

# 2014



# EFL NEWS

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

# 2014

Week Six

Week Six

November 23, 2014



CHP	6	VIR	27	TCT	19	SCB	34	MVM	24	MAR	13	DTL	27	PIC	34	GWG	35	SBE	16
CHI	31	ICC	30	LAK	14	MOH	20	CAR	37	SC	20	AUR	34	SEB	10	COW	33	YOR	14



## Cubs Are Back!

### LATEST EFL NEWS INSIDE

- PEYTON MANNING COMMANDS EASY VICTORY ON EAST COAST
- LIZARDS BATTLE MUSTANGS AND THE REFS IN CAN-AM SHOWDOWN
- CANNIBALS NIBBLE ON MONARCHS
- JOHNNY FOOTBALL BEGINNING TO INFLATE
- CUBS ARE BACK
- AND MUCH MORE.....

#### Also in this issue

- SPATS FEATURE, 'RED FLAGS,' 'SWORDFANS,' 'AROUND THE EFL.'
- JIMMY THE GEEK
- THIS WEEK IN EFL HISTORY

Iowa City's *Darren Sproles* (left) runs over the Virden defence to score a touchdown in a 30-27 overtime victory for the Cubs. Sproles finished what Cubs' QB *Russell Wilson* started as the Cubs kept pace all day with high-powered Virden offence.



Who was slick in Week Six?

**"BRYLCREEM" THE EFL'S FIRST SPONSOR**



**Matt Ryan**  
QB  
Aurora  
Mustangs

32 of 52, 424 yards, 4 TDs. Made big plays vs tough Durham D.



**Jason Babin**  
DE  
York  
Excaltors

8 Tackles, 2 Sacks, 1 PD, 1 Stf, 3 Hurs, Defensive stud in losing cause



1-5-0



# GAME OF THE WEEK



3-3-0

MVP

Russell Wilson

## Virден

27

30

## Iowa City

### TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD
Stafford	22	29	337	2
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
Charles	19	111	5.8	0
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
Bryant	11	192	17.5	2

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
Virден	7	7	7	3	3	27
Iowa City	7	7	7	3	6	30

### TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD
Wilson	27	31	244	2
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
Spiller	19	75	3.9	0
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
Smith,S	6	64	10.7	1

### Play of the Game

Trailing by 3 in OT, the Cubs had 2<sup>nd</sup> & goal at the Virден 10 with 2:59 left. **Tramon Williams** was flagged for a facemask on a 3-yard run, setting up 1<sup>st</sup> & goal at the 3. **Darren Sproles** scored next play.

**SUMMARY:** The Violators opened an exciting back-and-forth contest with a 45-yard run by running back **Jamaal Charles** on the game's first play. Three plays later **Matt Stafford** hooked up with **Dez Bryant** on a slant for a 22-yard TD pass to open the scoring. The Cubs replied by controlling the ball for almost 7 minutes and marching 80 yards to a TD on a 6-yard pass from **Russell Wilson** to **Steve Smith**. The game would continue in a similar fashion, with neither team holding the advantage for long. Virден regained the lead with its first drive of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter ending on a 1-yard TD plunge by **John Kuhn**, only to see it eclipsed before the half when the Cubs' Wilson snuck across the goal line for 6. The 2<sup>nd</sup> half opened with the Cubs overcoming two red zone penalties to grab their first lead on a 3-yard hitch to **CJ Spiller** for a TD, but Stafford went 6-for-6 on Virден's next possession, hitting Bryant for a 13-yard TD pass to tie it again. **Greg Zuerlein** gave the Cubs a 24-21 lead on a FG early in the 4<sup>th</sup> that held up until Virден's last drive in regulation; a 30-yard pass to Bryant helped set up the tying FG by **Mason Crosby** with 0:45 left. In OT, Virден's opening drive was good for a FG, putting pressure on the Cubs. But **Darren Sproles** finished off a penalty-assisted game-winning drive with a 3-yard TD run.

**QUOTES:** "That was a great offence we faced today. I am proud of our entire offensive unit because we matched that effort and surpassed it in overtime. Games balls for everybody, but really big balls for Russell Wilson and Darren Sproles!" – Iowa City head coach, **Deron Redding**.  
 "Jamaal going down in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter forced us to change our approach, but that was not the reason we lost. We gave up over 100 yards in stupid penalties. You can't give a team like the Cubs that much help on their home field and expect to win." – Virден coach, **Lance Barrate**.



ANGRY FAN



titter

HAPPY FAN



**Marquis de Sade @mdsviolate**  
 My inner masochist compels me to watch in fascination as this talented #Violators team self-destructs.



**Archibald Thacker @ArchieDMR**  
**@DeronR** can thank his prize QB for this win. An assist goes to the Violators themselves, who lived up to their name. Cubs still have a way to go.

11-21-2014 Joe Ferguson Stadium Temp: 55 Wind: 0-5 None MVP: **Russell Wilson**

#### Scoring Summary

1 13:14	Virден	TD Stafford 22 pass to Bryant (Crosby) (5-80-1:46)	7-0
1 6:29	Iowa City	TD Wilson 6 pass to Smith (Zuerlein) (11-80-6:41)	7-7
2 11:04	Virден	TD Kuhn 1 run (Crosby) (8-58-3:52)	14-7
2 0:28	Iowa City	TD Wilson 1 run (Zuerlein) (11-65-4:07)	14-14
3 9:22	Iowa City	TD Wilson 3 pass to Spiller (Zuerlein) (11-65-5:29)	14-21
3 4:20	Virден	TD Stafford 13 pass to Bryant (Crosby) (11-80-4:55)	21-21
4 12:20	Iowa City	FG Zuerlein 34 (12-64-7:02)	21-24
4 0:45	Virден	FG Crosby 27 (8-51-1:55)	24-24
5 8:11	Virден	FG Crosby 33 (11-65-6:45)	27-24
5 2:48	Iowa City	TD Sproles 3 run	27-30

	VV	ICC
First Downs	24	29
Rushes	35-151	35-150
Passes	29-22-337	31-27-244
Sacked	0-0	3-18
Fumble	2	2
Penalties	15-119	10-72
Turnovers	1	0
Missed Tackles	6	9
Blitzes	26	16
Time	33:45	38:27
Third Down	7-14	8-13
Fourth Down	0-1	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	6/2/2	4/4/0
Net Offense	488	376



