



2008

WEEK SIXTEEN

January 11, 2009



Charleswood's Derrick Burgess forces a fumble by Tony Romo in Overtime to disrupt a Kutztown drive. The Pats would kick the winning field goal 3 minutes later.

UN“BEAR”ABLE LOSS FOR KUTZTOWN!

GOSTKOWSKI NAILS 21-YARD FIELD GOAL IN O.T. AND NAILS COFFIN LID ON KUTZTOWN'S SEASON



CHARLESWOOD

16

OT



KUTZTOWN

13

KUTZTOWN – The Golden Bears had their playoff destiny in their hands, but they needed to climb a tall and steep mountain to clinch a post-season berth. The imposing summit of Mount Charleswood had been conquered just once all year – by rival Florida – and seemed to tower invincibly over the psyche of the Kutztown faithful. Privately, they held out more hope for a Gwinnett loss to Ringgold than a win for their beloved Bears. But faint hope turned to real hope as the home team improbably forced overtime, and had a scoring opportunity in their grasp, before letting it go and tumbling down the slope of their dreams. That made this loss, coupled with a Gwinnett victory, infinitely harder to swallow than the usual kind.

It was not a game where either offense distinguished itself. MVP candidate, *Peyton Manning* literally threw away an early golden opportunity for Charleswood by tossing 3 straight incompletions after having 1st and goal at the Bear's 5 yard line, forcing the appearance of the field goal unit. The punters for both teams got much more work than usual in a dull first half where only 3 field goals were scored, two of them by the visitors, for a 6-3 Charleswood lead at the gun.

The first big break came in the 3rd quarter when *Lito Sheppard* intercepted Manning at the Bear's 23 yard line and returned it 33 yards to the Pat's 44. Three plays later, *Tony Romo* tossed it short to big-play specialist, *Greg Jennings*, who made a move around *Bart Scott* to break into the clear and take it 36 yards for the game's first TD and a 10-6 lead. But the Pats would recover early in the 4th quarter with a 76-yard TD drive, ending in classic fashion with a 15-yard TD pass from Manning to *Jason Witten*, his 12th TD catch of the year, for a 13-10 lead.

With their season on the line, the Bears battled back and faced a crucial 4th & 1 decision at the Pat's 42 yard line with 4:26 remaining in the game. The Bears went for it against Charleswood coverage that couldn't get much tighter. Somehow Jennings wrestled the ball away from *Marcus Trufant* for a 4-yard gain and a first down. That enabled Kutztown to work their way into field goal range and *Nate Kaeding* made good on a 40-yard attempt to tie the game at 13 with 1:48 left.

To Overtime, where *Sam Madison* looked for a moment like the Hero of the Game after picking off Manning and returning the ball to the Charleswood 27 yard line. But the Pats 'D' fell on Tony Romo and the Golden Bears like an avalanche. *Kyle Vanden Bosch* sacked Romo for a 4 yard loss, then a busted play resulted in *Derrick Burgess* forcing a fumble and pushing the Bears backwards another yard. An incomplete pass on 3rd down brought in Kaeding to try a 49 yard field goal, but he hooked it and the Pats took over at their own 39 yard line. It did not take long after that for the Pats to plunge the dagger into the Bears' season. A 16-yard pass to *Jason Witten* put Charleswood in "can't miss" territory at the Bear's 4, and Gostkowski did *not* miss (as he had from 18 yards 3 weeks previously) to elevate his team to 15-1 and knock Kutztown out of the playoff hunt.

01-10-2009, Lincoln Financial Field, Temp: 36 Wind: 5-15 None MVP: Welker				CHP	KUT
2007 Charleswood (15-1)	3	3	0 7 3 -16	First Downs	19
2007 Kutztown (9-7)	0	3	7 3 0 -13	Rushes	29-98
1 3:26 Charleswood	FG	Gostkowski	22 (12-54-5:22)	Passes	36-20-214
2 11:44 Kutztown	FG	Kaeding	50 (13-41-6:24)	Sacked	0-0
2 6:09 Charleswood	FG	Gostkowski	47 (3-7-0:42)	Fumble	1
3 3:09 Kutztown	TD	Romo	36 pass to Jennings (Kaeding) (3-44-1:00)	Penalties	3-15
4 8:06 Charleswood	TD	Manning	15 pass to Witten (Gostkowski) (9-76-5:09)	Turnovers	2
4 1:55 Kutztown	FG	Kaeding	40 (13-56-6:06)	Time	30:54
5 8:31 Charleswood	FG	Gostkowski	21 (4-57-2:37)	Third Down	2-12
				Fourth Down	2-2
				Net Offense	312
					313

KEY PERFORMANCES: *CHP* – **Derrick Burgess**, 7 tackles, 1 sack, 2 stuffs, 2 deflections, 2 pressures, 1 forced fumble; **Kyle Vanden Bosch**, 2 tackles, 1 sack, 7 pressures, 1 forced fumble; **Adrian Peterson** held to 43 yards on 15 carries. *KUT* – **Larry Johnson**, 12 carries for 98 yards; **Tony Romo**, 16 of 34 for 146 yards and 1 TD.



