

# WEEK 7



# EFL

ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Blazing Through a Pandemic in our 14th Season



November 22, 2020

# VIRDEN RECOVERY!



*Nigel Bradham*

*Virден Violators*

*COWTOWN*

The Violators' *Nigel Bradham* heads for the end zone after scooping up a *Jimmy Garoppolo* fumble in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter action in Cowtown. The score completed Virден's remarkable recovery from a 10-point deficit and set the stage for a 37-34 win in OT, where Garoppolo would again fumble it away on a strip-sack to set up *Zane Gonzalez* for the FG.

EAST



CENTRAL



WEST



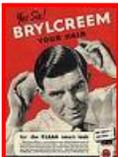
NORTH



COASTAL



SOUTH



Who was slick  
in Week Seven?

“Brylcreem” THE  
EFL'S FIRST SPONSOR



OFFENCE



Drew Brees  
QB  
Sebastian  
Swordfish

23 of 29, 371 Yds, 5 TDs, 158.3 QBR.  
Led 30-point 2<sup>nd</sup> half comeback vs PC.

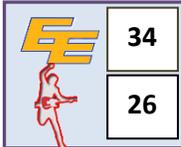


DEFENSE



Sheldon  
Richardson  
DT  
Virден Violators

5 Tk, 2 Sks, 2 PD, 1 STF, 4 HUR, 1 FF.  
Strip-sack set up game-winning FG.



34

26

For almost a full 3 quarters, the Wrecking Balls controlled play on both sides of the ball until a **Ryan Fitzpatrick** TD pass to **Gerald Everett** at the 0:41 mark of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter brought the Irish within 4 points and set the stage for a miracle comeback. The Balls responded with a TD pass to **Taylor Gabriel** then a safety by **Zach Cunningham** and looked in command, up 26-13 with 2:19 left. Then **Baker Mayfield** came in and pulled off a miracle. TD passes of 43 yards to **Adam Thielen** and 56 yards to **Tyreek Hill** in a 0:57 gave them a 1-point lead then **Duron Harmon** finished it with a pick-six.

11-22-2020 Stone Pony Shore Temp:77 Wind:0-5 None Line:NJ by 17 MVP:Thielen HFA:

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 East Elmhurst (2-5)	0	6	7	21	34
2019 New Jersey (1-6)	7	7	3	9	26

### Scoring Summary

1	0:57	New Jersey	TD Keenum 15 pass to McLaurin (Boswell) (4-31-2:25)	0-7
2	1:10	New Jersey	TD Keenum 4 pass to Griffin (Boswell) (12-83-5:20)	0-14
2	1:02	East Elmhurst	TD Raymond 35 kick return (no good)	6-14
3	5:57	New Jersey	FG Boswell 32 (7-35-3:41)	6-17
3	0:41	East Elmhurst	TD Fitzpatrick 12 pass to Everett (Blankenshi) (10-62-5:0)	13-17
4	10:12	New Jersey	TD Keenum 6 pass to Gabriel (Boswell) (11-75-5:29)	13-24
4	9:13	New Jersey	Safety Cunningham	13-26
4	1:46	East Elmhurst	TD Mayfield 43 pass to Thielen (Blankenshi) (3-53-0:39)	20-26
4	0:49	East Elmhurst	TD Mayfield 56 pass to Hill (Blankenshi) (2-66-0:19)	27-26
4	0:30	East Elmhurst	TD Harmon 42 interception return (Blankenshi)	34-26

### Passing

EE: Mayfield 7/4 152 Yds 2 TDs Int, Fitzpatrick 17/10 97 Yds TD  
 NJ: Keenum 42/29 270 Yds 3 TDs Int

### Rushing

EE: Murray 6/16, Mayfield 1/10, Fitzpatrick 8/7, Kelley 4/7, Hill 2/6  
 NJ: Montgomery 18/62, Hill 11/30, Cohen 1/4

### Receiving

EE: Thielen 3/91 TD, Hill 3/65 TD, Everett 2/20 TD, Murray 2/15, Agholor 2/36  
 NJ: Cohen 7/51, Griffin 5/39 TD, McLaurin 4/60 TD, Gabriel 4/40 TD, Chark Jr. 4/43

### Defense

EE: Weddle 11-Tk, Smith Sk 5-Tk, Harmon Int(TD) 2-Tk, Phillips 8-Tk  
 NJ: Judon Sk FF 4-Tk, Peters Sk 5-Tk, Quinn FF 6-Tk, Blackmon Int 3-Tk

### Injuries

EE: Anderson 7, Poe 4, Ramsey 1  
 NJ: Stafford 5

### Misc

EE: Raymond 4/111 KR TD, Fitzpatrick 3 Fumbles  
 NJ:



14

38

The Derailers scored on each possession of the 1<sup>st</sup> half to build up what would prove to be an insurmountable 31-7 lead. **Lamar Jackson** dominated the gridiron, with 92 yards rushing and 2 TD passes in the 1<sup>st</sup> half alone. The Cadillac offence started slow and were already trailing 17-0 when **Kyler Murray** sparked their first scoring drive with a 26-yard QB draw and finished it off with a 2<sup>nd</sup>-and-goal 10-yard TD pass to **Henry Ruggs II**. But the Buffalo offence kept pouring it on, tallying two more TDs, including a highlight reel 48-yard check down to **Alex Erickson**. The Caddies went down silently in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half.

11-17-2020 New Era Stadium Temp:55 Wind:5-15 None Line:BUF by 11 MVP:Jackson HFA:

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Erieau (2-5)	0	7	0	7	14
2019 Buffalo (5-2)	10	21	0	7	38

### Scoring Summary

1	7:22	Buffalo	FG Elliott 46 (12-51-7:28)	0-3
1	3:45	Buffalo	TD Jackson 22 run (Elliott,J) (6-55-3:06)	0-10
2	10:32	Buffalo	TD Jackson 6 pass to Dillon (Elliott,J) (11-74-6:30)	0-17
2	6:47	Erieau	TD Murray 10 pass to Ruggs III (Seibert) (9-74-3:38)	7-17
2	1:40	Buffalo	TD Dillon 9 run (Elliott,J) (13-89-4:58)	7-24
2	0:53	Buffalo	TD Jackson 48 pass to Erickson (Elliott,J) (1-48-0:14)	7-31
4	13:48	Erieau	TD Murray 1 pass to Henry (Seibert) (9-56-3:03)	14-31
4	10:38	Buffalo	TD Jackson 3 run (Elliott,J) (6-75-3:10)	14-38

### Passing

ERI: Murray 36/16 170 Yds 2 TDs  
 BUF: Jackson 20/16 243 Yds 2 TDs

### Rushing

ERI: Murray 11/56, Allen 2/21, Gore 4/6, Moss 3/5, Vaughn 1/2, McCoy 3/1  
 BUF: Jackson 12/108 2 TDs, Dillon 15/55 TD, Coleman 7/28, Booker 5/8, Johnson 4/4

