

2013



EFL NEWS

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

2013

Week Nine

Week Nine

December 1, 2013



VV	38	YOR	10	CAR	15	MAR	24	CHP	20	DV	21	SBE	27	CHI	17	MVM	3	ICC	27
PIC	34	DTL	31	TCT	38	MOH	13	GWG	7	GDM	44	LA	13	COW	38	SC	24	SEB	18



LATEST EFL NEWS INSIDE

- VIOLATORS REBOUND
- COWTOWN “CON” KINGS
- RGIII BURIED AT GRAVEYARD
- PETERSON RUNS OVER GLADS
- AND MORE.....

Also in this issue

- EFL FAN BLOG – BABYBEARS.COM
- SPATS McCHAD
- JIMMY THE GEEK
- THIS WEEK IN EFL HISTORY

Viriden wide receiver *Torrey Smith* crosses the goal line for the winning touchdown as Pickering corner *Sheldon Brown* tries in vain to drag him down. The Violators rebounded from a 2-game losing skid to surprise Pickering 38-34 at Thermopylae Stadium and keep pace with the Patriots, who rode a 189-yard rushing performance by Adrian Peterson to beat the Glads (story inside).



Who was slick in Week Nine?

“BRYLCREEM” THE EFL’S FIRST SPONSOR



Joe Flacco
QB
Cowntown
Corn Kings

26 of 36, 383 yards, 4 TDs, 143.6, picked apart Chino defence in win.



Anthony Spencer
OLB
Garland
Mustangs

7 Tackles, 4 Sacks, 1 PD, 2 Hur, 1 FF. Led a 9-sack team performance





5-4-0



GAME OF THE WEEK



6-3-0

Virден

38

MVP

Drew Brees

34

Pickering

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD
Stafford	28	42	223	5
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
Charles	21	120	5.7	0
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
Bryant	10	88	8.8	3

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
Virден	7	14	3	14	-	38
Pickering	7	10	10	7	-	34

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD
Schaub	25	40	245	3
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
Jackson,S	21	95	4.5	1
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
Jackson,V	7	93	13.3	0

Play of the Game

Trailing 34-31 with 27 seconds left and no timeouts remaining, the Violators had the ball at the Spartans' 17. **Matt Stafford** found **Torrey Smith** open amid 7 DBs for a TD pass to win the game.

SUMMARY: Things started poorly for Virден's Matt Stafford with a red zone interception and 81-yard return by **T.J. Ward** back to the Violators' 9 yard line. The Spartans scored on the next play to take a 7-0 lead, but Stafford rebounded by going 6 of 7 on his ensuing drive and tying it on a 2-yard TD pass to **Dez Bryant**. This set off a back-and-forth contest that saw the Spartans temporarily take a 10-7 lead on a 21-yard **Josh Scobee** field goal, only to see it wiped out with back-to-back TD passes of 3 and 5 yards to Bryant, giving him and Stafford 3 scoring connections and a 21-10 Virден lead. The Spartans took some momentum into the locker room with a late TD on a 1-yard run by **Steven Jackson** to trail 21-17. It carried into the 2nd half with an opening Pickering drive that travelled 85 yards and ended with **Matt Schaub** giving them the lead on a 5-yard check down to Jackson for a TD. A 44-yard **Lawrence Tynes** FG tied it, but Scobee countered with a 49-yarder to give the Spartans a 27-23 lead heading into the 4th. A 13-play drive to open the final frame made it a two-possession game when Schaub found **Demaryius Thomas** for a 6-yard scoring strike to make it 34-24. But Stafford came back, finding **Julio Jones** open in the end zone from 10 yards out to trail 34-31. After a Pickering 3-and-out, Virден fought to move 74 yards against the clock, reaching the 17 with 0:27 left, where Stafford found **Torrey Smith** open across the middle for a 17-yard game-winning TD.

QUOTES: "This was a heartbreaker for us. When it comes down to the wire that way, somebody is going to hurt when it's over and I'm hurting right now. I think it's time to break some furniture." – Pickering coach, **Gus Konstantankos**.
 "We needed this win badly! The way we won it makes it even sweeter. Matt showed me something today. He earned a piece of that ridiculous %\$king contract he signed in the off-season. Gotta mention Leon Washington while I'm here, he was an unsung hero today." – Virден coach, **Lance Barrate**.



HAPPY FAN



titter

ANGRY FAN



Venus Nexus @VenusNexus

I always believed in you Matt! I love you Matt!



Aristedes @AristedesKalogiannis

This was a violation of our sacred home. This will be avenged one-thousand fold, you will all see! Death to Virден!

11-27-2013 Thermopylae Stadium Temp: 34 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: **Matt Stafford**

1 12:23	Pickering	TD Schaub 9 pass to Jackson (Scobee) (1-9-0:07)	0-7
1 6:39	Virден	TD Stafford 2 pass to Bryant (Tynes) (11-63-5:39)	7-7
2 12:45	Pickering	FG Scobee 21 (10-64-4:37)	7-10
2 6:24	Virден	TD Stafford 3 pass to Bryant (Tynes) (12-80-6:21)	14-10
2 3:40	Virден	TD Stafford 5 pass to Bryant (Tynes) (4-23-1:38)	21-10
2 0:19	Pickering	TD Jackson 1 run (Scobee) (11-73-3:15)	21-17
3 10:27	Pickering	TD Schaub 5 pass to Jackson (Scobee) (11-85-4:25)	21-24
3 5:51	Virден	FG Tynes 44 (9-46-4:25)	24-24
3 0:37	Pickering	FG Scobee 49 (10-37-5:02)	24-27
4 8:35	Pickering	TD Schaub 6 pass to Thomas (Scobee) (13-65-5:43)	24-34
4 4:55	Virден	TD Stafford 10 pass to Jones (Tynes) (8-46-3:34)	31-34
4 0:17	Virден	TD Stafford 17 pass to Smith (Tynes) (16-74-3:38)	38-34

	VV	PIC
First Downs	27	24
Rushes	25-128	23-97
Passes	42-28-223	40-25-245
Sacked	0-0	1-14
Fumble	0	1
Penalties	7-75	5-36
Turnovers	1	1
Missed Tackles	4	9
Blitzes	11	11
Time	31:39	28:21
Third Down	5-11	6-13
Fourth Down	0-1	2-2
Red Att/Td/Fg	5/5/0	5/4/1
Net Offense	351	328



EFL
ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

QUICK COUNTS!!

Blue 35, Blue 35, hut, hut hut! Red 23, 3, Red 23, 3, hut, hut, hut! Green 49, hut!



PATRIOTS
5-4-0

7	10	0	3	0	20
OT					

Adrian Peterson
32 Carries, 189 yards, 1 TD



GLADIATORS
4-5-0

0	7	0	0	0	7
OT					

Ben Roethlisberger
23 of 35, 199 yards, 1 TD

Adrian Peterson got his team moving with 5 carries for 49 yards and a 10-yard TD run on the Pats' opening drive. The Pats added to their lead in the 2nd quarter on a 9-yard TD pass from **Peyton Manning** to **Jason Witten**, but saw it cut in half when **Ben Roethlisberger** hit **Reggie Wayne** for a 7-yard TD pass. After a Charleswood FG, the Glads drove to the Pats' 2 with 8 seconds remaining, but failed to score when time ran out on them. In the 2nd half, a pick by **Thomas DeCoud** thwarted a red zone chance for the Pats but the Glads' offence could not put any more points on the board.



