

# WEEK 13



# EFL

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE



*Blazing Through a Pandemic in our 14th Season!*

January 10, 2021

# BLACKOUT!



*Dalvin Cook  
Las Vegas Assassins*

Las Vegas RB, *Dalvin Cook* sticks his heel in the turf as he makes a move on Chino edge-rusher, *Za'Darius Smith* in Week 13 action at the Assassin's Den. In the game fans are calling the "Blackout Game" jersey numbers became important in distinguishing friend from foe. The Assassins challenged the Convicts' claim that they possessed the "blackest" uniforms in the EFL, and invited *Rob Nazar* to prove it by pitting the Chino jersey versus the Assassins' jersey in head-to-head competition. The Assassins proved to be the blackest, smashing Chino 34-10.

EAST



CENTRAL



WEST



NORTH



COASTAL



SOUTH



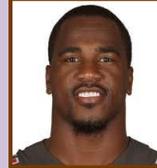
*Who was slick  
in Week  
Thirteen?*

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



**Russell Wilson**  
QB  
Iowa City  
Cubs

27 of 34, 415 Yds, 5 TDs, 1 INT. Led the Cubs back from 28-7 deficit to win.



**Lavonte David**  
OLB  
Budapest  
North Stars

9 T, 4 PD, STF, INT (18yds). His 2nd quarter INT was turning point in game.


**13**
**7**

The Triumph had early opportunities but could not cash them in. A red zone interception by **Darius Slay** ended a 1<sup>st</sup> quarter Triumph drive then **Mitch Trubisky** was tackled on the Bruxelles' 3-yard line scrambling as time expired in the 1<sup>st</sup> half. The Triumph got on the board in the 4<sup>th</sup> with a well-placed 20-yard TD pass to a double-covered **Kenny Golladay**. Then the Bombers woke up. A 46-yard check-down to **Chris Thompson** fueled an 84-yard drive that ended with **Chris Godwin's** tying TD grab. In OT, **Jared Goff** finished it off in one series with a 15yard TD pass to **Travis Kelce** for the win.

01-09-2021 Wilhalla Stadium Temp:70 Wind:

Line:TCT by 4 MVP:Goff

HFA:

	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
2019 Bruxelles (9-4)	0	0	0	7	6	13
2019 Twin Cities (2-11)	0	0	0	7	0	7

**Scoring Summary**

4	6:24	Twin Cities	TD Trubisky 20 pass to Golladay (Hopkins) (14-80-8:08)	0-7
4	3:56	Bruxelles	TD Goff 22 pass to Godwin (Prater) (7-94-2:24)	7-7
5	5:50	Bruxelles	TD Goff 15 pass to Kelce	13-7

**Passing**

 BRX: Goff 39/19 253 Yds 2 TDs Int  
 TCT: Trubisky 37/22 181 Yds TD Int

**Rushing**

 BRX: Fournette 15/91  
 TCT: Edwards-Helaire 21/124, Trubisky 10/55, Gordon III 5/21, Moore 1/13, White 1/13

**Receiving**

 BRX: Kelce 7/97 TD, Fournette 5/33, Godwin 3/41 TD, Westbrook 2/31, Thompson 2/51  
 TCT: Moore 8/62, Gordon III 6/24, Golladay 4/63 TD, Edwards-Helaire 3/24, Duvernay 1/8

**Defense**

 BRX: Smith 2-Sks FF 11-Tk, Slay Int FF 9-Tk, Fuller FF 9-Tk, Kuechly 8-Tk  
 TCT: Brooks Int 5-Tk, Thornhill 9-Tk

**Injuries**

 BRX: Wynn 3, Johnson 1  
 TCT: Brown 3, Roby 1

**Misc**

 BRX: 10/74 Penalties  
 TCT: Trubisky 2 Fumbles, 40:02 TOP

**14**
**38**

Virde's **Patrick Mahomes** threw 4 TDs on his team's first four possessions, three of those to **Mohamed Sanu** and the other to New Jersey's **Jamal Adams** going the other way, to stake his team to a quick 21-7 lead. New Jersey's offence was unable to gain traction and after a missed 4<sup>th</sup> down convert try, Virde got a late shot and Mahomes did not miss, dodging the blitz to hurl a 31-yard TD to **Amari Cooper** with 0:04 left for a 28-7 half time lead. Virde's defence had no trouble handling a rusty Matt Stafford while the offence methodically added 10 more points in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half to win running away.

01-07-2021 TERRORDOME Temp:70 Wind:

Line:NJ by 1 MVP:Mahomes

HFA:ON(5)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 New Jersey (1-12)	0	7	0	7	14
2019 Virde (11-2)	14	14	3	7	38

**Scoring Summary**

1	8:42	Virde	TD Mahomes 11 pass to Sanu (Gonzalez) (7-72-3:48)	0-7
1	3:54	Virde	TD Mahomes 8 pass to Sanu (Gonzalez) (6-72-3:46)	0-14
2	14:48	New Jersey	TD Adams 56 interception return (Boswell)	7-14
2	11:20	Virde	TD Mahomes 10 pass to Sanu (Gonzalez) (7-75-3:28)	7-21
2	0:04	Virde	TD Mahomes 31 pass to Cooper (Gonzalez) (2-54-0:19)	7-28
3	9:09	Virde	FG Gonzalez 48 (13-57-5:38)	7-31
4	7:02	Virde	TD Mahomes 5 pass to Freeman (Gonzalez) (11-70-5:08)	7-38
4	5:20	New Jersey	TD Stafford 20 pass to Gandy-Golden (Boswell) (1-20-0:11)	14-38

**Passing**

 NJ: Stafford 45/24 202 Yds TD  
 VIR: Mahomes 49/32 402 Yds 5 TDs 3 Ints

**Rushing**

 NJ: Stafford 1/6, Montgomery 4/5, Gallman Jr 2/1, Cohen 2/1  
 VIR: Elliott 15/112, Freeman 7/12, Mahomes 1/3, Dolegala 2/-2

**Receiving**

 NJ: Cohen 6/32, Chark Jr 4/49, McLaurin 3/36, Gallman Jr 3/20, Gandy-Golden 2/30 TD, Gabriel 2/6  
 VIR: Elliott 9/70, Sanu 7/85 3 TDs, Cooper 5/125 TD, Hockenson 5/54, Brown 4/58, Freeman 2/10 TD

**Defense**

 NJ: Landry III STF 9-Tk, Adams 2 PDs STF Int-TD, Bradberry PD Int 5-Tk  
 VIR: Barr STF FF 8-Tk, Harris Jr 3 PDs 6-Tk, Heyward 2-Sks PD FF 2-Tk

**Injuries**

 NJ: Griffin 1, Adams 2, Bradberry 1, Cunningham  
 VIR: Wagson 6, Waynes 2

**Misc**

 NJ:  
 VIR: 31 1st Downs, 527 Total Yards, Heyward 5 Hurries



An 18-yard jet sweep by **Roberts Woods** and a 27-yard run by **Tevin Coleman** helped set up the game's first TD and a 7-0 Buffalo lead. A 12-yard jet sweep by Woods on 4<sup>th</sup> & 2 at the Peg City 29 led to a second Buffalo TD and a 14-0 lead. The Crusaders fought back, pulling to within 1-point late in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and taking a 20-17 lead mid-way through the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter on a 16-yard swing pass to **Duke Johnson**. But **Lamar Jackson** rallied, converting a 4<sup>th</sup> & 4 at the Peg City 46 with a pass **Emmanuel Sanders** on his way to finishing off an 84-yard drive with a game-winning 7-yard TD toss to Woods.

01-08-2021 New Era Stadium Temp:20 Wind:5-15 None Line:PCC by 2 MVP:Jackson HFA:0

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Peg City (7-6)	0	10	3	7	20
2019 Buffalo (8-5)	7	7	0	10	24

**Scoring Summary**

1 2:47 Buffalo	TD Jackson 4 pass to Woods (Elliott,J) (11-64-5:34)	0-7
2 8:38 Buffalo	TD Johnson 4 run (Elliott,J) (12-67-7:28)	0-14
2 2:22 Peg City	TD Cousins 13 pass to Sutton (Butker) (12-70-6:16)	7-14
2 0:04 Peg City	FG Butker 47 (6-36-0:27)	10-14
3 4:06 Peg City	FG Butker 44 (8-32-3:06)	13-14
4 12:44 Buffalo	FG Elliott 22 (12-71-6:19)	13-17
4 8:44 Peg City	TD Cousins 16 pass to Johnson (Butker) (9-75-4:00)	20-17
4 0:54 Buffalo	TD Jackson 7 pass to Woods (Elliott,J) (16-84-7:45)	20-24

**Passing**

PCC: Cousins 36/20 245 Yds 2 TDs  
 BUF: Jackson 30/24 205 Yds 2 TDs

**Rushing**

PCC: Jones 13/51, Cousins 1/3  
 BUF: Jackson 15/45, Dillon 6/42, Woods 2/30, Coleman 3/26, Johnson 7/24 TD

**Receiving**

PCC: Sutton 5/88 TD, Higbee 4/43, Allen 4/49, Jones 3/24, Boyle 2/18, Johnson 2/23 TD  
 BUF: Sanders 8/87, Woods 5/42 2 TDs, Fant 4/33, Tate 3/30, Erickson 2/8, Johnson 1/-1

**Defense**

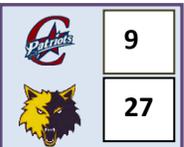
PCC: Allen 2-Sks FF 7-Tk, Jones 2-Sks 3-Tk, Gardner-Johnson 12-Tk, Billings Sk 3-Tk  
 BUF: Tartt Sk 3-Tk

**Injuries**

PCC: Barkley 1  
 BUF: Ridley 2, Abram 2, Thomas 1

**Misc**

PCC:  
 BUF: 4/4 4th Downs



In his first start of the season, **Teddy Bridgewater** proved effective on 3<sup>rd</sup> downs, converting 6 of 8 as well as a 4<sup>th</sup> & inches in leading the Coyotes to 4 scoring drives in their first 4 possessions and a 24-3 half time lead. The Pats' offence that had looked so strong the week before, struggled against the Coyotes defence, managing just a single FG in the 1<sup>st</sup> half on a penalty-assisted drive. More penalties held the Cobb County offence at bay in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, but the Patriots were not up to mounting a comeback, managing just a single late TD on another penalty-assisted drive late in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

01-07-2021 Coyote Field Temp:70 Wind:0-5 None Line:CB by 15 MVP:Bridgewater HFA:ON(4

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Charleswood (3-10)	0	3	0	6	9
2019 Cobb County (12-1)	10	14	0	3	27

**Scoring Summary**

1 8:29 Cobb County	FG McManus 35 (15-58-6:26)	0-3
1 0:41 Cobb County	TD Peterson 16 run (McManus) (8-75-4:50)	0-10
2 8:55 Charleswood	FG Carlson 29 (14-64-6:43)	3-10
2 2:48 Cobb County	TD Mostert 8 run (McManus) (13-75-6:07)	3-17
2 0:18 Cobb County	TD Bridgewater 2 pass to Jones (McManus) (8-67-1:44)	3-24
4 8:28 Cobb County	FG McManus 38 (13-72-8:24)	3-27
4 2:15 Charleswood	TD Watson 2 pass to Smith (2 - failed) (14-75-6:13)	9-27

**Passing**

CHP: Watson 22/16 107 Yds TD  
 CB: Bridgewater 34/26 271 Yds TD

**Rushing**

CHP: Dobbins 8/36, Watson 3/13, Richard 3/11  
 CB: Peterson 19/85 TD, Mostert 5/52 TD, Calais 9/32, Cooks 1/4, Bridgewater 1/1

**Receiving**

CHP: Jones 6/49, Meyers 3/18, DeValve 2/6, Metcalf 2/22, Smith Jr. 1/3, Smith 1/2 TD  
 CB: Jones 11/111 TD, Cooks 6/58, Parker 5/49, Pittman Jr. 2/37, Peterson 1/7

**Defense**

CHP: Mills 11-Tk, Moreland 8-Tk  
 CB: Chaisson 2-Sks FF 3-Tk, Jenkins FF 7-Tk, Golden Sk 3-Tk

**Injuries**

CHP: Mosley 4, Funchess 2, Trufant 1, Lawson 1, Smith-Schuster 1, James Jr. 1  
 CB:

**Misc**

CHP: 143 Total Yds  
 CB: 13/110 Penalties



38



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The Cubs held a 7-6 lead early in the 2<sup>nd</sup> after an 86-yard hook-up between **Russell Wilson** and **Christian Kirk** marked the game's first TD. All Hell broke loose in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter after a penalty-assisted TD drive put the Pilots in front 14-7. **Darian Thompson** took a pitch from **Khalil Mack** off a **Keke Coutee** fumble 74 yards for a TD then **Sean Murphy-Bunting** picked off Wilson, setting up a **Sam Darnold** TD pass to make it 28-7 Seattle. But Wilson charged back in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half with 4 more TD passes, including a 94-yard fly to **AJ Brown**, while the Cubs' D shut down the Pilots' attack.