**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!



**SLUGGS**

6-0-0

7	10	0	17	0	<b>34</b>
OT					

Stevan Ridley

29 Carries, 152 yards, 4 TDs



**HELLFIRE**

1-5-0

0	3	10	7	0	<b>20</b>
OT					

Cordarell Patterson

7 KR, 376 yards, 53.7 Avg, 1 TD

With the Hellfire threatening to score on their opening drive, **Andrew Luck** threw behind his target and got picked off by **Janoris Jenkins**. The Sluggs drove 61 yards off that turnover, drawing first blood when **Stevan Ridley** plunged in from 1-yard for a TD. With **Knowshon Moreno** down, Ridley became the feature back, breaking a 26-yard run to set up his 2<sup>nd</sup> of 4 rushing TDs and staking his team to a 17-3 half time lead. The Hellfire could not catch up. Most of their offence came from kick return specialist, **Cordarell Patterson**, who posted a record 376 yards in kick return yardage and 1 TD.



**BLUE EAGLES**

2-4-0

3	6	7	0	0	<b>16</b>
OT					

DeSean Jackson

5 Catches, 79 yards, 1 TD



**EXCALIBURS**

2-4-0

0	7	7	0	0	<b>14</b>
OT					

Jason Babin

8 Tackles, 2 Sacks, 1 PD, 3 Hurries

A defensive struggle in York saw the Excaliburs score the only major of the 1<sup>st</sup> half on a 10-yard run by **Giovani Bernard**. But the Blue Eagles gradually built a 9-7 half time lead on 3 **Jay Feely** FGs, including a 31-yarder as time expired. A strip sack of **Aaron Rodgers** by **Junior Galette** set up a second York TD on a 9-yard pass from **Tom Brady** to **Vincent Brown** to give the home team a 14-9 lead. But the York offence would never see the Scarborough side of the field after that. **DeSean Jackson** returned a punt 29 yards to set up his own 24-yard TD catch for the early game-winner in the 3<sup>rd</sup>.



**SPARTANS**

3-3-0

14	17	3	0	0	<b>34</b>
OT					

Peyton Manning

13 of 20, 229 yards, 3 TDs, 1 INT



**SWORDFISH**

1-5-0

3	0	0	7	0	<b>10</b>
OT					

Andy Dalton

21 of 39, 169 yards, 1 TD

A 43-yard pass interference penalty on Sebastian's **Kendrick Lewis** set up a 15-yard TD pass from **Peyton Manning** to **Pierre Garcon** to open the scoring then **Golden Tate** got open over the middle for a 59-yard TD catch to give the Spartans a 14-0 lead mid-way through the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. The teams exchanged FGs then Pickering exploited a missed FG and a botched 4<sup>th</sup> down attempt by the Swordfish at their own 42 to score two more majors before half time. With a 31-3 lead in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, the Spartans ran the ball with **Chris Johnson** and **Terrance West** to stroll to their 3<sup>rd</sup> win.

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



**PATRIOTS**  
2-4-0

0	0	3	3	0	6
				OT	

**Blake Bortles**  
17 of 36, 175 yards, 1 INT



**CONVICTS**  
4-2-0

10	7	14	0	0	31
				OT	

**Cam Newton**  
136 pass yds, 81 run yds, 2 TDs

A 31-yard run by **Adrian Peterson** on his second carry of the day set up a 48-yard FG by **Dan Bailey** to give Chino an early 3-0 lead. The Convicts would go on to score 21 more points before the Patriots would get on the scoreboard, with **Cam Newton** throwing a 20-yard TD to **James Jones** and scrambling for a 55-yard TD on either side of a 2-yard TD run by Peterson. The Patriots controlled the ball for most of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half but could not generate more than a pair of FGs against a stingy Chino defence. Rookie RB, **Drki Archer** returned a kickoff 100 yards for a TD to clinch the win for Chino.



**GLADIATORS**  
2-4-0

7	14	0	14	0	35
				OT	

**Ben Roethlisberger**  
19 of 28, 247 yards, 3 TDs, 1 INT



**CORN KINGS**  
3-3-0

7	17	3	6	0	33
				OT	

**Joe Flacco**  
26 of 42, 314 yards, 3 TDs, 3 INTs

A ground-pounding drive and 2-yard TD run by **Alfred Morris** gave Cowtown an early 7-0 lead. But an interception of **Joe Flacco** by **Jimmy Smith** set up the equalizer for Gwinnett on a 1-yard plunge by **LeSean McCoy**. Cowtown countered with a 52-yard TD pass to **Cecil Shorts**, setting off a fireworks display of offence from both sides. Cowtown took a 27-21 lead into the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter but soon trailed 35-27 after a 24-yard run and 56-yard catch by McCoy set up two Gwinnett TDs. Trailing 35-33 at their own 40 with 1:40 left, Flacco was picked off by **Carlos Rogers** to clinch the win for the Glads.



**T-LIZARDS**  
4-2-0

0	7	6	14	0	27
				OT	

**Nick Foles**  
28 of 50, 355 yards, 3 TDs



**MUSTANGS**  
6-0-0

3	14	0	17	0	34
				OT	

**Matt Ryan**  
32 of 52, 424 yards, 4 TDs

A 4<sup>th</sup> down stop by the Mustangs set up a 23-yard **Nick Folk** FG for the only 1<sup>st</sup> quarter points. **Nick Foles** found **Eric Decker** for a 20-yard TD pass to give Durham a brief lead before a 50-yard pass from **Matt Ryan** to **Riley Cooper** set up a 2-yard TD toss to **Matt Forte**. Aurora added a TD before the half on a 19-yard pass to **Julian Edelman**. Durham worked hard for a pair of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter FGs to make it 17-13, but their defence collapsed in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter with Ryan throwing TD passes of 71 and 39 yards to **Anquan Boldin** to help build a 34-20 lead that a late Durham rally could not overcome.