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FLORIDA



14

MOHAVE

DRAGONS CLINCH "HOME LAIR"

GAME POINTS: **Tom Brady** found his favourite target, **Brandon Marshall**, for a 27-yard TD, breaking a near-stalemate and putting Florida up 10-0 in the 2nd quarter. After answering Brady's TD with one of his own, a 19-yarder to **Justin Gage**, **Kurt Warner** under threw his receiver deep in Mohave territory and **Antonio Cromartie** snatched it and ran it back for a momentum-changing TD just before half time. The Florida defense took control starting in the 3rd quarter and Cromartie put the game out of reach with his 2nd interception of the day, setting up the Dragons' final TD in the 4th quarter to make 27-7.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Tom Brady** went 21 of 31 for 222 yards and 2 TDs. **Antonio Cromartie** had 2 interceptions, 1 for a TD. **Osi Umenyiora** had 3 sacks. **Kurt Warner** completed 21 of 33 for 219 yards, 2 TDs and 2 INTs. **Brian Westbrook** gained 108 yards on 28 carries and added 44 yards receiving.

01-10-2009 The Fiery Depths Temp: 84 Wind: Calm None MVP: Brady				FLD	MOH
2007 Florida (15-1)	3	14	0 10 -27	First Downs	15
2007 Mohave (11-5)	0	7	0 7 -14	Rushes	23-83
1 1:29 Florida	FG	Nugent	40 (8-34-4:47)	Passes	31-21-222
2 6:53 Florida	TD	Brady	27 pass to Marshall (Nugent) (4-68-2:11)	Sacked	1-5
2 2:03 Mohave	TD	Warner	19 pass to Gage (Bironas) (11-76-4:45)	Fumble	2
2 0:53 Florida	TD	Cromartie	16 interception return (Nugent) (0-0-0:00)	Penalties	5-31
4 14:15 Florida	FG	Nugent	20 (8-52-4:37)	Turnovers	1
4 8:22 Florida	TD	Brady	5 pass to Jackson (Nugent) (3-10-1:05)	Time	28:12
4 0:16 Mohave	TD	Warner	17 pass to Owens (Bironas) (8-65-3:42)	Third Down	5-12
				Fourth Down	0-1
				Net Offense	300
					323



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MARKHAM



14

COLORADO

LEINART ON DISPLAY AS SNOW UPEND STARS

GAME POINTS: Back-up QB, **Matt Leinart** made his first start of the season in Colorado's final game and threw 2 TD passes to account all of his team's scoring in a 14-9 upset of Markham at the Thunderdome. Leinart made the Stars pay for a couple of defensive gambles, connecting with **Andre Johnson** for a 20-yard TD pass in the 2nd quarter against a run defense and weathering an all-out Markham blitz to find **Tony Scheffler** for a 25-yard TD late in the third. All 3 Markham QBs made an appearance in the game, with **Josh Johnson** leading the lone Markham TD drive with a 51-yard TD pass to **Deion Branch**.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Matt Leinart** earned Game MVP with 20 completions in 31 attempts for 221 yards, 2 TDs and 1 INT. **Andre Johnson** caught 6 passes for 81 yards and 1 TD. **Jamal Lewis** carried the load for Markham, gaining 137 yards on a back-breaking 37 carries.

01-10-2009 Toyota Thunderdome Temp: 20 Wind: 5-15 None MVP: Leinart				First Downs	MAR	COL			
2007 Markham (4-12)	0	0	3	6	-	9	Rushes	40-158	26-108
2007 Colorado (2-14)	0	7	7	0	-	14	Passes	14-6-124	31-20-221
2 1:45 Colorado	TD Leinart 20 pass to Johnson (Gould) (7-69-3:26)				0-7	Fumble	2-16	1-6	
3 8:39 Markham	FG Lindell 48 (10-48-6:06)				3-7	Penalties	7-51	6-40	
3 3:25 Colorado	TD Leinart 25 pass to Scheffler (Gould) (8-86-5:02)				3-14	Turnovers	1	1	
4 9:03 Markham	TD Johnson 51 pass to Branch (2 - failed) (2-54-1:00)				9-14	Time	30:00	30:00	
						Third Down	7-19	4-14	
						Fourth Down	2-3	2-2	
						Net Offense	266	323	



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WINNEMUCCA



17

PICKERING

SPARTANS FINISH ON WINNING NOTE

GAME POINTS: A promising start for Winnemucca, after a 35-yard catch-and-run for a TD by rookie, **Darren McFadden** put them up 7-0 in the 1st quarter, turned into the “same old, same old” for the Outlaws. **Brian Griese**, starting at QB for a resting **Donovan McNabb**, answered with a 17-yard TD pass to **Michael Jenkins** to tie the game heading into half time. Trailing 10-7 in the 3rd, the Outlaws failed to tie it when **Adam Vinatieri** missed a 20-yard FG attempt. **Todd Collins**, in at QB for Pickering in the 2nd half, then led a 66-yard drive for the final TD, a 1-yard dive up the gut by **Brandon Jackson**.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Todd Collins** and **Brian Griese** finished a combined 20 of 35 for 258 yards, 1 TD and 1 INT. **Brandon Jackson** gained 59 yards on 19 carries and scored a TD. **David Garrard** completed 15 of 24 passes for 179 yards and 1 TD. **Keith Rivers** forced a fumble and made 1 interception.

