

# 2011

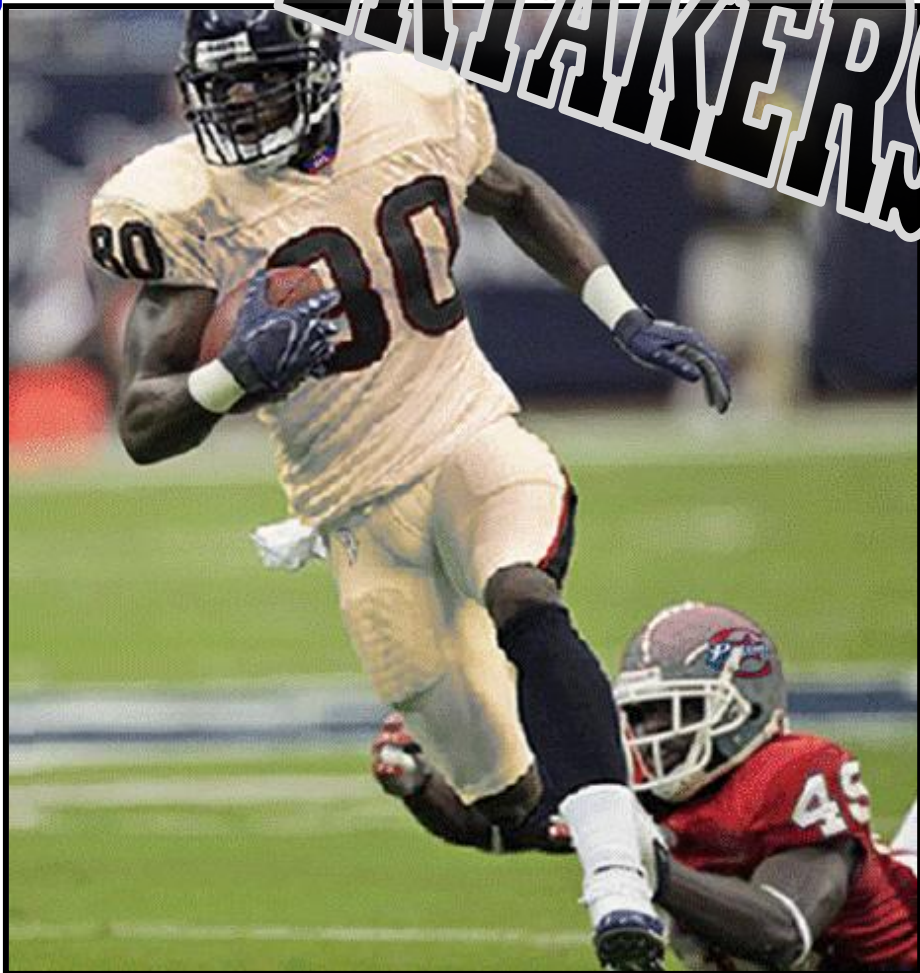


# 2011

## QUARTER FINALS PLAYOFF EDITION

February 5, 2012

# OVERTAKERS!



### LATEST EFL NEWS INSIDE

#### THE GAMES

- DEATH VALLEY OVERTAKES PATS
- KNIGHTS DROWN CUBS
- BIZARRE FINISH IN COWTOWN
- GLADIATORS PARRY PICKERING

#### COMMENT

“Super-Fan to Super-Fool,” “Death is Alive,” “Reviled Rival,” and MORE—Spats McChad

#### PREDICTIONS

‘Get ready for a Gwinnet-LA Final. If you need to know why, Jimmy knows!’ – Jimmy the Geek

Death Valley's **Andre Johnson** breaks a tackle and heads up field on his way to a 72-yard TD reception in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter on a medium pass from **Drew Brees**. The tandem of Brees-to-Johnson would connect three times for major scores as Death Valley overtook Charleswood, 35-32. (Story inside)



Who was slick in the Quarter Finals?

“BRYLCREEM” THE EFL'S FIRST SPONSOR



**Jamaal Charles**  
RB  
Los Angeles  
Knights

157 yds rushing, 38 yds receiving, 2 TDs to key advance to Conf Final.



**Darnell Dockett**  
DL  
Gwinnett  
Gladiators

4 tackles, 1 INT returned 30 yards for division-winning TD

OFFENSE

DEFENSE

# PACIFIC-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE WILDCARD

## BREES SLAYS MANNING IN PATS PLACE SHOOTOUT! QBS COMBINE FOR 8 TD PASSES, A.J. HAS BANNER DAY



**DEATH VALLEY  
UNDERTAKERS**

**35**

**32**

**CHARLESWOOD  
PATRIOTS**



**UNDERTAKER OF THE GAME**

**Andrew Johnson**

8 receptions, 186 yards, 3 TDs

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
<b>DEATH VALLEY (10-7)</b>	14	7	7	7	-	35
<b>CHARLESWOOD (11-6)</b>	7	14	3	8	-	32

**PATRIOT OF THE GAME**

**Peyton Manning**

41 of 60, 425 yds, 4 TDs, 2 INTs

**HIGHLIGHT REEL:** Drew Brees completed 19 of 28 passes, 331 yards, 4 TDs and 2 INTs for a game day QB rating of 117.7.

- **Ryan Matthews** carried 21 times for 81 yards and 1 TD.
- **Braylon Edwards** caught 3 passes for 62 yards and 1 TD and **Aaron Hernandez** caught 4 balls for 50 yards.
- **Jason Witten** had 16 receptions for 172 yards, a long of 27 yards and 2 TDs.
- **Santonio Holmes** caught 10 passes for 103 yards, 2 TDs; and **Marques Colston** caught 8 passes for 90 yards,
- **Adrian Peterson** was held to just 39 yards on 16 carries.