NORTH STARS
8-1-0

7	10	7	0	0	24
OT					

Eli Manning
15 of 27, 212 yards, 2 TDs



HELLFIRE
2-7-0

0	10	3	0	0	13
OT					

Andrew Luck
17 of 25, 163 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT

A blocked punt by **Calais Campbell** covered up in the Mohave end zone by **Rob Ninkovich** put Markham on the board in the 1st. After **Andrew Luck** came up short on 4th and 1 at the Markham 40, the Stars pushed back up the field and made the score 14-0 on a 5-yard TD pass from **Eli Manning** to **Jared Cook**. Mohave's **Kendall Reyes** forced a Manning fumble to set up the Hellfire's only TD on a 17-yard TD pass to **Cordarrell Patterson**. Mohave closed within 4 in the 3rd on a FG, to trail 17-13, but a 73-yard TD drive on Markham's next series and a 4th quarter shutout by their D put the game away.



CANNIBALS
4-5-0

0	12	0	3	0	15
OT					

Philip Rivers
21 of 32, 170 yards, 2 TDs, 1 INT



TRIUMPH
4-5-0

7	7	7	17	0	38
OT					

Jay Cutler
14 of 24, 200 yards, 3 TDs, 1 INT

Jay Cutler connected with **Pierre Garcon** in the back of the end zone for a 22-yard score then finished off the next series with a 16-yard TD pass to tight end **Dwayne Allen** to give the Triumph a 14-0 lead early in the 2nd. Carthage struck back suddenly, with two TDs in the last minute of the half, including an **Antoine Cason** pick six; but a blocked extra point and failed 2-point convert kept them from tying. The Triumph scored first in the 3rd to take a 21-12 lead into a 4th quarter that saw **Bobby Wagner** pick of **Philip Rivers** twice, returning one for a TD, to put the game out of the Cannibals' reach.



EFL
ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

QUICK COUNTS!!

Blue 35, Blue 35, hut, hut hut! Red 23, 3, Red 23, 3, hut, hut, hut! Green 49, hut!



EXCALIBURS

3-6-0

0	10	0	0	0	10
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OT

Giovani Bernard
12 Carries, 70 yards, 1 TD



T-LIZARDS

6-3-0

7	7	7	10	0	31
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Drew Brees
24 of 29, 303 yards, 3 TDs, 1 INT

The Lizards jumped out to a 14-0 lead on an 11-yard TD pass from **Drew Brees** to **Megatron** and a 1-yard TD dive by fullback **Tommy Bohanon**, but the Excaliburs countered with two scores, a 21-yard FG by **Blair Walsh** and a 3-yard TD run off tackle by **Giovanni Bernard** to trail 14-10 at half time. York was unable to capitalize on an early pick of Brees to start the 2nd half and the Lizards responded by marching 87 yards to score on a 9-yard TD pass to **Megatron** to make the score 21-10. York failed to convert a 4th and 4 at mid-field, setting up Durham's final TD on a 28-yard pass to **T.Y. Hilton**.



MONARCHS

2-7-0

3	0	0	0	0	3
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OT

Mike Williams
8 Catches, 104 yards



REGULATORS

5-4-0

0	10	14	0	0	24
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Tony Romo
22 of 27, 239 yards, 3 TDs

A battle for field position yielded a FG for the Monarchs at the close of the 1st quarter. The Regs' offence brook loose early in the 2nd quarter with **Tony Romo** hitting the hot read on a Monarchs' blitz and **Earl Bennett** taking a short slant 41 yards for the game's first TD. Romo held the hot hand through the 3rd quarter, throwing 2 TD passes on his first possessions of the 2nd half, 6 yards to **AJ Green** and 7 yards to **Brandon Pettigrew**. The Monarchs' offence was held in check and possessed the ball for only 24 minutes. **Frank Gore** rushed for over 100 yards running out the clock in the 4th.



CUBS

7-2-0

3	7	10	7	0	27
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OT

Russell Wilson
25 of 36, 339 yards, 2 TDs



SWORDFISH

2-7-0

2	10	6	0	0	18
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Nate Washington
4 Catches, 121 yards, 1 TD

Trailing 3-2 in the 2nd, the Swordfish went for it on 4th and 1 at the Cubs' 42 yard line and failed. The Cubs retaliated with a 59-yard drive and 21-yard TD pass to **Mike Wallace** to make it 10-2. But a fumble by Wallace after a 32-yard gain put the Swordfish in position to grab a 12-10 lead at half time on a 17-yard TD pass to **Brandon Myers**. In the 3rd, **Russell Wilson** hurled his 2nd TD pass of the day to Wallace, 24 yards to give the Cubs a 17-12 lead. After an Iowa FG, **Andy Dalton** hit **Nate Washington** for a 75-yard TD, but the 2-pointer failed and the Cubs went on to score again.

Blue 35, Blue 35, hut, hut hut! Red 23, 3, Red 23, 3, hut, hut, hut! Green 49, hut!



CONVICTS
5-4-0

0	7	10	0	0	17
OT					

Cam Newton
17 of 29, 212 yards, 1 TD



CORN KINGS
5-4-0

7	17	7	7	0	38
OT					

Joe Flacco
26 of 36, 383 yards, 4 TDs

Cecil Shorts III broke 3 tackles on his way to a 64-yard TD reception to break a scoreless tie in the 1st. On Chino's next series, **Cam Newton** was stuffed for a 3-yard loss on 4th and 5 at the Cowtown 35, setting up a Cowtown TD drive that ended with **Alfred Morris** plunging over the goal line for a 14-0 lead. Chino got 7 back when Newton rushed it in himself from 7 yards out, but fell behind 24-3 by half time after another TD pass to Shorts and a FG. The Convicts pushed back with 10 points in the 3rd, but their defence could not stop **Joe Flacco**, who threw 4 TD passes on the day, all to Shorts.



BLUE EAGLES
3-6-0

3	17	7	0	0	27
OT					

Aaron Rodgers
24 of 38, 277 yards, 2 TDs, 2 INTs



KNIGHTS
3-6-0

0	0	7	6	0	13
OT					

Shonn Greene
26 Carries, 152 yards

At the end of a long 1st quarter drive **Ray Rice** was denied on 4th and goal from inches away; but all it did was delay the Blue Eagles' 1st half breakout. After a FG snapped the scoreless tie, **Aaron Rodgers** threw TD passes of 21 yards to **Jermaine Gresham** and 44 yards to **DeSean Jackson** then engineered a 1-minute drill to set up a 51-yard **Sebastian Janikowski** FG to make it 20-0 at half time. Back-up **Shaun Hill** came into the game for LA and threw a 21-yard TD pass to **Brandon LaFell** to start the 3rd, but the Eagles soon put the game out of reach with a 4-yard TD run by **CJ Spiller**.



UNDERTAKERS
5-4-0

0	7	0	14	0	21
OT					

RGIII
23 of 45, 322 yards, 3 TDs, 1 INT



MUSTANGS
6-3-0

7	17	7	13	0	44
OT					

Matt Ryan
16 of 25, 261 yards, 4 TDs

Two consecutive booth reviews overturned two called TD runs, leaving it to Garland's **Matt Ryan** to find **Brandon Lloyd** in the end zone from half a yard on 3rd down for the game's opening TD. Two sacks by **Anthony Spencer** on the Undertakers' opening possession signalled the start of a rough afternoon for **RGIII**. The Death Valley QB was pressured all day and sacked 9 times. On the other side, Ryan found **Anquan Boldin** and **Matt Forte** for TD passes to build up a 24-7 half time lead. **Arian Foster** added 157 yards on 14 carries while the Mustangs' defence battered RGIII to victory.