### Receiving

ERI: Moss 3/31, Higgins 3/22, Andrews 2/21, Henry 2/17 TD, Ruggs III 2/35 TD  
 BUF: Sanders 5/62, Erickson 4/65 TD, Thomas 3/33, Fant 2/64, Coleman 1/13, Dillon 1/6 TD

### Defense

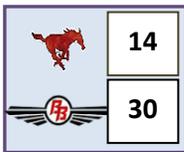
ERI: Bosa FF 7-Tk, Poole 8-Tk  
 BUF: Mercilus FF 5-Tk, Donald Sk 3-Tk

### Injuries

ERI: Staley 6, Garrett 5, Hicks 3  
 BUF: Abram 9

### Misc

ERI:  
 BUF: Booker 2 fumbles|



Consecutive passes of 41 yards to **Travis Kelce** and 25 yards to **Chris Godwin** set up a 14-yard **Leonard Fournette** TD run to give the Bombers a 10-0 lead. **Kenyan Drake** busted 3 tackles for a 59-yard TD run and added another 4-yard TD run late in the 2<sup>nd</sup> to make it 14-10 for Aurora at half time. With QB, **Matt Ryan** a late scratch due to COVID-19, rookie **Jacob Eason** got the start at QB for the Mustangs. He made no bad mistakes, but was not very effective against the Bomber secondary. Eventually, **Jared Goff** found his rhythm, throwing 2 TD passes in the 3<sup>rd</sup> to snag the easy win.

11-22-2020 The Fortress Temp:77 Wind: No Line MVP:Goff HFA:ON(5)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Aurora (4-3)	0	14	0	0	14
2019 Bruxelles (4-3)	10	0	14	6	30

Scoring Summary

1 6:57 Bruxelles	FG Prater 44 (7-37-2:36)	0-3
1 1:15 Bruxelles	TD Fournette 14 run (Prater) (4-79-2:32)	0-10
2 14:41 Aurora	TD Drake 59 run (Lutz) (3-75-1:34)	7-10
2 3:08 Aurora	TD Drake 4 run (Lutz) (14-70-8:02)	14-10
3 9:44 Bruxelles	TD Goff 7 pass to Waller (Prater) (8-62-5:11)	14-17
3 2:36 Bruxelles	TD Goff 25 pass to Kelce (Prater) (10-79-4:51)	14-24
4 6:51 Bruxelles	FG Prater 31 (7-49-1:38)	14-27
4 2:33 Bruxelles	FG Prater 27 (5-29-3:09)	14-30

Passing

AUR: Eason 26/14 118 Yds  
BRX: Goff 29/16 285 Yds 2 TDs

Rushing

AUR: Drake 25/135 2 TDs, Wilson 1/2, Eason 2/2  
BRX: Fournette 24/100 TD, Goff 4/2

Receiving

AUR: Edelman 4/40, Washington 4/40, Drake 3/18, Goedert 2/12, Gesicki 1/8  
BRX: Kelce 6/147 TD, Fournette 3/18, Godwin 2/43, Westbrook 2/20, Waller 2/25 TD

Defense

AUR: Autry Sk FF 3-Tk, Kendrick 10-Tk  
BRX: Smith 2-Sks 10-Tk, Flowers 8-Tk

Injuries

AUR:  
BRX:

Misc

AUR:  
BRX:



The Coyotes sprung out the gate with two big plays: a 58-yard cross to **DeVante Parker** that set up a **Ryan Tannehill** TD pass to **Jared Cook** and a 45-yard pitch to **Raheem Mostert** for a TD. The Glads rallied with back-to-back scoring drives for a TD and a FG to make it 14-10. But that would be the extent of Georgia's comeback. The Cobbs drew out an 82-yard TD drive, converting three 3<sup>rd</sup> downs along the way, to begin the runaway with a 10-yard TD pass to Parker. **Teddy Bridgewater** saw 2<sup>nd</sup> half action, throwing TD passes of 60 to Cook and 90 yards to **Brandin Cooks** complete the rout.

11-18-2020 Coyote Field Temp:78 Wind:Calm None Line:CB by 17 MVP:Cook HFA:ON(1)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Georgia (1-6)	7	3	3	7	20
2019 Cobb County (7-0)	14	14	7	7	42

Scoring Summary

1 13:59 Cobb County	TD Tannehill 17 pass to Cook (McManus) (2-75-1:01)	0-7
1 10:38 Cobb County	TD Mostert 45 run (McManus) (1-45-0:18)	0-14
1 4:18 Georgia	TD Tagovailoa 2 pass to Akins (Bass) (10-75-6:20)	7-14
2 13:30 Georgia	FG Bass 28 (8-48-4:34)	10-14
2 7:32 Cobb County	TD Tannehill 10 pass to Parker (McManus) (13-82-5:51)	10-21
2 0:14 Cobb County	TD Tannehill 6 pass to Parker (McManus) (11-80-3:24)	10-28
3 5:49 Georgia	FG Bass 27 (13-39-5:01)	13-28
3 2:33 Cobb County	TD Bridgewater 60 pass to Cook (McManus) (6-75-3:16)	13-35
4 13:47 Georgia	TD Tagovailoa 33 pass to Robinson (Bass) (9-85-3:34)	20-35
4 6:23 Cobb County	TD Bridgewater 90 pass to Cooks (McManus) (1-90-0:17)	20-42

Passing

GEO: Tagovailoa 35/21 209 Yds 2 TDs Int  
CB: Tannehill 22/13 216 Yds 3 TDs, Bridgewater 7/6 206 Yds 2 TDs

Rushing

GEO: Jacobs 14/91, Michel 2/10, Robinson 6/9, Tagovailoa 3/2  
CB: Mostert 17/67 TD, Bridgewater 3/7, Calais 2/3, Tannehill 1/1

Receiving

GEO: Landry 5/69, Johnson 3/31, Akins 3/15 TD, Stills 3/39, Robinson 3/37 TD  
CB: Cook 6/141 2 TDs, Parker 5/109 2 TDs, Cooks 4/136 TD, Mostert 2/19, Uzomah 1/10

Defense

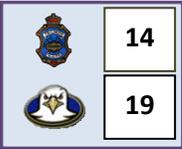
GEO:  
CB: Lawrence Sk FF 2-Tk, White Int 5-Tk, Atkins Sk FF 2-Tk, Basham 8-Tk, Bennett Sk

Injuries

GEO: Smith 5, Johnson III 5  
CB:

Misc

GEO: Tagovailoa 2 fumbles  
CB: 500 net yards offence



14

19

The Triumph erased a carefully-built 6-0 Scarborough lead with a late 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter TD drive. **Clyde Edwards-Helaire** broke 2 tackles for a 20-yard gain into Eagles' territory then **Mitch Trubisky** finished it off with a 19-yard scramble to make it 7-6. The play that tilted the game to Scarborough came on their second possession of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter when **Chris Carson** broke 3 tackles on a sweep to take it to the house from 66 yards out. Down 19-7 early in the 4<sup>th</sup>, the Triumph had their deepest penetration of the game but were stopped on 4<sup>th</sup> & 2 at the 14, putting the Eagles back in control for good.