**THE FANS LOVED**  
The Air Show



**THE FANS HATED**  
Where was Peterson?



**FAN RATING**

**GAME SUMMARY:** Undertakers' QB, **Drew Brees** struck long and struck often, outdueling Pat's legend **Peyton Manning** in an unfettered display of offence at Patriot's Place. In perfect weather conditions under the dome in Charleswood, these two teams combined for over 900 yards of total offence and 49 first downs while the quarterbacks combined for 756 yards passing and 8 TD passes; but the early story of the game was turnovers generated by the defence. Death Valley cornerback, **Jason Allen** picked off Manning in Pats' territory early in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter and returned it to the 21 yard line. Four plays later, **Ryan Matthews** dove into the end zone from 2 yards out to give Death Valley a 7-0 lead. The Pats got that one back on Death Valley's next possession. Pats' corner **Quentin Jammer** picked off Brees and returned it 6 yards to mid-field. A 43-yard completion to **Marques Colston** set up a 6-yard TD pass to **Jason Witten** to tie the game 7-7 at the 1:57 mark of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter; but the Undertakers were soon back on top, 14-7 on a 72-yard catch-and-run TD pass to **Andre Johnson**. After an exchange of punts, the Pats got rolling on a drive starting inside their 20. A pair of completions to Witten for 27 and 22 yards keyed an 8-play, 82-yard effort that ended with a 3-yard TD strike to Witten to tie the game 14-14. The Pats took their first lead of the game late in the half, thanks to another long drive, this one starting at their own 5 yard line. A 32-yard pass to **Santonio Holmes** brought them across mid-field then 3 more completions to Witten put them near the goal line where Manning connected with Holmes on a short hitch from 2 yards out to make it 21-14 with 36 seconds left in the half. It looked like that would be the score after 30 minutes, but a squib kick and a 23-yard end around by **Brandon Tate**, brought the Undertakers across mid-field with 10 seconds remaining. With the Pats' secondary deep, Brees threw underneath to **Braylon Edwards**, who zig-zagged 48 yards for an electrifying TD to end the half with the game tied 21-21. The Pats' opening drive of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half stalled when **DeMarcus Ware** sacked Manning down for a 7-yard loss, forcing a 39-yard field goal by **Dave Raynor**. But field goals would not be enough against the Undertakers on this day. Death Valley survived a Mathews fumble and a Charleswood challenge to drive 90 yards for the go-ahead TD on a 15-yard pass to Johnson. The Pats drove back into Death Valley territory but had their drive snuffed out by a **Nate Clements** interception. Death Valley's drive also ended in an interception, but the Pats' counter-strike fizzled when, on 4<sup>th</sup> and 7 at mid-field, Manning's pass to Witten gained only 3 yards. The Undertakers exploited the short field to take an 11-point lead on Johnson's third TD reception of the day. The Pats stumbled until it was too late. A TD and 2-point conversion in the final minute brought them to within 3; but the onside kick failed, and Brees knelt three times to claim the franchise's first ever playoff win.

# SCORING RE-CAP

\* Playoff \* 01-31-2012 Patriot Place Temp: 75 Wind: MVP: **Andre Johnson**

1 8:14	Death Valley	TD Mathews 2 run (Kasay) (4-21-2:06)	7-0
1 1:57	Charleswood	TD Manning 6 pass to Witten (Rayner) (3-50-1:16)	7-7
1 1:34	Death Valley	TD Brees 72 pass to Johnson (Kasay) (1-72-0:17)	14-7
2 8:43	Charleswood	TD Manning 3 pass to Witten (Rayner) (8-82-3:36)	14-14
2 0:36	Charleswood	TD Manning 2 pass to Holmes (Rayner) (12-95-4:00)	14-21
2 0:00	Death Valley	TD Brees 48 pass to Edwards (Kasay) (3-71-0:31)	21-21
3 8:03	Charleswood	FG Rayner 39 (10-41-4:48)	21-24
3 2:07	Death Valley	TD Brees 15 pass to Johnson (Kasay) (11-90-5:50)	28-24
4 8:21	Death Valley	TD Brees 10 pass to Johnson (Kasay) (6-53-2:29)	35-24
4 0:52	Charleswood	TD Manning 1 pass to Holmes (2 - Witten) (13-65-2:18)	35-32

	DVU	CHP
First Downs	19	30
Rushes	31-121	19-64
Passes	28-19-331	60-41-425
Sacked	1-7	2-17
Fumble	2	1
Penalties	7-68	4-30
Turnovers	2	2
Time	31:04	28:56
Third Down	4-11	5-14
Fourth Down	0-0	3-5
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/3/0	4/4/0
Net Offense	445	472

## DEATH VALLEY

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	25	In	Td	Rate
Brees	28	19	331	1	3	2	4	117.7

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	10	Lg	TD
Mathews	21	81	3.9	5	1	13	1
Tate	1	23	23	1	1	23	0
Mendenhall	3	15	5	0	0	9	0
Murray	3	4	1.3	0	0	3	0
Brees	3	-2	-0.7	0	0	0	0

Receiving	No	Dp	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	25	Lg	TD
Johnson, A	8	0	11	186	23.3	8	1	72	3
Hernandez	4	0	8	50	12.5	2	1	26	0
Edwards	3	0	3	62	20.7	1	1	48	1
Mathews	2	0	2	15	7.5	1	0	8	0
Gronkowski	1	0	1	12	12	1	0	12	0
Murray	1	0	2	6	6	0	0	6	0
Brees	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

## CHARLESWOOD

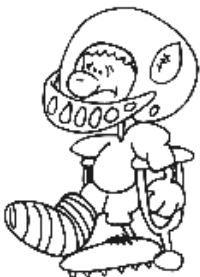
Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	25	In	Td	Rate
Manning	60	41	425	2	3	2	4	96.9

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	10	Lg	TD
Peterson	16	39	2.4	4	0	7	0
Goodson	1	13	13	1	1	13	0
Holmes	1	11	11	0	1	11	0
Manning	1	1	1	0	0	1	0

Receiving	No	Dp	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	25	Lg	TD
Witten	16	1	23	172	10.8	12	1	27	2
Holmes	10	2	13	103	10.3	6	1	32	2
Colston	8	0	12	90	11.3	2	1	43	0
Jones	3	0	4	17	5	0	0	9	0
Goodson	2	0	4	23	11	2	0	13	0
Rice	1	0	3	13	13	1	0	13	0
Peterson	1	0	1	7	7	0	0	7	0



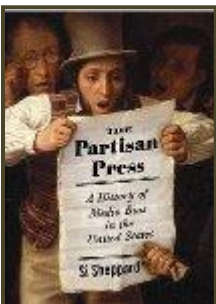
## INJURIES

DEATH VALLEY – None.

CHARLESWOOD – Joe Staley (PG-2<sup>nd</sup>); Stewart Bradley (PG-3<sup>rd</sup>)

## QUOTE OF THE GAME

“In the end it came down to finish. We finished in the end zone and our defence came up big when we needed it most. This is the best team I’ve been a part of, for sure!” – *Death Valley QB Drew Brees.*



## The Partisan Press - Reaction in the News

“Drew Brees was like a pestilence and Andre Johnson like a plague upon the Charleswood defence. Our own defence was like a debilitating virus laying Peterson low like a bug.” – *Grim Reaper, Death Valley Obituary.*

“Our great running back was out-performed by a rookie on the other side. For everything he has done for this franchise, he cannot be considered one of the greats until he helps this team win a playoff game; and that’s a shame!” – *Charlie Wood, Charleswood Banner.*

# PACIFIC-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE WILDCARD

## KNIGHTS PUT BEAR HUG ON CUBS! CHARLES SCORES TWICE TO WIN M.V.P.



**IOWA CITY  
CUBS**

**7**

**27**

**LOS ANGELES  
KNIGHTS**



### CUB OF THE GAME

**Arian Foster**

21 carries, 127 yards, 1 TD

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
IOWA CITY (6-11)	0	0	0	7	-	24
LOS ANGELES (14-3)	10	0	0	17	-	27

### KNIGHT OF THE GAME

**Jamaal Charles**

20 carries, 157 yards, 1 TD

**HIGHLIGHT REEL:** **Josh Freeman** completed 17 of 33 for 206 yards and 2 TDs, for a game day QB rating of 91.2

- **Jamaal Charles** added 5 receptions for 38 yards and 1 TD to his rushing totals for 195 total yards and 2 TDs on the day.
- **Kameron Wimbley** made 7 tackles, 2 sacks, 1 QB pressure, 1 FF and **Brian Orakpo** had 2 sacks, 4 QB pressures and 1 FF.
- Deep threat **Mike Wallace** struck twice for a total of 73 yards, but was targeted 10 times and did not reach the end zone.
- **Sam Bradford** struggled all day, completing 10 of 25 for 132 yards, 1 INT, and was sacked 4 times.
- **Donte Whitner** made 12 tackles and deflected one pass.