STATS



WEEK NINE

STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood	5	4	0	0.556	280	31.1	210	23.3	7.8	1 3 0	3 1 0	4 2 0
Viriden	5	4	0	0.556	223	24.8	240	26.7	-1.9	2 2 0	3 1 0	4 2 0
Carthage	4	5	0	0.444	160	17.8	226	25.1	-7.3	4 0 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
York	3	6	0	0.333	216	24	242	26.9	-2.9	2 2 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
Mohave	2	7	0	0.222	159	17.7	270	30	-12.3	0 4 0	1 3 0	1 5 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Iowa City	7	2	0	0.778	213	23.7	171	19	4.7	3 1 0	4 0 0	5 1 0
Chino	5	4	0	0.556	248	27.6	210	23.3	4.2	3 1 0	2 2 0	4 2 0
Death Valley	5	4	0	0.556	255	28.3	277	30.8	-2.4	2 2 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
Los Angeles	3	6	0	0.333	177	19.7	253	28.1	-8.4	1 3 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
Mission Viejo	2	7	0	0.222	140	15.6	241	26.8	-11.2	0 4 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Markham	8	1	0	0.889	227	25.2	137	15.2	10	4 1 0	4 0 0	5 1 0
Durham	6	3	0	0.667	252	28	196	21.8	6.2	5 0 0	2 2 0	4 2 0
Pickering	6	3	0	0.667	240	26.7	211	23.4	3.2	3 2 0	3 1 0	5 1 0
Cowtown	5	4	0	0.556	243	27	160	17.8	9.2	3 2 0	0 4 0	2 4 0
Twin Cities	4	5	0	0.444	202	22.4	200	22.2	0.2	3 2 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Garland	6	3	0	0.667	257	28.6	137	15.2	13.3	3 2 0	3 1 0	3 3 0
South Carolina	5	4	0	0.556	202	22.4	190	21.1	1.3	4 1 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
Gwinnett	4	5	0	0.444	191	21.2	184	20.4	0.8	3 2 0	3 1 0	3 3 0
Scarborough	3	6	0	0.333	175	19.4	256	28.4	-9	1 4 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
Sebastian	2	7	0	0.222	133	14.8	182	20.2	-5.4	0 5 0	1 3 0	1 5 0

PASSING

Passing	Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1 Vick DVU	95	49	51.6	787	1	1.1	82	9	9.5	106.8
2 Manning, P CHP	309	222	71.8	2380	6	1.9	59	19	6.1	106.5
3 Smith, A LAK	220	164	74.5	1635	5	2.3	54	13	5.9	105.4
4 Wilson, R ICC	213	142	66.7	1805	5	2.3	60	9	4.2	97.3
5 Roethlisbe GWG	198	127	64.1	1240	0	0.0	32	9	4.5	96.8
6 Ryan, M GDM	262	174	66.4	2066	7	2.7	62	13	5.0	95.7
7 Rodgers, A SBE	328	218	66.5	2116	5	1.5	87	17	5.2	95.3
8 Griffin II DVU	246	153	62.2	1941	8	3.3	77	15	6.1	93.6
9 Brees DTL	341	209	61.3	2727	14	4.1	59	23	6.7	91.9
10 Newton, C CHI	268	171	63.8	2045	9	3.4	69	15	5.6	91.7
11 Romo SC	304	211	69.4	2253	9	3.0	78	12	3.9	91.6
12 Stafford VV	324	175	54.0	2271	9	2.8	54	23	7.1	88.4
13 Manning, E MAR	236	134	56.8	1722	8	3.4	46	16	6.8	88.3
14 Cutler TCT	266	162	60.9	1883	7	2.6	58	13	4.9	87.7
15 Brady YOR	330	196	59.4	2386	5	1.5	64	12	3.6	87.5
16 Schaub PIC	315	192	61.0	2147	9	2.9	73	17	5.4	87.4
17 Flacco COW	327	181	55.4	2348	8	2.4	71	18	5.5	86.3
18 Rivers, P CAR	273	181	66.3	1651	6	2.2	57	7	2.6	81.9
19 Tannehill MVM	262	154	58.8	1665	8	3.1	78	12	4.6	80.1
20 Luck MOH	248	135	54.4	1489	6	2.4	52	10	4.0	75.8
21 Dalton SS	283	166	58.7	1853	11	3.9	77	8	2.8	71.5
22 Hill, Sh LAK	13	8	61.5	96	0	0.0	21	1	7.7	109.8
23 Kaepernick ICC	62	36	58.1	480	1	1.6	53	3	4.8	92.1
24 Kolb GWG	38	18	47.4	135	0	0.0	24	2	5.3	73.9
25 McElroy SBE	34	21	61.8	143	0	0.0	15	0	0.0	71.1

RUSHING

Rushing		Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	Morris	COW	209	1183	5.7	44	9
2	Peterson,A	CHP	234	1168	5.0	29	12
3	Martin,D	TCT	207	997	4.8	31	6
4	Jackson,S	PIC	186	936	5.0	27	4
5	Charles,J	VV	155	828	5.3	66	0
6	Foster,A	GDM	160	798	5.0	66	12
7	Bush,R	DTL	132	751	5.7	27	4
8	Johnson,C	CHI	147	725	4.9	60	3
9	Greene	LAK	189	723	3.8	20	1
10	Bradshaw	GWG	141	720	5.1	41	5
11	Pierce	MVM	160	717	4.5	34	3
12	Gore	SC	144	699	4.9	39	6
13	Ball,M	MOH	137	501	3.7	27	5
14	Ridley	DVU	128	475	3.7	18	2
15	Turner,M	YOR	107	468	4.4	17	7
16	Williams,D	MAR	106	463	4.4	26	4
17	Spiller	SBE	97	424	4.4	17	2
18	Newton,C	CHI	81	415	5.1	27	5
19	Bernard	YOR	82	405	4.9	44	4
20	Rice,R	SBE	89	390	4.4	49	2
21	Richardson	ICC	87	358	4.1	33	1
22	Green-Elli	CAR	101	349	3.5	12	2
23	Jones,F	MAR	75	333	4.4	16	0
24	Lacy	CAR	65	320	4.9	55	2
25	Sproles	ICC	54	318	5.9	38	2

RECEIVING

Receiving		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	Johnson,C	DTL	68	1185	17.4	59	14
2	White,R	CHI	62	907	14.6	69	6
3	Crabtree,M	CHP	60	788	13.1	59	8
4	Welker	SBE	57	622	10.9	64	3
5	Thomas,D	PIC	54	722	13.4	57	4
6	Bryant,D	VV	54	777	14.4	54	10
7	Johnson,A	DVU	54	1368	25.3	82	15
8	Witten	CHP	54	486	9.0	44	4
9	Jackson,V	PIC	53	778	14.7	73	5
10	Graham,J	MOH	52	518	10.0	21	3
11	Wayne	GWG	48	595	12.4	27	7
12	Decker	DTL	46	613	13.3	50	3
13	Marshall	SBE	46	599	13.0	87	6
14	Jones,J	VV	46	669	14.5	26	8
15	Cobb	DVU	46	434	9.4	25	4
16	Cruz	YOR	44	724	16.5	55	6
17	Rudolph	CAR	43	368	8.6	29	2
18	Pitta	MVM	42	362	8.6	25	3
19	Lloyd,B	GDM	41	621	15.1	62	3
20	Colston	MAR	41	623	15.2	46	7
21	Williams,M	MVM	40	640	16.0	78	6
22	Gonzalez	ICC	40	501	12.5	27	2
23	Fitzgerald	COW	39	485	12.4	44	3
24	Scheffler	YOR	39	542	13.9	64	0
25	Smith,S	ICC	39	738	18.9	60	6

