



2008

# WEEK FIFTEEN

January 4, 2009



Durham's Mason Crosby looks to the sky for guidance after missing a 38-yard field goal attempt in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Crosby got another opportunity with 3 seconds remaining in Overtime to lift the Thunder Lizards over Pickering, 13-10.

## REDEMPTION FOR CROSBY AS LIZARDS SQUEEZE PAST SPARTANS!

*34-yard field goal with 3 seconds left in OT averts league's first tie.*



**DURHAM**

**13**

OT



**PICKERING**

**10**

PICKERING – Durham kicker, **Mason Crosby**, averted the first tie in EFL history and claimed a consolation victory for the Thunder Lizards with a 34-yard field goal with 3 seconds remaining in Overtime to top Pickering, 13-10. For Crosby, it was sweet redemption after two misses earlier in the contest, one a 38-yard miss wide left in the fourth quarter that could have ended the game much earlier.

Nothing came easily for Durham in a game they dominated for four of five periods. Despite a cavernous gap in first downs, total yards gained and time of possession in favour of the visitors, the Lizards found it difficult to finish off the tenacious Spartans. Turnovers, missed field goals, and mistakes at critical moments resulting in penalties conspired to slow the Lizards down to a crawl offensively and breathe life into a moribund Pickering team that played one of its worst football games of the year. Credit for part of that goes to the Durham defense, which played a solid game and pressured **Donovan McNabb** all day.

Pickering's finest moment came on their second possession, when **Fred Taylor** busted a 32-yard run around the left side to set up a 2-yard TD pass to **Ernest Wilford** to make the score 7-0. Durham answered soon after with a field goal, but an interception of **Philip Rivers** by former Thunder Lizards, **Antonio Pierce** and a 28-yard return set up a 40-yard field goal for **Lawrence Tynes**, giving Pickering a 10-3 lead at half time.

Durham finally found the end zone on their second possession of the third quarter when **Frank Gore**, who rushed for 166 yards on 35 carries on the day, broke through the Pickering line off right tackle for a 20-yard run to pay dirt to tie the game up 10-10. And that is where the two teams would remain for what seemed like a very long time. **Kyle Larson**, the Spartans' punter, got a workout, punting 7 times after the first half (11 total on the day) while the Thunder Lizards repeatedly shot themselves in the foot to end their drives.

Pickering won the toss in the Overtime period, but went nowhere with the ball. The Lizards immediately marched into field goal range, but a bad snap by **Cullen Loeffler** scuttled their first chance at sudden victory. The game's decisive drive began at the Durham 28 yard line with 5 minutes remaining. With the Spartans in a consistent pass defending posture, the Lizards handed the ball off 9 out of 12 plays to move to the Pickering 17 yard line, setting up Crosby's game-winning field goal.

After the game, Pickering coach, **Gus Konstantakos** simply stated, "weird game," while Durham coach, **George Kaldis** repeated a refrain heard often this year; "my team is cursed!"

01-01-2009 Thermopylae Stadium	Temp: 21 Wind: 0-10 None	MVP: Gore	DTL	PIC
2007 Durham (7-8)	3 0 7 0 3 -13		First Downs	8
2007 Pickering (6-9)	7 3 0 0 0 -10		Rushes	29-105
			Passes	25-8-54
1 7:12 Pickering	TD McNabb 2 pass to Wilford (Tynes) (10-57-4:28)	0-7	Sacked	4-20
1 0:08 Durham	FG Crosby 25 (7-39-4:42)	3-7	Fumble	1
2 9:50 Pickering	FG Tynes 40 (3-0-0:55)	3-10	Penalties	9-70
3 5:56 Durham	TD Portis 20 run (Crosby,M) (9-71-4:11)	10-10	Turnovers	3
5 0:03 Durham	FG Crosby 34 (12-55-6:00)	13-10	Time	48:12
			Third Down	11-20
			Fourth Down	2-3
			Net Offense	468
				139

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** DUR – **Frank Gore** rushed for 166 yards on 35 carries and 1 TD; **Antonio Gates**, 6 catches for 74 yards; **Clinton Portis** gained 112 yards on 16 carries; **Patrick Kerney** had 2 sacks. PIC – **Donovan McNabb** completed 8 of 25 for 54 yards and 1 TD; **Fred Taylor** gained 80 yards in 13 carries; **Antonio Pierce** had 17 tackles, 1 forced fumble and 1 INT.



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CHARLESWOOD



9

MARKHAM

### STARS NO "PATSIES" VERSUS PATS

**GAME POINTS:** Charleswood's **Ed Reed** picked off **Matt Hasselbeck** late in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter deep in Markham territory to set a 5-yard TD pass from **Peyton Manning** to **Chad Johnson** and break open a surprisingly close at the Dawg Pound. The Markham defense rose to the challenge of holding a top offense in check, but the offense could not find much room against the Pats' league-leading defense. Despite that, they managed to engineer a grinding 19-play, 65-yard FG drive to start the 2<sup>nd</sup> half that brought them within 5 points.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Peyton Manning** completed 13 of 21 passes for 154 yards and 1 TD in the rain. **Adrian Peterson** got a lot of attention from the Stars, gaining only 39 yards in 16 carries. **Chad Johnson** caught 4 passes for 59 yards and 1 TD. **Matt Hasselbeck** was 16 of 25 for 110 yards and 1 INT. **Jamal Lewis** gained only 66 yards on 26 carries. Veteran **Derrick Brooks** made 9 tackles and 2 run stuffs.