01-10-2009 Thermopylae Stadium, Temp: 21 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: Jackson				First Downs	WMO	PIC			
2007 Winnemucca (1-15)	7	0	0	0	-	7	Rushes	34-115	32-113
2007 Pickering (7-9)	7	0	3	7	-	17	Passes	24-15-179	35-20-258
1 9:49 Winnemucca	TD Garrard 35 pass to McFadden (Vinatieri) (6-69-3:17)				7-0	Sacked	1-9	1-4	
1 5:08 Pickering	TD Griese 17 pass to Jenkins (Tynes) (10-80-4:41)				7-7	Fumble	0	1	
3 7:49 Pickering	FG Tynes 33 (8-64-2:54)				7-10	Penalties	1-5	3-23	
4 5:57 Pickering	TD Jackson 1 run (Tynes) (12-66-6:08)				7-17	Turnovers	0	2	
						Time	29:05	30:46	
						Third Down	3-14	5-14	
						Fourth Down	0-1	0-0	
						Net Offense	285	367	



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CHINO



10

LOS ANGELES

CONVICTS DISMOUNT KNIGHTS

GAME POINTS: The Convicts stole the ball 4 times and took full advantage, scoring 24 points off turnovers to romp over the Knights, 37-10. Down 7-0, and heading for the possible tying touchdown, LA’s **Todd Heap** was stripped of the ball at the 1 yard line by **Cortland Finnegan** and **Terrence Newman** pounced on it. **LaDainian Tomlinson** kicked off a 99 yard scoring drive in response with a 30-yard run and would finish it off 14 plays later with a 1-yard TD plunge, his league-leading 22nd TD of the season. Nothing went well for LA as they tried vainly to mount a rally against a conservative but effective Chino ‘D.’

KEY PERFORMANCES: **LT** dominated with 165 yards rushing on 29 carries and 2 TDs. He also added 70 yards receiving on 6 catches. **Jay Cutler** had a field day, completing 23 of 32 passes for 260 yards and 2 TDs. **Tarvaris Jackson** was 21 of 29 for 215 yards, 1 TD, but also threw 2 costly interceptions. Safety, **Josh Bullocks** led the Knights in tackles with 12 – never a good sign.

01-10-2009 Round Table Stadium Temp: 49 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: Tomlinson					CHI	LAK		
2007 Chino (10-6)	7	10	10	10	- 37	First Downs	28	17
2007 Los Angeles (8-8)	0	3	0	7	- 10	Rushes	34-178	22-88
1 5:58 Chino	TD Cutler 12 pass to Boldin (Reed,J) (13-88-7:45)				7-0	Passes	32-23-260	29-21-215
2 8:59 Chino	TD Tomlinson 1 run (Reed,J) (15-99-6:14)				14-0	Sacked	1-7	0-0
2 1:51 Chino	FG Reed 31 (10-50-4:43)				17-0	Fumble	0	3
2 0:07 Los Angeles	FG Brown 45 (8-52-1:36)				17-3	Penalties	6-48	7-48
3 10:21 Chino	FG Reed 37 (9-41-4:24)				20-3	Turnovers	0	4
3 1:34 Chino	TD Tomlinson 5 run (Reed,J) (12-61-5:38)				27-3	Time	37:46	22:09
4 14:54 Chino	FG Reed 31 (3-5-0:48)				30-3	Third Down	3-9	4-8
4 3:50 Chino	TD Cutler 12 pass to Olsen (Reed,J) (9-80-6:33)				37-3	Fourth Down	3-3	2-2
4 0:40 Los Angeles	TD Jackson 13 pass to Smith (Brown,K) (10-74-2:51)				37-10	Net Offense	431	303



RINGGOLD



GWINNETT

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GLADIATORS CUT A PATH INTO PLAYOFFS

GAME POINTS: A conservative offensive game plan was effective enough to push the Gladiators past the Crimson Hawks and secure a playoff berth for Gwinnett. With Kutztown falling to Charleswood in OT, all the Glads had to do was run the clock out on Ringgold's season as **Willie Parker** and **Leon Washington** repeatedly pounded the line to preserve a 21-point advantage in the 2nd half. **Carson Palmer** finished his work early, with 3 TD passes in the 1st half, 2 of them to **Braylon Edwards**. The Hawks failed to penetrate the Glads' red zone and fell short on four out of six 4th down conversion attempts.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Carson Palmer** completed 9 of only 13 pass attempts for 125 yards, but 3 of those completions were for TDs. **Willie Parker** carried the ball 29 times, gaining 83 yards. **Ben Roethlisberger** finished 11 of 20 for 121 yards. **DeMarcus Ware** registered 5 tackles, 3 stuffs and 1 forced fumble.

01-09-2009 Gwinnett Coliseum Temp: 39 Wind: 5-15 None MVP: Palmer					RCH	GWG		
2007 Ringgold (5-11)	0	0	0	3	- 3	First Downs	12	14
2007 Gwinnett (9-7)	7	14	0	0	- 21	Rushes	30-85	37-117
1 5:59 Gwinnett	TD Palmer 25 pass to Edwards (Brown,J) (4-37-1:39)				0-7	Passes	27-14-130	13-9-125
2 11:58 Gwinnett	TD Palmer 49 pass to Wayne (Brown,J) (8-93-4:12)				0-14	Sacked	1-3	1-5
2 8:19 Gwinnett	TD Palmer 3 pass to Edwards (Brown,J) (6-21-3:25)				0-21	Fumble	1	2
4 0:08 Ringgold	FG Suisham 49 (12-48-2:31)				3-21	Penalties	5-36	1-5
						Turnovers	2	1
						Time	29:32	30:28
						Third Down	3-13	8-14
						Fourth Down	2-6	0-0
						Net Offense	212	237



COWTOWN



DURHAM

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BREASTON ELECTRIC IN LIZARDS' WIN

GAME POINTS: **Steve Breaston** returned two punts for TDs to jolt the visiting Corn Kings and boost the Durham Thunder Lizards to a 27-21 win, putting both teams at an even 8-8 to finish the season. Breaston's second TD, a 63-yard carbon copy of his first for 75 yards, came after **Chris Redman** overthrew a wide open **Santana Moss** on 3rd down and 6 – a play symptomatic of the Cowtown passing attack all day. **Sean Jones** gave the Kings hope with a 26-yard interception return to pull within 10 points, but the Lizards 'D' took away the air attack for Cowtown, shutting down their comeback hopes.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **Philip Rivers** completed 21 of 33 for 228 yards but threw 2 picks. **Steve Breaston** returned 3 punts for 146 yards and 2 TDs. 3 Cowtown QBs combined for 13 of 29 for 112 yards. **Laurence Maroney** broke the 1,000-yard mark for the season with 141 yards on 22 carries and a TD run of 43 yards. **Sean Jones** had 2 INTs, one returned for a TD.