01-07-2021 Kingdome Temp:70 Wind: Line:ICC by 1 MVP:Wilson HFA:ON(2)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Iowa City (8-4-1)	0	7	21	10	38
2019 Seattle (5-8)	3	25	0	0	28

Scoring Summary

1 8:10 Seattle	FG Lambo 51 (10-42-6:44)	0-3
2 14:13 Seattle	FG Lambo 34 (12-52-6:58)	0-6
2 13:10 Iowa City	TD Wilson 86 pass to Kirk (Tucker,J) (2-75-1:03)	7-6
2 9:21 Seattle	TD Darnold 11 run (2 - Akers) (10-75-3:45)	7-14
2 5:52 Seattle	TD Thompson 74 yd fumble recovery (Lambo)	7-21
2 0:05 Seattle	TD Darnold 17 pass to Mims (Lambo) (6-63-1:15)	7-28
3 9:17 Iowa City	TD Wilson 5 pass to Kirk (Tucker,J) (10-75-5:43)	14-28
3 7:10 Iowa City	TD Wilson 94 pass to Brown (Tucker,J) (1-94-0:18)	21-28
3 2:32 Iowa City	TD Wilson 3 pass to Beasley (Tucker,J) (10-74-3:31)	28-28
4 2:18 Iowa City	FG Tucker 36 (10-62-6:21)	31-28
4 1:30 Iowa City	TD Wilson 8 pass to Kirk (Tucker,J) (2-24-0:17)	38-28

Passing

ICC: Wilson 34/27 418 Yds 5 TDs Int  
SEA: Darnold 42/22 195 Yds TD

Rushing

ICC: Mixon 10/50, Wilson 6/47, Kirk 1/10  
SEA: Mack 19/130, Darnold 2/15 TD, Akers 1/6

Receiving

ICC: Kirk 12/171 3 TDs, Lockett 5/47, Beasley 3/19 TD, Coutee 3/54, Brown 2/111 TD  
SEA: Miller 4/32, Mims 4/43 TD, Dorsett II 3/42, Mack 3/15, Asiasi 3/24, Robinson 2/12

Defense

ICC: Ogletree 10-Tk, Cox Sk FF Tk  
SEA: Flowers 11-Tk, Metellus 8-Tk

Injuries

ICC: Cashman 1, Ogletree 1  
SEA: Hunt 3, Renfrow 2, Lattimore 1, Jackson 1, Jack 1

Misc

ICC: 10/138 Penalties  
SEA:



10



34

A 45-yard fly to **Zach Pascal** and four penalties on the Chino defence set up **Dalvin Cook's** 1-yard opening drive TD run. That early score sparked a first half of dominance by the Assassins, assisted by a high snap by **Matt Skura** on a 4<sup>th</sup> & 8 punt that set up the second of three **Carson Wentz** TD passes on the day. After 30 minutes, Vegas led 28-3, which put Chino in too deep a hole to overcome. **Christian McCaffrey** found the end zone on Chino's second series of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, but Vegas FG drives ate up clock time and the defence held on 4<sup>th</sup> & 3 to shut down Chino's last good shot.

01-08-2021 Assassin's Den Temp:74 Wind: Line:CHI by 1 MVP:Wentz HFA:ON

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Chino (7-5-1)	0	3	7	0	10
2019 Las Vegas (5-8)	14	14	3	3	34

Scoring Summary

1 12:28 Las Vegas	TD Cook 1 run (Fairbairn) (7-83-2:17)	0-7
1 3:24 Las Vegas	TD Wentz 66 pass to Jeudy (Fairbairn) (2-68-0:51)	0-14
2 13:17 Las Vegas	TD Wentz 9 pass to Graham (Fairbairn) (3-27-1:37)	0-21
2 4:21 Las Vegas	TD Wentz 6 pass to Thomas (Fairbairn) (13-80-7:20)	0-28
2 0:00 Chino	FG McLaughlin 48 (6-41-1:09)	3-28
3 6:35 Chino	TD McCaffrey 1 run (McLaughlin) (6-68-3:31)	10-28
3 0:58 Las Vegas	FG Fairbairn 43 (10-57-5:24)	10-31
4 3:07 Las Vegas	FG Fairbairn 30 (15-72-8:23)	10-34

Passing

CHI: Prescott 46/25 292 Yds  
LV: Wentz 30/23 325 Yds 3 TDs

Rushing

CHI: McCaffrey 12/29 TD, Jones II 2/6  
LV: Cook 20/69 TD, Wentz 1/1

Receiving

CHI: McCaffrey 9/77, Gallup 3/47, Jones Jr. 3/51, Sharpe 3/42, Byrd 3/24, Fitzgerald 2/27  
LV: Thomas 8/90 TD, Graham 5/46 TD, Pascal 4/79, Cook 4/29, Jeudy 2/81 TD

Defense

CHI: Ingram III Sk 8-Tk, Terrell 9-Tk  
LV: Ngakoue Sk 2-FF 6-Tk

Injuries

CHI: Gallup 1  
LV: Van Roten 3, Witherspoon 3

Misc

CHI: Grant 5/102 KR, 11/75 Penalties  
LV:



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Things did not start well for the visitors, as **Joey Slye** sent the opening kickoff out of bounds. The Stars kept it on the ground on the subsequent 60-yard drive, that ended with **Jamaal Williams** slicing into the end zone from 8 yards. **Lavonte David** then flashed his MVP credentials when he picked off **Jimmy Garoppolo** early in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter to set up a short field for a **Jordan Howard** 2-yard TD run and a 14-0 lead. From there it was a game of field goals, with **Jason Myers** out-duelling Slye 4 to 1 and the North Stars' defence suffocating the Cowtown passing game to prevent any comeback.

01-09-2021 Ferenc-Liszt Intl Temp:55 Wind:Calm None Line:BUD by 4 MVP:David HFA

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Cowtown (8-5)	0	3	0	0	3
2019 Budapest (10-3)	7	13	3	3	26

Scoring Summary

1 9:31 Budapest	TD Williams 8 run (Myers,J) (10-60-5:29)	0-7
2 12:01 Budapest	TD Howard 2 run (Myers,J) (4-34-2:10)	0-14
2 4:56 Cowtown	FG Slye 38 (14-55-7:02)	3-14
2 1:34 Budapest	FG Myers 52 (9-41-3:16)	3-17
2 0:00 Budapest	FG Myers 51 (7-23-0:57)	3-20
3 5:41 Budapest	FG Myers 48 (5-33-1:52)	3-23
4 11:54 Budapest	FG Myers 20 (10-57-5:24)	3-26

Passing

COW: Garoppolo 27/18 134 Yds Int, Flacco 14/8 52 Yds  
BUD: Rodgers 19/12 184 Yds

Rushing

COW: Gurley II 7/23, Bell 7/22, Boone 4/17, Powell 2/16, Washington 4/9, McKenzie 1/2  
BUD: Howard 9/50 TD, Johnson 6/36, Dallas 5/20, Taylor 5/18, Williams 6/17 TD

Receiving

COW: Bell 7/30, Bourne 4/31, Washington 3/28, Lazard 3/33, Cephus 3/28, Gurley II 2/16  
BUD: Kittle 4/54, Jefferson 3/39, Diggs 2/50, Johnson 2/33, Williams 1/8

Defense

COW: Watt FF 5-Tk  
BUD: Jordan 2-Sks FF 5-Tk, David Int 9-Tk, Kendricks FF 7-Tk

Injuries

COW: Evans 1  
BUD: Hollister 1, Britt 1

Misc

COW:  
BUD:



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13

**Greg Zuerlein** missed and **Ed Piniero** hit to give Durham a 3-0 lead after an evenly played 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. **Josh Allen** was the first to score a TD, scrambling from 9 yards out to give Durham a 10-0 lead. Pickering rolled the dice with a bomb from **Gardner Minshew** to **Tyrell Williams** that connected for a 49-yard score. But the Lizards' offence got on a roll, with Allen linking up with **Cooper Kupp** for passes of 20 and 17 yards, the last for a TD to make it 17-7. The Spartans never seriously threatened from that point, managing just two FGs while the Lizards pulled away out of reach.

01-07-2021 Thermopylae Stadium Temp:25 Wind:0-10 None Line:DTL by 1 MVP:Allen H

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Durham (9-4)	3	14	10	3	30
2019 Pickering (3-10)	0	10	3	0	13

Scoring Summary

1 1:26 Durham	FG Pineiro 27 (9-53-6:12)	3-0
2 11:01 Durham	TD Allen 9 run (Pineiro) (10-78-4:14)	10-0
2 9:02 Pickering	TD Minshew II 49 pass to Williams (Zuerlein) (4-75-1:59)	10-7
2 4:23 Durham	TD Allen 17 pass to Kupp (Pineiro) (8-72-4:32)	17-7
2 0:13 Pickering	FG Zuerlein 50 (11-43-3:58)	17-10
3 10:27 Durham	TD Mattison 28 run (Pineiro) (7-75-4:33)	24-10
3 4:28 Pickering	FG Zuerlein 52 (10-39-5:42)	24-13
3 0:05 Durham	FG Pineiro 53 (11-58-4:05)	27-13
4 3:20 Durham	FG Pineiro 44 (7-34-3:34)	30-13

Passing

DTL: Allen 28/19 229 Yds TD  
PIC: Minshew II 13/10 134 Yds TD, Rivers 7/3 42 Yds

Rushing

DTL: Chubb 8/62, Mattison 7/60 TD, Gibson 6/26, Allen 5/21 TD  
PIC: Sanders 16/68, Minshew II 2/13, Swift 7/12, Jackson 1/8

Receiving

DTL: Boyd 6/77, Samuel 4/46, Kupp 4/70 TD, Knox 2/27, Gibson 2/10, Allen 1/-1  
PIC: Williams 4/85 TD, Brown 3/45, Swift 3/11, Sanders 2/12, Ridley 1/23

Defense

DTL: Moore II Sk 4-Tk, Armstead Sk 4-Tk, Warner 9-Tk, Young Sk 3-Tk  
PIC: Howard FF 8-Tk

Injuries

DTL: Johnson 4  
PIC: Jackson 7, Shepard 4, Ridley 2, Randall 1, Joseph 1, Okwara 1

Misc

DTL:  
PIC:



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7

An interception and 42-yard return by York's **Jordan Poyer**, the first of 5 **Dwayne Haskins** turnovers on the day, set up a 1-yard TD run by **Derrick Henry** to make it 13-0 for York. The Fish threatened to make a game of it when **Odell Beckham Jr** snared a short sideline pass and took it all the way for a 44-yard score, then a fumble recovery by **Jordan Jenkins** on the next series set up good field position. But the Fish failed to take advantage and York drove back for a 5-yard TD pass to **Kaden Smith** on the next series to gain two-score separation, a gap that kept widening as the game went on.

01-07-2021 The Fish Tank Temp:76 Wind: Line:YOR by 1 MVP:Brady HFA:ON(

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 York (6-7)	13	10	7	14	44
2019 Sebastian (5-8)	0	7	0	0	7

Scoring Summary

1 8:04 York	TD Brady 8 pass to Williams (no good) (13-73-6:51)	6-0
1 1:43 York	TD Henry 1 run (Hauschka) (1-1-0:07)	13-0
2 9:16 Sebastian	TD Haskins Jr. 44 pass to Beckham Jr. (Bailey,D) (3-60-1:13-7)	13-7
2 3:04 York	TD Brady 5 pass to Smith (Hauschka) (9-90-3:29)	20-7
2 0:02 York	FG Hauschka 38 (8-30-1:29)	23-7
3 2:29 York	TD Snell Jr. 1 run (Hauschka) (11-80-5:27)	30-7
4 7:27 York	TD Bolden 16 run (Hauschka) (4-30-1:54)	37-7
4 2:34 York	TD McMillan 54 yd fumble recovery (Hauschka)	44-7

Passing

YOR: Brady 30/20 246 Yds 2 TDs  
 SS: Haskins Jr. 39/22 241 Yds TD 4 Int

Rushing

YOR: Homer 13/67, Henry 16/50 TD, Bolden 5/24 TD, Snell Jr. 5/7 TD  
 SS: McFarland 5/33, Taylor 6/25, Haskins Jr. 2/15, Nall 2/4

Receiving

YOR: Williams 6/82 TD, Smith 4/35 TD, Ertz 3/48, Amendola 3/44, Johnson 2/21  
 SS: Beckham Jr. 7/119 TD, Witten 6/43, Shenault Jr. 3/27, Taylor 3/16, Boykin 2/30

Defense

YOR: Lee Int Sk 5-Tk, Guy 2-Sks 3-Tk, Byard Int 6-Tk, Butler Int 5-Tk, Poyer Int  
 SS: Baker FF 9-Tk, Day Sk FF Tk, Jones Sk 3-Tk

Injuries

YOR: Scherff 2, McGlinchey 2, Kline 1, Henderson 1  
 SS: Williams 3, Clowney 2, Tate 1

Misc

YOR:  
 SS: 4/0 Red Zone



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17

**Trevor Davis** fumbled the opening kickoff and the Hawks recovered at the 25, scoring in 4 plays on a 5-yard TD pass to **DeAndre Hopkins**. The Blue Eagles answered with a scrappy drive that ended with an 11-yard **Devonta Freeman** TD run. After trading FGs, the Hawks took the lead on a short FG, set up by a 52-yard pass to Hopkins. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, **Ronnie Harrison** picked off **Joe Burrow** to set up **Randy Bullock's** 4<sup>th</sup> FG then Hawks' safety **Jessie Bates III** broke the game open with a 22-yard pick-six. **Derek Carr** added a 34-yard TD pass to **Randall Cobb** and the Hawks coasted to victory.

01-08-2021 The Wolverine's Den Temp:43 Wind:Calm Heavy Rain Line:BRH by 2 MVP:Carr H

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Brooklin (8-5)	7	6	3	17	33
2019 Scarborough (6-7)	7	3	0	7	17

Scoring Summary

1 13:13 Brooklin	TD Carr 10 pass to Hopkins (Bullock) (4-25-1:40)	7-0
1 6:55 Scarborough	TD Freeman 11 run (Crosby) (12-62-6:09)	7-7
2 11:23 Brooklin	FG Bullock 44 (15-60-7:25)	10-7
2 6:23 Scarborough	FG Crosby 23 (11-70-4:55)	10-10
2 3:30 Brooklin	FG Bullock 29 (9-64-2:50)	13-10
3 5:04 Brooklin	FG Bullock 35 (8-18-3:11)	16-10
4 10:37 Brooklin	TD Bates III 22 interception return (Bullock)	23-10
4 6:40 Brooklin	TD Carr 34 pass to Cobb (Bullock) (4-78-1:59)	30-10
4 4:17 Scarborough	TD Burrow 13 pass to Robinson II (Crosby) (12-66-2:13)	30-17
4 1:58 Brooklin	FG Bullock 53 (7-15-2:02)	33-17

Passing

BRH: Carr 34/20 297 Yds 2 TDs Int  
 SBE: Burrow 50/23 187 Yds TD 2 Int

Rushing

BRH: Hyde 28/93, Carr 2/5  
 SBE: Carson 18/83, Freeman 5/27 TD, Burrow 4/18

Receiving

BRH: Hopkins 6/93 TD, Cobb 5/78 TD, Scott 3/48, Fells 3/32, Jefferson 1/17  
 SBE: Robinson II 6/59 TD, Freeman 5/27, Crowder 5/45, Carson 4/19, Eifert 2/27

Defense

BRH: Bates III Int(TD) 5-Tk, Vander Esch FF 6-Tk, Tuitt FF 5-Tk  
 SBE: Ryan 12-Tk, Lawson 9-Tk

Injuries

BRH: Jeffery 3, Elliott 2, Engram 1  
 SBE: Yeldon 3, Jackson 2

Misc

BRH: Bullock 4/4 FGs 3/3 XPA 15-Pts|  
 SBE: Davis 7/187 KR, 2 Fumbles



17



34

**Duron Harmon's** 5<sup>th</sup> interception of the year led to a 4-yard TD run by **Latavius Murray** to give the Irish a surprising 7-3 lead halfway through the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. But with 0:33 left in the 1<sup>st</sup> half, trailing 10-3, Aurora's **Tre Boston** picked off **Baker Mayfield** and returned it to the 45, giving **Matt Ryan** time to hook up with **Duke Williams** for the tying TD. It was all Aurora in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. **Julian Edelman** caught 3 passes for 59 yards and a TD on the first series of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, then the Mustangs went on to score on their next 2 possessions, the last coming off the second of Mayfield's 3 interceptions in the game.