### THE FANS LOVED

Dominant 'D' by the Blue Shield



### THE FANS HATED

A team with 6 wins in playoffs



**FAN RATING**

**GAME SUMMARY:** From the very first play from scrimmage the Knights showed they would have this game under control. Tight end, **Tony Gonzalez** turned a simple short hitch route into a 38-yard gain, then four plays later **Jamaal Charles** took a pitch 13 yards to the Cubs' 1 yard line. A holding penalty on **Vince Manuwai** pushed the Knights back 10 yards, and that stalled the drive – forcing a 25-yard field goal by **Dan Carpenter** for a 3-0 LA lead. **Michael Spurlock** returned the ensuing kickoff 41 yards then the Cubs came out like barnstormers on their first two plays: **Sam Bradford** connected with **Mike Wallace** for 29 yards, then **Kellen Winslow** for 13, to bring the ball into the Knights' red zone. However, a holding penalty on **Davin Joseph** followed by a **Kevin Williams** stuff of **Arian Foster** for a 4-yard loss pushed the Cubs back and led to a missed 47-yard field goal attempt by **Neil Rackers**. Los Angeles took over at their 36 and proceeded to move the ball up the field. **Shonn Greene** burst through the line for a 13-yarder and Charles outran the pursuit to turn the corner on a 12-yard run to key a drive capped off by a 3-yard TD run by Charles to make it 10-0, Knights at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. An offensive lull by both teams was briefly interrupted when Bradford hooked up with Wallace for a 44-yard bomb that brought the Cubs across mid-field. A holding penalty on corner **Nnamdi Asomugha** got them to the 33 yard line, but back-to-back sacks of 11 yards by **Brian Orakpo** and 11 yards by **Kameron Wimbley** pushed Iowa City all the way to their own territory and out of field goal range. A scoreless second would keep the score 10-0 for the Knights at half time. The Cubs got the ball to start the second half but gave it away as they crossed into Knights' territory when Bradford was intercepted by **Andre Carter** on an underthrown deep pass intended for Wallace. The Knights drove inside the Cubs' red zone but came away empty-handed when Carpenter shanked a 31-yard field goal attempt. The Cubs, however, could not crack the 'Blue Shield' and went three-and-out on their next possession. That set up the drive that would essentially secure the game for the Knights. A 26-yard pass from **Josh Freeman** to **Steve Smith** and an 18-yard run by Charles penetrated the Cubs' red zone, setting up the first points for either team since the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter when Jamaal Charles snared a pass in the flat and ran it in for a 6-yard TD catch and a 17-0 Knights lead. Foster, the only consistent force for the Cubs offensively, broke a 20-yard TD run late in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter to break the shutout, but it was merely a token score. The Knights took control with 37 seconds left and added a last second 35-yard TD pass to **Roddy White** to round off a convincing victory.

## SCORING RE-CAP

\* Playoff \* 02-02-2012 Round Table Stadium Temp: 62 Wind: Calm None MVP: **Jamaal Charles**

1 9:29	Los Angeles	FG Carpenter 25 (11-73-5:27)	0-3
1 0:06	Los Angeles	TD Charles 3 run (Carpente,D) (10-64-6:26)	0-10
4 13:17	Los Angeles	TD Freeman 6 pass to Charles (Carpente,D) (9-62-4:18)	0-17
4 5:05	Los Angeles	FG Carpenter 21 (11-55-5:57)	0-20
4 0:44	<b>Iowa City</b>	<b>TD Foster 20 run (Rackers) (17-79-4:16)</b>	<b>7-20</b>
4 0:00	Los Angeles	TD Freeman 35 pass to White (Carpente,D) (5-46-0:37)	7-27

	ICC	LAK
First Downs	15	26
Rushes	26-134	37-232
Passes	25-10-132	33-17-206
Sacked	4-36	0-0
Fumble	3	1
Penalties	7-65	6-45
Turnovers	1	0
Time	25:16	34:44
Third Down	2-13	9-15
Fourth Down	3-3	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	5/1/0	5/2/2
Net Offense	230	438

### IOWA CITY

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	25	In	Td	Rate
Bradford	25	10	132	4	2	1	0	40.8

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	10	Lg	TD
Foster	21	127	6	5	4	20	1
Bradford	4	7	1.8	2	0	4	0
Wallace	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Receiving	No	Dp	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	25	Lg	TD
Fitzgerald	4	0	6	28	7.0	2	0	9	0
Winslow	2	0	4	18	9.0	1	0	13	0
Wallace	2	2	10	73	36.5	2	2	44	0
Vickers	1	1	3	5	5.0	1	0	5	0
Foster	1	0	1	8	8.0	0	0	8	0
Parrish	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

### LOS ANGELES

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	25	In	Td	Rate
Freeman	33	17	206	0	3	0	2	91.2

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	10	Lg	TD
Charles	20	157	7.9	8	8	21	1
Greene	9	39	4.3	3	1	13	0
Freeman	7	36	5.1	3	0	9	0
Benson	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Receiving	No	Dp	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	25	Lg	TD
Smith	6	0	11	50	8.3	3	1	26	0
Charles	5	0	6	38	7.6	2	0	10	1
Gonzalez	3	1	7	60	20.0	3	1	38	0
White	3	0	8	58	19.3	3	1	35	1
Greene	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0



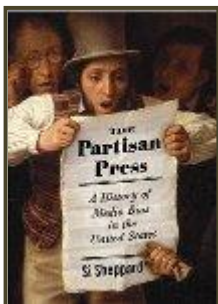
## INJURIES

IOWA CITY – None

LOS ANGELES – None

## QUOTE OF THE GAME

“You have to give them credit, they don’t give up. So we didn’t think we should let up.” – *Knights QB, Josh Freeman, commenting on last second touchdown pass with a 13-point lead.*



## The Partisan Press - Reaction in the News

“The championship for this Iowa team was making the playoffs. A pair of late season wins after so many earlier disappointments should not have gotten them there, but they did. Once there, they played like they didn’t belong.” – *Sparky McGillicuddy, The Iowan.*

“The freshly painted deep purple and gold premium seats imparted a regal air and the Thai fish cakes with pickled cucumber were the perfect complement for the Chenin Blanc now available on tap at Round Table Stadium.” – *Gabriele Laurent-Vainluwen, LA Daily News.*

# CAN-AM CONFERENCE WILDCARD

## LIZARDS FIND A WAY, ADVANCE TO SEMIS! CONTROVERSIAL PLAY MARS THRILLING FINISH



**DURHAM THUNDER  
LIZARDS**

**31**

**21**

**COWTOWN  
CORN KINGS**



LIZARD OF THE GAME	Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total	CORN KING OF THE GAME
<b>Philip Rivers</b> 22 of 37, 273 yards, 2 INTs	<b>DURHAM</b> (10-7)	7	0	10	14	-	31	<b>Maurice Jones-Drew</b> 27 carries, 148 yards, 1 TD
	<b>COWTOWN</b> (14-3)	0	14	0	7	-	21	

**HIGHLIGHT REEL:** **Antonio Gates** caught 3 passes for 80 yards and a long gain of 58 yards to set up a Durham score.

- **Michael Turner** rushed for just 17 yards on 6 carries, but made them count with 2 TD runs.
- Durham defensive end **Jared Allen** made 3 tackles, 2 sacks, 1 QB pressure and forced a fumble.
- **Joe Flacco** completed 21 of 35 for 197 yards, 2 TDs, but was also sacked 5 times. His game day QB rating was 94.6.
- **Santana Moss** caught 7 passes for 74 yards but the regular season TD-catch leader did not score.
- **Ryan Kerrigan** made 2 tackles, 1 sack, 1 deflection, 1 QB pressure and 1 interception.