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



**TRIUMPH**  
5-1-0

7	6	0	6	0	<b>19</b>
OT					

**Johnny Manziel**  
26 of 41, 277 yards, 1 INT



**KNIGHTS**  
0-6-0

0	0	0	14	0	<b>14</b>
OT					

**Mike Glennon**  
18 of 25, 150 yards, 1 TD

Triumph rookie **Johnny Manziel** went 4 of 6 for 47 yards and another rookie, **Tre Mason**, finished off the drive with a 2-yard TD plunge to give the Triumph a 7-0 lead in the 1<sup>st</sup>. A pick of Manziel by LA's **Chad Greenway** in the 2<sup>nd</sup> put the Knights in position to score, but they were denied on 4<sup>th</sup> and 3 at the Triumph 18 and came away empty. **Ryan Mathews** got LA on the board in the 4<sup>th</sup> with a 5-yard TD run. But Manziel made it a two-score game with a 14-yard scramble for a TD. **Mike Glennon** fired a 40-yard TD pass to **Brandon LaFell** to make it close but the Knights fell short.



**NORTH STARS**  
3-3-0

0	6	0	7	0	<b>13</b>
OT					

**Alex Smith**  
21 of 33, 174 yards, 1 TD



**REGULATORS**  
4-2-0

3	7	7	3	0	<b>20</b>
OT					

**Frank Gore**  
20 Carries, 136 yards, 1 TD

Tight end **Rob Housler** turned a short pass into a 37-yard gain and **Frank Gore** broke a 24-yard run to set up the Regs' first TD on a 1-yard pass from **Tony Romo** to **AJ Green**, breaking up a 3-3 tie. A 52-yard FG by Markham's **Josh Brown** narrowed the gap to 10-6 at half time. But the Regs extended their lead on a 26-yard TD run by Gore to open the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. A punting duel ensued until a 22-yard run by Gore put South Carolina in FG range for **Justin Tucker**, who hit from 34 yards to make it 20-6 with 3:46 left. A 7-yard TD pass to **Jordy Nelson** with 0:18 left made the final score respectable.



**MONARCHS**  
2-4-0

0	3	7	14	0	<b>24</b>
OT					

**Ryan Tannehill**  
19 of 36, 251 yards, 2 TDs, 2 INTs



**CANNIBALS**  
6-0-0

3	10	7	17	0	<b>37</b>
OT					

**Philip Rivers**  
16 of 21, 232 yards, 2 TDs, 1 INT

Cannibals' RB, **Eddie Lacy** rushed 11 times for 63 yards and 1 TD in the 1<sup>st</sup> half as his team slowly built a 13-3 lead by half time. The Monarchs opened the 2<sup>nd</sup> half driving 80 yards to set up a half-yard TD plunge by **Bernard Pierce** to pull within 3. A 14-yard TD run by Lacy made it 20-10, but a 59-yard kick return by **Brandon Tate** set up a 19-yard TD strike from **Ryan Tannehill** to **TJ Graham** to pull the Monarchs back within 3. **Philip Rivers** hit on a 23-yard pass and 18-yard TD to **Jared Cook** to make it 27-17. Then Tannehill threw back-to-back picks to set up the Carthage's last 10 points.

## WEEK SIX

# STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Carthage	6	0	0	1.000	206	34.3	142	23.7	10.7	3 0 0	4 0 0	6 0 0
Twin Cities	5	1	0	0.833	159	26.5	120	20	6.5	2 1 0	3 1 0	5 1 0
Charleswood	2	4	0	0.333	103	17.2	160	26.7	-9.5	2 1 0	2 2 0	2 4 0
Mohave	1	5	0	0.167	139	23.2	181	30.2	-7	0 3 0	1 3 0	1 5 0
Virден	1	5	0	0.167	166	27.7	171	28.5	-0.8	1 2 0	0 4 0	1 5 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Santa Clara	6	0	0	1.000	205	34.2	124	20.7	13.5	3 0 0	4 0 0	6 0 0
Chino	4	2	0	0.667	165	27.5	142	23.7	3.8	3 0 0	3 1 0	4 2 0
Iowa City	3	3	0	0.500	168	28	166	27.7	0.3	2 1 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
Mission Viejo	2	4	0	0.333	129	21.5	164	27.3	-5.8	2 1 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
Los Angeles	0	6	0	0.000	108	18	178	29.7	-11.7	0 3 0	0 4 0	0 6 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham	4	2	0	0.667	152	25.3	131	21.8	3.5	3 0 0	3 1 0	4 2 0
Cowtown	3	3	0	0.500	157	26.2	152	25.3	0.8	1 2 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
Markham	3	3	0	0.500	122	20.3	112	18.7	1.7	2 1 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
Pickering	3	3	0	0.500	143	23.8	112	18.7	5.2	2 1 0	2 2 0	3 3 0
York	2	4	0	0.333	102	17	145	24.2	-7.2	0 3 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Aurora	6	0	0	1.000	221	36.8	88	14.7	22.2	3 0 0	4 0 0	6 0 0
South Carolina	4	2	0	0.667	157	26.2	155	25.8	0.3	2 1 0	3 1 0	4 2 0
Scarborough	2	4	0	0.333	123	20.5	150	25	-4.5	0 3 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
Gwinnett	2	4	0	0.333	113	18.8	166	27.7	-8.8	1 2 0	1 3 0	2 4 0
Sebastian	1	5	0	0.167	108	18	187	31.2	-13.2	0 3 0	1 3 0	1 5 0

# PASSING

#	Player	Team	Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Ryan, M	AUR	218	143	65.6	1717	2	0.9	76	18	8.3	113.3
2	Cutler	TCT	153	104	68	1200	4	2.6	42	15	9.8	113.2
3	Foles	DTL	100	63	63	811	0	0	57	7	7	111.7
4	Rivers, P	CAR	191	131	68.6	1924	5	2.6	75	12	6.3	111.2
5	Wilson, R	ICC	164	117	71.3	1367	3	1.8	45	10	6.1	109
6	Brees	DTL	111	83	74.8	909	2	1.8	45	5	4.5	106
7	Griffin II	SCB	154	100	64.9	1348	1	0.6	65	7	4.5	105.1
8	Smith, A	MAR	162	105	64.8	1064	0	0	48	9	5.6	102
9	Newton, C	CHI	180	127	70.6	1346	3	1.7	44	9	5	101.8
10	Bortles	CHP	159	103	64.8	1345	3	1.9	72	8	5	100.2
11	Stafford, M	VV	205	129	62.9	2006	5	2.4	65	9	4.4	99.8
12	Romo	SC	237	151	63.7	1630	6	2.5	71	14	5.9	93
13	Glennon	LAK	87	55	63.2	556	0	0	55	3	3.4	92.9
14	Manning, P	PIC	210	129	61.4	1503	7	3.3	59	14	6.7	91.4
15	Flacco	COW	235	144	61.3	1757	10	4.3	80	14	6	86.4