11-18-2020 The Wolverine's Den	Temp:58	Wind:0-5	None	Line:SBE by 8	MVP:Carson	H
	1	2	3	4	Tot	
2019 Twin Cities (1-6)	0	7	0	7	14	
2019 Scarborough (5-2)	3	3	13	0	19	

Scoring Summary

1	5:59	Scarborough	FG Crosby 40 (11-60-7:25)	0-3
2	11:12	Scarborough	FG Crosby 25 (14-73-8:10)	0-6
2	2:51	Twin Cities	TD Trubisky 19 run (Hopkins) (7-65-4:06)	7-6
3	9:58	Scarborough	FG Crosby 49 (8-45-4:48)	7-9
3	8:37	Scarborough	TD Carson 66 run (Crosby) (1-66-0:23)	7-16
3	1:45	Scarborough	FG Crosby 48 (8-44-4:58)	7-19
4	0:11	Twin Cities	TD Trubisky 8 pass to Trautman (Hopkins) (8-74-1:13)	14-19

Passing

TCT: Trubisky 34/18 187 Yds TD  
SBE: Burrow 25/20 187 Yds

Rushing

TCT: Edwards-Helaire 15/83, Trubisky 3/21 TD, Gordon III 4/5  
SBE: Carson 18/142 TD, Freeman 10/38, Yeldon 2/14, Benjamin 2/5

Receiving

TCT: Edwards-Helaire 6/38, Golladay 4/90, Moore 2/13, Gordon III 2/13, Trautman 2/19 TD  
SBE: Robinson II 5/42, Freeman 3/44, Crowder 3/35, Eifert 3/21, Carson 3/18

Defense

TCT: Wagner 13-Tk, Alexander 10-Tk, Roby 10-Tk  
SBE: Hightower 10-Tk

Injuries

TCT: Brown 8, Lindstrom 5, Okung 3, Alexander 3, Brown 2  
SBE: Jackson 3

Misc

TCT: 11 missed tackles  
SBE: 38:26 TOP



37

34

Three turnovers by **Jimmy Garoppolo** – an interception and 2 lost fumbles – led to 17 Virden points, including a 45-yard, game-winning FG by **Zane Gonzalez** in OT. After Virden scored first late in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, the teams traded 2 TDs each in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and combined for 33 points in the 4<sup>th</sup> to set up the dramatic finish. The rain was a factor, with both teams experiencing fumble problems due to the wet ball. But a **Nigel Bradham** 22-yard fumble return for a TD that erased what had once been a 10-point Cowtown lead and a strip-sack by **Jamie Collins** in OT were the most pivotal plays.

	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
2019 Virden (6-1)	7	14	0	13	3	37
2019 Cowtown (4-3)	0	14	0	20	0	34

Scoring Summary

1	0:08	Virden	TD Elliott 11 run (Gonzalez) (12-91-7:02)	7-0
2	8:14	Cowtown	TD Gurley II 5 run (Slye) (11-63-6:46)	7-7
2	4:23	Virden	TD Mahomes 1 pass to Elliott (Gonzalez) (4-43-1:45)	14-7
2	1:44	Cowtown	TD Garoppolo 41 pass to Conley (Slye) (5-75-2:39)	14-14
2	0:11	Virden	TD Mahomes 13 pass to Cooper (Gonzalez) (6-56-1:24)	21-14
4	14:57	Cowtown	FG Slye 39 (10-55-5:42)	21-17
4	11:52	Cowtown	TD Garoppolo 21 pass to Evans (Slye) (4-35-2:14)	21-24
4	9:55	Cowtown	TD Washington 21 run (Slye) (1-21-0:14)	21-31
4	6:04	Virden	FG Gonzalez 29 (12-64-3:48)	24-31
4	5:54	Virden	TD Bradham 22 yd fumble recovery (Gonzalez)	31-31
4	1:38	Cowtown	FG Slye 36 (12-57-4:12)	31-34
4	0:11	Virden	FG Gonzalez 35 (8-58-1:23)	34-34
5	7:07	Virden	FG Gonzalez 45 (4-2-1:43)	37-34

Passing

VV: Mahomes 40/24 268 Yds 2 TDs  
COW: Garoppolo 38/28 338 Yds 2 TDs Int

Rushing

VV: Elliott 17/68 TD, Mahomes 6/40  
COW: Washington 8/39 TD, Gurley II 9/25 TD, Bell 3/6

Receiving

VV: Elliott 7/52 TD, Brown 6/84, Cooper 4/62 TD, Ebron 3/32, Sanu 3/31, Watson 1/7  
COW: Evans 9/113 TD, Washington 4/45, Conley 4/92 TD, Bell 4/23, Gurley II 3/27

Defense

VV: Collins Sr. Int Sk FF 7-Tk, Richardson 2-Sks FF 5-Tk, Peters 12-Tk, Lawrence II Sk FF  
COW: Kennard Sk FF 5-Tk, Watt FF 6-Tk

Injuries

VV:  
COW:

Misc

VV:  
COW: Garoppolo 3 fumbles



**Nick Chubb** finished off Durham's first possession of the game with a 15-yard screen pass for a TD. It looked like the anticipated rout was under way but the extra point was missed and the Lizards slowed down. Two **Ed Pineiro** FGs – the 2<sup>nd</sup> from 52 yards – extended the Durham lead to 12-0 before the half. The Pats scraped their way back into the game with a 51-yard **Daniel Carlson** FG and a 6-yard TD run by **Alvin Kamara** that was set-up by a 23-yard **DeShaun Watson** scramble. But Durham put together a long drive, converting four 3<sup>rd</sup> downs on way to an **Antonio Gibson** insurance TD.