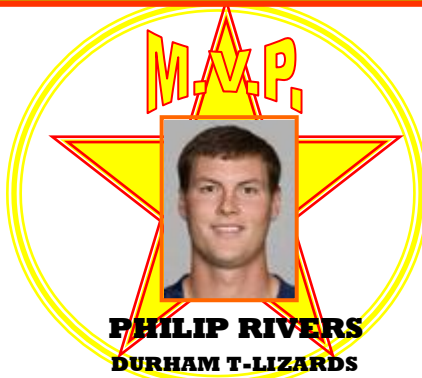
### THE FANS LOVED

Four quarters of pure drama



### THE FANS HATED

The Naked Fan



**FAN RATING**

**GAME SUMMARY:** A pair of long fumble returns in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, one for 96 yards and a touchdown, led to 14 Durham points and helped to lift them over the favoured Corn Kings at Tillman Field. In a hard fought game where all elements came into play, the tipping point of the contest came early in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter when Cowtown, starting at their own 43 yard line, set their sights on erasing a 17-14 Durham advantage. But on the second play of the drive, **Jared Allen** knocked down **Joe Flacco** in the pocket and the ball popped out. **Jonathan Vilma** picked it up and ran it back 43 yards to the Corn Kings' 3 yard line. On the next play, **Michael Turner** was across the goal line for his second TD run of the day to give the Lizards an apparently commanding 24-14 lead. However, the Corn Kings came right back on their next possession: starting at their 31, they drove the length of the field on the strength of a couple of first down runs by **Maurice Jones-Drew** and a 17-yard pass to **Santana Moss** that put them at the Durham 7 yard line. From there, Flacco overcame a sack for a 6-yard loss by former Corn King, **Mike Patterson** to convert 3<sup>rd</sup> and goal with a 13-yard TD pass to **Devery Henderson** to pull back within a field goal. The Thunder Lizards went three-and-out for the fourth time in the game and had to punt. A fair catch by **Golden Tate** gave Cowtown the ball at their 20 yard line with 2:53 left in the game, setting the stage for a dramatic finish. The Corn Kings marched up the field, getting a 16-yard completion to **Todd Heap** on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9 and a 1-yard sneak by Flacco to convert two key third downs on the way. Eventually they reached inside the Durham red zone and faced 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8 at the 19 yard line with 31 seconds left. Although they needed just a field goal to tie, the Corn Kings played for the touchdown, and got very close when Moss snared a medium slant and ran it down to the Durham 2-yard line. However, the play was nullified when a naked fan ran onto the field, causing the referee to blow the play dead. The game was delayed while the unruly fan was escorted off the field and Cowtown coach, **Jim Coghlin** tired to argue the call. But the ruling stood and Cowtown was forced to repeat third down. The second time, Flacco connected with Heap at the 7 yard line, but as he turned toward the end zone, **Adrian Wilson** drilled him and knocked the ball loose. Cornerback, **Carlos Rogers** picked it up at the 4 and ran it back the distance for the game-clinching score. It was a stunning turnaround and a sad ending for Cowtown's Cinderella season, but also a redemptive moment for **Philip Rivers**, whose 273 yards passing staked the T-Lizards to a 3-point lead through 3 quarters before their defence put it away in the fourth.

# SCORING RE-CAP

\* Playoff \* 02-03-2012 Tillman Field Temp: 25 Wind: 0-10 MVP: Philip Rivers

1 6:44	Durham	TD Turner 1 run (Vinatieri) (10-59-4:53)	7-0
2 4:18	Cowtown	TD Flacco 2 pass to Miller (Mare) (2-8-0:46)	7-7
2 0:44	Cowtown	TD Jones-Drew 6 run (Mare) (6-58-2:14)	7-14
3 8:36	Durham	TD Tebow 2 run (Vinatieri) (5-80-2:51)	14-14
3 3:07	Durham	FG Vinatieri 39 (7-64-3:40)	17-14
4 11:57	Durham	TD Turner 3 run (Vinatieri) (1-3-0:05)	24-14
4 4:45	Cowtown	TD Flacco 13 pass to Henderson (Mare) (12-69-7:07)	24-21
4 0:21	Durham	TD Rogers 96 yd fumble recovery (Vinatieri) (0-0-2:35)	31-21

	DTL	COW
First Downs	16	19
Rushes	17-29	31-158
Passes	40-23-277	35-21-197
Sacked	2-22	5-31
Fumble	2	2
Penalties	4-20	4-35
Turnovers	2	2
Challenges	0-0	0-1
Time	27:18	32:42
Third Down	6-14	8-15
Fourth Down	0-0	0-0
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/3/0	4/3/0
Net Offense	284	324

## DURHAM

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	25	Int	Td	Rate
Rivers	37	22	273	1	2	2	0	59.9
Tebow	2	1	4	1	0	0	0	56.3
Skelton	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	39.6

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	10	Lg	TD
Turner	6	17	2.8	4	0	5	2
Tebow	5	13	2.6	2	0	7	1
Gerhart	2	4	2	0	0	4	0
Bush,M	1	3	3	0	0	3	0
Skelton	1	-1	-1	0	0	0	0
Bush,R	1	-3	-3	0	0	0	0
Rivers	1	-4	-4	0	0	0	0

Receiving	No	Dp	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	25	Lg	TD
Amendola	7	0	8	51	7.3	1	0	15	0
Bowe	5	0	9	38	7.6	2	0	15	0
Johnson,C	3	0	6	33	11.0	2	0	14	0
Gates	3	0	8	80	26.7	2	1	58	0
Bush,R	2	0	5	20	10.0	1	0	12	0
Bush,M	1	0	1	6	6.0	0	0	6	0
Turner	1	0	1	5	5.0	0	0	5	0

## COWTOWN

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	25	In	Td	Rate
Flacco	35	21	197	5	0	0	2	94.6

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	10	Lg	TD
Jones-Drew	27	148	5.5	9	5	19	1
Scott	3	9	3	0	0	9	0
Flacco	1	1	1	1	0	1	0