## RUSHING

#	Player	Team	Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Moreno	SCB	129	639	5	24	10
2	McCoy, L	GWG	147	575	3.9	35	5
3	Gore	SC	105	567	5.4	56	3
4	Johnson, C	PIC	121	552	4.6	23	2
5	Charles, J	VV	99	539	5.4	51	5
6	Spiller	ICC	82	539	6.6	55	2
7	Lynch, M	YOR	108	512	4.7	48	4
8	Morris, A	COW	108	511	4.7	21	3
9	Lacy	CAR	126	495	3.9	25	11
10	Murray	MVM	103	460	4.5	62	3
11	Peterson, A	CHI	99	438	4.4	31	6
12	Forte	AUR	98	363	3.7	29	4
13	Ball, M	MOH	72	357	5	21	3
14	Mathews, R	LAK	90	322	3.6	19	3
15	Ivory	CHP	85	309	3.6	50	3
16	Jackson, F	DTL	71	295	4.2	15	3
17	Rice, R	SBE	69	289	4.2	54	1
18	Miller, L	CHP	71	280	3.9	49	1
19	Bell, L	LAK	71	275	3.9	30	1
20	Ridley	SCB	49	273	5.6	26	6

## RECEIVING

#	Player	Team	No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Brown, A	TCT	49	546	11.1	33	6
2	Green, A	SC	47	626	13.3	71	6
3	Bryant, D	VV	41	707	17.2	50	4
4	Jackson, D	SBE	37	494	13.4	49	4
5	Forte	AUR	37	272	7.4	41	1
6	Boldin	AUR	37	740	20	76	11
7	Woodhead	CHI	37	360	9.7	35	3
8	Graham, J	MOH	35	517	14.8	65	3
9	Wright, K	TCT	35	300	8.6	14	3
10	Evans, M	COW	34	500	14.7	46	4
11	Gordon, J	CAR	34	648	19.1	75	4
12	Jackson, V	TCT	33	629	19.1	42	6
13	Johnson, A	SCB	32	390	12.2	40	1
14	Edelman	AUR	30	281	9.4	52	6
15	Hilton	DTL	30	315	10.5	19	2
16	Garcon	PIC	30	327	10.9	21	5
17	Olsen	CHI	30	306	10.2	36	2
18	Nelson, J	MAR	29	392	13.5	48	5
19	Watkins, S	CHP	29	431	14.9	71	3
20	Thomas, D	PIC	28	389	13.9	41	4

## KICKING

#	Player	Team	FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts
1	Folk	AUR	16	13	81.3	8	4	55	65
2	Crosby	VV	16	13	81.3	4	1	54	56
3	Henery	SCB	12	10	83.3	3	0	47	55
4	Prater	MOH	16	14	87.5	4	2	56	55
5	Zuerlein	ICC	14	12	85.7	5	2	51	54
6	Bailey, D	CHI	16	11	68.8	6	0	49	51
7	Feely	SBE	17	13	76.5	4	0	49	51
8	Hauschka	CAR	12	8	66.7	5	2	53	50
9	Novak	COW	11	10	90.9	3	0	44	45
10	Dawson	DTL	9	9	100	2	1	57	44
11	Tucker, J	SC	13	8	61.5	3	1	50	43
12	Vinatieri	SS	12	10	83.3	3	1	54	40
13	Gostkowski	TCT	7	7	100	4	0	49	39
14	Carpenter	MVM	11	8	72.7	1	0	44	39
15	Brown, J	MAR	10	8	80	3	1	52	38
16	Lindell	LAK	7	6	85.7	3	1	59	30
17	Walsh	YOR	9	6	66.7	3	1	54	30
18	Suisham	GWG	5	5	100	1	0	45	29
19	Bironas	CHP	6	4	66.7	2	0	49	25
20	Scobee	PIC	7	7	100	5	2	56	21



# AROUND THE



*With Spats McChad*

NEW YORK – Against my better judgment I am choosing to let the police handle my conflict with Monarch’s owner **Chris Ferraro** and his apparent “envoy”, the **Red Pimple**. I have to be careful what I write on this subject as I have been served with a cease-and-desist letter from Ferraro’s lawyer demanding that I stop asserting any association between his client and the would-be assassin dressed in 18<sup>th</sup> century garb who assaulted me in Starbucks. On advice of the lawyer from my syndicate, I must comply – at least for now. They say there is no “proof” of an association, despite the mountain of circumstantial evidence and my own “gut feeling,” a feeling even stronger now that I was nearly skewered in that same gut two weeks ago. Muddying the otherwise clear waters is the unfounded belief of investigators that opinions I have voiced in this award-winning column have earned me the enmity of more than just Ferraro and his acolytes. There could be any number of people out there trying to kill me, apparently. So, reluctantly, I must let the police investigation run its course. If the early handling of this case is an indication of what lies ahead, justice may never be served.

## **RED FLAGS**

Billed as a “Conference Final Preview,” the early afternoon showdown that ended with the Aurora Mustangs defeating the Durham Thunder Lizards 34-27 in Aurora drew a 10.7 Neilson rating in the U.S. with an average viewing audience of 18.75 million. This is an astounding rating for a non-prime time game and begs the question: was anyone watching other EFL games that day? Other games on the early slate, in Cowtown, Sebastian and York, were lightly watched by comparison, garnering *all together* a rating of 4.7 or an average of 7.8 million viewers. But if fans tuned in hoping to see the two best teams in the Can-Am Conference go at each other with abandon, they had to be disappointed by the obvious presence of an obstructive third party.

The EFL, in its wisdom, appointed the controversial **Ed Hochuli** to officiate its marquee week six game. Hochuli is the football equivalent of Referee Royalty despite a track record of “big moment” bad calls and long-winded explanations justifying those bad calls. His two redeeming TV features are his appearance – he is in shape and looks like he can handle 22 steroid-frenzied players – and his confidence – he is certain he is right even when millions think he is wrong.