01-01-2009 The Dawg Pound	Temp: 29 Wind: 20-30, Light Rain	MVP: Norwood	CHP	MAR
2007 Charleswood (14-1)	0 14 7 3 -24		First Downs	15
2007 Markham (4-11)	3 3 3 0 -9		Rushes	42-122
			Passes	25-16-110
1 7:28 Markham	FG Lindell 48 (10-56-6:12)	0-3	Sacked	1-8
2 13:44 Markham	FG Lindell 37 (5-22-2:44)	0-6	Fumble	1
2 9:13 Charleswood	TD Norwood 10 run (Gostkowski) (8-56-4:16)	7-6	Penalties	5-37
2 1:27 Charleswood	TD Jones 1 run (Gostkowski) (10-62-3:55)	14-6	Turnovers	0
3 6:09 Markham	FG Lindell 30 (19-65-8:37)	14-9	Time	22:41
3 2:01 Charleswood	TD Manning 5 pass to Johnson (Gostkowski) (3-8-1:29)	21-9	Third Down	2-10
4 1:48 Charleswood	FG Gostkowski 34 (7-38-3:22)	24-9	Fourth Down	1-1
			Net Offense	196
				224



10

COLORADO



34

COWTOWN

### COLORADO GETS "FAKHIRED" BY CORN KINGS

**GAME POINTS:** Corn Kings corner, **Fakhir Brown** intercepted **Matt Ryan's** first pass attempt of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and returned it 32 yards for a TD to launch a 24-point 2<sup>nd</sup> half for Cowtown that vaulted them past expansion Colorado, 34-10. The Thundersnow took advantage of **Andre Johnson's** return from injury to stay close in the first half, scoring on 56-yard TD pass from Ryan to Johnson to temporarily take a 7-3 lead in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. But the Corn Kings used ball control on the ground and an efficient performance by QB, **Chris Redman** to eventually pull away, winning their 8<sup>th</sup> game of the year.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Chris Redman** completed 19 of 29 for 229 yards and 2 TDs. **Laurence Maroney** rushed for 106 yards on 19 carries and 1 TD. **DJ Hackett** caught 9 passes for 103 yards and 1 TD. **Tommie Harris** logged 2 sacks. **Matt Ryan** completed 15 of 28 passes for 176 yards, 1 TD and 2 INTs. **Andre Johnson** caught 7 passes for 121 yards and 1 TD.

01-02-2009 Tillman Field, Temp: 45 Wind: 5-15 None MVP: Redman					COL	COW		
2007 Colorado (1-14)	0	7	0	3	-10	First Downs	12	27
2007 Cowtown (8-7)	0	10	14	10	-34	Rushes	14-45	45-216
2 15:00 Cowtown	FG Hanson	23	(8-53-4:07)		0-3	Passes	32-18-195	29-19-229
2 11:15 Colorado	TD Ryan	56	pass to Johnson (Gould) (6-80-3:31)		7-3	Sacked	4-34	2-10
2 4:10 Cowtown	TD Redman	13	pass to Walter (Hanson,J) (13-83-7:01)		7-10	Fumble	2	1
3 14:44 Cowtown	TD Brown	32	interception return (Hanson,J) (0-0-0:00)		7-17	Penalties	6-37	5-20
3 9:32 Cowtown	TD Maroney	5	run (Hanson,J) (9-54-3:46)		7-24	Turnovers	2	0
4 12:50 Colorado	FG Gould	33	(12-60-5:53)		10-24	Challenges	1-1	0-0
4 8:10 Cowtown	FG Hanson	22	(9-55-4:35)		10-27	Time	21:30	38:30
4 2:42 Cowtown	TD Redman	11	pass to Hackett (Hanson,J) (9-58-5:13)		10-34	Third Down	5-11	7-13
						Fourth Down	0-0	0-1
						Net Offense	206	435



WINNEMUCCA

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KUTZTOWN

31

### ROMO RAIDS OUTLAWS

**GAME POINTS:** Golden Bears star, **Tony Romo** peppered the Outlaws' secondary with pinpoint passes, 4 of them for TDs, as Kutztown took a big step toward locking up a playoff spot by shutting down Winnemucca, 31-3. **Desmond Clark** turned a short slant pass into a 40-yard TD to make the score 14-0 for Kutztown near the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. Winnemucca then moved the ball inside the Bears 10 yard line, but had to settle for a chip shot FG by **Adam Vinatieri**. The Bears totally dominated from that point onwards, cruising to an easy victory and eliminating rival Cowtown from the playoffs in the process.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Tony Romo** completed 23 of 28 passes for 278 yards and 4 TDs for a 147.6 passer rating. **Desmond Clark** caught 3 passes for 75 yards and 2 TDs, his 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of the season. 11 different receivers caught passes for Kutztown. **David Garrard** completed 8 of 11 passes for 75 yards and 1 INT in limited action. **Justin Fargas** carried 13 times for 66 yards.

01-02-2009 Lincoln Financial Field, Temp: 47 Wind: 0-10 None MVP: Romo					WMO	KUT		
2007 Winnemucca (1-14)	0	3	0	0	-3	First Downs	14	21
2007 Kutztown (9-6)	14	7	10	0	-31	Rushes	22-93	27-120
1 11:25 Kutztown	TD Romo	18	pass to Clark (Kaeding) (7-65-3:22)		0-7	Passes	25-14-128	32-26-318
1 2:42 Kutztown	TD Romo	40	pass to Clark (Kaeding) (7-94-3:29)		0-14	Sacked	4-30	0-0
2 10:50 Winnemucca	FG Vinatieri	22	(12-75-6:52)		3-14	Fumble	2	3
2 0:48 Kutztown	TD Romo	16	pass to Crayton (Kaeding) (11-80-4:03)		3-21	Penalties	6-43	8-48
3 7:19 Kutztown	TD Romo	10	pass to Cooley (Kaeding) (10-76-5:57)		3-28	Turnovers	2	0
3 3:09 Kutztown	FG Kaeding	36	(5-20-3:21)		3-31	Time	25:05	34:55
						Third Down	2-11	5-12
						Fourth Down	0-1	0-0
						Net Offense	191	438



FLORIDA

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ANCHORAGE

19

### BRADY TORCHES BUCS FOR PERFECT DAY

**GAME POINTS:** **Tom Brady** threw 4 TD passes, finishing with a perfect passer rating to lead the Dragons past the hard-charging Buccaneers. Florida dominated the 2<sup>nd</sup> half by a 20-3 margin, starting with a 44-yard TD pass from Brady to **Brandon Marshall** on a long slant pattern and ending with a chip shot 21-yard FG by **Mike Nugent**. The Bucs hung around early in the game, scoring on a 1-yard TD pass from **Drew Brees** to **Joseph Addai** on the final play of the 1st half to close the deficit to 21-16, but they could not keep up over 60 minutes with the league's top team.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Tom Brady** completed 20 of 24 passes for 340 yards and 4 TDs. **Brandon Marshall** caught 5 passes for 107 yards and 2 TDs. **Jonathan Stewart** carried the load on the ground, gaining 91 yards in 22 carries. **Drew Brees** completed 22 of 43 passes for 214 yards and 1 TD. **Joseph Addai** scored 2 TDs, 1 on the ground and 1 thru the air.