01-08-2021 Magna Park Temp:60 Wind:15-25 None Line:AUR by 10 MVP:Ryan HFA:ON(3)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 East Elmhurst (4-9)	0	10	0	7	17
2019 Aurora (9-4)	3	7	14	10	34

#### Scoring Summary

1 8:44 Aurora	FG Lutz 22 (12-94-6:07)	0-3
2 7:33 East Elmhurst	TD Murray 4 run (Blankenshi) (6-65-3:50)	7-3
2 2:51 East Elmhurst	FG Blankenship 50 (8-30-2:45)	10-3
2 0:04 Aurora	TD Ryan 22 pass to Williams (Lutz) (4-45-0:29)	10-10
3 11:00 Aurora	TD Ryan 6 pass to Edelman (Lutz) (4-76-1:49)	10-17
3 0:00 Aurora	TD Ryan 10 pass to Samuels (Lutz) (13-70-7:06)	10-24
4 14:10 Aurora	TD Ryan 4 pass to Edelman (Lutz) (1-4-0:05)	10-31
4 9:57 East Elmhurst	TD Mayfield 18 pass to Hill (Blankenshi) (7-75-4:13)	17-31
4 4:52 Aurora	FG Lutz 40 (9-60-4:50)	17-34

#### Passing

EE: Mayfield 25/17 189 Yds TD 3 Int  
 AUR: Ryan 39/26 343 Yds 4 TDs Int

#### Rushing

EE: Murray 12/48 TD, Kelley 7/28, Hill 4/27, Griffin III 2/7, Mayfield 1/4  
 AUR: Singletary 17/96, Ryan 1/8, Perine 4/2, Drake 3/2

#### Receiving

EE: Everett 5/30, Quinn 4/41, Hurns 3/34, Hill 3/55 TD, Kelley 1/21, Hill 1/6  
 AUR: Edelman 12/151 2 TDs, Samuels 4/53 TD, Washington 3/53, Singletary 2/13

#### Defense

EE: Harmon Int 2-FF 6-Tk, Ramsey 11-Tk, Smith 10-Tk  
 AUR: Williams Int 7-Tk, Johnson Int 5-Tk, McCourty 9-Tk, Boston Int 4-Tk

#### Injuries

EE: Thielen 3, Agholor 3, Anderson 1  
 AUR: Jernigan 1

#### Misc

EE:  
 AUR:



13



20

QB, **Devlin Hodges**, in his first start, connected on a long fly to **Jordan Akins** for a 26-yard TD on his first drive, giving Georgia a 7-0 lead. After two three-and-outs, the Caddies got in gear with **Kyler Murray** going 4 of 4 on a snappy TD drive, finished off by **Frank Gore's** 10-yard run. The teams dallied around mid-field for two quarters, with a 50-yard **Austin Seibert** FG the only score until a **Jerome Baker** interception set up the tying **Tyler Bass** FG in the 4<sup>th</sup>. Erieau replied with a FG to go ahead, but Hodges answered that with the drive-of-the-day, finishing with a game-winning TD toss to **Jarvis Landry**.

01-07-2021 Georgia Stadium Temp:56 Wind:5-15 None Line:ERI by 2 MVP:Hodges HFA:0

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Erieau (6-7)	7	3	0	3	13
2019 Georgia (3-10)	7	0	0	13	20

#### Scoring Summary

1 9:14 Georgia	TD Hodges 26 pass to Akins (Bass) (9-79-4:11)	0-7
1 0:47 Erieau	TD Gore 10 run (Seibert) (6-55-4:09)	7-7
2 2:19 Erieau	FG Seibert 50 (11-61-6:09)	10-7
4 13:33 Georgia	FG Bass 25 (10-49-5:31)	10-10
4 7:20 Erieau	FG Seibert 44 (10-65-5:57)	13-10
4 2:06 Georgia	TD Hodges 10 pass to Landry (Bass) (10-75-5:14)	13-17
4 0:13 Georgia	FG Bass 37 (4-4-1:06)	13-20

#### Passing

ERI: Murray 22/16 189 Yds Int  
 GEO: Hodges 26/23 218 Yds 2 TDs

#### Rushing

ERI: Murray 5/48, Gore 9/29 TD, Moss 7/19, Hines 3/12, Vaughn 1/7, Ruggs III 1/4  
 GEO: Michel 7/53, Robinson 15/30, Hodges 2/14, Bernard 1/13

#### Receiving

ERI: Ruggs III 4/58, Andrews 3/33, Higgins 3/37, Gordon 2/27, Hopkins 2/19  
 GEO: Akins 4/46 TD, Stills 4/35, Robinson 4/41, Johnson 3/32, Michel 2/4, Bernard 2/7

#### Defense

ERI: Walker Sk 10-Tk, Reid Sk FF 4-Tk, Brothers Sk 6-Tk, Poole 9-Tk, Hicks Sk FF  
 GEO: Baker Int 3-Tk, McLendon Sk 3-Tk, Bryan Sk 3-Tk

#### Injuries

ERI: Ellison 4  
 GEO: Jacobs 1, Tagovailoa 1

#### Misc

ERI:  
 GEO:



Near the end the win.

# STATS



## WEEK THIRTEEN

# STANDINGS & STATS

### EFL 2020 Official Standings

East	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
z-Cobb County	12	1	0	.923	W4	419	32.2	253	19.5	12.8	6 1 0	4 0 0	9 1 0
Bruxelles	9	4	0	.692	W4	371	28.5	290	22.3	6.2	5 1 0	2 2 0	6 4 0
Buffalo	8	5	0	.615	W1	317	24.4	286	22.0	2.4	4 4 0	1 3 0	6 4 0
New Jersey	1	12	0	.077	L11	283	21.8	407	31.3	-9.5	1 6 0	1 3 0	1 9 0
Central	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
y-Virden	11	2	0	.846	W1	447	34.4	264	20.3	14.1	6 1 0	4 0 0	8 2 0
Peg City	7	6	0	.538	L1	382	29.4	330	25.4	4.0	3 4 0	3 1 0	7 3 0
Charleswood	3	10	0	.231	L1	282	21.7	417	32.1	-10.4	1 6 0	1 3 0	3 7 0
Twin Cities	2	11	0	.154	L5	202	15.5	302	23.2	-7.7	1 6 0	0 4 0	2 8 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Iowa City	8	4	1	.654	W3	351	27.0	322	24.8	2.2	5 1 0	3 0 1	6 3 1
Chino	7	5	1	.577	L1	329	25.3	322	24.8	0.5	5 1 1	2 1 1	5 4 1
Las Vegas	5	8	0	.385	W1	266	20.5	298	22.9	-2.5	4 3 0	2 2 0	3 7 0
Seattle	5	8	0	.385	L2	262	20.2	321	24.7	-4.5	3 5 0	0 4 0	3 7 0
North	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Durham	9	4	0	.692	W3	294	22.6	200	15.4	7.2	4 1 0	3 1 0	7 3 0
Cowtown	8	5	0	.615	L1	251	19.3	199	15.3	4.0	3 3 0	3 1 0	6 4 0
Scarborough	6	7	0	.462	L3	260	20.0	302	23.2	-3.2	3 3 0	1 3 0	4 6 0
Sebastian	5	8	0	.385	L2	283	21.8	379	29.2	-7.4	3 4 0	1 3 0	2 8 0
Coastal	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Budapest	10	3	0	.769	W2	280	21.5	149	11.5	10.1	5 1 0	2 2 0	8 2 0
Brooklin	8	5	0	.615	W1	330	25.4	269	20.7	4.7	4 2 0	4 0 0	8 2 0
York	6	7	0	.462	W1	288	22.2	255	19.6	2.5	5 0 0	1 3 0	5 5 0
Pickering	3	10	0	.231	L5	208	16.0	339	26.1	-10.1	3 4 0	1 3 0	2 8 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Aurora	9	4	0	.692	W2	341	26.2	278	21.4	4.8	5 1 0	4 0 0	8 2 0
Erieau	6	7	0	.462	L1	227	17.5	273	21.0	-3.5	3 2 0	2 2 0	5 5 0
East Elmhurst	4	9	0	.308	L1	256	19.7	327	25.2	-5.5	1 5 0	0 4 0	2 8 0
Georgia	3	10	0	.231	W1	218	16.8	365	28.1	-11.3	3 4 0	2 2 0	3 7 0

y-Clinched Division Title  
z-Clinched wildcard berth

## EFL 2020 Official Passing Leaders

			Att	Cmp	%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Tannehill	CB	285	201	70.5	3300	4	1.4	82	35	12.3	142.8
2	Mahomes	VV	376	248	66.0	3296	7	1.9	56	35	9.3	116.8
3	Cousins	PCC	465	302	64.9	3626	2	0.4	71	37	8.0	113.4
4	Brees	SS	292	209	71.6	2498	5	1.7	88	17	5.8	109.6
5	Jackson,L	BUF	404	294	72.8	3070	7	1.7	58	24	5.9	107.0
6	Carr,D	BRH	470	318	67.7	3440	3	0.6	52	26	5.5	104.7
7	Wilson,R	ICC	417	274	65.7	3135	7	1.7	94	25	6.0	101.2
8	Stafford	NJ	241	155	64.3	1830	4	1.7	68	15	6.2	101.1
9	Ryan,M	AUR	374	235	62.8	2923	12	3.2	62	30	8.0	100.4
10	Prescott	CHI	427	277	64.9	3179	5	1.2	73	21	4.9	98.7
11	Garoppolo	COW	387	252	65.1	2993	6	1.6	64	17	4.4	96.8
12	Watson,D	CHP	443	285	64.3	3161	10	2.3	73	23	5.2	93.3
13	Goff	BRX	491	263	53.6	3673	11	2.2	72	32	6.5	90.3
14	Allen,J	DTL	374	222	59.4	2471	2	0.5	63	15	4.0	90.2
15	Darnold	SEA	404	255	63.1	2614	7	1.7	72	17	4.2	88.4
16	Minschew II	PIC	108	57	52.8	698	1	0.9	49	6	5.6	87.7
17	Brady	YOR	405	232	57.3	2746	7	1.7	72	20	4.9	87.3
18	Keenum	NJ	287	190	66.2	1751	5	1.7	54	10	3.5	87.0
19	Rodgers,A	BUD	400	227	56.8	2621	3	0.8	50	16	4.0	86.9
20	Murray,K	ERI	365	222	60.8	2383	7	1.9	53	16	4.4	86.6
21	Trubisky	TCT	312	184	59.0	1923	4	1.3	75	14	4.5	86.5
22	Burrow	SBE	427	258	60.4	2552	9	2.1	58	21	4.9	84.9
23	Wentz	LV	340	210	61.8	2115	5	1.5	66	11	3.2	84.1
24	Rivers	PIC	275	175	63.6	2024	11	4.0	76	12	4.4	83.7
25	Hodges	GEO	78	50	64.1	475	3	3.8	43	4	5.1	81.9

## EFL 2020 Official Kick Return Leaders

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Hardman	LV	23	699	30.4	89	0
2	Patterson	VV	19	551	29.0	94	1
3	Cooper,P	BUD	16	453	28.3	91	0
4	Grant,J	CHI	30	843	28.1	101	2
5	Davis,T	SBE	26	710	27.3	86	0
6	Spencer,D	NJ	18	491	27.3	57	0
7	Hilliard	PCC	25	657	26.3	46	0
8	Roberts,A	BRX	22	577	26.2	46	0
9	Agnew	SEA	21	533	25.4	38	0
10	Raymond	EE	25	621	24.8	41	1
11	Latimer	DTL	16	386	24.1	38	0
12	Barner	BRH	14	327	23.4	39	0
13	James Jr.	GEO	26	605	23.3	36	0
14	Ruggs III	ERI	23	512	22.3	53	0
15	Carter,D	BUF	40	785	19.6	52	0
16	Ballentine	SS	22	429	19.5	37	0
17	Richard	CHP	35	535	15.3	30	0
18	Perine	AUR	14	178	12.7	31	0
19	Cohen	NJ	1	28	28.0	28	0
20	Sanders,M	PIC	13	325	25.0	29	0
21	Erickson	BUF	1	25	25.0	25	0
22	Natson	CB	9	223	24.8	42	0
23	King II	ERI	3	72	24.0	26	0
24	Campbell,P	CHP	1	24	24.0	24	0
25	Lockett	ICC	6	143	23.8	31	0