Receiving	No	Dp	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	25	Lg	TD
Moss	7	1	10	74	10.6	4	0	18	0
Miller	4	1	8	31	7.8	3	0	12	1
Henderson	3	0	4	28	9.3	1	0	13	1
Heap	2	0	5	30	15.0	1	0	16	0
Jones-Drew	2	0	4	14	7.0	0	0	12	0
Tate	1	0	1	7	7.0	0	0	7	0
Jackson	1	0	1	8	8.0	0	0	8	0
Shorts	1	0	1	5	5.0	0	0	5	0
Walter	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0



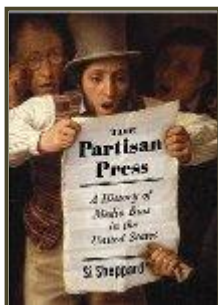
## INJURIES

DURHAM – None

COWTOWN – Kevin Walter (PG-1<sup>st</sup>)

## QUOTE OF THE GAME

“Well, I didn’t agree with the call. The fan had no actual effect on the play. But I couldn’t argue with the fumble. That was a great hit by Wilson and he won the game for his team in the process.” – *Cowtown coach, Jim Coghlin.*



## The Partisan Press - Reaction in the News

“How ironic it is that, on a day when he threw 2 interceptions and no touchdowns, Philip Rivers is getting his share of credit for this win. Certainly without his arm this team would have been nowhere in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.” – *Sir Reginald Malcolm Clapham, Durham Diggatel and Pick.*

“The boy’s family is already packing their trailer and heading for the hills. Justice can be harsh and swift in this part of the country.” – *Orville Smucker, Cowtown Plain Dealer, on the fallout from the naked fan incident.*

# CAN-AM CONFERENCE WILDCARD

## 20-POINT RALLY LIFTS GLADIATORS! FOURTH QUARTER FUMBLES DOOM SPARTANS



**PICKERING  
SPARTANS**

**21**

**41**

**GWINNETT  
GLADIATORS**



SPARTAN OF THE GAME
<b>Matt Cassel</b>
16 of 28, 283 yds, 1 TD, 1 INT

Team	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
<b>PICKERING (14-3)</b>	7	7	7	0	-	21
<b>GWINNETT (12-5)</b>	14	7	7	13	-	41

GLADIATOR OF THE GAME
<b>Vince Young</b>
12 of 22, 251 yds, 2 TDs

**HIGHLIGHT REEL:** **LeSean McCoy** rushed for 98 yards and 1 TD on 15 carries.

- **Jeremy Maclin** caught 3 passes for 112 yards, 2 TDs and a long gainer of 96 yards
- Defensive lineman, **Darnell Dockett** made 5 tackles, 1 sack, 1 stuffed run, 1 QB pressure, 1 FF, 1 recovery for 96-yard TD.
- **Anquan Boldin** caught 4 passes for 112 yards and a long gainer of 58 yards.
- **Chris Johnson** was held in check by the Glads' defensive line, rushing for 45 yards and 1 TD on 12 carries.
- **Rashad Jennings** sparked the ground game with 84 yards and 1 TD on just 6 carries.



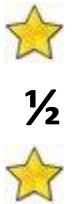
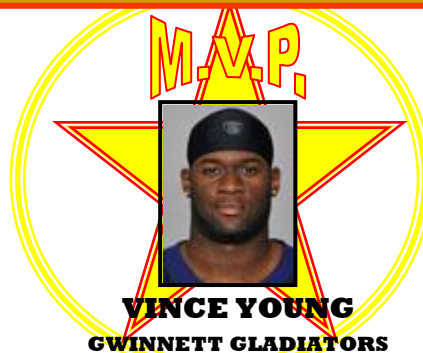
**THE FANS LOVED**

Rodgers-to-Marshall for 3 TDs



**THE FANS HATED**

Regs on third down



1/2

**FAN RATING**

**GAME SUMMARY:** After battling to a 21-21 deadlock through 2-and-a-half quarters, the tie was broken when Glads' QB, **Vince Young** found **Jeremy Maclin** in the end zone from 4 yards out to top off a 13-play, 74-yard drive that consumed almost 8 minutes of the third quarter. That score touched off a string of 20 unanswered points by the Gladiators that turned a close match into a rout. Prior to that point, however, it had been a back-and-forth struggle featuring big plays by both offences. The Spartans struck first and fast when defensive end **Kyle Vanden Bosch** sacked Young on the Glads' first play from scrimmage and forced a fumble that was recovered by **David Harris** at the Gwinnett 13. **Chris Johnson** got the call and two plays later he was in the end zone on a 6-yard dive to put Pickering up 7-0. On the Glads' ensuing possession, Young connected for a 20-yard completion to **Reggie Wayne** to convert 3<sup>rd</sup> and 15 from deep in their own end. A 15-yard facemask penalty against Vanden Bosch brought the ball across mid-field and five plays later **LeSean McCoy** broke a 22-yard run to the Pickering 4 to set up an eventual plunge over the top of the line by **Ahmad Bradshaw** to tie the game at 7. Pickering responded with a drive that stalled in no-man's land at the Gwinnett 38, but a perfect coffin-corner kick by punter **Chris Kluwe** bottled up the Glads at their 2 yard. They did not stay penned up for long. Young threw a quick out to Maclin, who made a move on **Ronde Barber** then sprinted down the sideline for a 96-yard TD play to put Gwinnett in front 14-7. Pickering evened it up three possessions later when Rashad Jennings broke free on a sweep around the right corner for a 60-yard TD gallop. After two three-and-outs, the Glads struck again: Wayne got a step on coverage and turned a short cross into a 53-yard pass play to the Pickering 6 yard line. Despite the full attention of the Spartans' defence, McCoy found a hole and ran the ball in on the next play to make it 21-14 for Gwinnett at half time. Pickering opened with the ball to start the 2<sup>nd</sup> half and wasted little time tying the game – a screen pass from **Matt Cassel** to **Darren Sproles** went for 64 yards and a TD to make it 21-21. However, the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter would turn out to be all Gwinnett. **Josh Brown** kicked a 42-yard field to make it 31-21 then, with the Spartans threatening at the Glads' 8 yard line, **Robert Mathis** forced a Sproles fumble and **Darnell Dockett** picked it up and rumbled 93 yards for a TD to all but put the game out of reach. One more Spartan fumble led to one more Gwinnett field goal, giving the Glads a convincing 20-point victory.