The first quarter game moved along at what might be termed a “defensive pace.” The best opportunity for a major was thwarted by the unusual match-up of Durham’s 4-2 nickel against Aurora’s 2-tight end formation inside the 10 yard line. Virtual linebacker Kam Chancellor stuffed Matt Forte for a loss on 3<sup>rd</sup> down to prompt a 23-yard field goal by Nick Folk. With the two best defences in the league in conflict, a 3-0 score after one quarter was not unexpected. Nor was the scarcity flags to that point – one apiece. However, things started to look a little “Hochy” as soon as the Lizards touched the Mustangs’ red zone.

With 1<sup>st</sup> and 10 at the Aurora 20, a 7-yard scramble by **Nick Foles** was negated by a personal foul penalty on **Eric Decker**. Replays show the Lizard receiver double-teamed on the play and taking a head shot from **James Harrison** as he ran past the Mustang linebacker. The slight Decker gave a light push to Harrison as he walked back to the huddle, prompting an immediate flag from Hochuli, good for a 15-yard penalty. Although not much more than a love tap, the penalty would have been a fair call, except that replays also show Harrison’s illegal contact, during the play, occurring *right in front of Hochuli!*

Had the game progressed differently, that play might have been forgotten. After all, the Lizards went on to score when Foles threw a dart to Decker for a 20-yard TD pass three plays later. But events of the remaining 36 minutes ensured that people like me would go back and take a look at everything that transpired in an attempt to discover the truth.

On the first scrimmage play following the Durham touchdown, **Julian Edelman** was brought down by **Sean Smith** after a 6-yard gain. In the process, Smith’s right hand glanced off the left strap lock of Edelman’s face mask – FLAG! Grabbing the facemask – 15 yard penalty, or, in the words of Hochuli himself: *“the defender contacted the facemask with intent to grab; that’s a personal foul; 15 yards, first down.”*

The penalty helped to kick start the Aurora drive, but the 50-yard completion to **Riley Cooper** two plays later made people forget about the strange penalty call and focus on the *non-call* on **Matt Forte**, who bowled over **Sean Smith** as he cut to cover Cooper. The linesman threw a flag but, according to Hochuli after a brief conference: *“there is no flag for illegal contact, that flag was picked up, first down Aurora!”* Two plays later, **Matt Ryan** connected with Forte for a 2-yard TD pass.





Swordfish fans (top) are a special breed of fan. By necessity they are more resilient and adaptable than other fans. Few in numbers, they are an exclusive group that appreciates excellent football and progressive pre-game shows like those performed by the Swordfish Dancers (above).

On Durham's next drive a 7-yard completion was wiped out by pass interference on the offence and a 17-yard pass was erased by a holding penalty against pro bowler **Nick Mangold**, resulting in a punt. The replay shows Mangold falling into the path of **Cliff Avril** after having his foot stomped on by **Willie Young**. Avril fell after contacting Mangold's head, missing a shot at an unprotected Foles. It would have been a fair block except, apparently, for Mangold raising his hand in an obvious attempt to protect his own head and touching Avril's ankle in the process. Hochuli described it thus for the incredulous fans: *"holding, no. 74, offence, illegal use of hands to the head interfering with the path of the defender unabated to the quarterback, 10 yard penalty!"*

This prompted network analyst **Phil Mimms** to comment, *"No official in the game today describes it better for fans than Ed Hochuli. If you were wondering why there was a flag on the play, folks, that was a clear explanation."*

After that whopper there were no more flags for the rest of the 1<sup>st</sup> half as the Mustangs drove with impressive efficiency for another touchdown just before half time on a 19-yard pass to Edelman to make it 17-7 for the home team. But on Durham's opening possession of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, the flags started flying the moment the Lizards crossed mid field. **Jordan Gross** caught his pinky on **JJ Watt's** shoulder pad as the Mustangs' end shoved him to the ground. FLAG – Holding! It wiped out another

7-yard run by Foles. Later in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, with Durham set up 1<sup>st</sup> and goal at the Mustangs' 3 yard line and trailing 17-10, a holding penalty on **Calvin Johnson** at the opposite end of the field set the Lizards back at the 13 yard line. They would finally have to settle for a field goal. And so it continued, with blatantly bad calls, or the kind of calls that usually aren't made in a game of such magnitude, dominating the score sheet.

Finally, with Aurora holding the ball and a 34-27 lead at their own 36 with 1:55 left, **Jonathan Massaquoi** was flagged on consecutive plays for offside, giving the Mustangs a 1<sup>st</sup> down and allowing them to run out the clock. Replays show Mustangs' guard **Kory Lichtensteiger** both times lifting his left hand and thumbing his nose at Massaquoi a split second before the Durham lineman moves slightly forward then catches himself before breaching the neutral zone. The first time, in real time, the missed false start might be excused. But the second time was too much even for Aurora Coach **Rich Liotta**, who joined Durham Coach **George Kaldis** on the field to protest the second offside penalty, even though it won his team the game.

"Of course I want to win," explained the gentlemanly Liotta afterwards, "But I want to win fairly. I think we have a good team here in Aurora and I would hope that nobody thinks we need help." Coach Kaldis, a man of many repeated words, simply shook his head and said the word "unbelievable" about a dozen times in two minutes.

But of course it is believable, especially when Hochuli is involved. Don't get me wrong, Mustangs fans; your team is great and the clear favourite to make the final this year, but when you share prime time with "Hochules" you can expect to be upstaged.

### **SWORDFANS**

Watching the Pickering Spartans march into Sebastian and filet the Swordfish 34-10 with the ease of a master chef made me wonder what kind of fan pays money to sit in the Fish Tank and watch displays like that week after week. There is "Knights Bad" and then there is "Swordfish Bad." If I have to pay for one of them, give me "Knights Bad" every time. The Knights fight for every loss while the Fish flop around feebly for about one quarter before they die. How can anybody stand to watch it every week?

It turns out that Swordfish fans – *true* Swordfish fans – are among the most knowledgeable and loyal fans in the league. They are easily overlooked because there are so few of them, but once you learn to recognize them you will never miss them in a crowd, even if they aren't dressed in Swordfish regalia. At least that is what my buddy **Jean Boisvert** of Florida's *Swampland Proof* tells me. If Jean is saying it, I'm buying it, even if it defies common sense.

Swordfish fans are so creative that they can transform an all-time franchise record of 7-31, without a playoff berth, into

a legacy of pride somewhat comparable to the way the Scots spin the victory at Bannockburn over the English as more significant than all the other subsequent battles that caused them to *lose* their independence. A 30-27 victory over the eventual champions, Markham, in the final week of the 2012 season is seen by Swordfish fans as a sort of substitute Championship. “*We beat the champs that year, you know,*” they will say whenever a question is voiced about what the lousy Swordfish have ever done.