## EFL 2020 Official Punt Return Leaders

			No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Johnson,D	GEO	30	7	348	11.6	78	2
2	Reagor	SS	15	9	157	10.5	49	0
3	Berrios	AUR	35	4	363	10.4	26	0
4	Ervin	VV	15	17	154	10.3	41	0
5	Agnew	SEA	29	8	268	9.2	78	1
6	Carter,D	BUF	35	11	319	9.1	45	0
7	Hardman	LV	35	6	311	8.9	31	0
8	Cooper,P	BUD	24	20	202	8.4	22	0
9	Cohen	NJ	25	10	185	7.4	21	0
10	Rogers,C	CHI	24	12	175	7.3	15	0
11	Roberts,A	BRX	26	20	180	6.9	15	0
12	Proche II	DTL	41	8	276	6.7	19	0
13	Harris,D	COW	32	8	206	6.4	17	0
14	Logan,T	PCC	31	8	183	5.9	15	0
15	Amendola	YOR	23	16	133	5.8	21	0
16	Peppers	ERI	15	9	81	5.4	13	0
17	Thomas,D	SBE	41	6	220	5.4	17	0
18	Quinn,T	EE	25	15	125	5.0	15	0
19	Natson	CB	22	5	96	4.4	14	0
20	Barner	BRH	25	1	66	2.6	15	0
21	Hines	ERI	7	0	175	25.0	33	0
22	Peoples-Jo	SS	4	1	31	7.8	12	0
23	Lockett	ICC	10	5	76	7.6	13	0
24	Sherels	YOR	1	0	7	7.0	7	0
25	Kirk	ICC	8	4	47	5.9	9	0

## EFL 2020 Official Rushing Leaders

			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Chubb,N	DTL	240	1328	5.5	75	4
2	Jackson,L	BUF	210	1243	5.9	27	9
3	Fournette	BRX	237	1237	5.2	56	7
4	Elliott,E	VV	237	1223	5.2	30	10
5	Mixon	ICC	218	1209	5.5	41	9
6	Carson,C	SBE	232	1166	5.0	66	2
7	Henry,D	YOR	270	1060	3.9	70	8
8	Hyde,C	BRH	208	1016	4.9	44	9
9	McCaffrey	CHI	199	1008	5.1	50	12
10	Drake	AUR	171	942	5.5	59	9
11	Mack,M	SEA	175	908	5.2	81	1
12	Jones,A	PCC	144	818	5.7	66	6
13	Mostert	CB	131	754	5.8	45	9
14	Jacobs,J	GEO	161	713	4.4	35	0
15	Edwards-He	TCT	159	704	4.4	24	6
16	Peterson,A	CB	158	694	4.4	45	3
17	Singletary	AUR	125	674	5.4	45	0
18	Cook,D	LV	184	654	3.6	19	8
19	Kamara	CHP	144	612	4.3	50	8
20	Murray,K	ERI	102	606	5.9	30	3
21	Williams,J	BUD	111	560	5.0	50	4
22	Murray,L	EE	131	549	4.2	32	3
23	Gurley II	COW	156	493	3.2	15	8
24	Barkley,S	PCC	91	484	5.3	29	3
25	Taylor,J	SS	130	482	3.7	15	2
26	Howard,J	BUD	97	482	5.0	20	5
27	Sanders,M	PIC	153	438	2.9	24	2
28	Ingram II	CHI	104	419	4.0	29	5
29	Swift	PIC	103	416	4.0	63	0
30	Montgomery	NJ	132	379	2.9	33	1
31	Breida	BRH	82	349	4.3	32	0
32	Johnson,D	PCC	56	324	5.8	29	0
33	Freeman,R	VV	67	319	4.8	47	2
34	Watson,D	CHP	41	315	7.7	33	5
35	Allen,J	DTL	64	312	4.9	15	7
36	Wilson,R	ICC	56	310	5.5	24	2
37	Robinson,J	GEO	96	299	3.1	27	0
38	Johnson,D	BUD	65	298	4.6	16	1
39	Bell,L	COW	80	297	3.7	19	0
40	William,Dm	SS	71	280	3.9	30	3

## EFL 2020 Official Receiving Leaders

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	McCaffrey	CHI	109	924	8.5	28	6
2	Hopkins,D	BRH	102	1389	13.6	52	11
3	Thomas,M	LV	102	1141	11.2	59	7
4	Edelman	AUR	88	1096	12.5	49	15
5	Woods,R	BUF	86	1103	12.8	58	9
6	Jones,J	CB	75	1249	16.7	82	12
7	Cohen	NJ	74	466	6.3	24	1
8	Kupp	DTL	66	868	13.2	63	4
9	Kittle	BUD	66	771	11.7	24	7
10	Cooper,A	VV	65	1222	18.8	50	12
11	Lockett	ICC	64	769	12.0	34	5
12	Sanders,E	BUF	63	658	10.4	28	3
13	Brown,J	VV	63	997	15.8	56	7
14	Moore,D	TCT	62	727	11.7	75	6
15	Beckham Jr	SS	62	796	12.8	46	4
16	Metcalf	CHP	62	918	14.8	73	5
17	Allen,K	PCC	60	909	15.2	54	4
18	Parker,D	CB	59	1098	18.6	62	9
19	Kelce,T	BRX	58	813	14.0	41	7
20	Sutton,C	PCC	58	848	14.6	71	11
21	Fournette	BRX	56	420	7.5	26	1
22	White,J	TCT	56	589	10.5	52	4
23	Evans,M	COW	55	821	14.9	64	5
24	Golladay	TCT	54	914	16.9	55	4
25	Ertz	YOR	54	654	12.1	36	5
26	Kamara	CHP	53	411	7.8	49	2
27	Beasley	ICC	53	561	10.6	59	7
28	Chark Jr.	NJ	53	722	13.6	52	6
29	Robinson,A	SBE	53	687	13.0	58	8
30	Bell,L	COW	53	418	7.9	30	3
31	Freeman,D	SBE	52	364	7.0	28	2
32	Andrews,M	ERI	52	575	11.1	53	7
33	Sanu	VV	51	624	12.2	27	6
34	Witten	SS	51	534	10.5	40	4
35	Fitzgerald	CHI	50	652	13.0	73	5
36	Renfrow	SEA	49	675	13.8	72	7
37	Boyd	DTL	49	546	11.1	30	3
38	Tate	SS	49	509	10.4	44	1
39	Gallup	CHI	47	811	17.3	60	8
40	Smith-Schu	CHP	47	598	12.7	36	5

## EFL 2020 Official Kicking Leaders

		FGA	FGM	FG%	40	50	Lg	Pts	
1	Prater	BRX	32	27	84.4	14	5	55	117
2	Gonzalez	VV	24	21	87.5	8	2	51	117
3	Myers,J	BUD	35	29	82.9	12	5	52	112
4	Tucker,J	ICC	25	24	96.0	8	1	51	111
5	Bullock	BRH	29	27	93.1	6	5	55	110
6	McManus	CB	21	19	90.5	5	1	51	107
7	Pineiro	DTL	27	22	81.5	12	6	53	96
8	Butker	PCC	22	17	77.3	5	1	53	96
9	Lambo	SEA	24	24	100.0	16	5	54	96
10	Boswell	NJ	21	21	100.0	5	1	50	91
11	Crosby	SBE	23	22	95.7	10	4	54	90
12	Bailey,D	SS	19	19	100.0	7	0	49	83
13	McLaughlin	CHI	18	14	77.8	5	0	48	83
14	Hauschka	YOR	20	18	90.0	9	2	51	82
15	Lutz	AUR	18	13	72.2	8	5	54	81
16	Fairbairn	LV	22	19	86.4	4	1	51	80
17	Bass	GEO	23	20	87.0	4	2	51	80
18	Slye	COW	25	18	72.0	7	2	52	77
19	Seibert	ERI	25	20	80.0	11	2	50	77
20	Blankenshi	EE	16	16	100.0	7	4	53	76
21	Zuerlein	PIC	18	16	88.9	10	5	55	70
22	Elliott,J	BUF	12	9	75.0	4	1	54	65
23	Carlson	CHP	12	9	75.0	4	2	51	58
24	Hopkins	TCT	10	7	70.0	1	0	40	44
25	O'Donnell	NJ	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0

## EFL 2020 Official Punting Leaders

			No	Yards	Tb	20	Lg	Bk	Ave
1	Way	CHI	44	2200	6	13	64	0	50.0
2	Kern	BRX	50	2410	3	18	62	0	48.2
3	Dixon,R	GEO	60	2892	3	19	64	0	48.2
4	Morstead	DTL	54	2592	3	21	68	0	48.0
5	Lee,A	BUF	39	1867	2	20	73	0	47.9
6	Palardy	YOR	63	2973	1	15	79	0	47.2
7	Edwards,L	EE	60	2811	2	25	62	0	46.9
8	Anger	LV	63	2947	7	28	67	0	46.8
9	Hekker	COW	61	2851	6	26	59	0	46.7
10	Huber	CHP	39	1811	5	11	64	0	46.4
11	Koch	AUR	41	1899	1	15	62	1	46.3
12	Bailey,J	SEA	59	2719	1	22	60	0	46.1
13	O'Donnell	NJ	56	2580	4	18	58	0	46.1
14	Berry,J	SS	33	1515	2	7	80	0	45.9
15	Haack	PCC	37	1695	2	13	53	0	45.8
16	Martin,S	CB	35	1597	0	13	65	0	45.6
17	Dickson	ERI	65	2921	6	27	56	0	44.9
18	Wishnowsky	TCT	67	3010	3	22	54	0	44.9
19	Sanchez	BUD	50	2228	2	16	80	0	44.6
20	Pinion	ICC	37	1645	1	10	54	0	44.5
21	Colquitt,D	SBE	61	2708	7	27	54	0	44.4
22	Jones,C	PIC	62	2646	0	17	57	3	42.7
23	Scott,J	BRH	26	1193	3	11	52	0	45.9
24	Mann	VV	32	1444	2	8	59	0	45.1

## EFL 2020 Official Sack Leaders

1	Barrett	LV	13
2	Smith,Z	CHI	11
3	Smith,P	BRX	10
4	Jones,C	SS	10
5	Dupree	BRX	9
6	Heyward	VV	9
7	Armstead,A	DTL	9
8	Young,C	DTL	9
9	Watt,T	COW	8
10	Landry III	NJ	7
11	Jordan,C	BUD	7
12	Allen,J	PCC	7
13	Jones,C	PCC	7
14	Buckner	YOR	6
15	Fowler Jr.	SBE	6
16	Golden	CB	6
17	Hunter,D	TCT	5
18	Chaisson	CB	5
19	Quinn	NJ	5
20	Wolfe	PIC	5
21	Kinlaw	PIC	5
22	Griffen	YOR	5
23	Flowers,T	BRX	5
24	Clark,F	BRX	5
25	Jarrett	CHI	5

## EFL 2020 Official Tackle Leaders

1	Leonard,D	LV	132
2	Smith,J	EE	105
3	Terrell	CHI	101
4	Ryan,L	SBE	99
5	Littleton	ICC	97
6	Lattimore	SEA	96
7	Edmunds,T	GEO	92
8	Alexander	TCT	92
9	Kuechly	BRX	89
10	Henderson	YOR	88
11	Apple	BRH	87
12	Landry III	NJ	87
13	Awuzie	NJ	85
14	Fulton	GEO	85
15	Davis,C	COW	85
16	Schobert	PIC	84
17	Cunningham	NJ	83
18	Brooks,J	TCT	83
19	Martinez	CB	82
20	Jones,J	BRH	82
21	Davis,D	LV	81
22	Wagner,B	TCT	81
23	Stone	ICC	80
24	Hicks,J	BUF	79
25	William,Tr	LV	79



# AROUND THE



# With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – The Coup on Capitol Hill...where, oh where, to begin? Well, first off, let's start with the word "coup," defined by the Oxford English Dictionary as "*a sudden change of government that is illegal and often violent.*" There was no change in government on January 6<sup>th</sup>. The violence was restricted to the fringes and, while lamentable, did not amount to anything close to what would be needed to effect an actual change of government. One armed official panicked and shot and killed a 35-year old Air Force veteran. A Capitol Hill Police Officer died later after being hit in the head with a fire extinguisher during a melee with protestors. If these deaths were not so tragic and senseless on their face, they would be comedic. A fire extinguisher is not typically associated with a deadly weapon – if that's all the coup plotters had in hand to effect their change in government then they are the stupidest coup plotters in history. For that reason, it is safe to declare that this was not even an *attempted* coup. The behaviour of the protestors once inside the Capitol building betrays a complete lack of intent (i.e., a *plan*) to overturn the government and a much more compelling need to acquire souvenirs and pictorial memorabilia of their impromptu, if illegal, tour of the seat of government.

So, why were they there? Thousands upon thousands of pro-Trump supporters descended on Washington in a well-publicized event to protest what they believe to have been a stolen election. They were exercising their fundamental democratic right to do so. Whether one believes it was stolen or not, the 2020 election was unlike any other one ever witnessed, at least on television. Only one totally blinded by Trump Derangement Syndrome could not have seen the irregularities unfolding in front of their very eyes that night. I have covered this ground before, so I will move on. But the fact that the Courts later shut down any hearings into the irregularities before real evidence could be presented is what, rightfully in my view, incensed the people to act out their anger through protest – one almost entirely peaceful, despite what CNN is telling you.

Whether by nefarious, Machiavellian design, or simply by complacency borne of a belief that pro-Trump supporters would not storm the ramparts, security around the Capitol Building was strangely light. A wafer-thin line of lightly-equipped Capitol Hill Police stood between the throng and the entrance to the seat of government. The bolder protestors at the front of the line decided to test the resolve of the police and found, to their surprise, mere token resistance. Some officers even posed for selfies with the protestors. It was almost as if they were being invited in. Once inside, they were like the dog that miraculously catches the car – they had no idea what to do. A big show (tear gas, riot police, helicopters buzzing around) was made about moving them out, but most left voluntarily, without the need for tear gas. It was, in its details, a huge farce.

The fallout from this event, however, will be very serious and far-reaching. Trump is being accused of inciting violence. Twitter has shut down his account. The media "narrative" has reached hysterical proportions. There is talk about "*domestic terrorism*" legislation being rushed through and, no doubt, the MAGA movement will be targeted for elimination in the coming year. The Democrats will use this incident to suppress political dissent and there will be nobody left to stop them.

On the international stage, images of the breach of Capitol Hill will resonate with citizens and governments around the world who have suffered through their own Washington-inspired democratic revolutions – some successful, some not, but all involving a much higher level of violence than what we witnessed in Washington DC on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Remember **Nancy Pelosi** referring to the vicious pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong as "*a beautiful sight to behold?*" How ironic! The beacon of democracy, the Shining City on the Hill, is not shining so brightly anymore as a guiding light for the rest of the world. American Democracy is no longer sacrosanct. Elections there can be fixed, or even worse, legitimate cases of fraud swept under the carpet and allowed to stand by a government bought-and-paid-for by those we cannot name.