11-17-2020 Jurassic Park Temp:80 Wind:Calm None Line:DTL by 17 MVP:Chubb HFA:ON

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Charleswood (1-6)	0	0	3	14	17
2019 Durham (4-3)	6	6	0	7	19

**Scoring Summary**

1 7:02 Durham	TD Allen 15 pass to Chubb (no good) (9-60-6:09)	0-6
2 2:51 Durham	FG Pineiro 21 (11-72-5:19)	0-9
2 0:04 Durham	FG Pineiro 52 (5-46-0:36)	0-12
3 6:14 Charleswood	FG Carlson 51 (13-50-7:35)	3-12
4 11:58 Charleswood	TD Kamara 6 run (Carlson) (10-80-6:21)	10-12
4 4:49 Durham	TD Gibson 3 run (Pineiro) (15-71-6:59)	10-19
4 1:19 Charleswood	TD Kamara 2 run (Carlson) (7-84-3:25)	17-19

**Passing**

CHP: Watson 35/24 240 Yds  
DTL: Allen 23/14 183 Yds TD

**Rushing**

CHP: Kamara 13/68 2 TDs, Watson 3/35  
DTL: Chubb 25/109, Allen 5/37, Gibson 4/36 TD, Bowden Jr. 2/2, Samuel 1/1

**Receiving**

CHP: Kamara 5/55, Smith 5/45, Jones 4/38, Metcalf 4/56, Smith Jr. 2/4, Meyers 2/23  
DTL: Kupp 4/47, Boyd 3/36, Samuel 3/63, Chubb 2/20 TD, Gibson 1/6, Hooper 1/11

**Defense**

CHP: Trufant 9-Tk, Moreland 9-Tk  
DTL: Oliver Sk FF 2-Tk, Irvin Sk 3-Tk, Burns Sk 3-Tk, Simmons 8-Tk

**Injuries**

CHP: Mosley 10, Funchess 8, Campbell 7, James Jr. 3  
DTL:

**Misc**

CHP:  
DTL: |



Sebastian scored a TD on the game's opening drive, but it was all Crusaders for the remainder of the 1<sup>st</sup> half. **Kirk Cousins** threw 4 TD passes in an 18-minute span, taking advantage of short fields created by two **Jalen Reagor** fumbles and a failed Swordfish 4<sup>th</sup> down convert to take a 27-7 lead into half time. But **Drew Brees** spoke in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half for Sebastian. He passed for 287 yards and 4 TDs – two of those to Reagor – in a 19-minute window to give the Fish a 34-27 lead. As Brees shredded the Crusader secondary, the Swordfish 'D' pitched a 2<sup>nd</sup> half shutout against Cousins to seal the win.

11-17-2020 The Fish Tank Temp:76 Wind: Line:SS by 17 MVP:Brees HFA:ON(

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Peg City (5-2)	7	20	0	0	27
2019 Sebastian (4-3)	7	0	14	16	37

**Scoring Summary**

1 8:24 Sebastian	TD Brees 3 pass to Taylor (Bailey,D) (10-75-6:36)	0-7
1 4:07 Peg City	TD Cousins 37 pass to Sutton (Butker) (4-58-2:19)	7-7
2 8:41 Peg City	TD Cousins 15 pass to Allen (Butker) (9-60-4:41)	14-7
2 1:18 Peg City	TD Cousins 16 pass to Higbee (no good) (10-74-4:31)	20-7
2 0:19 Peg City	TD Cousins 11 pass to Barkley (Butker) (4-29-0:55)	27-7
3 11:05 Sebastian	TD Brees 88 pass to Reagor (Bailey,D) (2-86-1:02)	27-14
3 6:31 Sebastian	TD Brees 34 pass to Reagor (Bailey,D) (7-81-3:28)	27-21
4 10:16 Sebastian	TD Brees 8 pass to Taylor (Bailey,D) (14-90-7:47)	27-28
4 7:36 Sebastian	TD Brees 45 pass to Shenault Jr. (no good) (3-86-1:38)	27-34
4 1:12 Sebastian	FG Bailey 30 (11-32-4:42)	27-37

**Passing**

PCC: Cousins 37/20 285 Yds 4 TDs  
SS: Brees 29/23 371 Yds 5 TDs, Haskins Jr. 5/4 46 Yds Int

**Rushing**

PCC: Jones 8/32, Johnson 7/27, Barkley 3/19, Cousins 3/4  
SS: Taylor 13/57, Williams 5/26, Edmonds 6/25, Reagor 1/11, Haskins Jr. 3/9

**Receiving**

PCC: Higbee 4/62 TD, Sutton 4/64 TD, Allen 4/95 TD, Johnson 3/21, Barkley 2/17 TD  
SS: Witten 7/116, Reagor 7/181 2 TDs, Tate 4/29, Taylor 4/23 2 TDs, Shenault Jr. 2/48 TD

**Defense**

PCC: Humphrey 10-Tk, Covington Sk 4-Tk, Maye 9-Tk, Gardner-Johnson FF 5-Tk  
SS:

**Injuries**

PCC: Jones 1  
SS: Perryman 1

**Misc**

PCC:  
SS: Reagor 3 fumbles|



**Russell Wilson** capped the game's opening drive with an end zone shot to **Christian Kirk** for the first of his 4 TD passes on the day. The Cubs would add to that with an 8-yard hitch to **Cole Beasley**, to build a 21-10 half time lead. But a 29-yard scoring hook-up from **Derek Carr** to **Breshad Perriman** on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 20 to start the 2<sup>nd</sup> half showed that the Hawks planned to hang in. The Cubs got a TD run by **Joe Mixon**, but Brooklin struck back with a **Carlos Hyde** TD run and 2-point convert to pull within 3 points. They would not get closer. Wilson kept the pressure on with another TD to stay one step ahead.

11-17-2020 Optimist Park Temp:61 Wind:0-5 None Line:BRH by 10 MVP:Wilson HFA:ON

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Iowa City (3-3-1)	7	14	7	14	42
2019 Brooklin (4-3)	0	10	7	11	28

**Scoring Summary**

1 9:48 Iowa City	TD Wilson 3 pass to Kirk (Tucker,J) (8-75-5:12)	7-0
2 13:20 Iowa City	TD Wilson 8 pass to Beasley (Tucker,J) (8-54-3:59)	14-0
2 9:56 Brooklin	TD Carr 9 pass to Engram (Bullock) (5-75-3:24)	14-7
2 4:37 Iowa City	TD Wilson 12 pass to Kirk (Tucker,J) (8-75-5:19)	21-7
2 0:00 Brooklin	FG Bullock 28 (6-32-0:39)	21-10
3 10:19 Brooklin	TD Carr 29 pass to Perriman (Bullock) (9-77-4:33)	21-17
3 6:12 Iowa City	TD Mixon 4 run (Tucker,J) (10-75-4:07)	28-17
4 14:16 Brooklin	TD Hyde 3 run (2 - Hyde) (13-75-6:56)	28-25
4 7:29 Iowa City	TD Wilson 3 pass to Lockett (Tucker,J) (11-75-6:47)	35-25
4 3:12 Brooklin	FG Bullock 36 (9-57-4:13)	35-28
4 0:00 Iowa City	TD Armstead 15 run (Tucker,J) (8-75-3:12)	42-28

**Passing**

ICC: Wilson 32/26 288 Yds 4 TDs  
BRH: Carr 36/21 272 Yds 2 TDs

**Rushing**

ICC: Mixon 18/89 TD, Wilson 5/45, Conner 3/33, Armstead 2/16 TD  
BRH: Hyde 10/81 TD, Breida 7/35, Carr 1/2

**Receiving**

ICC: Lockett 7/85 TD, Beasley 6/63 TD, Conner 5/42, Kirk 4/35 2 TDs, Brown 3/37  
BRH: Hopkins 6/81, Engram 5/57 TD, Fells 3/43, Jeffery 2/12, Perriman 2/54 TD