01-01-2009	Great Northern Sports Complex	Temp: 70	Wind:	MVP: Brady		FLD	ANC	
2007 Florida (14-1)	7	14	14	6	- 41	First Downs	27	18
2007 Anchorage (4-11)	3	13	0	3	- 19	Rushes	37-131	17-47
						Passes	24-20-340	43-22-214
						Sacked	1-8	0-0
1 9:33 Anchorage	FG Stover	32	(11-54-5:15)		0-3	Fumble	0	1
1 3:30 Florida	TD Stewart	2	run (Nugent) (12-89-5:49)		7-3	Penalties	6-45	3-35
2 13:27 Anchorage	TD Addai	7	run (Stover) (10-76-4:58)		7-10	Turnovers	0	1
2 3:21 Florida	TD Brady	11	pass to Houshmandzadeh (Nugent) (12-80-5:51)		14-10	Time	36:57	23:03
2 1:30 Florida	TD Brady	23	pass to Berrian (Nugent) (4-72-0:39)		21-10	Third Down	7-10	4-13
2 0:00 Anchorage	TD Brees	1	pass to Addai (2 - failed) (11-75-1:22)		21-16	Fourth Down	0-0	2-3
3 10:41 Florida	TD Brady	44	pass to Marshall (Nugent) (7-80-4:19)		28-16	Net Offense	463	261
3 6:58 Florida	TD Brady	32	pass to Marshall (Nugent) (4-46-2:19)		35-16			
4 12:16 Florida	FG Nugent	45	(9-61-6:01)		38-16			
4 9:47 Anchorage	FG Stover	39	(7-35-2:16)		38-19			
4 2:24 Florida	FG Nugent	21	(9-42-7:14)		41-19			



GWINNETT

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LOS ANGELES

10

### GLADS STAY ALIVE IN PLAYOFF HUNT

**GAME POINTS:** Carson Palmer took aim at a banged up LA secondary to protect an early lead and keep the Gladiators alive in the hunt for the final playoff spot in the Can-Am Conference. Palmer found Nate Burleson open across the middle for a 28-yard TD strike to make the score 17-7 at the half. Trying to make something happen in a comeback, LA QB Brodie Croyle was picked off near the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter by Mike McKenzie, who returned it 40 yards for a TD to stretch the Glads' lead past the point of return for LA.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** Carson Palmer went 23 of 28 for 203 yards and 2 TDs. Will Smith had 1 sack, 2 run stuffs, and 1 QB pressure. Brodie Croyle was 15 of 29 for 178 yards, 1 TD and 1 INT.

01-01-2009	Round Table Stadium, Temp: 54	Wind: 0-5	None	MVP: Palmer		GWG	LAK	
2007 Gwinnett (8-7)	10	7	7	3	- 27	First Downs	17	16
2007 Los Angeles (8-7)	0	7	3	0	- 10	Rushes	28-101	21-85
						Passes	28-23-203	35-18-213
						Sacked	2-11	4-23
1 12:04 Gwinnett	TD Palmer	10	pass to Wayne (Brown,J) (3-48-1:23)		7-0	Fumble	2	0
1 8:26 Gwinnett	FG Brown	47	(6-21-3:17)		10-0	Penalties	3-24	4-30
2 14:49 Los Angeles	TD Croyle	34	pass to White (Brown,K) (6-77-3:27)		10-7	Turnovers	0	1
2 8:51 Gwinnett	TD Palmer	28	pass to Burleson (Brown,J) (11-80-5:58)		17-7	Time	34:04	25:56
3 6:57 Los Angeles	FG Brown	33	(12-60-4:51)		17-10	Third Down	6-14	5-13
3 3:47 Gwinnett	TD McKenzie	40	interception return (Brown,J) (0-0-0:00)		24-10	Fourth Down	0-0	0-1
4 1:04 Gwinnett	FG Brown	33	(7-29-3:05)		27-10	Net Offense	293	275



RINGGOLD

7



CHINO

37

### CONVICTS RATTLE RINGGOLD

**GAME POINTS:** Nate Clements intercepted Ben Roethlisberger and returned it 39 yards to the Hawks' 2 yard line to set up a 1-yard TD run by LaDainian Tomlinson midway thru the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter to make the score 17-7 for Chino. The Convicts' defense went on to dominate the Hawks, holding them to just 8 first downs and 165 total yards. That shortened the field for the Convicts' offense, which made the most of opportunities, scoring on 7 of 10 possessions to win easily and hold on to the 3<sup>rd</sup> playoff seed.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** Jay Cutler completed 14 of 23 passes for 159 yards and 1 TD. LT ground out the tough yards, gaining 78 yards on 24 carries and 2 TDs for a league-leading 16 rushing TDs on the season. James Harrison notched 5 tackles, 1 sack, 1 run stuff, 1 deflection and 1 forced fumble. "Big Ben" went 18 of 30 for 143 yards, 1 TD and 2 INTs.