Democracy is officially over in our once great country. What will replace it, remains to be seen.

### **BLACKOUT IN LAS VEGAS**

It was dubbed the "Blackout Game," but not for any common reason, such as a local TV blackout or in-game power failure. The Convicts' intra-divisional tilt against the Assassins featured, for the first time since the early days of football, both teams wearing their dark jerseys at the same time on the same field in the same game. The result was tremendous confusion, frustration and anger for just about everyone - everyone but **Carson Wentz**, that is. But before we get to the game and Wentz's rebirth as a starting QB, let us examine how this strange situation arose in the first place.

Ever since the Assassins arrived on the EFL scene, Chino's owner, GM and coach, **Rob Nazar** has gone to absurd lengths to further darken his and team's image, hastily transforming it overnight from a mere gang of unsavory felons, to a murderous band of bloodthirsty pirates. While his team fights tooth and nail for a playoff berth, Nazar fiddles with the uniforms, taunts his opponents

and uses COVID-19 as thinnest of covers for fixing the officiating in his team's favour at The Big House. But why on Earth would one of the league's founding fathers do such outrageous things?

The answer is cynically simple: money. Since the dawn of the EFL, the Convicts had always been the "Bad Boys" of the league, surviving a stiff challenge from the Death Valley Undertakers when they appeared on the scene in 2011. With their coffin logo, black and red uniforms, and their zombie fanbase, the Undertakers certainly appeared dark and sinister on the surface. But fans eventually saw them as more creepy than bad and the team never acquired a strong following outside of the Graveyard, their home field.

Since then, the Convicts had dominated the secret "gangster market" in football merchandise. The old Convicts logo and their black and silver jerseys had ranked first among gangsters of all backgrounds – whether Crip or Blood, Latin Kings or MS-13 – and among the prison populations across the country for 9 years running. Felons and degenerates of all types flocked to the Chino jersey for reasons that had little to do with football and everything to do with reinforcing that "bod boy" image. No team will acknowledge it, but there is money to be made in catering to the large "black market" in sports apparel that revolves around society's criminal element. Most teams now have that third (or fourth) black 'alternate' jersey (that the players wear in a game once a year to justify its existence) for the specific purpose of gaining the attention of gangs looking to wear something black, but different from the Chino apparel ubiquitous in many a hood. The sudden arrival of the Assassins in Las Vegas, however immediately put that market dominance at risk, triggering an alarm at the Big House.

Assassin merchandise indeed appears to have what it takes to steal a big chunk of that gangster market. First of all, their head coach, **Anthony Holguin** comes with a shadowy reputation. Reputedly a former Special Forces soldier, no official record of his service exists, apart from the Honorary Discharge papers he displays in a frame on the wall of his office at the Assassin's Den. Having no official record of service could only mean one of two things: either his discharge papers are forged; or his missions were so covert, dangerous and deadly that no government would or could acknowledge them. It is commonly-accepted wisdom inside the Assassin's organization that the nickname, 'Assassins,' chosen by Holguin himself, is one that has been earned.

In addition to the dark allure of their coach's secret and likely violent past, the image of Las Vegas as 'Sin City,' the one location in the country where organized crime openly runs the show while catering to every common and exotic vice imaginable, just enhances the wickedness of the aura emanating from franchise and the fans who support it. This hardcore villainy made its market impact almost immediately.

Halfway through the season the sales numbers came in and it was not good news for Chino. Assassins paraphernalia was making serious in-roads in the street gang market, especially among Crip-affiliates; and with the Columbian drug cartels, traditional influencers of the Ecuadorean and Panamanian gangs. Outlaw Motorcycle gang and Mafia hitmen had switched almost entirely over to Assassins "gear" as code for their status, and in the American southwest and Texas, Assassins merchandise was now favoured among renegade Hispanic gangs looking to split from overly-bloated and increasingly oppressive traditional criminal networks. Convicts gear was still dominant in Orange County and Southern California and retained a majority share in the Mexican drug cartel market, where their main competition remained Bombers' and Violators' paraphernalia. But second-quarter market reports, showing an uptick in Assassins merchandise sales to the American-based agents of the Chinese and Vietnamese Triads, had Nazar panicking at the idea of losing the lucrative Asian market even before it had become fully developed.

These alarming figures and trends were what prompted Nazar to showcase the "blackest uniforms in football" in Week Twelve versus Virden, a game he knew everybody would be watching. Add in pre-game disrespect for **Lance Barrate's** Violators and his more or less open attempts to fix the outcome through absurd COVID testing protocols and arranging for corrupt officials to referee the game, and you have "*bad in action*," as Nazar reportedly said to his concerned coaching staff before they took the field that day.

Of course, all of these antics were being monitored by **Anthony Holguin**, who was as familiar with the sales numbers as Nazar. He realized that he could not let that claim stand unchallenged, or risk losing status with the criminal communities and, therefore, market share. At a Press Conference in the week leading up to the game, he invited **Rob Nazar** to prove that his uniforms were "the blackest in football."

"Let's go then!" he spat at the mike. "My uniforms against yours – head-to-head on the field. The winner gets to claim the blackest uniforms! Let's go!"

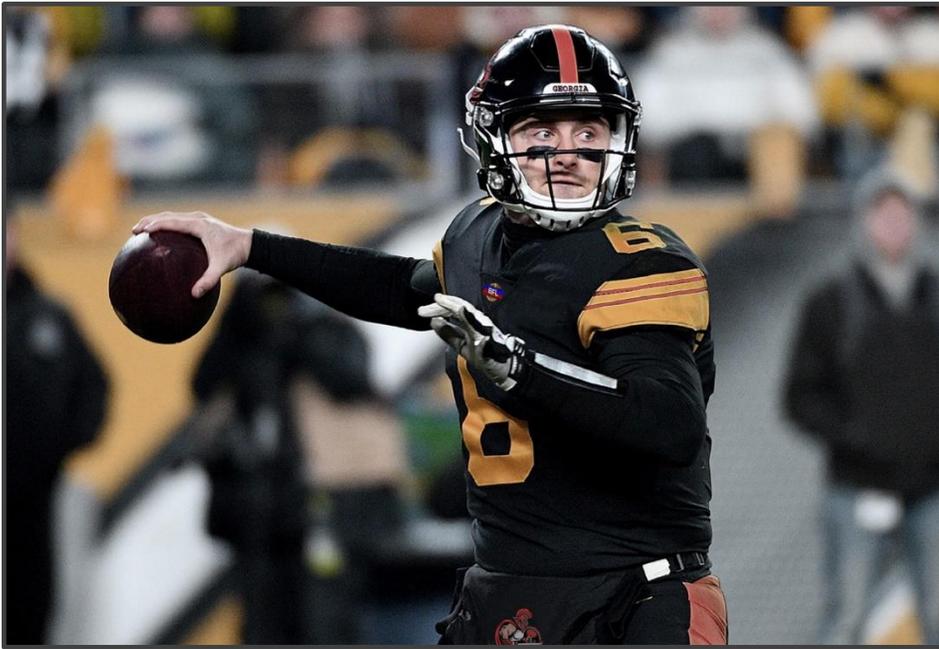
With the exhilarating flush of victory in Week Twelve still coursing through his veins – and after a casual glance at the standings which showed Vegas at 4-8 coming off a loss to the bumbling Pats – Nazar accepted the challenge and went one step further:

"Let's do it, man!" Nazar responded the next day. "And the winner not only gets to claim blackest uniforms, but the loser must acknowledge the winner as The Baddest Ass in the EFL!"

The terms were set. The league rule that required one uniform to be dark and the other light was modified to require Chino, the visiting team, to wear "*pants of a slightly lighter shade than those of the home team*" The coaches agreed that only the jerseys would be evaluated for their blackness and that any commentary or evaluation of the pants would be for purely exhibition purposes.

As outlandish as this back-and-forth challenge between the coaches was, the real shock for fans was that they went through with it. In doing so they created mayhem on the football field, disorientation amongst the viewers and inflicted uncertainty on the announcers trying to call the game, as the uniforms looked almost exactly alike.

"Wentz fades to pass...he looks and fires downfield...and...is it picked off...? No! It's complete to Pascal! He breaks a tackle...still on his feet...and he's brought down by Adams finally at the 38! Gain of 45 yards!" was the call from **Andrew Catapult** of



Gladiator third-stringer, **Devlin "Duck" Hodges** readies to uncork a pass downfield in Week Thirteen action at Georgia Stadium. Hodges came off the bench for an injured **Tua** to lead the Gladiators past the Cadillac 20-13. Hodges not only posted good numbers, he led a critical game-winning drive in the 4<sup>th</sup> that has fans buzzing.

CBS on the Assassins' third play from scrimmage, a 45-yard pass to **Zach Pascal**.

It was not only the announcers who struggled. Players on both sides had trouble making their way around the field, particularly the running backs, **Christian McCaffrey** and **Dalvin Cook**. McCaffrey was held to just 29 yards rushing on the day.

"The give to McCaffrey...he's running right looking for a block...and he runs right into Wise who brings him down for about a 1-yard gain!" exclaimed Catapult as he described an attempted Chino power sweep.

"Yes, he looked like he was confused about where his blocker was on that play," weighed in analyst **James Lofty**. "I think he thought Wise was guard, Marcus Cannon. They both have that similar jersey number."

Chino quarterback **Dak Prescott** was not his usual decisive self. Although he did not throw an interception, his timing was off and he completed barely 50% of his pass attempts.

The only player who looked truly

comfortable, unusually comfortable in fact, was Vegas quarterback **Carson Wentz**. The quarterback on the hot seat put up his best numbers of the season, completing 23 of 30 for 325 yards, 3 TD passes and no picks in leading the Assassins to an unexpected 34-10 victory. It as if he had been reborn. His pass to **Jerry Jeudy**, that went for 66 yards and a score, was a thing of beauty. The game wasn't even close.

"I felt good out there," a beaming Wentz boasted after the game. "I saw the field well, made my reads, the guys were where I expected them to be. It was all clicking."

Indeed, it was. One other sign, in addition to his passing numbers, that Wentz was truly dialed in was that he only had to scramble once all game, and that for just one yard as he kept his eyes peeled, searching downfield until the last second. On a day when everyone else could hardly distinguish friend from foe, Wentz was picking out his receivers instantly, as if he was equipped with some kind of radar device. Contrast this with his opponent's struggles and reporters felt there had to be a story somewhere behind it.

The idea that Wentz had had some kind of technological assistance crossed the minds of suspicious Chino officials, beginning with a somewhat chastened **Rob Nazar**. The idea that a near broken Wentz could suddenly return to his 2019 form seemed far-fetched. After Nazar had regurgitated his post-game beverage while spitting out the words, "The Assassins are the baddest asses in the EFL!" he went on the attack, suggesting that Wentz had received some unfair advantage, without actually specifying what that might be:

"I am going to be asking the league to...to look into the equipment used by the Assassins in this game...to make sure it was proper," he fumbled at the mike, still pink in the cheeks from the humiliation of officially losing 'blackest uniform' status to his now truly-hated rival. "In the interests of integrity of the game...no stone should be left unturned."

While reporters guffawed at the Chino coach lecturing the league about the "integrity of the game," others were scooping up rumours coming out of the Las Vegas locker room that Wentz had found identifying his receivers by their jersey numbers much easier than picking them out by jersey colour; and that this may be due to a secret brain injury he is thought to have received in Week Five against Peg City. Wentz had been sacked or knocked down 8 times in that game and some teammates swear he had never been the same after that.

"I am telling you, he wasn't the same after that game!" insisted back-up wide receiver, **Paul Richardson Jr** during a 'What's Wrong with Wentz' Webex forum hosted by Las Vegas Media last week. When it was pointed out that Wentz had been experiencing difficulties prior to that game, including his infamous 1<sup>st</sup> quarter benching in Week Three, Richardson replied, "Oh, that was just Carson sucking. He can suck all on his own, we all know that. But after Peg City it was different – it was like he had dyslexica (*sic*) or somethin'!"

I did some checking with my sources in Vegas and uncovered reliable information that team doctors suspect Wentz is suffering from a rare form of visual dyslexia, known as 'Colorphenia,' that reacts to colours rather than numbers or letters.

"It basically sends the opposite signal to the brain at the point of action when choosing between two colours," explains my source. For example, his conscious intention may be to throw to the white jersey – in binary terms, the 'TRUE' option – but when his brain sends the signal to the arm to throw the ball to the white jersey, it overrides to 'FALSE,' causing the ball to go towards the dark jersey, or somewhere in-between, off-target. It can be controlled with conscious effort during routine practice, but under stress it cannot always be controlled. This is what is causing Carson's hesitation and inaccuracy and that's why coach is pulling him all the time – he sees that he

can't control his *colorphenia* that particular day and gets him the hell out of there. Take colour out of the picture, though, and he is the good old Carson we saw against Chino!"

If true, this adds another twist to what will likely be a difficult off-season for Coach Holguin. With the 2020 season done, but for spoiling, his quarterback suffering from a rare brain disorder and rookie **Justin Herbert** waiting on the bench, he has some hard decisions to make: try to save Wentz, go with the unproven rookie, or roll the dice and go for a quarterback not named **Trevor Lawrence** in the first round. One thing is certain – solving the quarterback problem is critical, as the defence is good enough to win now.

### **DUCK AND COVER**

At Georgia Stadium, (not a place that has given birth to any legends recently), **Devlin Hodges** made his starting debut against the playoff-starved Erieau Cadillac and made Glads fans forget about **Tua** and **Big Ben** for a day as he led the Glads to a 20-13 come-from-behind victory. While not exactly the stuff of legends, the 75-yard, 4<sup>th</sup>-quarter drive for what would turn out to be the winning touchdown pass to **Jarvis Landry** with 2:06 remaining, is what has Georgia fans talking excitedly about this virtual unknown off the bench, whose nickname, '*Duck*,' is strangely better known than he is.

The pivotal TD drive stood out even more in contrast with the rest of the game, which up until then had been the type of dawdling affair we have come to expect from most games involving Erieau on one end of the competition. After Hodges announced his presence on Georgia's opening possession with an impressive touchdown pass to H-back, **Jordan Akins** – an arcing 26-yarder over the head of linebacker **Neville Hewitt** – the Georgia offence settled down to a stagnating-pond-scum pace trying to find its way around the gummy Erieau defence. As the game entered its final stages, it looked as if **Austin Seibert**'s 44-yard field goal mid-way through the 4th, to give Erieau a 13-10 lead, would be enough to snatch a win for the visitors.