01-10-2009 Jurassic Park Temp: 58 Wind: Calm MVP: Breaston								
2007 Cowtown (8-8)	7	0	7	7	-21	First Downs	COW	DTL
2007 Durham (8-8)	7	10	7	3	-27	Rushes	13	18
1 8:09 Cowtown	TD Williams 83 punt return (Hanson,J) (0-0-0:00)				7-0	Passes	27-147	31-93
1 0:54 Durham	TD Gore 5 run (Crosby,M) (14-70-7:02)				7-7	Sacked	29-13-112	33-21-228
2 14:42 Durham	TD Breaston 75 punt return (Crosby,M) (0-0-0:00)				7-14	Fumble	3-24	0-0
2 3:39 Durham	FG Crosby 21 (14-80-7:55)				7-17	Penalties	4-20	4-24
3 9:48 Durham	TD Breaston 63 punt return (Crosby,M) (0-0-0:00)				7-24	Turnovers	0	2
3 3:38 Cowtown	TD Jones 26 interception return (Hanson,J) (0-0-0:00)				14-24	Time	27:13	32:47
4 14:13 Durham	FG Crosby 32 (8-56-4:10)				14-27	Third Down	5-16	5-14
4 2:14 Cowtown	TD Maroney 43 run (Hanson,J) (2-51-0:39)				21-27	Fourth Down	1-3	2-3
						Net Offense	235	321



ANCHORAGE



IOWA CITY

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LOSMAN LETS LOOSE ON BUCS

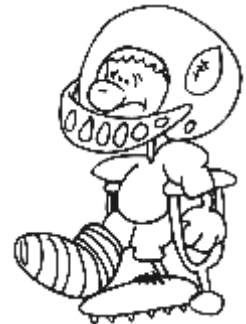
GAME POINTS: Back-up QB, **JP Losman** connected on a 71-yard pass play to **Lee Evans** to set up a 1-yard TD pass to **Larry Fitzgerald** in the 1st quarter that broke a 7-7 tie and started Iowa City on the road to a romp over the pitiable Buccaneers. Down 37-10 early in the 4th quarter, the Bucs sniffed a possible comeback with back-to-back TDs to close within 13 points, but **Antrel Rolle's** interception return of 77 yards from the Iowa City 14 yard line set up Losman's 5th TD pass to Fitzgerald, a 9-yard slant, to ice the game.

KEY PERFORMANCES: **J.P. Losman** had a career day, completing 20 of 28 passes for 304 yards, 5 TDs and 1 INT. **Larry Fitzgerald** caught 11 passes for 100 yards and 5 TDs. **Lee Evans** caught 6 passes for 166 yards for a 27.7 yard average. **Drew Brees** attempted 64 passes, completing 35 for 352 yards, 3 TDs and 1 INT. **Marques Colston** made 10 receptions for 109 yards and 1 TD.

01-10-2009 Joe Ferguson Stadium Temp: 40 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: Losman								
2007 Anchorage (4-12)	7	0	3	21	-31	First Downs	ANC	ICC
2007 Iowa City (12-4)	14	9	7	14	-44	Rushes	26	27
1 10:09 Iowa City	TD Losman 6 pass to Fitzgerald (Feely) (8-65-4:37)				0-7	Passes	20-69	32-181
1 2:29 Anchorage	TD Brees 2 pass to McGahee (Stover) (16-75-7:24)				7-7	Sacked	64-35-352	28-20-304
1 0:00 Iowa City	TD Losman 1 pass to Fitzgerald (Feely) (5-74-2:15)				7-14	Fumble	1-2	1-5
2 8:12 Iowa City	FG Feely 48 (8-37-5:30)				7-17	Penalties	6-42	8-63
2 5:09 Iowa City	FG Feely 38 (6-14-2:32)				7-20	Turnovers	2	1
2 0:03 Iowa City	FG Feely 26 (5-55-0:46)				7-23	Time	28:26	31:30
3 11:11 Anchorage	FG Stover 31 (6-18-1:49)				10-23	Third Down	7-19	5-10
3 6:07 Iowa City	TD Losman 3 pass to Fitzgerald (Feely) (8-62-4:47)				10-30	Fourth Down	5-7	1-2
4 13:32 Iowa City	TD Losman 1 pass to Fitzgerald (Feely) (7-70-3:07)				10-37	Net Offense	419	480
4 10:43 Anchorage	TD Addai 4 run (Stover) (8-73-2:42)				17-37			
4 4:08 Anchorage	TD Brees 14 pass to Colston (Stover) (5-57-2:08)				24-37			
4 2:44 Iowa City	TD Losman 9 pass to Fitzgerald (Feely) (1-9-0:06)				24-44			
4 0:34 Anchorage	TD Brees 31 pass to Moss (Stover) (12-81-1:50)				31-44			

INJURY REPORT - Out in Quarter Finals Playoff Action

CHARLESWOOD – None; **CHINO** – None; **FLORIDA** – None; **GWINNETT** – None; **IOWA CITY** – R. Brown (knee), Lawson (Achilles); **LOS ANGELES** – None; **MOHAVE** – Jolly (knee); **PICKERING** – Sensabaugh (hand);





AROUND THE EFL With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – Living in New York City is like watching the world from Mount Olympus.