KICKING

Kicking		FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts	
1	Folk	GDM	19	18	94.7	4	1	51	80
2	Walsh	YOR	19	16	84.2	6	2	57	72
3	Scobee	PIC	20	16	80.0	4	2	54	72
4	Zuerlein	ICC	21	15	71.4	7	1	51	69
5	Suisham	GWG	19	17	89.5	6	3	51	69
6	Tynes	VV	16	14	87.5	4	1	50	67
7	Henery	DVU	13	13	100.0	7	3	54	67
8	Dawson	DTL	14	12	85.7	2	1	54	66
9	Hartley	CHP	11	10	90.9	5	1	52	64
10	Hauschka	CAR	19	17	89.5	7	3	54	64
11	Prater	MOH	17	16	94.1	6	1	54	63
12	Bironas	SC	18	14	77.8	8	0	47	62
13	Bailey,D	CHI	15	10	66.7	6	1	50	60
14	Lindell	LAK	16	13	81.3	7	2	54	57
15	Novak	COW	15	12	80.0	5	1	53	55
16	Graham,S	MAR	12	8	66.7	2	0	49	53
17	Gostkowski	TCT	11	9	81.8	3	1	54	52
18	Vinatieri	SS	13	12	92.3	4	0	46	47
19	Janikowski	SBE	10	7	70.0	1	1	51	43
20	Carpenter	MVM	11	9	81.8	4	2	53	42
21	Medlock	COW	4	3	75.0	0	0	38	18

TACKLES

Tackles			
1	Kuechly	SC	91
2	Dunbar	CHI	88
3	Freeman, J	SBE	82
4	Riley	SS	77
5	Mayo	DVU	72
6	Posluszny	VV	68
7	Ninkovich	MAR	67
8	Willis, P	ICC	66
9	Washington	PIC	65
10	Barwin	LAK	62
11	Bowman	GDM	61
12	Laurinaiti	GWG	60
13	Houston, J	MOH	59
14	Barnett	VV	59
15	Jackson, D	MAR	58
16	Woodyard	YOR	58
17	Bailey, C	DTL	57
18	Hawk	MVM	55
19	Johnson, J	MVM	55
20	Greenway	LAK	54
21	Tulloch	COW	54
22	Winfield	TCT	54
23	Miller, V	YOR	54
24	McClain, R	SC	53
25	Werner	CHP	52

SACKS

Sacks			
1	Johnson, M	YOR	9
2	Watt	GDM	9
3	Ninkovich	MAR	8
4	Atkins	YOR	7
5	Long, C	DVU	7
6	Quinn, R	LAK	7
7	Smith, A	VV	7
8	Abraham	MAR	6
9	Johnson, C	DVU	6
10	Dareus	COW	6
11	Griffen	COW	6
12	Smith, W	GDM	6
13	Kerrigan	COW	6
14	Sheard	PIC	5
15	Peppers	CHI	5
16	Dunbar	CHI	5
17	Wake	MOH	5
18	Ware, D	MOH	5
19	Pierre-Pau	ICC	5
20	Keisel	COW	5
21	Greenway	LAK	5
22	Spencer, A	GDM	5
23	Avril	GDM	5
24	Hardy	CAR	5
25	Phillips, S	CHP	5

INTERCEPTIONS

Interceptions		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	Sherman	DTL	4	40	10.0	16	0
2	Hayward, C	ICC	4	43	10.8	30	0
3	DeCoud	GWG	4	28	7.0	22	0
4	Jackson, K	CHP	3	61	20.3	28	1
5	Ward, T	PIC	3	81	27.0	81	0
6	Wagner	TCT	3	91	30.3	49	1
7	Reid, E	TCT	3	41	13.7	29	0
8	Elam	DVU	3	54	18.0	26	0
9	Clark, R	YOR	3	3	1.0	3	0
10	Jones, R	ICC	3	51	17.0	43	0
11	Thomas, E	GDM	3	116	38.7	57	1
12	Mathieu	DTL	3	49	16.3	47	1
13	Barber	SS	3	44	14.7	34	0
14	Byrd, J	MAR	2	27	13.5	22	1
15	Tillman	MAR	2	0	0.0	0	0
16	Cyprien	MAR	2	52	26.0	38	0
17	Brown, S	PIC	2	20	10.0	11	1
18	Trufant, D	CHP	2	27	13.5	16	0
19	Wilson, J	TCT	2	0	0.0	0	0
20	Slay	TCT	2	0	0.0	0	0
21	Winfield	TCT	2	33	16.5	33	0
22	Samuel	YOR	2	6	3.0	6	0
23	Smith, H	CAR	2	49	24.5	49	1
24	Verner	CHI	2	29	14.5	29	0
25	Finnegan	CHI	2	68	34.0	63	0

KICK RETURNS

Kick Returns		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	McKelvin GWG	20	582	29.1	57	0
2	Jones, J CHP	27	766	28.4	108	1
3	Cribbs LAK	38	1053	27.7	72	0
4	Washington VV	33	882	26.7	60	0
5	McKnight MAR	11	287	26.1	103	1
6	Patterson MOH	34	887	26.1	62	0
7	Rainey COW	25	652	26.1	56	0
8	Hester DTL	22	563	25.6	34	0
9	Holliday, T CHI	30	760	25.3	102	2
10	Cadet CAR	28	693	24.8	37	0
11	Tate, B MVM	37	912	24.6	38	0
12	Cobb DVU	22	520	23.6	38	0
13	Robinson, D PIC	16	373	23.3	30	0
14	Rodgers, J SC	12	274	22.8	33	0
15	Logan SS	19	410	21.6	34	0
16	Austin, T ICC	18	387	21.5	36	0
17	Stephens-H GWG	11	224	20.4	28	0
18	Wheaton TCT	17	336	19.8	33	0
19	Bolden, O YOR	23	388	16.9	33	0
20	Edelman GDM	13	156	12.0	25	0
21	Welker SBE	17	189	11.1	16	0
22	Pettis SBE	11	122	11.1	13	0
23	James, L ICC	5	152	30.4	36	0
24	Sproles ICC	1	28	28.0	28	0
25	Franklin, J COW	1	27	27.0	27	0

PUNT RETURNS

Punt Returns		No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Cribbs LAK	26	4	353	13.6	74	0
2	Jones, A PIC	28	3	366	13.1	78	2
3	Tate, B MVM	13	7	163	12.5	46	0
4	Martin, K CHI	18	7	224	12.4	79	1
5	Peterson, P GDM	16	5	184	11.5	38	0
6	Cobb DVU	12	6	122	10.2	40	0
7	Ginn Jr. TCT	14	6	141	10.1	22	0
8	Arenas SC	16	5	161	10.1	22	0
9	Harris, D SS	17	1	169	9.9	22	0
10	Bernard YOR	16	5	126	7.9	23	0
11	Welker SBE	12	0	93	7.8	21	0
12	Parrish MAR	22	4	167	7.6	18	0
13	Jones, J CHP	16	7	112	7.0	14	0
14	Sherels VV	14	9	89	6.4	14	0
15	Banks MOH	22	2	138	6.3	15	0
16	Hilton DTL	24	5	116	4.8	12	0
17	Franklin, J COW	14	17	66	4.7	12	0
18	Sanders, E CAR	7	12	213	30.4	87	1
19	Austin, T ICC	7	3	114	16.3	76	1
20	Williams, K COW	4	3	52	13.0	22	0
21	McKelvin GWG	8	7	99	12.4	19	0
22	Jenkins, J DVU	1	0	10	10.0	10	0
23	Leonhard GWG	4	0	39	9.8	18	0
24	Easley YOR	2	0	19	9.5	18	0
25	Decker DTL	1	0	9	9.0	9	0