But Hodges, channeling **Big Ben** (who was up in the press box watching), was not going to let Erieau get away with a cheapy. He oversaw a flawless final push to the end zone, going 4 of 4 for 50 yards down the stretch and finishing with a bullet to Landry on a medium slant for the go-ahead major.

Victory was no certainty at that point and the fake pumped-in crowd noise knew it, dying down quickly after **Tyler Bass** kicked the extra point to make it 17-13. With 2:06 left, **Kyler Murray** had plenty of time to get that score back. The stage was set. One might have had, like I did, that nagging feeling that this was all a set-up to put Murray in the limelight heading into playoff race crunch time. Last possession touchdown, on the road, to win a must-win game would have looked good on the resume heading into hype season. With TV ratings sagging overall, the EFL needed a new budding hero to add to its list. But the Caddies' hopeful franchise quarterback went off-script, looking flustered and confused in his legend-building moment. He forced balls into coverage that were easily deflected and allowed himself to be blindsided by parking bullard, **Taven Bryan** for a sack to go four-and-out and all but concede the game to Georgia.

So 'hero' status was forced to revert back to the quarterback who had scored last. The league got its hero, but he was the wrong one. He was a player few people had ever heard of, whose nickname had been the most noteworthy thing about him, who played behind the legendary **Big Ben** and future franchise quarterback, **Tua Tagovailoa** on a basement-dwelling team. What kind of future heroics does that promise?

This game yielded the wrong outcome for just about everybody. Hodges is up on a temporary pedestal that will be knocked out from under him the moment he shows the league why he is a back-up. The Cadillac fall critically behind in the wildcard race, a disaster not only for them but for a league looking for compelling playoff races in the league's final weeks. Murray's reputation takes a hit as fans absorb the unpleasant fact that he did not gain even a single first down with the game on the line against one of the worst defences in football. And, of course, Georgia's shot at **Trevor Lawrence** becomes a long one indeed.

Oddly enough, that last bit is fine by Georgia coach and owner, **Dave Birdsall**. He scoffed at the suggestion that he and his team have any interest in acquiring another "franchise quarterback."

"The Glads have never had the number one pick in the draft and we aren't about to start now!" he said derisively to the reporter from the *Lake Oconee News* who had asked him whether the drop in draft position brought about by the win would make it harder to trade up if the team coveted the Clemson phenom. "We are happy with what we have at quarterback position right now, especially after Duck's performance today. We have three quarterbacks who can get the job done. Why would we need another?"

For Erieau, the loss puts them at 6-7 and in a less than impressive three-way tie for the runner-up position to the two wildcard berths, currently held by Cowtown and Brooklin. This was a game they had to win and should have won. There is still a chance for them to make the post-season for the first time in franchise history, but they will have to overcome a tough remaining schedule that includes Cobb County and Aurora.

### **COMEBACK FOR COACH!**

Speaking of heroics, he did it again! The **Amazing Russell Wilson**<sup>TM</sup> dug deep for his team and his coach, leading a stellar comeback against the Pilots to steal a 38-28 win from what, for one half at least, looked like the steely locked jaws of defeat.

The Cubs entered this game as one of the hottest teams in football, having won 5 of their previous 6 after falling 36-9 to Bruxelles in Week Six; a game that signified the low point of their difficult start to the season in 2020. That embarrassing loss had provoked intervention from none other than the 106-year-old **G. Rodney Alberhasky**, CEO and father of the family pharmaceutical business that owned the Cubs. His appearance and subsequent 'vote of confidence' in GM/Coach **Deron Redding** had sent shockwaves through the coaching staff and the roster; as all were well aware what the terrible 'vote of confidence' actually signified: coach was on



This week's frame-up photo features Iowa City's come-from-behind wizard, **Russell Wilson**, shown here in action against the Pilots in Week 13. Wilson posted MVP-grade numbers in going 27 of 34 for 418 yards and 5 touchdown passes but, more importantly, he put those numbers into a winning effort, overcoming a 28-7 deficit in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter to rally the Cubs past the Pilots, 38-28.

his way out unless a quasi-miracle occurred to change the team's fortunes dramatically.

Enter that quasi-miracle; beginning in Week Seven and, but for one hiccup along the way against Cobb County (no shame in losing a close one to the best team in the league), carrying on up to their Week 13 re-match against Seattle. The players had impressively rallied around their coach and, with the battle cry, "For Coach!" were giving it all they had on the field, winning five games and giving the Coyotes a run for their money.

The Pilots, however, had always managed to keep the score close against the Cubs, despite their perpetually inferior roster of talent. This was thought to be due to a personal rivalry between Seattle coach **Mitch Gangwish** and Coach Redding that had its origins in an innocent exchange at mid-field after a closer-than-expected season opener between Seattle and Iowa City in 2017, the Pilots' first season in Seattle. The Cubs prevailed in that game, 26-21. While they had dominated the time of possession and the stat board, they had still found themselves trailing by one point in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and were forced to pull the game out of the fire on a last-minute TD pass from the none other than **Russell Wilson** to **Marqise Lee**.

After a desperation bomb from **Eli Manning** to **Phillip Dorsett** fell short of its mark to end the game, the coaches met at mid-field to shake hands. Always eager to make friends, even of his gridiron opponents, Redding reportedly attempted to bolster Coach Gangwish's spirits by telling him, "I really like that defence of yours, Mitch!"

Still smarting after the tough loss and with the memory of **James Conner** and **Jerick McKinnon** ploughing through his team's defensive line for a combined 190 yards still fresh in his mind, Gangwish believed Redding was mocking him. He was not aware that Redding said these kinds of things earnestly, with the best of intentions and tended to look on the bright side of everything. He did not consider the likely truth that Redding was genuinely impressed with the talent there, if not the actual performance.

“I’m sure you do, jerk-off!” Gangwish reputedly replied with a smirk. “Don’t think for a second that if there weren’t TV cameras all over this place, I wouldn’t knock that stupid grin off your face. Keep jawing like that and you won’t have a jaw!”

At first, Redding reacted with disbelief. “Ah...I didn’t know you were such a kidder, Mitch! I’m serious though.”

“And so am I,” Gangwish abruptly interrupted him then turned on his heel and stomped off the field, leaving the Cubs coach standing wide-eyed and dumbfounded. He finally turned to an assistant, looked down at something in the palm of his hand, and said, “Well, I guess I won’t be giving him this Cubs lapel pin for his collection.”

The Pilots got their revenge on Redding and the Cubs in 2018, with a stunning Week One upset. But that did not slack the intensity with which the Seattle coach approached each and every game against the Cubs. He would circle the dates on his calendar every year and scribble ‘JAW-BREAKING TIME!’ next to them. Having fallen to Iowa every time after that win in 2018, including another grinding loss in Week One this year, Gangwish was determined more than ever to ruin the Cubs’ season by taking a bite out of them while they were in a death race with Chino.

“Go out there, and punch them in the jaw!” Gangwish bellowed at his players as they broke their team huddle on the sideline in an empty Kingdome. With nobody in the stands, the sound carried easily to the other side, where the startled Cubs players reacted initially with incredulity, having never having heard such graphically violent rhetoric from a coach. After a pause they gathered around in a circle and chanted, ‘For Coach! For Coach! For Coach!’ before breaking off with one final, resounding, ‘FOR COACH!’

The Pilots’ defence took off out of the gate as if out to prove something, while their offence moved with steady deliberation against the bendy Cubs defenders. The Cubs’ offence was almost totally bottled up in the first half, except for one play; a mistake by safety *Janoris Jenkins* allowed *Christian Kirk* to get behind the coverage and a simple pitch-and-catch from Wilson went for 86 yards and the game’s first touchdown. Apart from that, it was all Seattle on defence and offence. The defence attacked the ball and forced two turnovers, both leading to touchdowns in a 25-point 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. At half time the score was 28-7 in favour of the Pilots and all Cubs fans and players could think about was how much “confidence” this performance was inspiring in owner, **G. Rodney Alberhasky**.

In a stirring halftime speech, worthy of Braveheart, *Russell Wilson* turned all of those Cubs’ frowns upside down. “It can’t end like this! It won’t end like this! We won’t let it end like this!” he vented with steely-eyed intensity. “We control our destiny! Those were our mistakes that put them in front! That part is over starting now! We are coming back! We are coming back! We are coming back for our pride, for our dignity, for our fans, but mostly...for coach! COMEBACK FOR COACH!!”

“COMEBACK FOR COACH!!” echoed the white-uniformed 53 bodies as they busted as one out of the locker room and charged onto the field. Behind them, a teary-eyed **Deron Redding** stood and watched in humble appreciation. “I don’t even need to be on the field – they’ve got this!” he whispered to himself.

And they certainly did – or more specifically, his quarterback did. They went straight at the Pilots off the opening drive with a five-wide set, stretching thin the banged-up secondary and exposing its weakest links. They moved up field in a flash, finishing off the nine-play drive with a 5-yard toss from Wilson to Kirk that looked just too easy. 28-14. The next drive was much quicker: one play, 94 yards for a TD on a long fly to *AJ Brown*, made possible by another bite on the run fake by Jenkins. 28-21. On the next drive, the Cubs switched gears, pounding the ground for a few plays before flipping back to a five-wide set and finishing off the nine-play, 76-yard excursion with a 3-yard fling to a wide-open *Cole Beasley* in the end zone. 28-28!

Having secured the tie, the Cubs’ offence took a rest, going three-and-out on their next series, while their defence continued to stiff-arm the Pilots attack, forcing a fourth consecutive punt. The Cubs slowly got back into forward-gear, moving steadily, in no hurry from their 20-yard line to the Pilots’ 18, where they faced a decision on 4<sup>th</sup> & 1. Of course, with *Justin Tucker* as their kicker, the decision was a no-brainer. The All Pro came on and booted a 36-yard field goal to give them the lead with 2:18 left. 31-28!

*Sam Darnold* took the field at his team’s own 25-yard line after the touchback. He had not been able to manufacture any points in the second half, but his struggles would be forgiven and forgotten if he could rekindle some of what the Pilots had in the blowout first half. But the Cubs would have their say as well and it was a loud, ‘NO!’ A sea of six Cubs’ defensive backs mesmerized the young quarterback. He hesitated, mis-fired and on 4<sup>th</sup> & 10 he was sacked at the 24 by *Dee Ford*. Three plays later, the Cubs were again in the end zone on Kirk’s third touchdown catch of the day to crank the score up to 38-28. There was still 1:30 left, but the Pilots would need a miracle to make up the two scores. They didn’t get it – all the miracles on the field at Kingdome that day had been snatched up by the *Amazing Russell Wilson*<sup>TM</sup>.

The Cubs’ players congratulated themselves on the sideline for a moment before walking to mid-field to mingle with the Pilots. “FOR COACH!” they barked, with modest restraint, as they broke the impromptu huddle. As had become their custom since that first acrimonious encounter, **Mitch Gangwish** and **Deron Redding** avoided each other when the teams congregated on the field after the game. The countenances of both coaches could not have been more opposite. Gangwish was dour, tense and hoarse from yelling; Redding looked like a kid with an ice cream cone. Somehow, the tide of the moving masses and the distractions of the Press caused them to unwittingly drift toward each other, until Redding accidentally backed into Gangwish as he was wrapping an interview. The Seattle coach turned around abruptly and froze for a second when he saw the Cubs’ coach in front of him.

“Oh...it’s you!” he grumbled. “Bet you’re full of smart-ass comments after this one!”

Redding paused for a second then smiled: “Your defence really sucked in the second half today!”

“You’re right, it did,” Gangwish smirked. “But that kid you’ve got playing quarterback is pretty damn good, so cut them a bit of slack!”

“You’re right about that,” Redding replied, his smile breaking into a grin.

“Good game! We’ll get you next year!”

“Good game! We won’t let you!”

### ***AROUND THE EFL – ERUDITE OBSERVATIONS AND LEARNING POINTS***

Although the games were not all that engaging this week, we did learn a lot about some of the teams that will be battling it out for post-season position.

~ At New Era Field in Buffalo, **Lamar Jackson** capped a drawn-out, 16-play, 84-yard drive with a 7-yard TD pass to **Robert Woods** with 0:54 left to give the Derailers a come-from-behind 24-20 victory over the Crusaders. Buffalo's aggressive 4<sup>th</sup> down posture paid off early, with two 4<sup>th</sup> down conversions in Peg City territory turning possible field goal drives into touchdown drives and giving them a 14-0 lead mid-way through the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. But the Crusaders would stabilize their position late in the 1<sup>st</sup> half with a quick 10-point flurry, made possible by a few clutch throws by **Kirk Cousins**. I still don't know what to make of Cousins as a leader. He certainly did his part to keep this game from getting out of hand in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters, which set the stage for his go-ahead TD pass to **Duke Johnson** mid-way through the 4<sup>th</sup> to make it 20-17 for the Pegs. But after quickly covering 46 yards to the Buffalo 24-yard line on his team's final possession, he suddenly went stiff – stood like a statue in the pocket and took back-to-back sacks to set up a hopeless 4<sup>th</sup> & 23 on his last snap. The Derailers are now in the driver's seat for the final wildcard spot, although Lamar's legs may be tiring as bit, as he ran for just 45 yards on 15 carries. That was still more than any of his running backs though.