**Defense**

ICC:  
BRH: Jones 9-Tk, McDougald FF 5-Tk, Apple 8-Tk, Ferrell Sk 3-Tk

**Injuries**

ICC: Dissly 6, Jones 5  
BRH: Elliott 8, McPhee 5, Williams 4, Tuitt 3

**Misc**

ICC: 9/10 on 3rd Down  
BRH: |



Punts, penalties and field goals prevailed for most of the 1<sup>st</sup> half. **Steven Hauschka** connected from 31 and 30 yards to account for all scoring until a masterfully-executed two-minute drill before half time by **Tom Brady** ended, 75 yards later, with a 9-yard slant to **Mike Williams** with 0:09 left, giving York a 13-0 lead. The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter played out like the 1<sup>st</sup> with York gradually working its way into position to add to their lead. An 87-yard drive that started in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, ended in the 4<sup>th</sup> with the unfamiliar sight of Brady scrambling 10 yards for a TD. **Marlon Mack** found the end zone for the Pilots.

11-21-2020 Camelot Temp:54 Wind:0-5 None Line:SEA by 1 MVP:Brady HFA:ON(2)

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Seattle (3-4)	0	0	0	7	7
2019 York (4-3)	0	13	0	7	20

**Scoring Summary**

2 12:23 York	FG Hauschka 31 (14-75-5:13)	0-3
2 4:25 York	FG Hauschka 30 (13-62-5:50)	0-6
2 0:09 York	TD Brady 9 pass to Williams (Hauschka) (10-74-2:37)	0-13
4 14:07 York	TD Brady 10 run (Hauschka) (12-87-5:26)	0-20
4 6:22 Seattle	TD Mack 3 run (Lambo) (18-75-7:38)	7-20

**Passing**

SEA: Darnold 41/27 189 Yds  
YOR: Brady 31/19 199 Yds TD

**Rushing**

SEA: Mack 9/39 TD, Hunt 4/12, Harry 1/6  
YOR: Henry 29/115, Brady 2/13 TD, Snell Jr. 4/9

**Receiving**

SEA: Miller 7/67, Robinson 4/22, Renfrow 4/23, Dorsett II 3/21, Lamb 3/19, Mims 3/25  
YOR: Ertz 6/56, Davis 4/45, Williams 4/58 TD, Henry 2/18, Smith 1/7, Snell Jr. 1/5

**Defense**

SEA: Wright 10-Tk  
YOR: Buckner 2-Sks 2-Tk, Jones 8-Tk, Ya-Sin 8-Tk

**Injuries**

SEA: Massie 5, Vernon 1  
YOR: Butler 4, Sproles 3

**Misc**

SEA:  
YOR: |



A field goal off a **Derek Wolfe** forced fumble and a well-executed, 40-yard play-action pass for a TD from **Philip Rivers** to **Marquise Brown** gave the Spartans a quick 10-0 lead. The Assassins battled back, with Cook scoring a TD, but trailed at half time 13-6. Safety **Marcus Williams** blocked a punt and **Deatrich Wise Jr** recovered in the end zone to knot the score at 13. Two picks of Rivers gave LV the edge in the ensuing field goal battle and Vegas led 22-16 with 2:05 left. A personal foul penalty on LV kept the final drive alive and Rivers took advantage with a TD pass to **Calvin Ridley** for the win.

11-20-2020 Thermopylae Stadium Temp:55 Wind:5-15 None Line:PIC by 17 MVP:Brown

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Las Vegas (3-4)	0	6	10	6	22
2019 Pickering (2-5)	10	3	0	10	23

Scoring Summary

1 10:36 Pickering	FG Zuerlein 39 (4--11-1:43)	0-3
1 2:55 Pickering	TD Rivers 40 pass to Brown (Zuerlein) (7-80-4:38)	0-10
2 4:30 Las Vegas	TD Cook 4 run (no good) (12-78-5:40)	6-10
2 0:00 Pickering	FG Zuerlein 40 (9-53-4:27)	6-13
3 8:33 Las Vegas	TD Wise Jr. blk punt ret -8 (Fairbairn)	13-13
3 3:21 Las Vegas	FG Fairbairn 27 (4-6-1:34)	16-13
4 14:50 Pickering	FG Zuerlein 24 (7-69-3:36)	16-16
4 7:00 Las Vegas	FG Fairbairn 20 (8-27-3:27)	19-16
4 2:05 Las Vegas	FG Fairbairn 38 (11-43-4:17)	22-16
4 0:07 Pickering	TD Rivers 1 pass to Ridley (Zuerlein) (10-75-1:58)	22-23

Passing

LV: Wentz 32/19 153 Yds  
 PIC: Rivers 33/20 272 Yds 2 TDs 2 Int

Rushing

LV: Cook 22/85 TD, Wentz 2/4  
 PIC: Sanders 15/35, Swift 9/6

Receiving

LV: Cook 5/32, Thomas 5/54, Jeudy 5/40, Pascal 3/22, Graham 1/5  
 PIC: Brown 5/102 TD, Shepard 4/54, Sanders 4/28, Ridley 4/42 TD, Swift 3/46

Defense

LV: Leonard Int 15-Tk, Barrett 2-Sks 4-Tk, Ngakoue Sk FF 4-Tk, Lotulelei Int 4-Tk  
 PIC: Amukamara 9-Tk, Ward FF 6-Tk, Wilson FF 5-Tk

Injuries

LV:  
 PIC: Howard 4, Dennard 4, Wolfe 2

Misc

LV: Williams,M bocked punt|  
 PIC:



A 34-yard fly from **Dak Prescott** to **Michael Gallup** for a TD put Chino on the board first, but the North Stars soon tied it on a 1-yard dive by **Jordan Howard**. The Convicts survived a lost fumble at mid-field and went on to cash in a couple of TD runs by **Mark Ingram II** to develop a 21-10 lead into the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Two nice catches by **George Kittle** and a personal foul penalty helped propel **Jamaal Williams** to a 12-yard TD run to bring Budapest to within 4. The Chino offence went cold, giving **Aaron Rodgers** a shot to pull out the victory. He did with a 4<sup>th</sup>-down TD pass to Kittle to cap a monster 97-yard drive.

