easily.

**PICK: LOS ANGELES**

### COWTOWN @ CHINO (LINE – CONVICTS BY 7)

The Corn Kings have always played the Convicts tough, but with their current penchant for finding ways to lose, despite finding the end zone more than most teams, it is difficult to like them on the road against one of the league's elite defenses. The way Santana Moss has disappeared as a deep threat, Cortland Finnegan should eat him alive. Terrence Newman is out but Nate Clements is no slouch. The Corn Kings have one hope. That is that Jay Cutler, without Anquan Boldin to lean on, will commit ball control suicide and find Rashean Mathis more than Hines Ward. The Cowtown secondary can hawk better than stop and they will have to find that part of their game this week or drop out of the race for the North Division.

**PICK: CHINO**

### **DURHAM @ IOWA CITY (LINE – THUNDER LIZARDS BY 2)**

The Cubs didn't miss Kellen Winslow last week but that was against Cowtown. Durham has a nasty pair of safeties who, if they play, will be free to wreak havoc without a receiving threat to account for at tight end. The Cubs found a passing attack against their two previous North Division opponents, but expect them to lose it again against Durham unless Brandon Jacobs takes over the game and forces safeties into the box. Iowa's defense is deceptively strong but the Lizards are coming off some success against LA and Chino and should move the ball capably against the Cubs. Iowa City loses recent gains and falls to the better team.

**PICK: DURHAM**

### **VIRDEN @ GARLAND (LINE – MUSTANGS BY 7)**

Matt Ryan continued to wield the hot hand last week against Kutztown but the Garland defense made the Golden Bears rushing game look potent and gave Tony Romo way too much time to throw. The Virden defensive scheme is keeping the Violators in games despite limited talent, but they will have their hands full trying to lasso Ryan at The Corral. Both teams are notably healthy for this week of the season, meaning no excuses. If Ryan stays hot this could easily turn into a shootout, something Virden is ill-equipped to handle even with Drew Brees leading the charge against one of the league's more suspect defenses. If they can contain Ryan they could actually win this game. I like Garland to win, but Virden to keep it close.

**PICK: VIRDEN**

### **KUTZTOWN @ RINGGOLD (LINE – PICK 'EM)**

Here it is: the pick every forecaster is dreading to make. Two of the most volatile and discordant teams in the league...okay *the* two most volatile and discordant teams in the league; facing off against each with nothing of significance on the line for either except to maintain the fiction of hope and a stay in the execution of a death sentence on their respective seasons. I'll let you in on a trade secret: in situations like this, flipping a coin is better than guessing: Heads – Ringgold; Tails – Kutztown.

**PICK: TAILS**

### **GWINNETT @ MOHAVE (LINE – HELLFIRE BY 3)**

After winning their first two games, Mohave has lost 5 straight and each week they look more lost on defense than they did the week before. In fact, depending on how you measure it, they could be the worst group of defenders taking the field these days; which is a surprise because they still have a few stars in the group. Luckily for them, the Gladiators' attack has fallen into a funk after they were shut out by Charleswood last week. Matt Cassel and Thomas Jones desperately need a change of scenery on the opposite side of the line of scrimmage to put them back on track. Could Mohave be their tonic or will they be theirs?

**PICK: MOHAVE**

### **FLORIDA @ CHARLESWOOD (LINE – DRAGONS BY 3)**

This widely anticipated match up between two prime candidates to face off in the Championship this year comes at a good time as both teams are mostly healthy. The unbeaten Dragons face their biggest challenge since Week Five at Durham when they subverted the pre-game drama and hype of that contest by roughing up the Lizards in their own house. The Dragons will not have such an easy time of it this week against the Pats. The Charleswood defense will be the strongest one that young Aaron Rodgers has faced to date and that will force Florida into a conservative posture. The good news is that they do conservative quite well, thank you, with the top rushing attack in the league. Peyton Manning will have to tread carefully around the Florida secondary, which is holding opposing quarterbacks to a league low 52.8 QB rating. Adrian Peterson will get a lot of attention as the Dragons try to force Manning to the air where Michael Griffin and Darrelle Revis lay in wait. Last year's regular season match-up was a joke on the Pats. The Conference Finals was a tragic loss. Look for Peyton and Co. to exact a measure of revenge for that game.

**PICK: CHARLESWOOD**

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

**HOW I'M DOING AGAINST THE SPREAD**

**LAST WEEK: 6-2-0**

**OVERALL: 35-20-1**