SCORING

Scoring		FG	XP	2Pt	Run	Rec	Int	KR	PR	Fmb	Sf	Tot
1	Johnson, A DVU	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	90
2	Johnson, C DTL	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	84
3	Folk GDM	18	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80
4	Scobee PIC	16	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	72
5	Walsh YOR	16	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	72
6	Peterson, A CHP	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	72
7	Foster, A GDM	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	72
8	Zuerlein ICC	15	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69
9	Suisham GWG	17	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69
10	Tynes VV	14	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	67
11	Henery DVU	13	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	67
12	Dawson DTL	12	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66
13	Hauschka CAR	17	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64
14	Hartley CHP	10	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64
15	Prater MOH	16	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	63
16	Bironas SC	14	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	62
17	Bryant, D VV	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	60
18	LaFell LAK	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	60
19	Bailey, D CHI	10	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60
20	Lindell LAK	13	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	57
21	Novak COW	12	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55
22	Morris COW	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	54
23	Graham, S MAR	8	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53
24	Gostkowski TCT	9	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52
25	Jones, J VV	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	48

Welcome to the

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WHERE FANS SPEAK

DERON'S DIFFICULT DECISION

BY JUNKAN PHILPOT (CONTRIBUTOR) ON NOVEMBER 30, 2013

Colin Kaepernick



Russell Wilson

It is the kind of problem all teams would want to have but it is still a problem. What do you do when you have two young quarterbacks on your roster, both of whom could start for any EFL team except the one with Peyton Manning on it? Ask Deron Redding; he's the one with that problem at the moment.

The nominal starter, and the one who has had the most snaps, is Russell Wilson. With a QB rating of 97.3 he ranks 4th overall in the passer rankings. He has also rushed for 312 yards, placing him #26 in the rushing leaders.

Colin Kaepernick has had less action, but with a QB rating of 92.1 and 67 rushing yards he appears to be a virtual carbon copy of Wilson, but much taller and covered in tattoos. Unlike most back-ups, Kaepernick gets his opportunities in the middle of games, usually at the first sign that Wilson is struggling. With their playing styles so similar, he does not bring a change of pace; he simply brings a, hopefully, hotter hand. Kaepernick is nice insurance, but will this dual-QB approach end up hurting them both?

Deron Redding clearly cannot decide who he likes more. This goes back to the very beginning. Kaepernick was selected in the 5th round of the 2011 draft; Wilson the following year, after expansion, in the 4th round. Coincidentally they were both selected at #71 overall. Both were considered projects when they were drafted (Kaepernick was selected after Brock Osweiler and Wilson after Andy Dalton) but both showed rapid development that soon crowded out the Cubs previous franchise QB, Sam Bradford.

Both QBs seem content with the current situation, but both are young and eager to please their coach, who lavishes them with praise. "Both of these guys are potential league MVPs," says Redding. But one of them will not be able to realize that MVP potential if they have to share duties in the way they are right now. Eventually, one of them will bridle at the prospect of standing on the sideline. Redding's decision – who will stay and who will go – is a difficult one.



AROUND THE



With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – I have stopped telling women I meet in bars that I write for a living. Girls who hang out in bars don't consider writing a real job. They won't come out and tell you that to your face, but I can tell from the subtle change in their expressions that I have entered, in their minds, a different category – a less lucrative and, therefore, less attractive one. The odd hopeful will brighten up and ask if I have written any bestselling novels like, say Steven King (why is it always Steven King, I ask myself). When I say I am a sports writer, even the hopeful ones write me off; but the odd one will hang around long enough to find out if I can introduce them to one of the Yankees or Knicks.

Writing is not a glamorous media career – TV journalists and reporters get all of the attention because the public actually sees them; they feel like they know them. Writers are the geeks of the media world – the ones most likely to be living in their mother's basement. (Before you go there, I live independently in my mother's Manhattan condo and I pay *all* of the user fees!). Unlike most writers in my business, I am handsome, photogenic, confident, and I don't have a high-pitched voice. I could have easily entered the world of TV journalism but chose not to because I am far too intelligent for that type of fluff. I would not have been able to tolerate the mixed metaphors, misplaced and dangling modifiers, use of nouns as verbs and generally incoherent nonsense that emanates from the unedited mouths of coaches and athletes in the heat of the moment. Smiling and pretending to be interested is not one of my strong points. At some point in the conversation I am likely to say something unkind and risk being punched in the mouth for it.

If you are one of the many who think that because you write a blog, or comment on the Internet, or post what you ate for lunch on Mughshot, that writing for a living is easy, think again. You obviously have not had to write on demand with a paycheck in the balance. There are days when a deadline is looming and the writer simply has no keen observations or interesting ideas, or no interest in expressing them. This happens to be one of those rare weeks when I have little of interest to write about and no desire to share what little I have with you, my dear readers; I would much rather get drunk at a nightclub. But because my paycheck does hang in the balance, I have decided to share with you a few of the typical "letters" I receive from you, my loyal and discerning readership, so that you might come to appreciate how lonely, difficult, and often thankless it is to write for a living,

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"Letters" come in various forms these days. E-mail is still very popular, despite the advent of Titter and social media platforms such as Mughshot and Snortagram. Most of my mail comes through e-mail and none through Mughshot, since I refuse to sign up for it. Of course, the Comments sections in various online versions of my weekly column provide instant feedback – usually of a negative kind, which you can all read. And yes, I even get real letters – personal ones – some nice, some not-so-nice, some really far out there. Regardless of how they get to me, they all tend to fall into one of roughly ___ categories. Here are some typical examples of each category, and my responses to each:

The 'Atta Boy' – I like these because they are complimentary. Even if the writer has completely missed the point, I am happy to read them because they are nice. Here is a typical one; "*Dear Spats, I think you are cute. Is that your real photo? I love a man with brains who can talk sports. Keep up the good work. Are you single?*" – **Suzie**, from San Diego.

[Dear Suzie, thanks for the nice e-mail. Yes, I am single, but in high demand. I am thinking of starring in the next season of The Bachelor to give everyone a chance. Can you send a photo? -Spats]

The 'Atta Girl' – I don't like these as much because I am not a girl. They also tend to not be as complimentary as the 'Atta Boys'. Here is a typical one; "*Hey Spatsina! Nice artical. Dont get your pantihoze wet. Scarboro nos how to welcom a girl like u. Come visit us som time.*" – **Mister M**, from Scarborough.

[Dear Mr. M, pray tell, which of my many articles excoriating the Blue Eagles are you referring to? – Spats] Frankly, I am sure "Mister M" hasn't read any of my columns, but probably heard about them from one of the free 'Town Readers' stationed, as a public service, in Scarborough libraries and shopping malls.

The 'Hater' – These ones are the most unpleasant, so let's get this out of the way; "*Hey A\$\$hole! You sound like you get off on being such an a\$\$hole. Typical arrogant dick from the "Big Assle" talking down to the rest of the country. Thinks his filthy sh!t doesn't stink. I hope you never get a football team, you big A\$\$!*" – agentlime@hotmail.com

[Dear Agent Lime, thank you for expressing your opinion. I have one question: when did the State of Iowa get connected to the Internet?]

The 'Know-It-All' – These are, by far, the most common. The one quality about sports fans that keeps all sports departments in media thriving is the loud mouth of the know-it-all fan. To be fair, most TV journalists and commentators also fall under this category, but the fan know-it-all is usually far less informed. To make up for this lack of information, the fan know-it-all is louder and won't back down, even in the face of facts. There are hundreds in a similar vein to this one that I liked; *"Hey Spats, how are you doing? I like to read your opinions because they are on the mark most of the time, but you made a serious oversight by not even mentioning Scarborough to win the South. Garland's defence is overrated. You can't base regular season performance on the pre-season. Scarborough has proven players*



Typical writer's block in action. Note the glasses, dishevelled appearance, and implied lack of hygiene. This stereotype negatively affects all writers, especially in pick-up bars.

that play vanilla style in the pre-season. The Scarborough D is solid and the offence is going to be unstoppable." – Gary, from Toronto.