~ The North Stars took revenge on the Corn Kings for last year's playoff loss with a dominating 26-3 victory at Ferenc-Liszt International Airport Stadium in Budapest. This game was about more than scoreboard supremacy. It was about dominance and control. It featured an amped up Budapest offensive line that gave **Aaron Rodgers** plenty of time to throw and which drove through the Corn Kings' defensive line like a snow plough, making a path for their seven (count' em, 7!) different running backs while injuring three defenders along the way. It also featured an attacking defence that knocked out **Todd Gurley** and even took aim at Cowtown's lowly fullback, **Danny Vitale**, piling on after he attempted to lay a block for **Mike Boone** and sending him to the locker room with a knee injury. While there seemed to be some bad blood between these teams on the football field, there was no evidence of that being the case between the coaches. **Darrin Jones** and **Jim Coughlin** were cordial with each other after the game, with the visiting coach even attempting a few words in pidgin Hungarian, to much amusement. Both coaches knew the score – literally and figuratively. Although games in Budapest cannot be flexed into a North American prime time slot, the network had gone to great efforts hyping this game up in the 10:00 ET time slot. There was a lot to work with: both teams were leading their division; it was a re-match of last year's Quarter Finals and was also being billed as a possible “preview” of this year's Conference Final. Therefore, the lopsided outcome was a great disappointment to the networks and a surprise to many viewers. I cannot say I am that surprised. The Corn Kings had been overperforming up until this week and, as I said last week, were about to hit a wall. Well, they hit it...and it's called the Great Wall of Budapest, which promises to grow that much more impregnable as the post-season approaches.

~ At **TERRORDOME** in Virden the Violators, powered by **Pat Mahomes'** 5 TD passes, spanked the Wrecking Balls, 38-14. Mahomes had a free-wheeling day, going to the air 49 times, passing for 402 yards, but also throwing 3 picks, one for a TD going the other way. But the inert New Jersey offence, led by a returning **Matt Stafford**, could not take advantage of these rare Virden turnovers, managing only 11 first downs, 13 rushing yards and 199 total yards overall in the game. The Violators' win, coupled with the Crusaders' loss to Buffalo, clinches the Central Division for Virden. For New Jersey, the loss puts them one step closer to the no.1 overall pick and **Trevor Lawrence**. If the Wrecking Balls were trying to win before, they certainly aren't trying to win anymore. This was made plain on the final offensive play from scrimmage in the first half, a play that should earn a spot in the ever-growing post-season lowlight reel currently being put together by creative minds in the Wrecking Balls Fan Club under the working title, *‘What Happened?’* The Violators had possession at the New Jersey 31 with 0:14 left. With Virden already in field goal range, a defensive coach just *has* to know that Mahomes is going to take a deep shot in that situation. Presumably knowing this (and if they didn't, shame on them) the Balls opted to play a four-man front and blitz safety **Jamal Adams**, leaving a gaping hole over the top for **Amari Cooper** to haul in the homerun ball on the dead run for Virden's 4<sup>th</sup> TD of the first half. Leveraging the *pass rush* skills of your All-Pro *safety* instead of his *coverage* skills, when you know the ball is going deep, just doesn't make much sense – even less sense against an elusive quarterback like Mahomes who eats the blitz alive. Adams is a great pass rusher – for a safety; he happens to be a better safety. And the Wrecking Balls brain trust can't figure out why their defence all year has been defending about as well as the Capitol Hill Police.

~ The Bombers escaped Wilhalla Stadium in Minneapolis unscathed in the standings, prevailing unconvincingly in overtime over the Triumph 13-7. When the first scoring play of a game does not come until there is little more than 6 minutes left in regulation, and terrible weather is NOT involved, the play-by-play requires the kind of scrutiny that only a football scholar could have the stomach for. Looking back at the first half, the Triumph must feel like they let this game get away. Their defence played lights out – and it was not only due to **Jared Goff's** incompetence. The offence rode the legs of **Clyde Edwards-Helaire** and **Mitch Trubisky**, moving the ball relentlessly forward and chewing up lots of time off the clock to keep the defenders well-rested. But the Triumph came away with nothing for their efforts. A red zone pick of Trubisky by former Triumph corner **Darius Slay** and a blooper-reel finish to a 90-second drill at the end of the first half – that saw Trubisky commit the sin of attempting to scramble for a TD with no timeouts left and seconds remaining on the clock – meant all of that effort went for naught. Hey, I know field goals are out of fashion, but 3 points there would have looked good in retrospect. On the other side, **Jared Goff** was tearing down whatever reputation he may have had as a blossoming franchise quarterback by missing throw after throw attempting to stretch the field. The bombs kept veering off target, but a glassy-eyed Goff, egged on by an irritated **Ken Main**, remained trapped in their play loop until they were shocked to their senses by the Triumph

finally breaking the scoring drought with a beautifully-executed 20-yard TD pass to **Kenny Gollday** in double-coverage. If Trubisky could get it done, then there was no excuse for Goff *not* to get it done. He responded. With a helping hand from **Chris Thompson's** 46-yard scamper on a check down, Goff made two other key throws to finish off an 84-yard drive with a 22-yard scoring strike to **Chris Godwin** to send the game into overtime. Inspired by his own greatness on the last TD drive, Goff made short work of the Triumph in the extra frame, taking the game out of Trubisky's hands by leading his team to a touchdown on the first possession. In the end, the better team won, but did not look like they truly deserved it. The "Goff experiment," as some Bruxelles fans are calling it, is making many fans nervous as they wonder what frustrations may lie ahead for them in the playoffs, if they make it that far.

↪ At Coyote Field in Marietta Georgia, Coyote back-up QB, **Teddy Bridgewater** passed for 271 yards a touchdown and no interceptions in taking care of the Patriots 27-9. Although his numbers were modest in comparison with the usual line posted by starter **Ryan Tannehill**, Bridgewater still oversaw a statistically dominant performance by his team, amassing 30 first downs and 445 yards of total offence while controlling the ball for over 36 minutes. Nevertheless, with the East Division not yet locked up, and the Pats coming off an impressive win over Las Vegas, the last minute switch to Bridgewater came as a surprise to many, given that Tannehill was active for the game.

"Although Ryan tested negative for COVID-19 on Saturday, he came to the park this morning with pretty bad sniffles. We decided, out of an abundance of caution, to reduce his contact with other players by putting Teddy in there," explained Coach **Eron Osman** after the game. "I have always had every confidence in Teddy and I think he proved today that he can be a starter in this league."

Local sources suspect that there was nothing wrong Tannehill and that Osman had been waiting for an opportunity to showcase Bridgewater with the goal of trading him in the off-season. The Pats, with their dilapidated defence and inconsistent offence, represented the first of two easy marks in the remaining Cobb County schedule to showcase Bridgewater's talents.

↪ At Thermopylae Stadium in Pickering, **Josh Allen** threw a touchdown pass and ran for another to lead the Thunder Lizards past the Spartans, 30-13. The win, coupled with Cowtown's loss, puts Durham in sole possession of the North Division for the first time all season. The atmosphere in Thermopylae Stadium did not have any of the hot-blooded, zealous boisterousness usually seen in the stands from supporters of the opposing Greek factions backing each team. **Smota Platypusopoulos** of the pro-Durham *Royal Greek Society* and **Vasilis Vasilinistusakas** of the pro-Pickering *Hellenic Cultural Centre*, special guests of the Spartans, were the only representatives of their respective factions permitted in the pandemic-sealed stadium. They shared the same press box and appeared to be enjoying themselves, tossing back shots of *ouzo* while snacking on *koulouri thessalonikis* and *keftedakia* and not once engaging in fisticuffs, or even heated verbal exchanges. The lack of fans, the vast disparity between the teams in the standings and the general malaise of the pandemic sucked away any desire for one-upmanship. They decided, instead, to celebrate their mutual Greekness during this difficult time. Who would have thought COVID-19 would have united the GTA Greeks? Don't worry – it's only temporary.

↪ At Magna Park in Aurora, a very close game through 30 minutes between the Mustangs and the Irish turned ugly for the visitors in the 2nd half as **Matt Ryan** turned it on and **Baker Mayfield** turned it off in a 34-17 Mustangs victory. The Irish, fighting in vain for their playoff lives, admirably gave it everything they had, especially on defence, in battling Aurora to a 10-10 first half tie. But they could not hold back the Mustangs' attack forever. The damn broke on Aurora's first possession of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, when Ryan started firing BBs, covering 76 yards in just four plays to take the lead on a 6-yard pass to favourite red zone target **Julian Edelman**. The sense that the game was about to get away from them caused the Irish to try a 4<sup>th</sup> & 4 at the Aurora 32, passing on the field goal try in an attempt to keep pace. The decision to go for it in that situation is supportable to some degree, but the decision to run an off-tackle with Latavius Murray is not. **Tyler Davison** gobbled him up after a 2-yard gain was stopped after a two-yard gain and the Mustangs never looked back.

↪ At the Wolverine's Den, temporary home of the Blue Eagles, a pair of costly 2<sup>nd</sup> half interceptions of **Joe Burrow**, one of them going back the other way, sealed a 33-17 victory for the Hawks over the Blue Eagles. This battle of the birds was closer than the score indicates, but always had that uphill feel to it from the Scarborough point of view. This was the result of **Trevor Davis** fumbling away the opening kickoff to set up an early Booklin touchdown – nothing like giving away the ball to your opponent before your first possession of the game to ruin the mood. As middle of the pack teams looking to secure a ticket for the post-season, both squads needed this victory. Coming off a tough loss to East Elmhurst the week before, this constituted a nice bounce-back game for **Derek Carr's** Hawks. For Scarborough, this game may be the one to dispel illusions that their rookie quarterback, as promising as he has looked for the most part, can lead them to the playoffs. He has thrown 5 interceptions in the past 3 games, all of which were losses. Growing pains!

↪ And finally, at the Fish Tank in Sebastian, **Dwayne Haskins Jr** demonstrated conclusively (as if there remained any lingering doubt) that he is not ready for the EFL. The Excaliburs feasted on Haskins' five turnovers – four interceptions and a fumble – to blow the Fish out of the tank by the score of 44-7. Give **Tom Brady** that many chances with short to medium fields, and it doesn't matter what kind of day he is having – he'll take advantage. The veteran threw a couple of touchdown passes and oversaw a balanced attack that faced little challenge from the demoralized Sebastian defence. The fans, coaches, and players cannot wait for **Drew Brees** to return.

### **PLAYOFF PROGNOSIS**

Virden has clinched the Central and Cobb County has clinched a wildcard berth. Those are the only two certainties heading into Week 14. But the short list for wildcard berths in the Atlantic is looking very short indeed, where Brooklin and Cowtown enjoy a two-game edge over the stumbling trio of York, Scarborough and Erieau, all tied beneath 500 at 6-7. Cowtown, I think, will be lucky to win one more game, so there is a chance for one of the dark horses to get back in it, while Durham coasts to the North Division title. In the Pacific, Bruxelles, Buffalo, Chino and Peg City are all in the running for a wild card and Chino still has a good shot at the West Division. They will need to take care of business versus York next week and lay it all out in the likely pivotal Week 15 match-up against the Cubs.

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## PLAYOFF PICTURE AT A GLANCE

PACIFIC CONFERENCE								
EAST			CENTRAL			WEST		
IN	ALIVE	OUT	IN	ALIVE	OUT	IN	ALIVE	OUT
1 W W			2	2 		3	1 3 4	
ATLANTIC CONFERENCE								
NORTH			COASTAL			SOUTH		
IN	ALIVE	OUT	IN	ALIVE	OUT	IN	ALIVE	OUT
3 W	3 4		1 W	2		2	1	 

## Jimmy's WEEK FOURTEEN PICKS

### GAMES TO WATCH

#### **BUFFALO @ AURORA (line – MUSTANGS by 6)**

**INJURIES:** Buffalo – Tevin Coleman (PROBABLE), Demaryius Thomas (OUT), Riley Ridley (OUT), Jonathan Abram (IR). Aurora – Timmy Jernigan (OUT).

The Mustangs can clinch the South Division with a win, but that is not what makes this game one to watch. The Derailers won a crucial match against Peg City last week and currently hold the second wildcard spot, but that spot remains under threat, with Chino leading the charge to displace them. Going into Aurora in a close to must-win situation, the Derailers need their A-game in both phases, not just the Lamar Jackson Show. The Buffalo pass rush has been vastly under-performing this year, beginning with All-Pro Aaron Donald and ending with the line-backing corps that collectively has no sacks despite an abundance of edge-rush talent. The back-eleven have also shown little grit defending their red zone, where they allow opponents to score 94% of the time, second worst in the league. That unit will need to find its swagger to contain the Mustangs' offence, which has not been as dominant as in the past, but remains unafraid of challenging opposing defences at any spot on the field in any situation. Aurora comes into this game mostly healthy, as they always seem to be near the end of the year when other teams are hurting, so they will have all of their options available, which they are likely to

use in this, their last real challenge. They want the division now and two weeks of rest before the post-season. **PICK: AURORA**

### **PEG CITY @ COWTOWN (line – CRUSADERS by 3)**

**INJURIES: Peg City** – Jeff Okudah (QUESTIONABLE), Saquon Barkley (OUT), Mike Hughes (OUT); **Cowtown** – Adam Humphries (PROBABLE), Alex Cappa (QUESTIONABLE), Roquan Smith (QUESTIONABLE), Danny Vitale (QUESTIONABLE), Yetur Gross-Matos (DOUBTFUL), Todd Gurley (DOUBTFUL), Damon Harrison Sr (DOUBTFUL), Mike Evans (OUT).

Both teams are coming off damaging losses, but the Corn Kings got the worst of Week 13 – not just losing the game but losing six starters along the way. The injury report for Cowtown has a lot of question marks, but one that is confirmed ‘out’ is Mike Evans, the key to the Cowtown offence and Jimmy Garoppolo’s success. Cowtown did not fare well against the league’s no.1 defence last week, as was expected, but can be expected to perform better here against a talented, but curiously inconsistent Peg City defensive unit. Rookie corner, Jeff Okudah is ‘questionable’ for this game; if he can play, it will severely limit Cowtown’s offensive options; if not, there will be a weak spot to target. Of course, whether the wounded Cowtown offence can keep up with the Pegs will depend on Kirk Cousins’ ability to exploit the wounded Cowtown defence. The Crusaders’ offence has plenty of weapons, even with Saquon Barkley ‘out,’ but they have suffered inexplicable fits at times. If they can avoid a fit, expect Peg City to pull away decisively. **PICK: PEG CITY**

### **CHINO @ YORK (line – EXCALIBURS by 3)**

**INJURIES: Chino** – Marcus Cannon (PROBABLE), Kawann Short (DOUBTFUL), Gareon Conley (OUT), Michael Gallup (OUT); **York** – Rock Ya-Sin (PROBABLE), Jabari Zuniga (PROBABLE), Adrian Clayborn (QUESTIONABLE), Derrick Henry (QUESTIONABLE), CJ Henderson (OUT), Josh Kline (OUT), Mike McGlinchey (OUT), Brandon Scherff (OUT).