AND THEN THERE WERE 8!

It took 16 weeks of grueling physical endurance, blood, guts and really good drugs to bring us to this point. Of the original 16 teams to enter the race for the EFL Championship there are but eight remaining and at least two of them probably shouldn't be. But that is no reason to rain on the EFL Post-Season Parade. The main attractions are there, as are most of the league's stars – 8 of the top 8 quarterbacks are on playoff teams (*Tarvaris Croyle* counting as 2) as well as 6 of the top 8 running backs and 6 of the top 8 wide receivers. There will be no shortage of competition and drama this post-season and I am looking forward to watching my Dragons torch all challengers on their way to the Big Prize.

There will be barrels of ink devoted to the post-season, more perhaps than most readers can bear. Considering that, I feel it is only decent to pause for a moment to dwell one last time on the passing of the *non*-playoff teams and ruminate briefly on why they are losers.

Kutztown – they rose from the bottom of most pre-season predictions to amaze with perfect timing to win the games they had to win to hang tough in the grueling North Division. But when the moment of truth came in Week 16 against the Pats, with a 1st and 10 at their opponent's 27 yard line in Overtime, they broke down, losing 5 yards. Nate Kaeding couldn't rescue the sorry effort of the offence and the Pats finished them off the way a tiger would a lame zebra.

Cowtown – there is not much that can be done to recover from a 0-5 start when your quarterback has the arm of school girl and your top pass rusher goes AWOL. The Corn Kings scraped back into the race anyway but when they had a chance to slap down Kutztown and take control of their own destiny, they turned to their back-up QB to lead the way and got embarrassed.

Durham – to be fair to *Philip Rivers*, *Tom Brady* might have had difficulty finding the Durham wide receivers under the blanket of coverage that appeared weekly from just about every cornerback in the league. But "Fumbling Philip" certainly deserves his share of blame for leading a Durham offence that moved the ball respectably but struggled to put points on the board. You don't score, you don't win.

Ringgold – who knows what could have been if the Hawks had held on to their top pass-rushing defensive end, *Kyle Vanden Bosch* and their versatile young linebacker, *Shaun Phillips*. Certainly we know what happened when they let them go – Charleswood went from being a very good defensive team to the best defensive team in the league.

Anchorage – an allergy to the running game on offence and a terrible secondary on defense put pressure on *Drew Brees* to air it out and he certainly did, attempting almost 600 passes and throwing 24 of them to the opposing team. The Bucs had some great individual players but as a team they were as dysfunctional as a sled full of lumberjacks in the Sahara Desert.

Markham – the only hope they had was for a banner year from their quarterback, *Matt Hasselbeck* in the weak "Expansion Division," but Hasselbeck was as effective as an emu tossing salad with its tail and the North Stars finished looking not much better than Colorado.

Colorado – of course there was never any hope for this team from the start. But how *well* did they lose? Early in the season they lost very badly indeed, but towards the end started to look like a team with promise. They finished with a win and the fact that they pick second in next year's draft is a moral victory if not a tactical one.

Winnemucca – injuries, injuries, injuries! That is the reason the Outlaws were as bad as they

were, setting the league losing streak record at 15, and counting. Yes, Winnemucca won their first game of the year, against Colorado, and have not won since! Having a regular coach might have helped...or maybe not. In any case, they richly earned the number one pick in the draft.

THE PRICE OF A "FRANCHISE"

My accountant friend, Melvin, who works part time for the EFL, just finished doing the math on the cost of a "Franchise" tag in 2009 for each position. He sent them to me last night and I thought they were kind of interesting, so I am going to share them with you, from most expensive to least:

QB - \$9,661,383; **LB** - \$7,160,533; **RB** - \$7,037,933; **CB** - \$5,516,000; **DE** - \$5,305,000; **G** - \$5,198,633 ; **DT** - \$5,146,867 ; **S** - \$5,037,333 ; **T** - \$4,774,647 ; **C** - \$4,668,135 ; **WR** - \$3,859,718 ; **TE** - \$3,224,333 ; **P** - \$689,667 ; **K** - \$668,667.

No surprise at the quarterback position with *Tom Brady's* \$12 million salary floating the boat of the most important position in the game. But *DeMeco Ryans* has done linebackers everywhere a favour or a disservice, depending on how you look at it. His \$9 million salary has raised the tag for linebackers to such a level that most linebackers would be happy to be franchised. But the market will probably not bear that salary for anyone else, even *DeMarcus Ware*, so linebackers are unlikely to be franchised.

WHERE WILL COLORADO BE NEXT YEAR?

In Colorado of course! But word is leaking out that the franchise is about to move despite rabid fan support in Denver. My attempt to find out more about the ownership situation there from Specks O'Callaghan went nowhere, as Specks is reportedly drunk and 'incommunicado' in a pub somewhere but nobody is sure which one of 85 of his favourite pubs in 17 cities he might be in at the moment.

MATT LEINART AUDITIONS

Matt Leinart made a surprise appearance in Colorado's final game of the season and looked good. He threw two TD passes based on nice defensive reads to account for all of the Snow's 14 points, dumping the North Stars 14-9 and avenging a 24-0 whitewash by Markham earlier in the season. The question is: where will Leinart play, if he plays, next year? Although Leinart is under contract through 2011, *Matt Ryan* is still the future at QB in Colorado. Was this game a Showcase for Leinart in advance of a possible trade? Or was it an audition to remain with the club next year as a back-up? There may be some teams willing to take a flyer on the former College star, but not willing to pay too much for the privilege. I think he better serves the Colorado franchise where he is, as a back-up to the young stud.