[Dear Gary, where did I write that I based my prediction on the pre-season? (Don't bother checking because that was a rhetorical question). The ways of the Great Spatskin are mysterious to the uninitiated, Gary. You must have Faith in my greater knowledge. The Blue Eagles have 7 games to turn it around, but don't count on it. –The Great Spatskin]

The 'Whiner' – I get these occasionally in the form of "helpful hints" to make my column more enjoyable to all. Usually, the advice is designed to make my column more enjoyable to the writer. Here is one; *"Hi Spats, great column last week but I wish you wrote more about the football games. As a Monarchs fan I want to see more coverage of the west coast as well. There is great football being played out here. I think Tannehill is going to be a good one. I even bought his jersey. Maybe you can do a focus on them or something. Keep up the good work!"* –Ricky Perreira, from Lake Forest

[Ricky, thanks for your letter. I'll write more about your team when they give me something interesting to write about. If you want to know more about the football games, I suggest you watch them. Take care and keep reading. – Spats.]

The 'Lunatic' – Although many of the 'haters' and 'whiners' are slightly "off" in the mental health department, they come across as quite sane – when compared with the true lunatics. I guess, being somewhat of a public figure, I attract my share of psychotics. Here is one that made me chuckle; *"My name is Francis. I'm a Canadian citizen living in Belize. I need your help to issue an arrest warrant for Beyoncé Knowles, who is wanted on international terrorism charges and for killing the late Princess Diana. The CIA is not working for the US Government. I need you to tell the President. The RCMP has not answered my e-mails. If Beyoncé Knowles is not stopped there could be an attack at the football championship game. Help!"* –Francis Bergenmeister, Belize City.

I don't answer the true lunatics because they will consider you a "friend" if you do and then watch out! The best thing that could happen is they fill your in-box until such time as they get locked away. The worst thing that could happen is that you end up in a barrel of formaldehyde in their basement.

And now, just in case you didn't tune into the EFL this weekend (like Ricky from Lake Forest), here is a quick rundown of what you missed.....

BREACH AT THERMOPYLAE

The rocky relationship between Virden coach, **Lance Barrate** and his team's franchise quarterback, **Matt Stafford** moved from strained to conciliatory after the Violators struck a telling blow against the Spartans at Thermopylae Stadium last Thursday night, escaping with a 38-34 victory to salvage what had been a rough tour of the Can-Am's North Division. It took a penalty-assisted drive and an accurate pass into a sea of defensive backs with less than 30 seconds left to get the job done, and for that last part, as well as his stubborn refusal to panic after his team gave up a 21-10 lead to fall behind by 10 points in the 4th quarter, Stafford deserves his moment in the sun. "I saw something from Matt today that I want to see again," Barrate commented afterwards.

Certainly there had been a dark cloud hanging over the Virden quarterback entering this game. Following back-to-back losses to Cowtown and Durham in which Stafford had completed a paltry 38% of his passes, thrown 3 interceptions, and been sacked 9 times while throwing just 2 TD passes, both Barrate and Stafford were coming under fire for the team crumpling like a cheap suit against the league's tough competition. The trip to Pickering was never going to be a picnic and the recent struggles only compounded the daunting nature of their challenge.

The game started about as badly as it could have for Virden, with Pickering safety **T.J. Ward** intercepting Stafford on the opening possession and returning it 86 yards to the Virden 9. That set up a 1-play touchdown drive with **Matt Schaub** dumping off to **Steven Jackson**, who ran it in for the score. The scoring formula was a familiar one for Pickering and it had the volatile fans at

Thermopylae suddenly engorged with the blood of battle and raucous with the malt of Molson. But the crowd was quieted down quickly as the Violators tied the game on their ensuing possession. They were re-animated by a 21-yard **Josh Scobee** field goal to regain the lead, but were not as boisterous as they might have been had the Spartans capitalized fully on a 1st and goal from the 10.

In a conclusive sign that this game would be different from the last two, Stafford looked in full control in leading an 80-yard TD drive and finishing it off by threading the needle in tight coverage to **Dez Bryant** from 3 yards out. When Pickering's **Demaryius Thomas** fumbled away the ball on their next series and Stafford took advantage with his third scoring hook-up to Bryant, the party in the stands was definitely over. But the "Never Surrender" Spartans didn't surrender to the sudden momentum change; Schaub engineered a determined scoring drive, assisted by a 20-yard pass interference penalty on safety **Eric Berry**, to pull within 4 points just before the half.

The second half started with Pickering claiming the lead on Schaub's second TD pass of the game to **Steven Jackson**, Virden tying it on a field goal, then Scobee putting the Spartans in front with a 49-yarder to end the third. When Pickering burned up almost 6 minutes in a 65-yard touchdown drive to start the fourth quarter, the situation looked dire for Virden. But Stafford, as he had earlier in the game, looked unfazed by the setback. Building on a 40-yard kick return by Leon Washington, Stafford finished off a 46-yard drive with a 10-yard touchdown pass to Julio Jones to make it 34-31. The Violators' defence did its job, holding Pickering to a three-and-out and setting up the final showdown with 3:46 remaining.

Virden's great comeback was almost over before it got out of first gear. **Gosder Cherilus** was flagged for holding on a 13-yard run by **Jamaal Charles** that would have given Virden a first down at the Pickering 43, but instead set up a 3rd and 13 at their own 34. An incomplete pass brought up fourth down then a 3-yard completion to Charles appeared to end it; but a facemask penalty on **Joe Haden** kept the drive alive. The sound of smashing furniture in the luxury box of Spartans' owner **Gus Kontantakos** could be heard over the chants of 'DEFENCE' and 'NEVER SURRENDER' coming from the rowdy throng. A pass interference penalty on linebacker **Daryl Washington** converted a 3rd and 7 three plays later, causing a rain of dishes, glasses and chairs to fall out of the said luxury box onto the safety net below. With the crowd booing lustily and cheering on their defence at the same time, Stafford delivered the kill shot from the 17 yard line with 17 seconds left in the game, hitting **Torrey Smith** over the middle as corner **Sheldon Brown** tried in vain to pull him down shy of the goal. A primal bellowing, followed by the screams of female servers could be heard emanating from Konstantakos' luxury box and shortly thereafter, security was observed heading to the mezzanine level. Virden had done the unthinkable and breached the defences at Thermopylae.

AROUND THE EFL

The dramatic contest between Virden and Pickering was by far the most exciting game of a week marked by blowouts and spinouts. The outcomes on the field in Week Nine were decisive while creating more parity than ever in the standings. Read on....

The Mustangs trampled and stomped over the Undertakers 44-21 at The Corral in Garland. **RGIII** was sacked 9 times and hurried countless others as **Chris Worthley's** feared attack broke against a wall of blue jerseys. Linebacker, **Anthony Spencer** led the sack parade with 4, forcing a fumble on one of them. Death Valley guard, **David Baas** and running back **Stevan Ridley** had a day they would both like to forget, giving up 3 sacks each.

Cowtown made it four wins in a row by demolishing Chino 38-17 in a blowout style game made more remarkable by the complete absence of turnovers for either team. All **Joe Flacco** did was pass for 383 yards and 4 touchdown passes, all to 4th-string wide receiver **Cecil Shorts III**, to become "Corn King for a Day" in a town that had been in the process of forgetting his MVP season in 2011. The Convicts are suddenly reeling after two straight road losses but remain tied with Death Valley at 5-4.

Durham made it look easy over York in a 31-10 win at Jurassic Park. **Drew Brees** was efficient, completing 24 of 29 for 303 yards and **Megatron** added a pair of touchdown catches to bring his season total to 14, one behind his nemesis in Death Valley, 'Optimus Prime.' The saddest sight of the day was watching **Tom Brady** run five straight running plays while trying to direct a comeback late in the 3rd quarter, all but surrendering the game to the Durham cornerbacks.