The Convicts are in a cage match with the Cubs for the West Division and lurk on the fringe of a wildcard spot. The Excaliburs cannot win the Coastal Division but still have a shot at a wildcard berth if they can put together a neat little win streak to end the season. It looks like the recency effect is influencing the line here as the Swords are coming off a battering of Brees-less Sebastian and the Convicts are licking their wounds after taking a beating in Vegas. But as the saying goes, what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas. The Convicts are the better team on paper and, if both teams are what their records say they are, the better team on the field as well. The York defence has been the equalizer and the tipping point in tightly contested games this year, leading the league in takeaways; they are also second in run-defence efficiency, an important factor in gauging the potential impact of league yards-from-scrimmage leader, Christian McCaffery. But ultimately York’s fate will likely depend on whether Derrick Henry can play. Without the big man in the backfield, there will be no play action for Tom Brady to hide behind. Expect the Convicts to law down the law. **PICK: CHINO**

## **GAMES OF NOTE**

### **COBB COUNTY @ ERIEAU (line – COYOTES by 7)**

**INJURIES: Cobb County** – Greedy Williams (QUESTIONABLE); **Erieau** – LeSean McCoy (PROBABLE), Jabrill Peppers (QUESTIONABLE), Josh Gordon (DOUBTFUL), Rhett Ellison (OUT).

A game that could easily be in the leftovers pile, due to the disparity between these teams in the power rankings, is instead a game to note because an Erieau loss will eliminate them from Division title contention and could cause them to lose important ground in the wildcard race. The Coyotes, currently in possession of the no.1 seed in the Conference with their division locked up, are not expected to coast in this game, but probably view the Cadillac as a soft target. This could work against them if the Caddies come ready to play hard on both sides of the ball. Kyler Murray is an x-factor in the Erieau attack, while the studs on their defensive line could wreak havoc in the backfield if inspired to let loose. The Coyotes’ offence needs no introduction. They continue to lead the league in offensive efficiency by a wide margin and have only scored less than 20 points in a game once, which happened to be their only loss. The Caddies have a huge task in front of them, but also a chance at a true signature win to bring them to the next level. **PICK: ERIEAU**

### **LAS VEGAS @ BROOKLIN (line – HAWKS by 7)**

**INJURIES: Las Vegas** – Taylor Decker (PROBABLE), Greg Van Roten (OUT), Akhelo Witherspoon (OUT); **Brooklin** – Ronnie Harrison (OUT), Sam Hubbard (OUT), Pernell McPhee (OUT), DeShon Elliott (IR), Evan Engram (IR), Alshon Jeffery (IR).

The Assassins are on the verge of elimination but can prolong their miserable playoff hopes for another week with a win and losses by Chino and Buffalo. Nobody in the locker room is ready to throw in the towel yet, as evidenced by the surprising whipping they gave the Convicts last week, so the Hawks cannot afford to take this squad lightly. Brooklin currently holds the first wildcard position in the Atlantic but clings to the faint hope of taking away the division away from Budapest. To do so they will have to win at least two of their next three games and hope for lots of help. It has been an exhilarating ride for the Hawks to this point, with the defence playing an unexpected role in their overall success. But the key to victory this week is the same as it always is, the Derek Carr to DeAndre Hopkins

connection. One has to wonder if that well is about to run dry as serious defences, like that of Vegas, study the accumulated tape. Carlos Hyde will need to prove himself a viable threat against the league's most efficient run defence. **PICK: LAS VEGAS**

### **BRUXELLES @ EAST ELMHURST (line – BOMBERS by 3)**

**INJURIES:** **Bruxelles** – Fabien Moreau (DOUBTFUL), Kerryon Johnson (OUT), Isaiah Wynn (OUT); **East Elmhurst** – Christian Jones (DOUBTFUL), Nelson Agholor (OUT), Adam Thielen (IR), CJ Anderson (IR).

The Irish are out of the playoff race but remain a team that can make an opponent look silly on any given Sunday. The Bombers, despite their mirror image record and contender status, are a team that can look silly all on their own on any given Sunday. The Bombers have won four in a row but it feels like they are struggling. The fifth-ranked offence in terms of efficiency was shutout for almost four quarters last week by a team in the running for Trevor Lawrence and only survived because, after all, they were playing team in the running for Trevor Lawrence. So, it is well within the realm of possibility that a team like the Irish, at home with a rising quarterback like Baker Mayfield, could hand the Bombers their lunch. It will still take a few magic tricks to do so, like a Duron Harmon interception and a fumble return for a touchdown by Jalen Ramsey, combined with more ulcer-inducing play from Jared Goff. Unlikely, I know, but the possibility makes this a game worth tuning in to, just in case. **PICK: BRUXELLES**

### **NEW JERSEY @ GEORGIA (line – WRECKING BALLS by 2)**

**INJURIES:** **New Jersey** – Ryan Griffin (PROBABLE), James Bradberry (DOUBTFUL), Jamal Adams (OUT), Robert Quinn (OUT), Delanie Walker (OUT); **Georgia** – Andrew Wylie (PROBABLE), Will Fuller V (OUT), Josh Jacobs (OUT), Tua Tagovailoa (OUT).

Normally, a game between two bottom-dwellers would be relegated to the “leftovers” pile, but with Trevor Lawrence in New Jersey's sights and a very beatable opponent on their schedule here, this becomes a game of note. The Gladiators do not appear to be “tanking for Trevor,” as demonstrated last week when their third string quarterback led them to an upset of Erieau, but that doesn't mean they aren't well capable of losing to the team with the worst record in the league – especially when that team was originally built to win it all. Despite the Balls' horrendous run, they are still favourites here, simply because they are the more talented team. The loss of Robert Quinn and Jamal Adams will hurt them, but without Josh Jacobs the Glads' offence will be limited, while Jersey's Matt Stafford-led offence should be able to mark up the scoreboard against the plucky, but embattled Georgia defence. **PICK: NEW JERSEY**

## **HOLIDAY LEFTOVERS**

### **TWIN CITIES @ DURHAM (line – THUNDER LIZARDS by 12)**

**INJURIES:** **Twin Cities** – Noah Igbinoehene (PROBABLE), Kwon Alexander (OUT), Bradley Roby (OUT), Antonio Brown (COVID-19); **Durham** – Isaiah Johnson (IR).

The Lizards are over the hump, having taken the lead in the North Division last week with a walk-in-the-park win over Pickering, while main rival Cowtown lost. This is the third of a three-game “losers row” series on Durham's schedule that is serving as a springboard for an uptick in their fortunes. They are also clicking on both sides of the ball right now, in a way that many pundits foresaw that they would. It took them 10 weeks to find their groove, but now that it has arrived the shift in momentum has them looking virtually unstoppable against a cellar-dweller like Twin Cities. The Triumph gave the Bombers a hard time last week and over the past nine weeks are flashing that familiar stubborn streak that had been missing early in the campaign. Although their rediscovered tenacity is not translating into wins, it sure is wrecking unflattering point spreads. With the Triumph defence playing well over its head lately, the double-digit spread could prove tough for a run-dependent Durham to crack. **PICK: TWIN CITIES**

### **IOWA CITY @ PICKERING (line – CUBS by 5)**

**INJURIES:** **Iowa City** – Jason Pierre-Paul (QUESTIONABLE), Blake Cashman (OUT), Alec Ogletree (OUT); **Pickering** – Nathan Shepherd (PROBABLE), Prince Amukamara (DOUBTFUL), Karl Joseph (OUT), Romeo Okwara (OUT), Damarious Randall (OUT), Calvin Ridley (OUT), Sterling Shepard (IR), Malik Jackson (IR).

The Cubs' amazing comeback last week versus nemesis Seattle allowed them to squeeze by Chino in the West Division, where they now hold a slim half-game edge. It was vintage Russell Wilson on display in the second half of that game, the kind of awe-inspiring performance that compels respect from opponents, even as they game plan to knock him out. While writers and fans tend to focus their praise on the rallying prowess of Wilson, they often seem to forget the other side of any great comeback – the great fall-behind. The undisciplined penalties and the turnovers by the Cubs that fueled Seattle's big lead are flaws that would have likely proved fatal against a steadier team. While the Spartans are clearly not that steadier team, they do play hard and are easily inspired by momentum-changing plays such as takeaways, the kind they have had precious few of so far this season. With both Calvin Ridley and Sterling Shepard out, they will have to buck the trend and steal the ball away more than once to stand a chance here. **PICK: IOWA CITY**

## CHARLESWOOD @ SCARBOROUGH (line – BLUE EAGLES by 6)

**INJURIES:** Charleswood – Patrick Queen (PROBABLE), Parris Campbell (OUT), Derwin James Jr (OUT), Carl Lawson (OUT), Juju Smith-Schuster (OUT), Desmond Trufant (OUT), Laremy Tunsil (OUT), Devin Funchess (IR), CJ Mosley (IR); Scarborough – Pierre Desir (QUESTIONABLE), Greg Ward (QUESTIONABLE), DeSean Jackson (OUT), Drew Lock (OUT), TJ Yeldon (IR).

Both of these squads were put in their place last week, but only the Blue Eagles have a burning incentive to turn things around in a hurry. The Pats are out of the playoff race and may be content to simply put in the reps and let the chips fall where they may. Scarborough, on the other hand, is in an uncertain position. They are alive, but third in a three-way tie for the runner-up position behind Cowtown for the second wildcard slot. While a loss would not eliminate the Eagles from post-season contention, it would certainly put them towards the rear of a major traffic jam on the road to the playoffs. Pierre Desir is ‘questionable’ but otherwise Scarborough comes into this game with no significant injuries, while the Pats will be missing several key players, including Desmond Trufant and Laremy Tunsil. Joe Burrow has a chance to get the bitter taste of defeat out of his mouth against a banged-up Pats secondary. **PICK: SCARBOROUGH**

## SEATTLE @ BUDAPEST (line – NORTH STARS by 9)

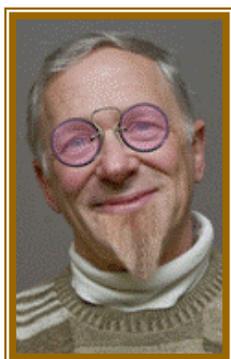
**INJURIES:** Seattle – Myles Jack (OUT), Kareem Jackson (OUT), Marshon Lattimore (OUT), Hunter Renfrow (OUT), Darian Thompson (OUT), Kareem Hunt (IR); Budapest – Jordan Howard (PROBABLE), Justin Britt (OUT), Jacob Hollister (OUT).

Aaron Rodgers has not been a liability for two straight weeks now, causing optimists in the North Star fanbase to cautiously raise the topic of a Gale Sayers berth in conversation again. If, in fact, Rodgers is on his way back to last year’s form, the North Stars will have little to worry about down the stretch, apart from resting and tweaking their machine for the post-season. But if this is an illusory “rebound” brought on by facing Georgia and a wounded Cowtown, this game could be much more interesting than it should be. The Pilots gave it everything they had in falling to the Cubs and will certainly give it the old college try here. But with Marshon Lattimore, Kareem Jackson and Hunter Renfrow ‘out,’ it’s hard to imagine Sam Darnold tipping the scales Seattle’s way. **PICK: BUDAPEST**

## VIRDEN @ SEBASTIAN (line – VIOLATORS by 8)

**INJURIES:** Virden – Eric Ebron (OUT), Trae Waynes (OUT), Nasir Adderley (IR), Derrius Guice (IR), Ben Watson (IR); Sebastian – Jordan Jenkins (PROBABLE), Jalen Reagor (PROBABLE), Kevin King (QUESTIONABLE), Drew Brees (DOUBTFUL), Jadeveon Clowney (OUT), Chase Edmonds (OUT), Golden Tate (OUT), Damien Williams (OUT).

The smart people in Vegas are hedging their bets on a Drew Brees return for this game. Even though he is officially listed as ‘doubtful,’ word is that the Sebastian coaching staff is desperate to get Brees back on the field before Dwayne Haskins loses another game and, with it, another chunk of Swordfish team pride. The consensus is that a 50% Brees is worth more than a 100% Haskins. While harsh-sounding at first, the last two weeks of tortuously bad quarterback play have confirmed it as pretty much a fact. There is also the fact that a Sebastian loss would eliminate them from the post-season. If they can just get by Virden, they have two winnable games to close out the season and then it would come down to tie-breakers. Pipe Dream! Even with Brees back, beating Virden is no given. **PICK: VIRDEN**



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FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – Week Thirteen of the 2014 EFL season was not a particularly noteworthy one for dramatic contests or playoff race match-ups. With 8 teams already eliminated from post-season contention – the rich getting richer and poor, poorer – there was not much to talk about, apart from the violence that erupted at Thermopylae Stadium between rival Greek factions taking in the critical match between the Spartans and the Thunder Lizards. The game itself, an anti-climactic 41-24 blowout victory for Durham was not as engaging as the sight of 1,000 Durham fans, members of the *Royal Greek Society*, charging the

single gate to the stadium to get inside in time to watch their heroes humble the previously high-flying Spartans and their supporters from the *Hellenic Cultural Centre*. Although tied in record at 9-4, Durham now held the tie-breaker.

In other news, the Corn Kings kept their faint playoff hopes alive with a 23-20, late comeback victory over the Excaliburs. **Joe Flacco**, who had been under pressure all day from the York front four, held it together over an 11-play, 80-yard drive in the final 3 minutes to steal the win on a 10-yard TD pass to **Cecil Shorts III**. The win nudged them in front of York in the race to catch 4<sup>th</sup> seed, South Carolina.

Speaking of the Regulators, they held on to their playoff position when a high snap in overtime by Scarborough’s **Dustin Colquitt**, set up a game-winning 33-yard FG by **Justin Tucker** to finish off a 17-14 win and raise their record to 7-6. This would be the year that South Carolina would host the Gale Sayers Game, and fans were giddy about the possibility of an appearance, however remote, by the Regs in that game.

As for big performances, **Lavonte David** of the Cannibals had a monster day in a losing effort, making 12 tackles, forcing 3 fumbles and swallowing up **Andrew Luck** 4 times in a 41-28 loss to the Hellfire. He did his part!