NEW YORK GRIPES

JP Losman threw 5 touchdown passes to *Larry Fitzgerald* as the Cubbies danced all over Anchorage 44-31 to end the season on a high note. Losman certainly has a gun for an arm and he is mobile, but before we get too excited about JP let's remember that he has a rabbit's brain and he was facing a pack of lemmings in the Bucs secondary.

What is going on with the official boycott of *Antonio Cromartie*? He leads the league in picks with 10, and interception returns for TDs with 3. Yet he does not warrant a mention in the "official" First Team All-Stars roster as issued by the league? I hope the AP 'All Pro' voting fixes this travesty!!

WEEK SIXTEEN LEADERS

Passing Yards

Brees (ANC) 64-35-352
 Losman (ICC) 28-20-304
 Cutler (CHI) 32-23-260
 Rivers,P (DTL) 33-21-228
 Brady,T (FLD) 31-21-222

Rushing Yards

Tomlinson (CHI) 29-165
 Maroney (COW) 22-141
 Lewis,J (MAR) 37-137
 Westbrook (MOH) 28-108
 Johnson,L (KUT) 12-98

Receiving Yards

Evans,L (ICC) 6-166
 Colston (ANC) 10-109
 Branch,D (MAR) 4-102
 Fitzgerald (ICC) 11-100
 Moss,R (ANC) 7-89

LEADER BOARD

FINAL STANDINGS

PACIFIC-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Pickering (2)	7	9	0	0.438	277	17.3	337	21.1	-3.8	5 3 0	5 1 0	7 3 0
Markham	4	12	0	0.250	209	13.1	350	21.9	-8.8	3 5 0	4 2 0	4 6 0
Colorado	2	14	0	0.125	136	8.5	415	25.9	-17.4	1 7 0	2 4 0	2 8 0
Winnemucca	1	15	0	0.063	164	10.3	458	28.6	-18.4	0 8 0	1 5 0	1 9 0

West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Iowa City (1)	12	4	0	0.750	436	27.3	308	19.3	8	6 2 0	5 1 0	9 1 0
Chino (3)	10	6	0	0.625	472	29.5	284	17.8	11.8	7 1 0	4 2 0	7 3 0
Los Angeles (4)	8	8	0	0.500	357	22.3	357	22.3	0	4 4 0	3 3 0	7 3 0
Anchorage	4	12	0	0.25	327	20.4	426	26.6	-6.2	3 5 0	0 6 0	3 7 0

CAN-AM CONFERENCE

North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood (2)	15	1	0	0.938	418	26.1	188	11.8	14.4	8 0 0	6 0 0	9 1 0
Kutztown	9	7	0	0.563	341	21.3	284	17.8	3.6	5 3 0	3 3 0	5 5 0
Cowtown	8	8	0	0.500	320	20	321	20.1	-0.1	4 4 0	0 6 0	2 8 0
Durham	8	8	0	0.500	279	17.4	314	19.6	-2.2	5 3 0	3 3 0	4 6 0

South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Florida (1)	15	1	0	0.938	514	32.1	242	15.1	17	8 0 0	6 0 0	10 0 0
Mohave (3)	11	5	0	0.688	426	26.6	374	23.4	3.3	6 2 0	3 3 0	5 5 0
Gwinnett (4)	9	7	0	0.563	366	22.9	276	17.3	5.6	6 2 0	2 4 0	4 6 0
Ringgold	5	11	0	0.313	262	16.4	370	23.1	-6.8	3 5 0	1 5 0	1 9 0

Denotes Seeding

PASSING

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Brady,T	FLD	449	299	66.6	3733	5	1.1	59	36	8	114.3
2	Garcia,J	ICC	322	210	65.2	2602	5	1.6	54	17	5.3	101.2
3	Manning,P	CHP	498	316	63.5	3893	15	3	52	34	6.8	97.7
4	Warner,K	MOH	413	259	62.7	3436	19	4.6	51	34	8.2	97.3
5	Jackson,T	LAK	211	135	64	1630	7	3.3	71	14	6.6	95.9
6	Croyle	LAK	180	110	61.1	1270	3	1.7	46	10	5.6	94
7	Cutler	CHI	368	239	64.9	2704	14	3.8	35	20	5.4	89.1
8	Palmer,C	GWG	463	278	60	3128	15	3.2	75	29	6.3	87.6
9	Garrard	WMO	329	200	60.8	2153	8	2.4	48	15	4.6	85.1
10	Romo	KUT	522	297	56.9	3509	20	3.8	72	29	5.6	80.1
11	McNabb	PIC	430	243	56.5	2565	10	2.3	50	20	4.7	79.8
12	Roethlisberger	RCH	366	215	58.7	2546	17	4.6	55	20	5.5	78.9
13	Pennington	COW	291	183	62.9	1991	11	3.8	40	10	3.4	78.7
14	Rivers,P	DTL	444	261	58.8	3072	14	3.2	48	15	3.4	78
15	Brees	ANC	578	340	58.8	3448	24	4.2	67	25	4.3	73.1