# SCORING RE-CAP

\* Playoff \* 02-02-2012 Gwinnett Coliseum Temp: 45 Wind: 5-15 None MVP: **Vince Young**

1 14:01 Pickering	TD Johnson 6 run (Scobee) (2-13-0:45)	7-0
1 8:04 Gwinnett	TD Bradshaw 1 run (Brown,J) (14-80-5:49)	7-7
1 3:31 Gwinnett	TD Young 96 pass to Maclin (Brown,J) (2-98-0:57)	7-14
2 10:43 Pickering	TD Jennings 60 run (Scobee) (2-60-0:56)	14-14
2 4:59 Gwinnett	TD McCoy 6 run (Brown,J) (4-62-1:46)	14-21
3 12:43 Pickering	TD Cassel 64 pass to Sproles (Scobee) (4-75-2:12)	21-21
3 4:57 Gwinnett	TD Young 4 pass to Maclin (Brown,J) (13-74-7:40)	21-28
4 13:39 Gwinnett	FG Brown 42 (8-29-4:33)	21-31
4 7:44 Gwinnett	TD Dockett 93 yd fumble recovery (Brown,J) (0-0-5:47)	21-38
4 3:47 Gwinnett	FG Brown 43 (8-36-3:34)	21-41

	PIC	GWG
First Downs	16	20
Rushes	24-135	39-159
Passes	28-16-283	22-12-251
Sacked	1-6	2-15
Fumble	4	2
Penalties	7-65	8-51
Turnovers	3	1
Time	26:57	33:03
Third Down	1-9	4-12
Fourth Down	2-3	1-1
Red Att/Td/Fg	3/1/0	3/3/0
Net Offense	412	395

## PICKERING

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	25	In	Td	Rate
Cassel	28	16	283	1	3	1	1	88.8

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	10	Lg	TD
Jennings	6	84	14	2	2	60	1
Johnson	12	45	3.8	3	1	12	1
Sproles	2	12	6	1	1	12	0
Cassel	2	1	0.5	1	0	1	0
Harvin	1	-3	-3	0	0	0	0
Murphy	1	-4	-4	0	0	0	0

Receiving	No	Dp	Y	Yds	Ave	FD	25	Lg	TD
Harvin	4	0	4	50	12.5	2	0	15	0
Boldin	4	0	7	112	28	4	2	58	0
Sproles	3	1	7	78	26	2	1	64	1
Lewis	2	0	5	11	5.5	0	0	6	0
Johnson	1	0	1	9	9	0	0	9	0
Murphy	1	0	3	23	23	0	0	23	0
Jennings	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

## GWINNETT

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Sk	25	In	Td	Rate
Young	22	12	251	2	2	0	2	125

Rushing	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	10	Lg	TD
McCoy	15	98	6.5	6	4	22	1
Bradshaw	15	41	2.7	4	1	11	1
Young	6	23	3.8	1	0	9	0
Brown,L	3	-3	-1	0	0	0	0

Receiving	No	Dp	Att	Yds	Ave	FD	25	Lg	TD
Wayne	4	0	7	89	22.3	2	1	53	0
Maclin	3	0	5	112	37.3	3	1	96	2
McCoy	3	0	4	32	10.7	1	0	19	0
Bradshaw	2	0	2	18	9	0	0	9	0
Scaife	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dickson	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0



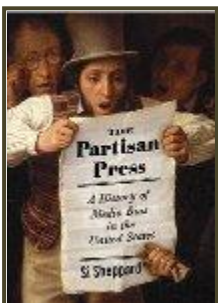
## INJURIES

PICKERING – Jim Kleinsasser (PG-2<sup>nd</sup>)

GWINNETT – Daryl Smith (PG-1<sup>st</sup>)

## QUOTE OF THE GAME

“It was fun to see a big crowd and the fans excited about the season. Everyone’s wound up and it made me run like a giant rabbit.” – *Gwinnett defensive lineman, Darnell Dockett.*



## The Partisan Press - Reaction in the News

“There will be no apologies for these brave progeny of Sparta the Great. No lamentations for the fallen. To die like this in brave battle to a worthy foe is an honour. Redemption and victory will come on the morrow.” – *Aristedes Kalogiannis, Pickering Post.*

“The offence showed its teeth today. This is the offence that has patiently waited for a man to lead it. We now know who that man is. The splendid Moorish mercenary, Vincivus Youngus! All Hail Caesar!” – *Aurelius Maximus, Gwinnett Tribune.*



# AROUND THE



## With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – What a difference a year makes. Last year, you will recall, I bemoaned the lack of competition from all four wildcard teams – none of them made it through the first round. Worse, all four were trounced. This year was a different story. Two Division winners were knocked off their perch by wildcard teams and one of the two Division winners who advanced had to work hard for three quarters to earn the right. Only Los Angeles seemed to have things well in hand and that was because they were paired against the worst wildcard team in EFL history, which was a fair story angle all on its own. All in all, it was a fine football weekend. I will start my review in Cowtown, where weirdness ruled in the dying seconds.

### **FROM SUPER-FAN TO SUPER-FOOL**

He is now in protective custody. The Military has been dispatched to move him from a Cowtown jail cell to Corn County Courthouse in Husker City. He is the most hated person in Cowtown and now the most notorious streaker in North American sports history. His name is **Davey “Davey Boy” Kochett** (pronounced like ‘Crockett’) and he will live in infamy in Cowtown sports lore forever.

In what will likely stand the test of time as one of, if not the most bizarre finish in EFL history, the Corn Kings saw their title hopes vanish in a flash, or more specifically in a *flesh*, when their most devoted, but unfortunately also one of their most simple-minded fans, ran naked out onto the field of play just as **Joe Flacco** slung a medium pass that **Santana Moss** carried down to the Durham 2 yard line. Trailing by 3 points, 24-21, with 31 seconds left in the game, it would have been 1<sup>st</sup> and goal, two timeouts remaining, and at least two more shots at the end zone. But the referee blew the play dead when Kochett crossed onto the playing field wearing nothing but his ragged *Amish*-style beard and a Corn Kings logo tattooed on his leg.

Grinning from ear-to-ear and screaming at the top of his lungs, it looked like Kochett may have been trying to reach Moss to congratulate him on the nifty 17-yard catch-and-run, but he was tackled before he got there by **Jordan Gross** and a pair of beefy security guards. A mob of security and police swiftly followed and Kochett was hauled off the field to laughter and light-hearted applause from the crowd. But appreciation turned to outrage when referee, **Ed Hochuli** (who always seems to be on the field when strange things happen) announced over the P.A. that the whistle had blown before the completion of the play, and therefore 3<sup>rd</sup> down would be replayed.

An incredulous **Jim Coghlin** threw his clipboard into the air in disbelief and tried to challenge the play, only to be told it could not be challenged. This prompted another Hochuli address as he dutifully explained to the angry crowd that the play could not be reviewed. That brought a loud chorus of boos and jeers from the fans, disapproving equally of the ruling and Hochuli’s pedantic explanation of it. The crowd’s mood was taking a turn for the worse after it had reached giddy heights of excitement during the Corn Kings’ precise and efficient drive from their own 20 in the final minutes; but their mood turned downright ugly on the next play. Flacco completed a 14-yard pass over the middle to **Todd Heap** that he fumbled at the 4 yard line. The ball was scooped up by **Carlos Rogers** and returned the distance for a touchdown.

There would be no errant fan on the field for that play. Suddenly, it was 31-21 for Durham with 21 seconds left. The Corn Kings and their fans had gone from eager anticipation of a game-winning touchdown to no hope at all in a mere 10 seconds of official game time; and it was clear to all 58,414 of them that only *one* person was to blame: **Davey Kochett!**

It didn’t matter that **Todd Heap** had fumbled the ball; or that **Adrian Wilson** had made a tremendous hit; or that Cowtown had elected to be aggressive instead of playing it safe – the blame lay squarely on the shoulders of the idiot who had illegally run onto the field and nullified a 17-yard pass play that, more likely than not, would have been the play that set the stage for Cowtown’s ticket to the Can-Am Conference final.