At the Metrodome in Minneapolis, the Triumph overthrew the Cannibals 38-15 in a game that was actually fairly close until Carthage punter **Pat McAfee** attempted to pass on 4th down and 2 at his own 37. Tight end **Kyle Rudolph** bobbled the ball and Twin Cities took over, buying insurance four plays later on a 4-yard touchdown run by **Doug Martin**. In a sign that the Triumph may be prepping for a second half surge, **Pierre Garcon** had a breakout game, catching 6 passes for 114 yards and 1 TD.

In games that weren't worth it for the TV sponsors:

The Blue Eagles played a strong first half and hung on the rest of the way to turn back the Knights 27-13 at Round Table Stadium. The offence showed a little flash with DeSean Jackson snaring a 44-yard touchdown pass.

The North Stars looked sluggish in dropping the even more sluggish Hellfire 24-13 in the Mohave heat. **Calais Campbell** blocked a punt that **Rob Ninkovich** recovered in the end zone for the game's first score. Ninkovich is having a charmed season.

At the Gwinnett, the Pats played their game plan to perfection in a dull but efficient 20-7 win over the Glads. **Adrian Peterson** rushed 32 times for 189 yards and a touchdown to suck all the air out of the Coliseum.

In Sebastian, 11,500 fans, 2,000 of them from Iowa, watched the Cubs rebound from the previous week's humiliation to top the Fish 27-18. A 75-yard TD pass from **Andy Dalton** to **Nate Washington** made this game close for a while, but **Russell Wilson** had the last word with a 2-yard sneak in the 4th quarter to put the game out of reach.

Finally, the surging Regulators (yes, surging), winners of 4 of their last 5, handled Mission Viejo with surprising ease, trouncing them 28-3 at the Carolina Slammer. **Tony Romo** stayed hot, throwing 3 TD passes in the effort.

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JIMMY'S WEEK TEN PICKS

GWINNETT @ VIRDEN (line – VIOLATORS by 3)

INJURIES: Gwinnett – Bill Bentley (OUT), Josh Brown (OUT), Kevin Kolb (OUT), Troy Polamalu (OUT); Virden – Vontae Davis (DOUBTFUL), Owen Daniels (OUT), Fred Davis (OUT), Brandon Meriweather (OUT), Knowshon Moreno (OUT).

It is a crowded race developing for a wild card berth in the Can-Am Conference and the 4-5 Gladiators find themselves elbowed to the rear of a pack of 6 teams currently chasing their division leaders. The race in the PAC is not as crowded, but just as intense, with the Violators also in the middle of a cage match with Charleswood for the East Division title. This is a critical game for both teams but the Gladiators are in the more vulnerable position if they lose. Ben Roethlisberger's streak of consecutive pass attempts without an interception currently stands at 265 going back to Week 15 of last season; this has helped make the Glads' offence the most mistake-free in the league. Ben's streak will have to continue this week if Gwinnett hopes to win at **TERRORDOME** against a Virden team coming off a dramatic last second victory over Pickering. The loss of both Owen Daniels and Fred Davis means Virden enters the game without a true tight end, which will hurt them in the trenches. But if Matt Stafford is truly back in 2012 form, spreading the field with multiple wide receiver sets may be more dangerous than Jamaal Charles. **PICK: VIRDEN**

DURHAM @ CARTHAGE (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 4)

INJURIES: Durham – David DeCastro (OUT), Carl Nicks (OUT); Carthage – Lance Moore (PROBABLE), Dannell Ellerbe (QUESTIONABLE), Stefan Wisniewski (DOUBTFUL), Doug Baldwin (OUT), Jon Beason (OUT), Bruce Carter (OUT), David Hawthorne (OUT), Jacob Lacey (OUT), Brooks Reed (OUT).

This apparent mismatch is interesting because this will be the first start for Philip Rivers against his old team, and everyone is watching to see if the 'Curse of the Killing Field' continues for visitors to Samoa. The curse will have to be a very powerful one to lift the Cannibals over the super-charged Durham offence. The Lizards average over 400 yards per game on the attack, #1 in the league, and Drew Brees is leading the league in TD passes with 23. But Brees is also leading the league in interceptions, the result of his tendency to force the ball downfield instead of looking for the outlet. With receivers like Megatron and Eric Decker, and others like them, it is no wonder he trusts them to make plays on the ball, but opposing secondaries are playing the pass a lot and they are making plays as well. The Carthage secondary is not an imposing group, however, and they will have to play well over their heads to slow down the Durham passing game. When Carthage has the ball, Rivers will turn to Eddie Lacy to move the chains and hope to catch Richard Sherman asleep in coverage. It is a faint hope indeed. **PICK: DURHAM**

SOUTH CAROLINA @ MOHAVE (line – REGULATORS by 1)

INJURIES: South Carolina – Star Lotulelei (OUT), Tracy Porter (OUT), Sam Shields (OUT), Brandon Thompson (OUT). Mohave – Hakeem Nicks (OUT), Scott Wells (OUT), Aaron Williams (OUT).

South Carolina has won 5 of their last 6 games and is nipping at Garland's hooves in the South Division race. This is shocking on its own, but even more so when you consider that the defence, still bad by most measures, has been holding its own in close games. With Tony Romo firing on all cylinders, the Regulators' bandwagon is starting to overflow. Sports talk in Columbia is already turning to critical upcoming match-ups at Durham and Garland, but nobody in the Carolina camp should be looking past Mohave. This is a classic "trap game," with the Hellfire at home and nothing to lose. Mohave has assets that could knock an overconfident Romo on his backside, with the league's most efficient pass rush ready to force errors or collapse in the attempt. Andrew Luck appears to be regaining his poise in recent weeks, which means he could inflict some damage. **PICK: MOHAVE**

COWTOWN @ CHARLESWOOD (line – PATRIOTS by 1)

INJURIES: **Cowtown** – Jared Crick (OUT), Maurkice Pouncey (OUT), Kyle Williams (OUT); **Charleswood** – Marcus Gilbert (OUT), Santonio Holmes (OUT), Phil Taylor (OUT), Bjoern Werner (OUT).

The league's top two running backs go head-to-head in this battle of 5-4 teams. Both defences have shown vulnerability to the run and will have to respect their opponent's ground games, so expect big opportunities in the passing game off play action when both teams have the ball. Joe Flacco is no Peyton Manning, but the Corn Kings' pivot has 7 TD passes in his last two games and his wide receiving corps is deep and healthy. Manning has premium targets in the passing game, making him as dangerous as ever. All the signs point to a shootout here and the Pats have a few more guns. **PICK: CHARLESWOOD**

MARKHAM @ DEATH VALLEY (line – NORTH STARS by 2)

INJURIES: **Markham** – Kyle Long (PROBABLE), Percy Harvin (OUT), James Starks (OUT), Titus Young (OUT); **Death Valley** – Jimmy Smith (DOUBTFUL), Alfonzo Dennard (OUT), Aaron Hernandez (OUT), Todd Herremans (OUT), Janoris Jenkins (OUT), Greg Jones (OUT), Clay Matthews (OUT).