01-03-2009 The Big House	Temp: 69 Wind: 5-15 None	MVP: Tomlinson				RCH	CHI
2007 Ringgold (5-10)	7 0 0 0 - 7					8	20
2007 Chino (9-6)	3 17 7 10 - 37					13-27	41-111
1 11:09 Chino	FG Reed 28 (6-13-2:44)	0-3				33-20-156	23-14-159
1 1:30 Ringgold	TD Roethlisberger 11 pass to James (Suisham) (14-80-7:58)	7-3				2-18	1-2
2 10:11 Chino	TD Cutler 14 pass to Holt (Reed,J) (11-64-6:03)	7-10				Fumble	0
2 7:36 Chino	TD Tomlinson 1 run (Reed,J) (2-2-0:50)	7-17				6-41	2-15
2 0:30 Chino	FG Reed 29 (8-33-2:46)	7-20				Penalties	3
3 9:13 Chino	TD White 4 run (Reed,J) (10-70-5:32)	7-27				Turnovers	0
4 12:10 Chino	TD Tomlinson 3 run (Reed,J) (14-64-7:16)	7-34				Time	24:59
4 4:57 Chino	FG Reed 37 (6-16-4:57)	7-37				Third Down	3-10
						Fourth Down	1-4
						Net Offense	165
							268



MOHAVE



IOWA CITY

33

20

### ALLISON SPARKS MOHAVE FIRE, BURNS CUBS

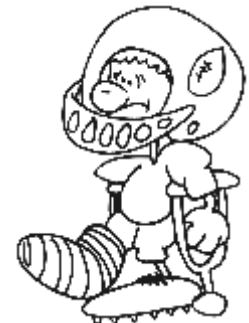
**GAME POINTS:** After an early Iowa City TD on a 2-yard pass from **Jeff Garcia** to **Kellen Winslow**, the Hellfire got back into the game when **Aundrae Allison** returned the ensuing kickoff 104 yards for a TD. With the Cubs trailing by 7 points near the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> half, **Reggie Bush** fumbled at his own 41 yard line, leading to a 43-yard TD pass from **Kurt Warner** to **Terrell Owens** to give Mohave a 24-10 lead. That score tilted the balance of the game in favour of the Hellfire, who turned to the running game in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half to hang on to their advantage and dump the Cubbies, 33-20.

**KEY PERFORMANCES:** **Aundrae Allison** returned 5 kickoffs for 211 yards and 1 TD. **Kurt Warner** completed 15 of 21 passes for 185 yards and 2 TDs. **Brian Westbrook** dominated the ground with 138 yards on 27 carries and added 1 TD thru the air. **Jeff Garcia** completed 21 of 33 passes for 181 yards and 2 TDs. **Kellen Winslow** caught 9 passes for 88 yards and 2 TDs. **Brandon Jacobs** covered for an injured **Ronnie Brown**, gaining 67 yards on 15 carries.

01-01-2009 Joe Ferguson Stadium, Temp: 44 Wind: Calm None	MVP: Allison					MOH	ICC
2007 Mohave (11-4)	7 17 6 3 - 33					18	20
2007 Iowa City (11-4)	7 3 0 10 - 20					30-149	33-130
1 2:16 Iowa City	TD Garcia 2 pass to Winslow (Feely) (15-74-8:20)	0-7				21-15-185	33-21-181
1 2:03 Mohave	TD Allison 104 kick return (Bironas) (0-0-0:00)	7-7				Sacked	0-0
2 6:41 Mohave	TD Warner 15 pass to Westbrook (Bironas) (14-85-7:30)	14-7				Fumble	1
2 3:46 Iowa City	FG Feely 28 (4-23-2:41)	14-10				Penalties	6-30
2 1:11 Mohave	FG Bironas 48 (7-35-2:21)	17-10				Turnovers	0
2 0:16 Mohave	TD Warner 43 pass to Owens (Bironas) (2-41-0:21)	24-10				Time	31:31
3 10:41 Mohave	FG Bironas 35 (8-54-4:06)	27-10				Third Down	3-10
3 0:06 Mohave	FG Bironas 28 (10-50-6:14)	30-10				Fourth Down	1-1
4 11:10 Iowa City	FG Feely 42 (11-52-3:50)	30-13				Net Offense	317
4 7:10 Iowa City	TD Garcia 10 pass to Winslow (Feely) (3-34-1:00)	30-20					311
4 1:50 Mohave	FG Bironas 55 (7-26-5:05)	33-20					

### INJURY REPORT - Out in Week Sixteen

**ANCHORAGE** – Faine (arm); **CHARLESWOOD** – None; **CHINO** – None; **COLORADO** – Simpson (wrist), Booker (hand), Brooks (wrist); **COWTOWN** – Moore (knee), LaBoy (hand); **DURHAM** – None; **FLORIDA** – None; **GWINNETT** – None; **IOWA CITY** – R. Brown (knee), Lawson (Achilles); **KUTZTOWN** – A. Gonzalez (knee); **LOS ANGELES** – Hope (shoulder); **MARKHAM** – Amato (shaken), Kiwanuka (neck); **MOHAVE** – Jolly (knee); **PICKERING** – Sensabaugh (hand), Northcutt (neck); **RINGGOLD** – E. Royal (shaken); **WINNEMUCCA** – M. Brown (ankle), McAlister (hip).





# AROUND THE EFL With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – As the economy collapses it looks more and more like people in my neck of the woods are going to be pushed to the back of the Government handout line. Okay, I admit, some of my former neighbours here in Manhattan didn't object to skimming more than little off the top of the average working Joe's hard-earned investment income. But that's the Government's fault for not regulating them properly – or even at all! Like letting a booze hound loose alone behind the bar, greedy people saw that nobody was looking and did what greedy people do – take more than their share.

## ***MVP VS LVP***

The races are hot for League Offensive and Defensive MVPs. On offense, the front-runner garnering most of the Media attention is Florida's **Tom Brady**, followed closely by Chino's **LaDainian Tomlinson**. On defense, the debate is raging as Commentators line up almost evenly behind Charleswood's, **Marcus Trufant** and Florida's **Antonio Cromartie**. Rookie, **Glenn Dorsey** is attracting some attention as well, his solid play at nose tackle for Kutztown being credited with much of the overall success of their defense. *Ho hum!* The challenge of selecting the league's Most Valuable Player, while somewhat amusing to watch, is nothing compared with the challenge of identifying and selecting the league's *Least Valuable Player*. With so many teams sucking wind, finding a player who really dragged his team down is not as easy as it might at first seem. I do not embark on this exercise lightly, feeling that it is *at least* as important, if not more so, than identifying who helped his team the most. Therefore, I cautiously offer the following top three names for consideration on the ballot for the EFL's *Least Valuable Player*:

**Drew Brees**, Anchorage – if quarterback is the most important position in football, then Drew Brees' league-high 23 interceptions has to win the stink contest.