According to Jean, the hard core fan base, numbering a modest two thousand or so, is painfully aware of their team’s low status, but accept it as the price of earning their stripes in the big leagues. The fact that other expansion outfits like Carthage and Twin Cities are already looking at post-season berths is dismissed; those teams are short term sellouts while the Fish are building an empire that will stand the test of time. In the interim, the pragmatic Swordfish fan is passing time waiting for the Swordfish Empire to expand by learning to appreciate what other teams bring to the league. According to **Jean Boisvert**, the true Swordfish fan cheers for the Swordfish while admiring the way in which they are dismantled by the opposition. Because of this, they can derive pleasure from watching a master like **Peyton Manning** deliver a 25-yard TD pass to a double-covered **Jerome Simpson** to put away their team before half time.

Take away with the happily-accepting-losing-part and Swordfish fans sound like my kind of fan. The kind I might want to meet as early as next week when they host the Convicts at the Fish Tank. Sebastian is just 960 miles due south!

#### **AROUND THE EFL**

At Joe Ferguson Stadium in Iowa City the Cubs won the first two-score overtime game in EFL history, 30-27 over the cursed Violators. **Darren Sproles** ran in the game-winning touchdown from 3 yards out to outscore a 33-yard field goal by **Mason Crosby** in the final frame. “Wow, another reason to be noticed for the wrong reason,” rued Virden coach **Lance Barrate**, when told about the historic event. The Violators have helped many contenders this year by losing to them closely, making Barrate’s squad one of the most covered teams of 2014.

At the Fiery Depths, the fearsome Banana Slugs (I love writing that!) scored 17 points in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter to bury the Hellfire 34-20. The teams combined for over 100 blitzes but, interestingly, Mohave got all of their 3 sacks from front line pressure as opposed to the blitz. **Stevan Ridley** scored 4 touchdowns to lead the way for Santa Clara while, for Mohave, **Cordarell Patterson** ran back a kick 105 yards for a TD and set a new single game EFL record for kick return yardage with 376 yards. That number eclipses the old mark set in 2010 by **Eddie Royal** of Ringgold.

Scarborough’s 16-14 victory over York was billed by the networks as a “defensive struggle” but I think it more appropriate to call it an “offensive struggle.” Watching this game confirmed my suspicion – the offences for both teams performed ineptly throughout, inadvertently supporting the statistical illusion that the defences were in top form. Not that defence was absent as a factor. York’s **Jason Babin** undressed right tackle **Cordy Glenn** repeatedly with one of the few consistently solid individual efforts of the afternoon on the defensive side of the ball. For the Blue Eagles, safety **Will Hill** made the defensive play of the game when he intercepted a pass from **Tom Brady** with 2:45 left, all but killing the Swords’ comeback hopes. But largely it was a display of flaws for both teams’ offences that will make for interesting film watching for their opponents next week.

At the Big House in Chino, the first carry for **Adrian Peterson** in a 31-6 win against his former team netted him just 3 yards. But his second carry was good for 31 yards after he turned the corner and made two Patriots defenders miss. The run brought fans at the Big House to their feet and prompted a bow from last year’s rushing leader and Offensive MVP. The rest of the game unfolded as many had expected. The Convicts controlled the line of scrimmage and harried rookie **Blake Bortles** while **Cam Newton** was a force in both phases of the game. His 55-yard touchdown run in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter capped a string of 24 unanswered points that put the game out of reach for the struggling Pats’ offence.

It was not pretty but a win is a win. **Johnny Manziel** won his first professional start, leading the Triumph to a 19-14 topping of the winless Knights at Round Table Stadium. It was a solid if unspectacular debut for the 1st round pick. ‘Johnny Football’ strung three consecutive completions to get his team into the red zone, where **Tre Mason** pounded it in from 2 yards out to put the Triumph out in front 7-0. They would stay ahead of the Knights for the rest of the game. Although he threw a bad interception he also scored his first TD as a pro by showing off his scrambling skill with 14-yard TD run in 4th quarter..

At the Killing Field in Carthage the Cannibals slow-cooked the Monarchs 37-24 by turning to **Eddie Lacy** and the running game to stroll out to a 13-3 lead in the 1<sup>st</sup> half. But somebody forgot to tell the Monarchs they were on the menu as they rebounded to pull within 3 points on a 19-yard TD pass to **TJ Graham** in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Eventually, **Ryan Tannehill** showed why his team is still a couple of years away from contention by throwing two interceptions in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter that led to 10 Carthage points and another rout of Mission Viejo.

At the Carolina Slammer in Columbia things slowed down to a Southern pace as the Regulators methodically took apart the North Stars 20-13. **Rob Housler** provided the offensive highlight of the day with a 37-yard catch-and-run while **Frank Gore** provided most of the offence with 136 yards rushing and a 26-yard touchdown run to turn the game into a two-score contest in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Markham correspondent **Lanny McDonald** described the Stars as “*very ordinary and stale.*”

Finally, the Gladiators came to Cowtown and upended the Corn Kings 35-33 thanks to a versatile day from **LeSean McCoy**, who scored 2 touchdowns and gained a total of 162 yards on the ground and through the air. The Glads got an assist from **Joe Flacco**, who threw the season’s most inexplicable interception with 1:43 left in the game to scuttle a hopeful comeback.

# BUG THE BOOKIE!

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

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### JIMMY'S WEEK SEVEN PICKS

#### **CHARLESWOOD @ YORK (line – EXCALIBURS by 6)**

**INJURIES:** Charleswood – Michael Crabtree (OUT), Nate Solder (OUT), Anthony Spencer (OUT), Sammy Watkins (OUT), Kellen Winslow (OUT); York – Delanie Walker (PROBABLE), Victor Cruz (QUESTIONABLE), Geno Atkins (OUT), Da'Quan Bowers (OUT), Von Miller (OUT), Nick Toon (OUT).