RUSHING

			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	Tomlinson	CHI	339	1804	5.3	49	18	8	Jackson,S	FLD	230	1001	4.4	26	8
2	Westbrook	MOH	289	1388	4.8	36	2	9	Gore	DTL	237	985	4.2	43	8
3	Barber,M	COW	249	1198	4.8	56	11	10	McGahee	ANC	219	981	4.5	44	4
4	Maroney	COW	186	1078	5.8	64	5	11	Lewis,J	MAR	235	965	4.1	54	1
5	Parker,W	GWG	289	1069	3.7	32	1	12	Brown,R	ICC	131	901	6.9	66	5
6	Taylor,F	PIC	191	1066	5.6	83	2	13	Young,S	LAK	161	795	4.9	44	0
7	Peterson,A	CHP	227	1037	4.6	72	6	14	Jones-Drew	RCH	165	686	4.2	59	0
8	Jackson,S	FLD	230	1001	4.4	26	8	15	Jacobs,B	ICC	146	650	4.5	35	3

RECEIVING

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	Welker	CHP	92	1020	11.1	33	5	8	Gonzalez,T	GWG	78	698	8.9	22	9
2	Moss,R	ANC	84	1050	12.5	67	8	9	Ward,H	WMO	75	824	11	24	4
3	Witten	CHP	83	1048	12.6	52	12	10	Marshall,B	FLD	75	1281	17.1	59	14
4	Colston	ANC	83	872	10.5	34	7	11	Fitzgerald	ICC	74	987	13.3	42	10
5	Wayne,R	GWG	81	1170	14.4	55	5	12	Houshmandz	FLD	73	827	11.3	37	9
6	Johnson,C	CHP	80	1227	15.3	47	14	13	Smith,S	LAK	73	935	12.8	71	8
7	Holt,T	CHI	78	1037	13.3	35	4	14	Burress	KUT	71	902	12.7	46	5
8	Gonzalez,T	GWG	78	698	8.9	22	9	15	Edwards,B	GWG	71	833	11.7	75	13



BRYLCREEM PLAYERS OF THE WEEK WHO WAS SLICK IN WEEK SIXTEEN?

Brylcreem continues to be a proud sponsor of the EFL

OFFENSE



QB – JP Losman, Iowa City Cubs

28 Att., 20 Comp., 304 yds, 5 TDs, 1 INT, 131.5 Rating
Connected for 5 TD passes to Larry Fitzgerald to beat Bucs.

DEFENSE



CB –Antonio Cromartie, Florida Dragons

3 Tackles, 1 Deflection, 2 INTs, 1 TD.
His two picks resulted in 2 TDs as Florida clinched home field.

SPECIAL TEAMS



PR – Steve Breaston, Durham T. Lizards

3 PR, 146 yards, 48.7 avg., 75 yd long, 2 TDs.
Two TDs shocked Corn Kings and put Durham at .500.

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JIMMY'S QUARTER FINAL PICKS

SATURDAY

4:15 PM (ET)

CHINO @ PICKERING (LINE – CONVICTS BY 4)

There could be no more tantalizing Quarter Final match-up than the one that brings Rob Nazar's Convicts into Pickering to revisit Donovan McNabb and the Spartans. The last time these two teams squared off, McNabb smiled and slid a dagger into the hearts of Convicts fans everywhere with a command performance against the team that let him go. It may have been the high water mark of the regular season for Pickering as they failed to beat a team with a winning record before or after that game. Both teams want to face each other now for different reasons: Chino because of the opportunity for revenge and for the fact that facing Pickering is largely preferable to facing Iowa City; Pickering, because Chino may be the one playoff caliber team in the Pacific-Atlantic Conference they have an edge on due to intangibles. Both teams have a case. The Convicts are, without question, the better team on paper due to their superior defense and LaDainian Tomlinson. They also have excellent wide receivers in Tory Holt and Anquan Boldin and a quarterback with a live arm if not always a live head. The Convicts' defense features two difference-makers in Pat Williams and James Harrison, and a solid supporting cast that includes run-stuff yardage leader, Ernie Sims at linebacker. The Spartans have a fantastic running back duo in the two Taylors, Fred and Chester, but they have no "go-to guy" at wide receiver to take the heat off the running game. Overall they are solid on 'D' but their corners do not match up well with Chino's WR tandem, so they will need to put pressure on Cutler with their two veteran defensive ends, John Abraham and Michael Strahan to make up the difference. In the end, like so many other big contests, this game will come down to the quarterbacks. I think McNabb is the better pivot, but I think Cutler has the better support and he will know how to use it this time around. I see LT becoming a factor early and remaining that way throughout the game, forcing the Spartans to respect the run and thereby opening up room for Holt and Boldin. If Pickering falls behind by more than 1 touchdown, their offense will be at a disadvantage trying to make up quick yardage against the Convicts. Last time these two teams met I called an upset. This time though, Chino will not be surprised.

PICK: CHINO

8:30 PM (ET)

GWINNETT @ FLORIDA (LINE – DRAGONS BY 8)

The Gladiators worked hard for this opportunity and it will be a shame to see them taken apart with relative ease by the league's top scoring team. Florida is simply the Class of the League, and while Chino showed in Week 11 that the Dragons can be beaten, it was only to demonstrate the reality of the possibility, not the likelihood of it actually happening when it matters, especially in Dragonmount. Although I have respect for the Gladiators, (and even thought, delusionally at one time, that they might have a far outside chance at toppling Florida for the South Division title) I have far more respect for the team that leads the league with a +29 turnover ratio and has the best quarterback in the league, bar none. Talk to the Dragons' coaching staff and you might think there is some kind of problem in Dragonmount, but from where I sit, all I see is dominance in every phase of the game. Whether they win by twenty points or two, the outcome is rarely in doubt. So, how can the Gladiators make a game of it? They will need to open things up completely, because a grinding ball control style will play right into the Dragons' talons – they can play both styles, but prefer to slowly bake instead of incinerate. The Glads have the quarterback and the deep threats at wide receiver to stretch the field against any team, but they will have to cross their fingers and hope that the ball-hawking

Florida secondary, league leaders in interceptions this season, gets unlucky in a big way at the same time that their own wide-outs assert themselves. For the Dragons to cover, Tom Brady will have to remember who he is and not shy away from flinging the ball into a defense designed to stop him. It is, after all, just a design – the players still have to execute the design.