**Ben Roethlisberger**, Ringgold – “Big Ben” falls down a helluva lot for a big guy and he throws more picks per hundred attempts (4.9%) than any other starting QB in the league.

**Aaron Kampman**, Cowtown – the Corn Kings counted on him to lead a strong pass rush but instead he has led the way in mediocrity and disappointment with 3 sad sacks all season.

There are no doubt many more out there, but the topic is not addressed very much in the Media. So I am asking you, the readers, to help me out and send me your top three.

## ***DURHAM WINS RE-ENACTMENT OF PELOPONNESIAN WAR***

The game this week between **Durham** and **Pickering** meant nothing in the playoff picture – Pickering having clinched the East Division and Durham having been eliminated the previous week by Kutztown – but it meant a great deal to the local Greek Community. Rivals since the *First Peloponnesian War*, the Kaldises (of Athenian stock) and the Konstantakoses (of Spartan stock), still argue and debate the triumphs and follies of that ancient contest between the Greek City states as if it had happened last year, and not over 2,000 years ago. The stakes were much smaller in this year's version of the ancient war, dubbed the “Third Peloponnesian War” in pre-game hype. The team's owners fought for bragging rights at the Greek Canadian Senior Citizens Club and a light lunch at the Palace Restaurant on Pape Avenue in Toronto. Unlike the real *Peloponnesian War*, the football game did not decide much of anything, but it did amply demonstrate how statistics can be very deceiving and how important it is to actually score when dominating an opponent. Despite a 32-8 advantage in first downs and 468 to 139 advantage in total yards, it took Durham virtually all of the overtime period to finally put away the stubborn Spartans, who clung to life despite a horrible offensive display. The game unfolded like watching a pair of pugnacious turtles battling for space on a hot flat rock. Durham's three turnovers and two missed field

goals by **Mason Crosby** delayed the apparently inevitable, as Pickering lay waiting for what felt like an eternity for the knockout blow to be delivered. Finally, with 3 seconds left in overtime, Crosby hit a 34-yarder to put everybody in the stadium, on the field, and watching on TV, out of their misery.

### ***IOWA CITY STARTING TO PLAY LIKE CUBS OF OLD***

I hope I was not premature in pronouncing the **Iowa City Cubs** a top contender for the EFL Crown, but there are some worrisome indicators that the Cubs are starting to revert back to last season's form as the regular schedule comes to a close. Iowa's positive motivational coach, **Deron Redding**, was unusually critical of team's performance after dropping a 33-20 decision at home to **Mohave** last week.

"Obviously, we weren't at our best," he said after the game. "Offensively we left a ton of plays out there. Losing Ronnie (Brown) like that hurts big time."

Word is leaking out that there is tension between Redding and veteran quarterback, **Jeff Garcia**, who is privately miffed at being benched at a moment's notice in favour of young projects, **JP Losman** and **Trent Edwards**. Redding's criticism of the offense appears to be an indirect stab at Garcia, who had a bad outing against **Los Angeles** two weeks ago and who was ineffective in the second half against Mohave last week. Garcia likely will not be back with Iowa City next year, but now is not the time to let differences get in the way of a playoff run. Especially when I have a good deal of money on the Cubs to win their Conference!

### ***EXPANSION CURSE BACK AGAIN?***

Whispers from the League Office suggest that **Colorado Thundersnow** founder and owner, **Kris Heaton**, has fallen out of favour with the EFL Board of Governors and may have his franchise rights revoked at the end of the season. Details are sketchy at this time but some Colorado sports writers noted that Heaton was absent from the visitor's box at last week's game in Cowtown. I am putting out a call to my snoopy colleague, Specks O'Callaghan to find out more, so check my column out next week.

### ***NEW YORK GRIPES***

I hope for the sake of appearances that **Pickering** beats **Winnemucca** this week. The sight of a team with double-digit losses winning a Division title is disgusting to me.

If anybody has figured out what determines which quarterback will start for **Los Angeles** on any given Sunday, please enlighten me. Coach Dohrn loves to keep the Media, and his opponent, guessing my announcing it is a "game day decision," but never explains the decision when he finally makes it. **Tarvaris Jackson** or **Brodie Croyle** – is there much of a difference? If there is, I'd love to know.

Before anybody in **Charleswood** pushes the panic button after **Markham** held the vaunted Patriots' offense to under 200 yards last week, understand two things: 1) it was raining at the Dawg Pound. 2) The league's most obnoxious fans can get under anybody's skin, including **Peyton Manning's**. Trust me, I've been there. The "Fat Lady in Row 54" orchestrates one of the loudest and truly horrifying chants in football. It goes something like this: "*Kill, kill, kill, we eat (insert opposing team's nickname here) tonight! Crush, crush, crush, we drink (insert name of opposing team's coach here) blood to wash it down! Stomp, stomp, stomp, we grind their (insert various body parts, usually soft private ones, here) into the ground! Goooooooooooo, North Stars!!*" I curl up in the fetal position and suck my thumb when I remember the horror of it!

## **WEEK FIFTEEN LEADERS**

### **Passing Yards**

Brady,T (FLD)	24-20-340
Romo (KUT)	28-23-278
Redman,C (COW)	29-19-229
Brees (ANC)	43-22-214
Rivers,P (DTL)	39-19-204

### **Rushing Yards**

Gore (DTL)	35-166
Westbrook (MOH)	27-138
Portis (DTL)	16-112
Maroney (COW)	19-106
Stewart,J (FLD)	22-91

### **Receiving Yards**

Johnson,A (COL)	7-121
Marshall,B (FLD)	5-107
Hackett (COW)	9-103
Winslow (ICC)	9-88
Clark,D (KUT)	3-75

# LEADER BOARD

## STANDINGS

### PACIFIC-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Pickering (z)	6	9	0	0.400	260	17.3	330	22	-4.7	4 3 0	4 1 0	6 3 0
Markham	4	11	0	0.267	200	13.3	336	22.4	-9.1	3 5 0	4 1 0	4 5 0
Colorado	1	14	0	0.067	122	8.1	406	27.1	-18.9	0 7 0	1 4 0	1 8 0
Winnemucca	1	14	0	0.067	157	10.5	441	29.4	-18.9	0 8 0	1 4 0	1 8 0