11-17-2020 Ferenc-Liszt Intl Temp:67 Wind:Calm None Line:BUD by 12 MVP:Kittle HF

	1	2	3	4	Tot
2019 Chino (2-4-1)	7	7	7	0	21
2019 Budapest (6-1)	0	10	7	14	31

Scoring Summary

1 3:47 Chino	TD Prescott 34 pass to Gallup (McLaughlin) (5-69-2:07)	7-0
2 13:26 Budapest	TD Howard 1 run (Myers,J) (10-75-5:21)	7-7
2 2:37 Chino	TD Ingram II 6 run (McLaughlin) (9-62-5:07)	14-7
2 0:00 Budapest	FG Myers 40 (10-53-2:34)	14-10
3 7:19 Chino	TD Ingram II 5 run (McLaughlin) (12-75-7:41)	21-10
3 4:35 Budapest	TD Williams 12 run (Myers,J) (4-78-2:32)	21-17
4 1:11 Budapest	TD Rodgers 12 pass to Kittle (Myers,J) (15-97-6:50)	21-24
4 0:40 Budapest	TD Dean 37 interception return (Myers,J)	21-31

Passing

CHI: Prescott 24/18 183 Yds TD Int  
 BUD: Rodgers 36/24 268 Yds TD

Rushing

CHI: McCaffrey 17/88, Prescott 3/16, Ingram II 4/16 2 TDs  
 BUD: Howard 11/63 TD, Williams 10/42 TD, Dallas 2/11

Receiving

CHI: Fitzgerald 8/77, McCaffrey 5/30, Gallup 3/61 TD, Jones Jr. 2/15  
 BUD: Kittle 11/136 TD, Watkins 6/75, Hollister 4/34, Diggs 1/18, Jefferson 1/8

Defense

CHI: Adams 9-Tk  
 BUD: Robey-Coleman FF 10-Tk, Dean Int(TD) 4-Tk, Suggs Sk 7-Tk

Injuries

CHI: Short 6, Burnett 1, Ingram III 1  
 BUD:

Misc

CHI:  
 BUD: |



# STATS



## WEEK SEVEN

# STANDINGS & STATS

### EFL 2020 Official Standings

East	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Cobb County	7	0	0	1.000	W7	251	35.9	116	16.6	19.3	3 0 0	3 0 0	5 0 0
Buffalo	5	2	0	.714	W5	194	27.7	145	20.7	7.0	2 1 0	1 2 0	3 2 0
Bruxelles	4	3	0	.571	W2	213	30.4	171	24.4	6.0	3 1 0	1 2 0	2 3 0
New Jersey	1	6	0	.143	L5	182	26.0	233	33.3	-7.3	1 2 0	1 2 0	1 4 0
Central	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Viriden	6	1	0	.857	W2	227	32.4	140	20.0	12.4	3 1 0	2 0 0	4 1 0
Peg City	5	2	0	.714	L1	225	32.1	176	25.1	7.0	2 1 0	2 0 0	5 0 0
Charleswood	1	6	0	.143	L5	163	23.3	246	35.1	-11.9	0 4 0	0 2 0	1 4 0
Twin Cities	1	6	0	.143	L2	106	15.1	179	25.6	-10.4	1 2 0	0 2 0	1 4 0
West	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Iowa City	3	3	1	.500	W1	161	23.0	183	26.1	-3.1	2 1 0	1 0 1	2 2 1
Las Vegas	3	4	0	.429	L3	156	22.3	149	21.3	1.0	2 2 0	1 1 0	2 3 0
Seattle	3	4	0	.429	L1	136	19.4	152	21.7	-2.3	2 2 0	0 2 0	2 3 0
Chino	2	4	1	.357	L3	159	22.7	181	25.9	-3.1	2 1 1	1 0 1	1 3 1
North	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Scarborough	5	2	0	.714	W1	171	24.4	151	21.6	2.9	3 0 0	1 1 0	3 2 0
Cowtown	4	3	0	.571		139	19.9	111	15.9	4.0	2 2 0	1 1 0	3 2 0
Durham	4	3	0	.571	W1	132	18.9	136	19.4	-0.6	2 1 0	1 1 0	3 2 0
Sebastian	4	3	0	.571	W1	201	28.7	204	29.1	-0.4	3 1 0	1 1 0	2 3 0
Coastal	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Budapest	6	1	0	.857	W2	160	22.9	87	12.4	10.4	2 1 0	1 1 0	4 1 0
Brooklin	4	3	0	.571	L1	174	24.9	177	25.3	-0.4	3 1 0	2 0 0	4 1 0
York	4	3	0	.571	W2	132	18.9	118	16.9	2.0	4 0 0	0 2 0	3 2 0
Pickering	2	5	0	.286	W1	124	17.7	168	24.0	-6.3	2 1 0	1 1 0	1 4 0
South	W	L	T	Pct	Stk	Pts	Ave	Opp	Ave	Diff	Home	Div	Conf
Aurora	4	3	0	.571	L1	177	25.3	182	26.0	-0.7	2 1 0	3 0 0	3 2 0
Erieau	2	5	0	.286	L1	123	17.6	181	25.9	-8.3	1 2 0	2 1 0	2 3 0
East Elmhurst	2	5	0	.286	W1	148	21.1	171	24.4	-3.3	1 4 0	0 3 0	1 4 0
Georgia	1	6	0	.143	L4	106	15.1	203	29.0	-13.9	1 2 0	1 2 0	1 4 0

### EFL 2020 Official Passing Leaders

			Att	Cmp	C%	Yards	In	I%	Lg	TD	TD%	Rate
1	Tannehill	CB	139	102	73.4	1809	2	1.4	82	21	15.1	148.9
2	Mahomes	VV	154	104	67.5	1347	1	0.6	31	15	9.7	124.6
3	Jackson,L	BUF	217	160	73.7	1712	2	0.9	56	17	7.8	118.7
4	Cousins	PCC	259	173	66.8	2137	2	0.8	71	22	8.5	117.2
5	Brees	SS	223	158	70.9	1975	3	1.3	88	16	7.2	116.3
6	Carr,D	BRH	248	173	69.8	1935	2	0.8	51	15	6.0	109.5
7	Burrow	SBE	220	148	67.3	1548	0	0.0	58	14	6.4	108.7
8	Stafford	NJ	196	131	66.8	1628	4	2.0	68	14	7.1	107.7
9	Mayfield	EE	42	25	59.5	410	2	4.8	56	4	9.5	104.3
10	Garoppolo	COW	220	144	65.5	1738	2	0.9	64	12	5.5	103.9
11	Keenum	NJ	89	61	68.5	575	1	1.1	25	5	5.6	100.2
12	Ryan,M	AUR	192	116	60.4	1386	7	3.6	53	17	8.9	96.8
13	Brissett	LV	67	43	64.2	405	0	0.0	47	3	4.5	95.7
14	Wilson,R	ICC	192	123	64.1	1348	3	1.6	48	10	5.2	95.6
15	Finley	VV	54	26	48.1	446	0	0.0	50	3	5.6	95.1
16	Watson,D	CHP	245	165	67.3	1894	7	2.9	49	12	4.9	94.8
17	Prescott	CHI	239	157	65.7	1657	5	2.1	45	11	4.6	92.3
18	Rivers	PIC	135	87	64.4	1114	4	3.0	44	5	3.7	90.2
19	Rodgers,A	BUD	208	120	57.7	1279	0	0.0	50	9	4.3	90.2
20	Allen,J	DTL	208	123	59.1	1349	1	0.5	63	8	3.8	89.2
21	Brady	YOR	208	125	60.1	1424	4	1.9	52	10	4.8	88.7
22	Minshew II	PIC	86	46	53.5	561	1	1.2	41	5	5.8	88.4
23	Murray,K	ERI	200	119	59.5	1329	4	2.0	53	10	5.0	87.7
24	Trubisky	TCT	103	61	59.2	661	1	1.0	55	4	3.9	87.1
25	Goff	BRX	268	137	51.1	1815	4	1.5	65	16	6.0	86.6