The North Stars may play in the toughest Division, but their inter-conference tour has been a series of soft serves until this week at the Graveyard. Markham is not in a must-win position here, but wish to maintain their two-game cushion before heading back into conference play. The Undertakers are in the thick of it and need a win to keep pace with rival Chino. The relative struggles of the Markham offence could be alleviated by the weakness of their opponent's defence, ranked last in several key categories, including points allowed. But even if Eli struggles, there is always hope for a team that forces 2.6 turnovers a game, especially when they are facing an offence that commits 2.1 per game. If RGIII can avoid turning the ball over, this could be a surprisingly easy win for the home team. But if the giveaway trend continues, watch out Zombie fans. **PICK: DEATH VALLEY**

PICKERING @ IOWA CITY (line – CUBS by 4)

INJURIES: **Pickering** – Aubrayo Franklin (PROBABLE), T.J. Ward (QUESTIONABLE); **Iowa City** – Rodney Hudson (OUT), LaMichael James (OUT), Jamar Taylor (OUT).

Win or lose, the nerve-wracking Spartans have not had it easy in rising to 6-3. Last week's loss in the final 30 seconds was disheartening, but they cannot dwell on what might have been with the Cubs on deck this week. The Cubs have a defence capable of containing Steven Jackson, if they do not stop him cold, and this will put the pressure on Matt Schaub to generate points. Demaryius Thomas and Vincent Jackson will make their plays, but with the league's top interceptor, Casey Hayward covering, the Cubs are a threat to make one or two of their own. Pickering has allowed the fewest rushing yards of any team, so Russell Wilson will also have to make plays through the air. Unlike Schaub, however, Wilson is elusive in the pocket and a threat to run. Expect Wilson's versatility, turnovers, and veteran Tony Gonzalez to make the difference for the Cubs. **PICK: IOWA CITY**

GARLAND @ LOS ANGELES (line – MUSTANGS by 7)

INJURIES: **Garland** – None. **Los Angeles** – David Amerson (QUESTIONABLE), Brian Bulaga (OUT), Barry Church (OUT), Brian Cushing (OUT), Clyde Gates (OUT), Ryan Mathews (OUT), Brian Orakpo (OUT), Nick Sundberg (OUT), Charles Woodson (OUT).

This is as lopsided a match-up as you will find this season, yet the Mustangs are favoured by a mere touchdown. The reason for this is simply that the Knights play such crazy football, that crazy things often happen. Although it's hard to imagine how simply playing with berserk fury is going to shift the weight of decision away from Garland's immensely superior talent base in favour of "the little engine that could," thinking you can do it is the first step to doing it, and the charisma of the lunatic Jeff Dohrn has infected enough of his players with the belief that they can win – or at least put a scare into their opponent. The reality is that the Mustangs' new coach will not be intimidated by the legacy of the Blue Shield or the intensity of the flailing coming from the arms of LA's drowning defenders. This is Jimmy's 'Lock Pick' of the week. **PICK: GARLAND**

TWIN CITIES @ CHINO (line – CONVICTS by 7)

INJURIES: **Twin Cities** – Rishard Matthews (QUESTIONABLE), Glenn Dorsey (OUT). **Chino** – Jason Avant (OUT), Ben Hartsock (OUT), Chris Ivory (OUT).

The Convicts are glad to be back at home after a depressing two-game road trip where they let one get away from them in

Gwinnett and watched Joe Flacco pick their defence apart in Cowtown. They see this match-up as an opportunity to get back in the win column but they had better be prepared for a battle because the Triumph has been nothing if not a stubborn opponent. If last week's performance is any indication, Pierre Garcon has fully recovered from injury and his return adds deep strike capability to Twin Cities' possession-style offence. The Convicts will of course rely on Cam Newton to employ the many weapons at his disposal or, if he can't find those, his own legs to keep the Triumph defence off balance. With the Lockdown Crew looking a bit tired these days, Newton will need to bring his 'A' game to beat this inflated spread. **PICK: TWIN CITIES**

SCARBOROUGH @ MISSION VIEJO (line – MONARCHS by 1)

INJURIES: Scarborough – Ryan Kalil (OUT), Jordan Norwood (OUT), Darrelle Revis (OUT), Terrell Suggs (OUT); **Mission Viejo** – Atari Bigby (OUT), Aaron Maybin (OUT), Koa Misi (OUT), DeMarco Murray (OUT), Lardarius Webb (OUT).

Baby steps – that is what the Blue Eagles took last week in nervously dispatching the Knights for their third win. The message it sent to bettors, however, is that they could easily fall back on their heels this week on the road against the Monarchs. It's hard to imagine what Chris Ferraro's tattered offence is going to be able to do to justify the optimism of the Vegas gurus. He has no viable running back and only one decent wide receiver. Ryan Tannehill is unimpressive. For all of the team's troubles, the Scarborough defence still has fight in it, as evidenced by the paltry 27.9% 3rd down success rate of their opponents, second-best shutdown rate in the league. It is the Scarborough offence that has intelligent people scratching their heads in bewilderment. The return of Logan Mankins appeared to help Aaron Rodgers stay on his feet last week, but it did not spur a hoped-for breakthrough in the running game. CJ Spiller and Ray Rice have yet to live up to pre-season expectations. Despite the tottering advance of the Blue Eagles versus LA, I still think this is a game the Monarchs would be lucky to win. **PICK: SCARBOROUGH**

SEBASTIAN @ YORK (line – EXCALIBURS by 3)

INJURIES: Sebastian – Willis McGahee (DOUBTFUL), Zach Strief (OUT). **York** – Chris Gamble (OUT), Asante Samuel (OUT), Richard Seymour (OUT).

The Excaliburs return to a funereal atmosphere in York after a two-game Humiliation Tour of Pickering and Durham. At 3-6, many analysts are downgrading the team's status from Contender to Spoiler; a loss to Sebastian here would land them firmly in the Patsy category. The York experience has been very similar to Scarborough – a team with moderate to high expectations slipping and falling on its face.....repeatedly. While it is time for York fans to worry, *a lot*, it is not time to panic yet; parity will keep them in the playoff hunt at 4-6. There will be plenty of time and reason to panic if they lose at home to the Swordfish – the only team with a more depressed fan base. I am not expecting miracles from Tom Brady in this game and York won't need them. What I do expect to see is a feeble Sebastian offence totally outclassed by a solid York defence. **PICK: YORK**



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This Week in EFL History
With Professor Sterling Smitherman

FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – 2007 – No sooner had sports analysts written off the Anchorage Buccaneers as an embarrassing anomaly in their careful pre-season evaluations, than they finished on the better end of a 41-40 score in a thrilling victory over Florida at Dragonmount. The teams compiled 1,161 yards of offence and 63 first downs between them. So awful was the Dragons' defence, that with a chance to tie the game on an extra point with 1:08 remaining, Florida coach Jim Heaton elected to go for 2, missing in the attempt and losing the game in the process.

The upset of the week was a stunning 28-25 victory

by the Cubs over the Hellfire in Mohave. Half way through the season, the 4-4 Cubs were building a reputation as "giant killers," knocking off two superior opponents on the road, no less. It certainly helped that Marc Bulger was off his game, throwing 12 uncatchable passes in 46 attempts. Even with the loss Mohave remained at the top of the East with a 6-2 record.

In the West, Durham vaulted into first place with an easy 42-17 win over the hapless Swan Dogs while their main opponents both lost. Frank Gore extended his consecutive 100-yard rushing game streak to 8 with 196 yards on 30 carries. Meanwhile, the Convicts fell to Kutztown, 27-10 and the Corn Kings were edged out by the Patriots, 13-10 in what was, at the time, the lowest scoring game in the league's short history.

Drew Brees earned Offensive MVP honours for his 432 yards passing and 3 TD passes on 27 completions. LA Knights defensive end Tamba Hali earned Defensive MVP honours with 10 tackles, 2 sacks, 2 TFL, 1 F F and an interception in his team's 31-16 win over Gwinnett.

At the half-way point of the season, offence ruled. Frank Gore had already rushed for over 1,000 yards while two passers, Bulger and Peyton Manning had passed for 2,000+.