West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Iowa City (z)	11	4	0	0.733	392	26.1	277	18.5	7.7	5 2 0	4 1 0	8 1 0
Chino (y)	9	6	0	0.600	435	29	274	18.3	10.7	7 1 0	3 2 0	6 3 0
Los Angeles (y)	8	7	0	0.533	347	23.1	320	21.3	1.8	4 3 0	3 2 0	7 2 0
Anchorage	4	11	0	0.267	296	19.7	382	25.5	-5.7	3 5 0	0 5 0	3 6 0

### CAN-AM CONFERENCE

North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Charleswood (z)	14	1	0	0.933	402	26.8	175	11.7	15.1	8 0 0	5 0 0	8 1 0
Kutztown	9	6	0	0.600	328	21.9	268	17.9	4	5 2 0	3 2 0	5 4 0
Cowtown	8	7	0	0.533	299	19.9	294	19.6	0.3	4 4 0	0 5 0	2 7 0
Durham	7	8	0	0.467	252	16.8	293	19.5	-2.7	4 3 0	2 3 0	3 6 0

South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Florida (z)	14	1	0	0.933	487	32.5	228	15.2	17.3	8 0 0	5 0 0	9 0 0
Mohave (y)	11	4	0	0.733	412	27.5	347	23.1	4.3	6 1 0	3 2 0	5 4 0
Gwinnett	8	7	0	0.533	345	23	273	18.2	4.8	5 2 0	1 4 0	3 6 0
Ringgold	5	10	0	0.333	259	17.3	349	23.3	-6	3 5 0	1 4 0	1 8 0

z- Clinched Division

y- Clinched Wildcard

## PASSING

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Brady,T	FLD	418	278	66.5	3511	5	1.2	59	34	8.1	114.6
2	Garcia,J	ICC	322	210	65.2	2602	5	1.6	54	17	5.3	101.2
3	Manning,P	CHP	462	296	64.1	3679	13	2.8	52	33	7.1	100.7
4	Jackson,T	LAK	182	114	62.6	1415	5	2.7	71	13	7.1	99
5	Warner,K	MOH	380	238	62.6	3217	17	4.5	51	32	8.4	99
6	Croyle	LAK	180	110	61.1	1270	3	1.7	46	10	5.6	94
7	Cutler	CHI	336	216	64.3	2444	14	4.2	35	18	5.4	86.5
8	Palmer,C	GWG	450	269	59.8	3003	15	3.3	75	26	5.8	85.1
9	Garrard	WMO	305	185	60.7	1974	8	2.6	48	14	4.6	84
10	Romo	KUT	488	281	57.6	3363	20	4.1	72	28	5.7	80.8
11	McNabb	PIC	430	243	56.5	2565	10	2.3	50	20	4.7	79.8
12	Rivers,P	DTL	411	240	58.4	2844	12	2.9	48	15	3.6	79.6
13	Pennington	COW	283	179	63.3	1961	11	3.9	40	10	3.5	79.2
14	Roethlisberger	RCH	346	204	59	2425	17	4.9	55	20	5.8	79.2
15	Brees	ANC	514	305	59.3	3096	23	4.5	67	22	4.3	72.3



## RUSHING

			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	Tomlinson	CHI	310	1639	5.3	49	16	8	Maroney	COW	164	937	5.7	64	4
2	Westbrook	MOH	261	1280	4.9	36	2	9	Jackson,S	FLD	211	920	4.4	26	8
3	Barber,M	COW	246	1197	4.9	56	11	10	Gore	DTL	217	909	4.2	43	7
4	Taylor,F	PIC	191	1066	5.6	83	2	11	Brown,R	ICC	131	901	6.9	66	5
5	Peterson,A	CHP	212	994	4.7	72	6	12	Lewis,J	MAR	198	828	4.2	54	1
6	Parker,W	GWG	260	986	3.8	32	1	13	Young,S	LAK	150	751	5	44	0
7	McGahee	ANC	214	972	4.5	44	4	14	Jones-Drew	RCH	145	625	4.3	59	0
8	Maroney	COW	164	937	5.7	64	4	15	Davenport	LAK	118	616	5.2	41	4

## RECEIVING

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD	
1	Welker	CHP	89	983	11.0	33	5	8	Colston	ANC	73	763	11	34	6
2	Wayne,R	GWG	79	1111	14.1	55	4	9	Ward,H	WMO	71	781	11	24	4
3	Moss,R	ANC	77	961	12.5	67	7	10	Marshall,B	FLD	70	1198	17	59	13
4	Witten	CHP	77	991	12.9	52	11	11	Edwards,B	GWG	69	805	12	75	11
5	Holt,T	CHI	75	1009	13.5	35	4	12	Smith,S	LAK	68	871	13	71	7
6	Johnson,C	CHP	75	1157	15.4	47	14	13	Houshmandzadeh	FLD	68	792	12	37	9
7	Gonzalez,T	GWG	75	664	8.9	22	9	14	Burress	KUT	65	843	13	46	5
8	Colston	ANC	73	763	10.5	34	6	15	Fitzgerald	ICC	63	887	14	42	5