### EFL 2020 Official Punt Return Leaders

		No	Fc	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Reagor	SS	9	7	123	13.7	49 0
2	Agnew	SEA	18	4	209	11.6	78 1
3	Ervin	VV	13	8	131	10.1	41 0
4	Johnson,D	GEO	18	4	171	9.5	72 1
5	Hardman	LV	18	4	164	9.1	20 0
6	Cohen	NJ	16	4	135	8.4	21 0
7	Roberts,A	BRX	13	10	108	8.3	13 0
8	Berrios	AUR	17	3	140	8.2	19 0
9	Carter,D	BUF	18	6	147	8.2	17 0
10	Cooper,P	BUD	14	10	105	7.5	14 0
11	Rogers,C	CHI	15	5	107	7.1	15 0
12	Proche II	DTL	23	3	156	6.8	11 0
13	Harris,D	COW	23	5	154	6.7	17 0
14	Peppers	ERI	10	6	66	6.6	13 0
15	Logan,T	PCC	15	7	92	6.1	15 0
16	Thomas,D	SBE	25	2	150	6.0	17 0
17	Quinn,T	EE	15	11	81	5.4	15 0
18	Amendola	YOR	13	8	61	4.7	10 0
19	Barner	BRH	9	1	39	4.3	15 0
20	Natson	CB	15	3	54	3.6	14 0
21	Richard	CHP	7	1	23	3.3	7 0
22	Kirk	ICC	4	2	31	7.8	9 0
23	Lockett	ICC	2	2	15	7.5	9 0
24	Sherels	YOR	1	0	7	7.0	7 0
25	Switzer	PIC	2	14	8	4.0	6 0

### EFL 2020 Official Kick Return Leaders

		No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Patterson	VV	12	376	31.3	94 1
2	Cooper,P	BUD	8	243	30.4	91 0
3	Spencer,D	NJ	11	298	27.1	57 0
4	Roberts,A	BRX	11	292	26.5	46 0
5	Carter,D	BUF	21	524	25.0	52 0
6	Ruggs III	ERI	17	424	24.9	53 0
7	Raymond	EE	14	349	24.9	41 1
8	Davis,T	SBE	9	220	24.4	29 0
9	Sanders,M	PIC	8	190	23.8	29 0
10	Hardman	LV	9	208	23.1	39 0
11	Hilliard	PCC	9	202	22.4	35 0
12	Latimer	DTL	10	222	22.2	37 0
13	James Jr.	GEO	12	260	21.7	35 0
14	Ballentine	SS	13	280	21.5	37 0
15	Grant,J	CHI	13	255	19.6	28 0
16	Richard	CHP	18	316	17.6	30 0
17	Cohen	NJ	1	28	28.0	28 0
18	Harris,D	COW	4	103	25.8	42 0
19	Natson	CB	6	154	25.7	42 0
20	Lockett	ICC	3	73	24.3	31 0
21	Campbell,P	CHP	1	24	24.0	24 0
22	Pascal	LV	1	23	23.0	23 0
23	Scott,B	BRH	4	90	22.5	28 0
24	Agnew	SEA	6	134	22.3	31 0
25	Booker	BUF	4	88	22.0	34 0

## EFL 2020 Official Rushing Leaders

			Att	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	Fournette	BRX	152	859	5.7	56	6
2	Chubb,N	DTL	147	841	5.7	75	3
3	Elliott,E	VV	149	763	5.1	30	4
4	Jackson,L	BUF	115	756	6.6	25	6
5	Mixon	ICC	121	628	5.2	24	6
6	Carson,C	SBE	125	625	5.0	66	2
7	Henry,D	YOR	159	590	3.7	24	4
8	McCaffrey	CHI	100	556	5.6	50	6
9	Drake	AUR	76	495	6.5	59	4
10	Jacobs,J	GEO	105	475	4.5	35	0
11	Jones,A	PCC	74	474	6.4	66	3
12	Williams,J	BUD	74	466	6.3	50	3
13	Cook,D	LV	132	461	3.5	19	5
14	Kamara	CHP	96	433	4.5	50	6
15	Howard,J	BUD	86	430	5.0	20	4
16	Hyde,C	BRH	85	415	4.9	24	4
17	Edwards-He	TCT	98	399	4.1	20	5
18	Mostert	CB	69	377	5.5	45	7
19	Singletary	AUR	76	370	4.9	45	0
20	Peterson,A	CB	79	356	4.5	45	2
21	Mack,M	SEA	87	346	4.0	24	1
22	Murray,K	ERI	57	326	5.7	26	2
23	Murray,L	EE	68	282	4.1	32	2
24	Barkley,S	PCC	56	272	4.9	29	2
25	Breida	BRH	56	258	4.6	32	0
26	Taylor,J	SS	76	257	3.4	15	1
27	Montgomery	NJ	92	257	2.8	33	1
28	Swift	PIC	57	256	4.5	63	0
29	Gurley II	COW	81	250	3.1	15	3
30	Ingram II	CHI	58	232	4.0	29	3
31	Allen,J	DTL	37	210	5.7	15	1
32	Johnson,D	PCC	37	208	5.6	18	0
33	Robinson,J	GEO	60	204	3.4	27	0
34	Sanders,M	PIC	78	187	2.4	24	1
35	Edmonds	SS	30	172	5.7	24	2