The freakish incident, likely never to be repeated, is now the sole focus of outraged Cowtown fans, apoplectic commentators, (**Russ Flont** of ESPN is calling for the death penalty in this “special” case) and overwhelmed law enforcement officials. A Corn County Justice denied Kochett bail and remanded him in custody under seldom-used terrorist legislation as a threat to National Security. Lynching ropes with ‘Kochett’ signs attached to them dangle from every oak tree on Cowtown’s picturesque main boulevard. A mob with torches and pitchforks is camped outside the Sheriff’s office where Kochett is being held under massive police guard, awaiting the army to rescue him.



A security guard approaches **Davey Kochett**, the self-styled Cowtown “super-fan” who ran onto the field with 31 seconds left in the game, nullifying a 17-yard pass to the Durham 2. Cowtown fumbled on the next play and **Carlos Rogers** ran it back 96 yards for the game-clinching TD in a wild 31-21 win at Tillman Field.

The intense local and now national drama surrounding one deluded fan’s sense of fun is, unfortunately, detracting from what had been a great game. Perhaps because it had been such a great game, the idea that a fan could have changed the course of football history, instead of the players, makes the act of **Davey Kochett** that much more disgraceful. However, it also implies that the Corn Kings should have won the game – which is not necessarily the case. The Thunder Lizards certainly played well enough to win. Had the Corn Kings driven the field in the final minutes and missed a field goal; or had the fumble occurred without a nullified play preceding it, there would have been sorrow in Cowtown, but no question about being cheated. It would have been a fair loss to a deserving opponent.

The tragedy of this incident, and its ultimate irony, is that one of the team’s craziest fans – a “super-fan” by all accounts – will be forever blamed, fairly or not, for ruining Cowtown’s Year of Destiny. A team that had been 3-13 the year before; that had finished at the top of the league in all

meaningful categories this year, and looked poised to win its first ever playoff game, was brought down by one of its own in the worst-timed and most pointless fan stunt in history. If there is such a thing as hell on earth, when it dawns on Davey what he has done, and just how widely he is seen as a villain, he will experience that hell in its full measure. I feel sorry for him.

#### ***DEATH IS ALIVE AND WELL***

A clash of future Hall of Fame quarterbacks in Charleswood drew record ratings for a Quarter Final match. The attention was well-rewarded as the Undertakers and Pats stood toe-to-toe in a spectacular 35-32 slugfest that neither team deserved to lose. Unfortunately, one of them had to, and it was the storied Pats and **Peyton Manning** who took the fall; but not in the manner one might have been predicted.

The unbridled offensive fireworks were not unexpected. How could they be when, at any given time, either the Undertakers’ defence or **Drew Brees** would be on the field? Nor was it surprising that Manning and Brees would hold their own against each other, giving their fans plenty of reasons to jump out of their seats. The unexpected twist turned out to be the player who would tip the balance in favour of one quarterback over the other.

Everyone with a serious betting interest in this contest was betting on **Adrian Peterson** to be the difference-maker, as he had been through the regular season, providing the Patriots with a balanced attack that the Undertakers would not be able to match. To the surprise of all, including me, Peterson was held in check by the league’s lowest ranked defence, gaining a mere 39 yards and averaging 2.4 yards per carry and failing to make an impact. On the other side, little-known **Ryan Matthews**, who finished 24 spots behind Peterson in the running back rankings during the regular season, gained 81 yards in 21 carries and scored a touchdown. Not a performance for the ages, but on this day of practically unopposed passing it was enough change-of-pace to tilt the balance in his team’s favour. It would be Manning who would toil at the helm of a pass-happy offence, attempting 60 passes while his normally pass-happy counterpart, Brees, attempt less than 30.

Both quarterbacks had a lot of help. **Andre Johnson**, under-used and injured at times during the regular season, emerged as Brees’ main partner in his franchise’s first playoff win, with 186 yards and 3 touchdowns on 8 receptions, including a galvanizing 72-yard TD catch in the first quarter. On the Charleswood side, **Jason Witten** set a playoff record with 16 catches, gaining 12 first downs, 172 yards, and scoring 2 touchdowns in an MVP performance on any other day.

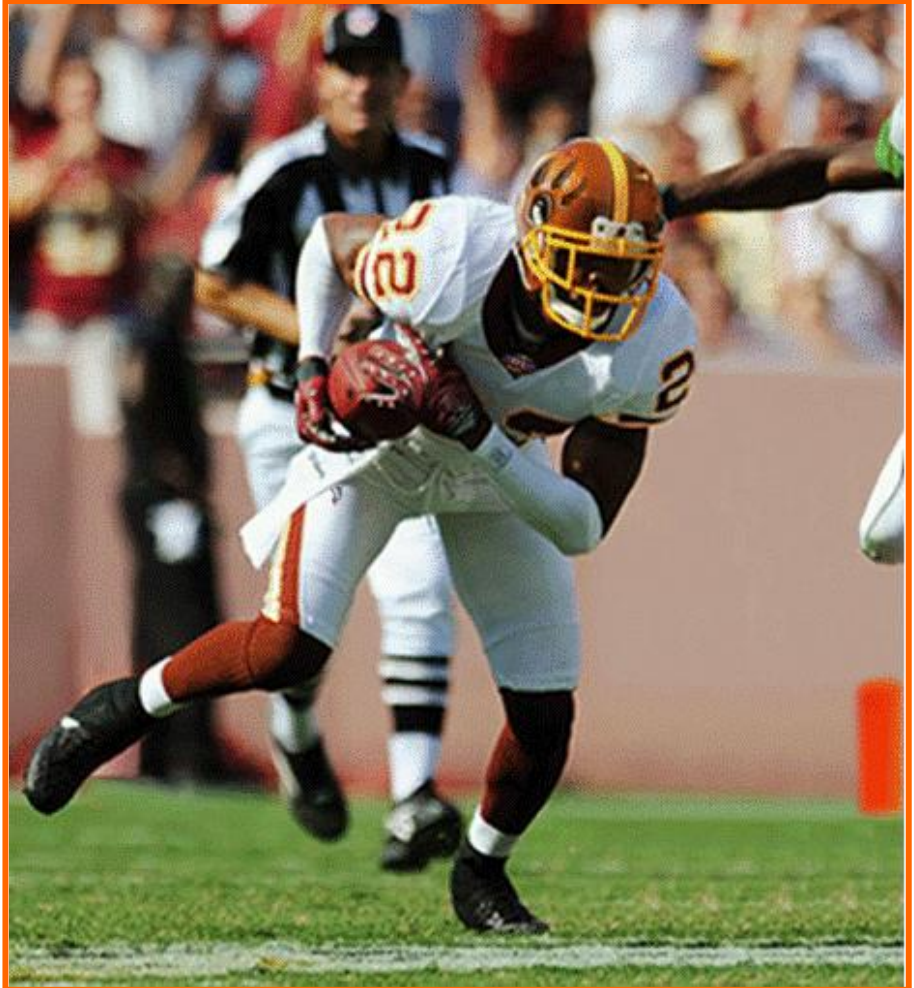
**Chris Worthley** was as gracious in victory as he could be. The coach and GM who had spent just enough time in Hell to drive Satan crazy, seems to be trying really hard to improve his image around the league. He spoke glowingly about his opponent afterwards: “Jason is a great coach. He may be the greatest coach I’ve ever played against. The plays he called were

so much better than the plays I usually see in my Division that I was amazed at my own ability to counter them,” Worthley said to reporters. “I kept up with him in the Coach’s chess match and that is simply amazing. I just barely managed to stay one step ahead and that is even more incredible because he has so many great players on his team, especially on offence. Nothing against my players, but his players are so good that, when you game plan for them, you kind of wish you had them because things would be so much easier for you as a coach if you did, you know? Like, how could I *lose* with these guys??”