## BRYLCREEM PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

### WHO WAS SLICK IN WEEK FIFTEEN?

Brylcreem continues to be a proud sponsor of the EFL

### OFFENSE



#### QB – Tom Brady, Florida Dragons

24 Att., 20 Comp., 340 yds, 4 TDs, 158.3 Rating  
Put on a passing clinic against the Bucs.

### DEFENSE



#### CB – Fakhir Brown, Cowtown Corn Kings

3 Tackles, 1 Sack, 1 Deflection, 2 INTs, 1 TD.  
Interception return for TD, big sack, lifted Kings over Snow.

### SPECIAL TEAMS



#### KR –Aundrae Allison, Mohave Hellfire

5 KR, 211 yards, 42.2 avg., 104 yd long, 1 TD.  
104 yd kick return for TD launched Mohave win over Cubs.

# BUG THE BOOKIE!

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
















YOUR SOURCE FOR FANTASY AND ON-LINE BETTING SOLUTIONS



### PLAYOFF PICTURE AT A GLANCE AFTER 15 GAMES

#### PACIFIC – ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

#### CAN – AM CONFERENCE

PACIFIC – ATLANTIC CONFERENCE			CAN – AM CONFERENCE		
IN	ALIVE	OUT	IN	ALIVE	OUT
1			1		
2			2		
3			3		
4			4		

### JIMMY'S WEEK SIXTEEN PICKS

#### CHARLESWOOD @ KUTZTOWN (LINE – PATRIOTS BY 2)

The Golden Bears can clinch a playoff berth with an upset over the Pats. A loss will put their fate in the hands of Gwinnett, which plays Ringgold this week and holds the tie-breaking advantage over Kutztown. Charleswood can win home field advantage throughout the playoffs with a victory this week and a Florida loss at Mohave. Now that the playoff scenario is set, let's look at the game. Markham, despite losing by 15 points last week, showed that the Pats can be stopped with a determined effort under the right circumstances. The Bears have a better defense than the North Stars and they have the home field advantage. They also have a better offense, but their attack strength lies in the passing game, an area where the Pats 'D' excels, to put it mildly. The Pats gave up a season-high 222 yards thru the air to Kutztown in their first match up, but they also picked off Tony Romo 3 times to ultimately decide the game in their favour. Kutztown will have to show a ground threat or they will be doomed, like so many other offenses this year against the league's top rated defense. Meanwhile, the Kutztown defense, despite some vulnerability in the secondary, is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the league overall, and performs quite well, thank you, against the pass. The Pats will have to balance their attack and catch the Golden Bears guessing to strike fast. This could be one of those strange twilight games where, if the weather turns bad, anything could happen. History has shown that when "anything" happens, the advantage usually goes to the Golden Bears.

**PICK: KUTZTOWN**

### **RINGGOLD @ GWINNETT (LINE - GLADIATORS BY 7)**

Gwinnett must win this game and hope for a Charleswood victory over Kutztown to squeak into the playoffs. They would probably not be in this uncertain position except for a tough 0-3 start capped off by a meltdown at home against the Mohave Hellfire in Week Three. But the past is the past, and all the Glads can do now is take care of their own business and hope for the best. Taking care of business should not be overly difficult this week at home against the Hawks, since Ringgold is right behind the Buccaneers in this year's Underachievement Rankings. Trading away most of their pass rush to Charleswood has not helped Ringgold's competitiveness, but they have recently shown flashes of game in spite of that. They have also shown that they can give a game away faster than a speeding, errant Roethlisberger pass, posting a -10 turnover ratio this season. Gwinnett can afford to be patient against the Crimson Hawks by using Willie Parker and Leon Washington to wear down a mediocre run defense and set up the play-action pass, keeping DeMarcus Ware at bay and opening up room for Braylon Edwards. Ringgold needs to establish a ground game or Roethlisberger will struggle against a Gladiators pass rush that is leading the league in sacks with 36. With the season on the line for the Glads and nothing at stake for the struggling Hawks, it would take a classic Palmer choke for Gwinnett to drop this one. I think he'll rise above it.

**PICK: GWINNETT**

### **COWTOWN @ DURHAM (LINE - THUNDER LIZARDS BY 1)**

The game that many fans of both teams had penciled in on their calendars at the start of the year as a game with playoff implications is now just another game played for pride. Cowtown's disastrous 0-5 start turned out to be more than they could overcome and they were finally eliminated from the playoff picture last week with Kutztown's win over Winnemucca. Durham's problems have plagued them consistently throughout the season and they are playing out the string clearly demoralized. This depressing picture for both teams will temporarily disappear for the final game as they go at each other as if the Division title were on the line. Do not underestimate bragging rights in this bitter, age-old rivalry. Expect Cowtown to finish the season with Chris Redman at quarterback as Chad Pennington gets a needed rest for the golf season. Also expect Laurence Maroney to carry the load for a tired Marion Barber. The Durham backs are well-rested after a season of little work and should see lots of activity in support of Philip Rivers and the league's most uninspired passing attack. In the end, nobody but the owners of these two teams and the bettors really care what happens in this game. If you are betting, go with the Kings to win outright in the slop of Jurassic Park.

**PICK: COWTOWN**

### **FLORIDA @ MOHAVE (LINE - DRAGONS BY 3)**

The Florida Dragons can tie a ribbon around their stellar season by wrapping up home field advantage in the playoffs with a win in the Mohave Desert. This will be a challenge against a Hellfire team that features almost as many offensive weapons as the Dragons do and boasts one of the best defenses in the league. The Achilles Heel for Mohave has been their propensity for turning the ball over – they are dead last in the league in turnover ratio at -11, bucking the losing trend for teams that turn the ball over more than they take it away. How have they been winning? It is a testament to the big play capability of their offense (they lead the league in plays from scrimmage over 25 yards) and in their ability to find other ways to put points on the board (7 touchdowns from their Special Teams and Defense) that begins to explain the achievement. Brian Westbrook is making a strong case for league MVP with 2007 total yards from scrimmage and 14 touchdowns. But, of course, the best case for league MVP stands on the Florida sideline. Tom Brady leads the league in touchdown passes with 34, and passer rating at 114.6. He has many unsung weapons that include Brandon Marshall and TJ Houshmandzadeh at wide receiver, and Steven Jackson and DeAngelo Williams at running back. Can a very good team like Mohave pull off an upset against one of the league's elite teams? Of course it can! But don't bet on it as long as Florida cares about winning.

**PICK: FLORIDA**

### **MARKHAM @ COLORADO (LINE - NORTH STARS BY 1)**

A torturous season for the Thundersnow comes to a merciful end this week at the Thunderdome against their expansion counterpart, the Markham North Stars. There is curious optimism in the Colorado organization as they look forward to an improved 2009 campaign; optimism based mostly on the improved play of their offense in the second half of this season, the play of young defenders like Jerod Mayo, and the fact that

things cannot get much worse. Markham turned out to be a phantom challenger for the East Division title, but showed some flashes of grit this season that cannot be discounted when evaluating their potential performance in this game. They took a surprisingly hard run at Charleswood last week and there is no reason to believe they will not take a hard run at Colorado – a team they shut down and shut out in Week Five. Do not expect many sudden turnarounds in this contest, since both teams are slow to move the ball and near the bottom of the league in takeaways. The Matt Ryan to Andre Johnson connection flashed sparks last week for the Colorado offense – if it can stay on track this week, an upset could be in the cards. But I wouldn't bet on it. I would bet on a stifflingly boring game with Markham edging out the Snow with a late field goal.