PICK: FLORIDA

SUNDAY

1:00 PM (ET)

MOHAVE @ CHARLESWOOD (LINE – PATRIOTS BY 8)

If this game had been in Mohave I might whistle a different tune, but the game is in Charleswood and all I can whistle is Chopin's "Funeral March" when I think of the Hellfire. Mohave has been one of those strange teams capable of domination in spite of some glaring flaws in their execution of the game plan. They are the only team in the league with a winning record and a minus takeaway differential (-12). The Pats, on the other hand, are second only to Florida in takeaway differential at +12. The mistake-prone Mohave offense is looking very vulnerable to me, especially when you consider their young offensive line and the heat raining down upon it in the form of Kyle Vanden Bosch and Derrick Burgess. They can take some of that heat off with good execution in the running game by their principal ground weapon, Brian Westbroook. The Pats' 'D' is vulnerable against the run and the only gateway to the passing game against them is to get them to focus on stopping the ground game. When the Pats have the ball, they can do anything they choose to do and have a good chance of success. For some reason, teams like to pass against Mohave, despite their premiere cornerback tandem, but the Pats don't need to follow that trend to come out on top – Adrian Peterson and Jerious Norwood are capable of finding their way around Jamal Williams and Julian Peterson as long as Peyton Manning is a threat. The last time these two teams met, Charleswood dominated 30-6 at home. Look for something similar, but maybe a little closer, this week.

PICK: CHARLESWOOD

4:30 PM (ET)

LOS ANGELES @ IOWA CITY (LINE – CUBS BY 6)

What a way to end the playoff weekend! These two teams hate each other and I love nothing more than to watch a true grudge match when it *really* matters! Los Angeles' last victory was against these same Cubs in Week 14, by a lop-sided 23-7 score at Round Table Stadium. Now they are at Joe Ferguson Stadium and the Cubs have the home field advantage. Both teams seemed to dip a bit near the end of the year – Iowa's last win versus the Bucs was not really indicative of their overall play in the last quarter of the season. I would say that the Cubs are susceptible to an upset here except for the fact that the Knights don't appear, if their last two games are any indication, to be ready to upset the Cubs. It's like both teams are starting fresh this week and anything can happen. Ronnie Brown is out with an injury for Iowa City, which will hurt, but Brandon Jacobs can still fill the gap on the ground with support from the passing game. Jeff Garcia can find the holes in better pass defenses than Los Angeles has been fielding this season. The Knights are healthy, which means nothing much more than everybody will get a shot at dodging and deking the star-studded Iowa City defense. Getting the chance and getting it done are two different things. I will continue picking my string of favourites this week and go with the Cubbies.

PICK: IOWA CITY

SHOULD YOU LISTEN TO A THING I SAY??????
HOW I'M DOING AGAINST THE SPREAD

LAST WEEK: 4-4-0

OVERALL: 95-33-0

EFL FOCUS

A weekly tour of Media from around the EFL. This week we focus on.....

MARKHAM



MARKHAM Economist and Sun

Lanny McDonald, beat writer for the Markham North Stars, is well known in the Greater Toronto Area as a former Toronto Maple Leafs player and hockey star. He covers football for the Markham Economist and Sun in order to bring local credibility to the sport. Unfortunately, his football knowledge is rudimentary....so have patience.

COLORADO (AP) - Matt Leinart made his first start of the year and led Colorado to a 14-9 win in the last ever game in Colorado's Thunderdome. Leinart threw for 221 yards and two TD's , one a 20 yard strike to Andre Johnson to stake Colorado to 7-0 halftime lead.

In the 2nd half, after a Markham FG, Leinart found his TE, Tony Scheffler on a 25 yard seam route to account for Colorado's 2nd TD of the game. Markham's next possession stalled at Colorado's 3 yard line after Calvin Pace stuffed Markham's Jamal Lewis at the goal line on a 4 and inches. Markham made it close late in the 4th after rookie QB Josh Johnson found Deion Branch for a 51 yard long fly TD but Markham could not convert the 2 point conversion

Notes: Markham played all three QB's in their final game of the season , which led to much speculation of Matt Hasselbeck having his last game as a North Star.

Jamal Lewis had 137 yards on 37 carries, while Deion Branch had 102 yards receiving for Markham.

Colorado's DE, Charles Grant had a big day with 11 tackles , 1 sack and a forced fumble and rookies Matt Forte and Kevin Jones combined for 92 yards rushing

Other EFL Notes from Markham on the wire to Spats

1. The Fat Lady in row 54 Club - very much appreciated Spats publication of the North Star Fight Song – however, “Spats, don't curl up with your thumb in your mouth - try a twinkly!”
 2. Matt Hasselbeck was indeed cut "DURING " the game, perhaps an unprecedented move and the EFL players association has already filed a grievance
 3. Markham Writers Chapter Votes for LVP - all QB's watching the playoffs from the sidelines
1. Matt Hasselbeck - 5 games with QB rating under 40
 2. Philip Rivers - hold onto the ball !
 3. Big Ben - 17 INT's and 6 fumbles too much for an experienced QB 1