And on and on it went. Worthley spoke until everyone but *Death* and the *Grim Reaper* had left the room. *Death* gave him a look that could kill and said, “*You are indeed fortunate that Hell has banned you from the premises, sir.*”

#### REVEILED RIVAL

The Knights dispatched their western rivals from Iowa City with apparently, little difficulty. The 27-7 final score was simultaneously a true indication of the disparity between these two teams, yet not completely indicative of the competitive quality of this contest.



**Carlos Rogers** picks up **Todd Heap’s** fumble at the Durham 4 yard line and begins a 96-yard return for a touchdown. The Lizards stunned the Com Kings 31-21 to advance.

The Knights won handily, but they did not dominate, and that was the goal. The most irksome aspect of this game for **Jeff Dohrn** was that the Cubs refused to surrender despite an ineffectual offence that, except for **Arian Foster**, was completely out-classed by the LA’s dominant ‘Blue Shield.’ Trailing 20-7 with 29 seconds left, the Cubs called timeout after a pitch to **Shonn Greene** for 8 yards. Should the Knights have called a pitch there? – Probably not. Should the Cubs have called timeout? – Probably not! Three plays later, with Iowa City out of timeouts and 12 seconds remaining, **Josh Freeman** threw a 35-yard TD pass to **Roddy White** as time expired to inflate the score to 27-7. You can bet that play will not be forgotten next year.

#### SPARTA FALLS TO ROME

The Spartan Dynasty, short-lived but dangerous while it lived, finally fell in a flurry of fourth quarter fumbles at Gwinnett Coliseum as Pickering dropped a decisive 41-21 decision to **Dave Birdall’s** Gladiators. Okay, the “flurry of fumbles” was actually just *two*, but the effect of those two fumbles, occurring within 20 seconds of each other, made it feel very much like a “flurry” since they signalled 10 points and the death knell of **Gus Kostantankos’** franchise – for this year, at least.

The decision by Birdall to start **Vince Young** over **Big Ben**, so controversial in the media, proved to be the right call as the young back-up protected the football and threw for 251 yards and 2 TD passes. He was helped out by a 159-yard rushing game led by **LeSean McCoy**, who gained 98 yards on 15 carries and scored a touchdown. The Glads’ offence, admired since Week One for its potential, but criticized for its performance, finally came alive when they needed it the most, gaining 395 total yards to keep up with a Pickering attack that executed four plays of 25 yards or more against one of the league’s top defences.

Pickering owner, **Gus Kostantakos** accepted defeat as one might have expected – bitterly, and with outdated syntax. “This is a dark day,” he said to reporters. “We had the game in our palms, but fumbles...*fumbles*...gave our enemy life. Our fumlbers are the worst of warriors. How shall we recover? I know not.”

With the Spartans now behind them, the Gladiators advance to the Conference Final against Durham and have an opportunity to earn the right to represent the Can-Am Conference in the EFL’s ultimate game. Regardless of what happens in that game, I will be in Charleswood’s Patriot Place waiting to watch the victor.

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### JIMMY'S CONFERENCE FINAL PLAYOFF PICKS

#### PACIFIC-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE FINAL

##### DEATH VALLEY @ LOS ANGELES (line – KNIGHTS by 5)

**OVERVIEW:** Los Angeles leads the season series, 2-0. In those games the Undertakers gained a combined 58 yards on the ground while Brees was forced to the air against the best corner tandem in the league. The Knights had no trouble moving the ball against the Undertakers' defence overall, but found the going a little tougher through the air in Week 14. Both teams are completely healthy for this game.

**WHEN DEATH VALLEY HAS THE BALL:** The Undertakers caught the Patriots off guard in the Quarter Finals by doggedly running the ball more often than they passed it; but when they passed, they made the most of it. Expect them to move back to the multiple wide receiver sets they favoured in their Week 14 match-up, when Brees passed the ball 61 times. They will not be as pass-happy this time, unless they fall behind early, but they know they must pass to win. The Knights will mix in the odd blitz but will rely primarily on their top corners to cover Andre Johnson and Mario Manningham, and their linebackers to play coverage.

**WHEN L.A. HAS THE BALL:** The Knights have all options available to them against the league's worst-ranked defence. If there were one thing to worry about, however, it might be the passing game, which has been less efficient of late. LA will have to demonstrate that their air attack can inflict damage if they hope to get the most out of Jamaal Charles. The 'Worthley version' of the Undertakers' defence will blitz selectively and keep its linebackers on the field, so don't expect to see many nickel or dime packages.

**HOW I SEE IT:** Both these teams looked playoff-ready in the first round; both are confident enough to try something completely new to gain an edge at this level of competition. I cannot picture the Undertakers coming into Round Table Stadium and shattering the 'Blue Shield.' They may crack it slightly, but they will not break it. Defence wins championships, Brees or not. Take the Knights plus the points. **PICK: LOS ANGELES**

#### CAN-AM CONFERENCE

##### DURHAM @ GWINNETT (line – GLADIATORS by 5)

**OVERVIEW:** When these two teams met in the regular season the Gladiators' defence smothered the Durham attack in a 16-7 win at home. Big Ben was at the controls for that game and turned the ball over twice as the Glads lost the turnover battle 3-2. It didn't matter – both Rivers and Tebow were awful in that game.

**WHEN DURHAM HAS THE BALL:** The Lizards may not try to run the ball against the Gwinnett front four. Expect them to go with their strengths, which are: the receiving corps and, yes, the quarterback position. Expect the Gladiators to rely on their front four to generate pressure, blitz occasionally, and double team Dwayne Bowe.

**WHEN GWINNETT HAS THE BALL:** Gwinnett will run the ball against a Durham defence that has been vulnerable to the ground game. Bradshaw, McCoy and Vince Young are a triple ground-threat the Dinos cannot ignore, which sets up play action possibilities to one of two dangerous targets in Wayne and Maclin. Durham will let Rodgers-Cromartie sit on Wayne while pouring secondary support into the run defence. The flexible Durham defence will play mostly 4-man, or even 5-man fronts to contain the run and force Young to the air.

**HOW I SEE IT:** There are several ways the Gladiators can get the job done in this, the biggest game in their franchise's history: they can smother the Durham offence or grind their defence into the turf. There are fewer ways the Lizards can emerge victorious and most of those involve lucky bounces. **PICK: GWINNETT**