**PICK: MARKHAM**

### **WINNEMUCCA @ PICKERING (LINE – SPARTANS BY 9)**

The Outlaws have been terrible his year, due mostly to a chronically injured secondary corps that has not been completely healthy since Week One. They have also been hit by injuries to the offensive line, the receiving corps, the defensive line and the quarterback position. Heck, they've had injuries everywhere. This week they are relatively healthy, missing only Chris McAlister and Mike Brown in the secondary. Will that make a difference on the road against the Pride of the East Division? Not likely in the won-loss column, but possibly in the spread. Expect a healthy Winnemucca offense to score a few more points than usual this week as they benefit from the return of veterans to their offensive line. Whether Pickering covers will depend on how much they throw the ball and who does the throwing. Donovan McNabb may need a rest after a shoddy outing against Durham last week. Todd Collins is a veteran back-up who can get the job done and could use the work in case something happens to McNabb in the playoffs. There is no reason why the Spartans should not win and cover the spread against feeble Winnemucca. But then again, there was no reason why they should have gained only 54 yards passing at home last week versus Durham.

**PICK: WINNEMUCCA**

### **CHINO @ LOS ANGELES (LINE – CONVICTS BY 1)**

Although both of these teams have clinched a playoff berth, playoff seeding is on the line here. With the choice between a trip to Iowa City, or a trip to Pickering, the prize of victory is attractive. Los Angeles can push Chino out of the third seed with a victory by virtue of their better record within the Division. Chino can maintain their third seed and earn a trip to Pickering with a win. If I were Chino, I would be worried about ball control (as in not giving it away) against a team that is where they are mostly because of takeaways (+12, third best in the league). If I were Los Angeles, I would be worried about giving up the big play at an inopportune time to either Joshua Cribbs or Tory Holt. And don't forget LT – he leads the league in touchdowns and rushing yards and is making one of the stronger cases for Offensive MVP. The intangibles are with the Knights for the simple reason that their unlikely success is somewhat mysterious and counter-intuitive. They also have the home field, which is less of an advantage for them as it is a disadvantage for the Convicts, who are 2-5 away from the Big House. The talent edge goes to Chino, even with a young quarterback at the helm. I don't have a strong hunch here, so I will go with the better team.

**PICK: CHINO**

### **ANCHORAGE @ IOWA CITY (LINE – CUBS BY 9)**

Iowa City is slowing down a little more than Coach Redding is comfortable with as the season comes to a close. The Cubbies have dropped their last two games and have not looked very good doing it. Their offense is in a funk and their defense has slipped a bit with it. No worries – the Bucs are coming to town and bring with them the perfect tonic for a team in the doldrums. Anchorage has been picking up other teams all season, winning only once against a team with a winning record. Unless Iowa City starts JP Losman again, it should be a romp for the Cubbies at home and happy times once more at Joe Ferguson Stadium.

**PICK: IOWA CITY**

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

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

**LAST WEEK: 8-0-0**

**OVERALL: 91-29-0**

## 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.

**Markham ( ON )** – Despite only having the ball for 22 minutes and going up against an inspired Markham Defense , Charleswood made the most of their limited opportunities on a windy cold day in Markham’s Dawg Pound by defeating the North Stars 24-9 on " Fan " Appreciation Day in Markham’s Last home game of their season.

The Patriots scored two TDs in the 2nd quarter on Jerious Norwood and Thomas Jones runs to answer Markham’s surprising 6-0 lead to lead themselves 14-6 at half-time. Markham started the 3rd quarter with a 19 play, 65 yard, 8 1/2 minute drive going into a howling wind and got down to the Patriots 3 yard line before a holding penalty pushed the North Stars back, resulting in Ryan Lindell 30 yard FG.

Markham was able to get the ball back late in the 3rd quarter down by 14-9 , however Ed Reed picked off Markham’s Matt Hasselbeck and returned it to Markham’s 8 yard line. That culminated in a Chad Johnson - Peyton Manning 5 yard TD Pass to put the Patriots up 21-9 and allowed Charleswood to stay in the race for the #1 seed in their conference.

**Key Performances / Stats:** All-stars, Adrian Peterson and Peyton Manning were held in check by an aggressive Markham Defense , Peterson gained a season low 37 yards on 16 carries and Manning was held to a season low 154 yards on 13 for 21. While Markham itself only gained 224 yards, Darren Sproles continued his emergence in the Markham play book by gaining 58 of those yards on 10 touches. Matt Hasselbeck was 16-25 for 110 yards and 1 INT.

**Post Game Quotes:** After the game , an emotional Markham Coach Darrin Jones said he was so proud of his Markham effort and especially that of his defense, but also commented on the unwavering support of the Dawg Pound faithful.

"To see our players go out and play hard for 60 minutes against a 14-1 team was an important stepping stone for this franchise going forward - but I’m just as proud of our men and " women " who stuck around to the final horn. I know the buffet tables open at the end of the 3rd Quarter but to see the noise , obscenities and general rowdiness of our fans right to the end of the game really made the team feel like they were a part of something " big" and special.

Markham Media Director - Art Schleister ( former NFL QB arrested on gambling ) on " Fan Appreciation Day " in Markham: " Certainly Markham Fan Appreciation Day was overwhelming success , we had a ‘bigger’ turnout than expected and the local police only reported 17 arrests .

“We also like to announce at this time that at every Markham home game next year , the North Star Organization will provide free pizza to each and every fan when Markham scores 10 or more points in a game - I can not stress enough that this organization is always going to find creative ways to provide more food for our fans , its safe to say we here in Markham have created a ‘Healthy and family friendly environment’ at our home games that is reflective of the values within the Markham community itself.”