Both these teams start the cross-conference portion of their schedules against a very familiar opponent. Well, maybe not. The Patriots team that York faced twice last year in the East Division might have worn the same uniforms, but they were a very different team compared with the one coming to Camelot this week. This edition of the Pats is a bit of a puzzle for analysts and bettors. Considered a success thus far at 2-4, the Pats have looked competitive in two-thirds of their games and abysmal in the other two. If you have been betting on “abysmal” with the Pats you have been losing money. But it is hard not to expect the worst from this patchwork of rookies and free agent prospects. Which version of the Pats we will see will depend on which version of the Excaliburs takes the field. Will it be the one with or without Victor Cruz? York would be contending in the tightly packed North if not for a feeble offence that even the great Tom Brady cannot get on track. Cruz, listed as “questionable,” gives the Swords a deep threat serious enough to take heat off workhorse Marhsawn Lynch. I'm betting on Cruz being available to play. **PICK: YORK**

#### **VIRDEN @ PICKERING (line – SPARTANS by 7)**

**INJURIES:** Virden – Melvin Ingram (OUT), Justin Blackmon (OUT), Julio Jones (OUT), Nick Perry (OUT), Aldon Smith(OUT), Aqib Talib (OUT); Pickering – Miles Austin (OUT), Charles Tillman (OUT);

The league's most efficient yardage machine may be ready to slow down with only 3 healthy wide receivers on the roster. Virden is living dangerously carrying the bare minimum against a Spartans squad with 3 solid cornerbacks to counter them. But the Violators may be past caring at this point. At 1-5 they are emotionally out of contention even if, mathematically, they are still in the hunt. A -5 turnover differential is just one factor in the Virden nightmare; the other is a talent-loaded secondary that has just 2 interceptions and has surrendered 12 TD passes. The mood in the Spartans' camp is better coming off two easy victories but nobody is smiling yet. At 3-3 they are in the thick of the race but they cannot afford any more slips if they are serious about a North Division title. A team built to take the ball away has just 4 takeaways so far and has given the ball away 11 times. If that trend continues here we could see an upset despite similar problems on the Virden side. Pickering should win this, but the 1-5 Violators still have lots of talent and nothing to lose; expect them to play loose and make it difficult for their old foe Peyton Manning. **PICK: VIRDEN**

#### **TWIN CITIES @ GWINNETT (line – TRIUMPH by 7)**

**INJURIES:** Twin Cities – Clint Bolling (OUT), Jay Cutler (OUT), Jerome Felton (OUT), Doug Martin (OUT), Henry Melton (OUT), Shane Vereen (OUT); Gwinnett –Mike Iupati (OUT), Tommy Kelly (OUT), Maurkice Pouncey (OUT), Joseph Randle (OUT), Reggie Wayne (OUT);

Like turning up the difficulty level on a video game from 'Easy' to 'Normal,' Johnny Manziel will face a slightly tougher test in his second start than he did in his first. The main difference will be his opponent behind center. Ben Roethlisberger has shown that he can make the most out of limited options at receiver with a threat like LeSean McCoy in the backfield. The other difference is a solid trio of cornerbacks on the Gwinnett side who perform well despite being hung out to dry by an often tired pass rush. With no true starter at running back and Manziel apparently slower to scamper in the pros than he was in college, the Triumph will be relying heavily on their trio of elite wide receivers to move the chains. This will bring great risk along with the great reward, as it will take no more than a couple of interceptions to turn the tide decisively against the visitors. **PICK: GWINNETT**

## **MOHAVE @ SOUTH CAROLINA (line – REGULATORS by 9)**

**INJURIES:** Mohave – Justin Houston (OUT), Bruce Irvin (OUT), Hakeem Nicks (OUT); **South Carolina** – Greg Jennings (QUESTIONABLE), Keenan Allen (DOUBTFUL), Sam Acho (OUT), Kevin Zeitler (OUT).

The Hellfire average 5.8 yards per rush but on an offence that hitches its wagon to the passing of Andrew Luck its effect is negligible. Combine that with the worst defence in the league and it is no mystery why Mohave is 1-5 and looking like the front-runner in the race for the basement in the East Division. At 4-2 the Regulators are going in a different direction, but their best performance so far may have been versus Durham in defeat. They are not a dominant team but they have been solid in both phases of the game and are making the most of the weak spots in their schedule. The hiccup in that pattern could come this week if both Greg Jennings and Keenan Allen cannot go. AJ Green has been a rock in the passing game, but his effectiveness will be reduced with the uninspiring Earl Bennett on the other side. The injury effect is balanced by the absence of Justin Houston, one of Mohave's few defensive stars. I like the Regs to win, but I am nervous about the spread. **PICK: MOHAVE**

## **MARKHAM @ CARTHAGE (line – CANNIBALS by 12)**

**INJURIES:** Markham – Anthony Fasano (OUT); **Carthage** – Danny Amendola (OUT), Rhett Ellison (OUT), Josh Gordon (OUT).

The perfect Cannibals did not look hungry last week hosting Mission Viejo. They led with the run, confident that their defence would shut down the feeble Monarchs, and looked surprised to find themselves in a game early in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. They cannot afford to be so lethargic against the North Stars, a team that historically humbles favourites, especially double-digit favourites. The #2-ranked offence in the league did not get there by running the ball, but passing with impunity is not a likely to succeed this week with Josh Gordon and Danny Amendola out. Carthage will have to be extra smart on offence against a defence with playmakers in the front seven and an average secondary made slightly better because of pass rushers like John Abraham and Trent Cole. Alex Smith has still not thrown an interception in 162 pass attempts and is deceptively dangerous with his legs. If the Cannibals cannot pull away early, they could easily find their perfect season in jeopardy. **PICK: MARKHAM**

## **IOWA CITY @ DURHAM (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 5)**

**INJURIES:** Iowa City – None. **Durham** – Tyrann Mathieu (OUT);

For a team favoured by many to represent the Can-Am Conference in the Championship, the Thunder Lizards have been anything but thunderous. They sit atop the North Division more by default than by demonstration of their superiority. The quarterback situation is a mess and now their defence is being questioned after Matt Ryan shredded their supposedly elite secondary for over 400 yards last week. The Cubs are coming off an exciting overtime win over Virden and appear truly engaged for the first time this year. With both offences in the top five in efficiency, this match-up promises offensive pyrotechnics aplenty, except that one of these defences is also in the top five and it isn't the Cubs. Despite surrendering a season high 489 yards and 34 points last week against Aurora, the Lizards remain the no. 2 ranked defence behind the Mustangs. The Cubs have surrendered more yards than any other team and are mired near the bottom of most defensive categories – and this has transpired while they are healthy! The table is set for a Durham offensive feast. **PICK: DURHAM**

## **CHINO @ SEBASTIAN (line – CONVICTS by 6)**

**INJURIES:** Chino – Roddy White (PROBABLE); **Sebastian** – Jadeveon Clowney (OUT), Leon Hall (OUT).

With the Cubs now one game behind them after waking from early fall hibernation, the Convicts must make the most of opportunities such as this. The Swordfish are struggling (to put it mildly) and they are missing one of their best defensive players in rookie stud Jadeveon Clowney. The problems plaguing Sebastian stem from an offence that is simply not getting the job done. While it may be true that Wes Welker is past his prime, Maurice Jones-Drew is far past his prime, opponents fear Pierre Thomas' hands more than his legs, and Zac Stacy is performing exactly as expected; the real problem is that Andy Dalton is not getting the job done at the most important position in the game. A respectable Sebastian defence has been good only for preventing the scores from getting ridiculous. Meanwhile, the Convicts are moving the ball fine, even if their fans, envious of the vertical powerhouses in the East, are worried that Cam Newton is not stretching the field enough with his wide receivers. A spread like this in favour of the visitor is not to be taken lightly, but there is no reason to suspect a Swordfish challenge....unless you believe, as I do, that the annual Grand Sebastian Upset will happen this week. **PICK: SEBASTIAN**

## SANTA CLARA @ COWTOWN (line – BANANA SLUGGS by 2)

**INJURIES:** Santa Clara – Jairus Byrd (OUT), Randall Cobb (OUT); Cowtown – Julius Thomas (DOUBTFUL), Ryan Clady (OUT), Brett Keisel (OUT).

If the Corn Kings can let one slip away at home against Gwinnett it is very likely they will never get a grip on the slippery Banana Sluggs to begin with. Too many individual match-ups favour the “banana barrage” on both sides of the ball. They have a pair of elite corners in Darrelle Revis and Brent Grimes in addition to a pair of elite pass rushers in Robert Mathis and Charles Johnson to sack the quarterback or force interceptions. Joe Flacco has been lights out at times this year but he also leads the league in interceptions thrown and works behind a shaky offensive line. Expect at least a couple of picks and 4 or 5 sacks from the Santa Clara defence. On offence the Sluggs rely on their running game but have the aerial weapons to change gears if needed. The Corn Kings have had a reliable defence in a season so far dominated by offences, but don’t expect it to slow down RGIII enough to steal an improbable win. **PICK: SANTA CLARA**

## SCARBOROUGH @ MISSION VIEJO (line – Pick ‘Em)

**INJURIES:** Scarborough – Jermaine Gresham (DOUBTFUL), Kroy Biermann (OUT), Nate Burleson (OUT), King Dunlap (OUT), LaMichael James (OUT), D.J. Williams (OUT); Mission Viejo – Brandon Browner (OUT), Brian Cushing (OUT), Kareem Jackson (OUT), Jarret Johnson (OUT), Dee Milliner (OUT), David Nelson (OUT), Kenbrell Thompkins (OUT), Mike Williams (OUT).

And so it has come to this....the Blue Eagles are even money on the road against the modest Monarchs. I am not certain which coach should be more insulted. But in terms of legacy, the snub to Scarborough is far deeper. A sentimentalist may have thought that the past glory of the franchise and the continued presence of Aaron Rodgers and Ndamukong Suh on the team would have earned Scarborough a face-saving -1 against a “never-ran” like Mission Viejo, but the cruel realists whose living depends on accuracy have decided that either team can win this game and flipping a coin might be just good enough. I never flip coins. The Monarchs have key injuries to go along with no Aaron Rodgers on their team. This one is simple. **PICK: SCARBOROUGH**

## LOS ANGELES @ AURORA (line – MUSTANGS by 22)

**INJURIES:** Los Angeles –Andre Brown (OUT), Mike Brown (OUT), Brandin Cooks (OUT), Cortland Finnegan (OUT), Shonn Greene (OUT); Aurora – Jeremy Kerley (OUT), LaRon Landry (OUT), Max Unger (OUT), Darrel Young (OUT).

The line is enormous and that is the only reason I am taking time to write more than a sentence about this game. 6-0 versus 0-6 can only be exciting when 22 points are in play. As crazy as this might sound, the Knights’ defence could conceivably hold the Mustangs’ offence to under 20 points. The next question is whether the Mustangs’ defence can make up the scoring difference. It is highly unlikely that Mike Glennon & Co. will score more than a touchdown (and that in garbage time), but the odds are 50-50 that they will turn the ball over to the Aurora ‘D’ for a score. Aurora has yet to disappoint this year. **PICK: AURORA**



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*This Week in EFL History*  
With Professor  
*Sterling Smitherman*

FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – In Week Four of the 2008 EFL season, the Mohave Hellfire turned around a potential game-winning drive by the Corn Kings when **Trent Cole** stripped the ball from **Marion Barber** and ran it back 73 yards for a touchdown in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. The Hellfire went on to win 23-14, rising to 4-0 while Cowtown fell to 0-4.

The Mohave win set up what would prove to be a pivotal match next week against the Florida Dragons, who squeezed by Kutztown 20-19 on a 42-yard field goal by **Mike Nugent**. 4 picks by **Tony Romo** threw away a huge

upset opportunity for the Golden Bears.

The Patriots consummated an important deal with Ringgold, grabbing **Kyle VandenBosch** and **Shaun Phillips** for prospects **Branden Albert** and **Limas Sweed**. Both of the latter were considered “top prospects” at their positions, but Sweed would all but disappear the following year. The deal shored up weaknesses in the Charleswood defence and signified their intention to seriously challenge the Dragons for the EFL title.

After throwing 6 interceptions in 3 games, **Carson Palmer** of the Gladiators rebounded with a 326-yard passing clinic in a 23-17 win over the Thunder Lizards. His principal target, **Braylon Edwards**, won offensive MVP that week with 6 catches for 153 yards and 2 touchdowns.

The Cubs stayed undefeated by plodding past the expansion Spartans 19-3. Back-up QB **Trent Edwards** got a chance to show what he can do, which – at 145 yards passing and no TDs – was not much, but he did score the game’s only TD on a 10-yard bootleg.

In other expansion action, Winnemucca, Colorado and Markham all went down to defeat. The Thundersnow were shut out for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time, losing 35-0 to Chino.