## EFL 2020 Official Receiving Leaders

			No	Yds	Ave	Lg	TD
1	McCaffrey	CHI	61	442	7.2	27	4
2	Hopkins,D	BRH	60	898	15.0	51	7
3	Thomas,M	LV	60	610	10.2	47	3
4	Woods,R	BUF	49	579	11.8	52	6
5	Edelman	AUR	45	532	11.8	49	8
6	Kittle	BUD	43	452	10.5	21	5
7	Brown,J	VV	40	609	15.2	29	6
8	Sanders,E	BUF	40	443	11.1	28	2
9	Cohen	NJ	39	266	6.8	19	0
10	Kupp	DTL	38	492	12.9	63	1
11	Witten	SS	38	432	11.4	40	3
12	Evans,M	COW	37	574	15.5	64	4
13	Tate	SS	36	361	10.0	44	1
14	Chark Jr.	NJ	36	526	14.6	52	6
15	Renfrow	SEA	35	473	13.5	72	5
16	Metcalfe	CHP	35	503	14.4	35	3
17	Allen,K	PCC	34	469	13.8	54	4
18	Fournette	BRX	34	256	7.5	26	1
19	Robinson,A	SBE	33	416	12.6	58	7
20	Smith-Schu	CHP	33	434	13.2	36	3
21	Kamara	CHP	33	281	8.5	49	1
22	Bell,L	COW	32	248	7.8	22	3
23	Cooper,A	VV	32	603	18.8	50	7
24	Freeman,D	SBE	32	240	7.5	28	1
25	Gallup	CHI	31	523	16.9	45	5
26	Kelce,T	BRX	31	453	14.6	41	3
27	White,J	TCT	31	318	10.3	47	1
28	McLaurin	NJ	31	509	16.4	68	6
29	Ertz	YOR	31	369	11.9	36	3
30	Boyd	DTL	30	336	11.2	27	1
31	Ingram,E	BRH	30	261	8.7	20	2
32	Lockett	ICC	30	372	12.4	31	4
33	Andrews,M	ERI	30	348	11.6	53	5
34	Brown,M	PIC	29	514	17.7	43	4
35	Parker,D	CB	28	629	22.5	62	8



# AROUND THE



# With Spats McChad

NEW YORK – If you look at the news feeds these days you will likely notice that the only two storylines being promoted in the mainstream media have to do with COVID-19 or President Trump’s fight to challenge the results of the U.S. election. There is nothing else. It is as if the Earth has stopped turning on its axis waiting for a vaccine that will end the lockdown madness and for the results of the recounts and legal challenges to tell us who will preside over the decaying realm of the United States of America.

Make no mistake: our glorious nation is failing. Each of us realizes this at some level. And although some people at CNN would have you believe it is because of Trump that the country is in disarray, history will tell you the seeds were planted long ago. Trump is merely one reaction to it; Biden is the other. One represents a nationalist solution, the other a globalist solution. The people who support Trump got screwed over by the globalists. The people who support Biden benefit from a global system. It really is that simple, although people on both sides will try to obfuscate the issues in order to get votes from people who benefit from neither.

It is during times like these when I start to value things I used to take for granted; like a beer *inside* a pub watching football on a chilly November afternoon, a reliable, non-truncated schedule of football games, and even a trip to Stone Pony Shore to watch the Wrecking Balls play live surrounded by real frothing-at-the-mouth bellowing fans.

It's not all due to the “virus.” Tyranny and turmoil are coming...enjoy the EFL while you can!

### ***SONG OF THE DAMNED***

The opportunity to watch a game live at Stone Pony Shore presented itself quite unexpectedly five days prior to the Wrecking Balls hosting the East Elmhurst Irish in Week Seven. Since I am not a season ticket holder, I had little chance of securing a ticket. But the mere fact that one was available was an eye-opener on many levels.

In an abject attempt to rescue his team’s playoff hopes, part owner/GM **Jeff Cohen** set aside both his personal phobia of COVID-19 and any ‘Good Citizen’ concerns he may have had for public safety, by petitioning the Governor of New Jersey for an exemption to pandemic restrictions in order to allow fans to attend the Wrecking Balls’ Week Seven game against the Irish at Stone Pony Shore. Both being Democrats of the bluest kind, and with co-owner and life-long Democrat **Bruce Springsteen** waving a hefty donation cheque under **Bill Murphy**'s nose, Cohen's petition was granted under the condition that the event include a fund-raising component for *Black Lives Matter*. That way, any objection to the gathering on grounds of COVID-exposure risk could be muted by counter-accusations of racism; neatly ending any debate or criticism of the Governor's decision.

The presence of real fans (18,536 of them by exact count), the resumption of live band performances before the game and at half time and the removal of the giant white “condom” that had covered the stadium since training camp did wonders to change the atmosphere of the contest. And it appeared to work like a charm for almost the entire game until near the very end, when the *Football Gods* (yes, they exist!) unleashed their cruelest punishment yet on Cohen's cursed team.

Why the *Football Gods* have targeted the Wrecking Balls for torture over almost the entire 4½-year term of their existence remains a mystery. The *Football Gods* do work in mysterious ways. Perhaps the temerity of **Jeff Cohen** believing his team was a viable contender that only needed a **Matt Stafford** to complete the puzzle – selling false hope once more to the New Jersey fan base – is as good a reason as any for the *Football Gods* to crush his and his team's soul every week. Or possibly it is for some other, unfathomable reason we could never guess at – like some past sin committed, for which no retribution was exacted at the time, but is rebounding now like bad karma on anything the duo of Cohen and Springsteen touch. Who knows? All I know is that the curse on the Wrecking Balls is real and that it is much worse than the *Heaton Curse* that plagued the Blue Eagles for 10 years prior to the arrival of **Joe Burrow**. This contest appeared to be all but over when the Irish took control with 2:19 left, down by 13 points.

The way this game ended would be unbelievable if it involved any team other than the Wrecking Balls. Even so, I still have difficulty wrapping my head around it. Watching the replays of **Baker Mayfield** hitting **Adam Thielen** in the numbers as he ran past the safety for a 43-yard touchdown then, less than one minute later, firing a laser to **Tyreek Hill** as he cut across the middle and turned it up field for a 56-yard scoring play, reminded me of **Saquon Barkley**'s jaunt through the entire New Jersey defence back in Week Three. Like the next hapless victim in a slasher flic, the Wrecking Balls' defence looked paralyzed with fear at the moment of fight or flight. They became spectators to the horror of watching a 26-13 lead vanish in the space of 57 seconds. But it gets worse...

The Wrecking Balls took over at their own 25 with 0:45 left on the clock and one timeout remaining. They still had hope. All they needed was to cover between 40-45 yards in the same number of seconds (a feat that the Irish had just shown to be possible mere moments before) and cross their fingers that **Chris Boswell**'s nerves were up to the task of kicking an all-or-nothing field goal.

Boswell would not get that chance. On the third play from scrimmage, *Case Keenum* was hit as he threw in the direction of *Deebo Samuel*. The pass was high and sailed into the arms of East Elmhurst safety, *Duron Harmon*, who returned it 42 yards to the house for a pick-six. Following the conversion, the Irish led 34-26, still just a one-score lead. The Irish had scored three TDs in the span of 1:49 and were about to immortalize themselves in the annals of Great EFL Comebacks if they could hang on.

With 0:30 left and with one timeout in its back pocket, New Jersey was theoretically still in the game. But there had been enough miracles for one day. Whatever had been scooped out of the great cosmic carton of luck had already been served and there was nothing left for the Wrecking Balls. The game ended with a 15-yard completion to *Taylor Gabriel* in the middle of the field and a mad vain scramble to attempt to spike the ball.

As the teams mingled for their post-game elbow bump, a band called the *The Pogues*, the game band for this date, took to a small stage in the north end zone and struck up an oriental-sounding tune in D-major with a curiously upbeat tempo, given the tragedy that had just occurred on the field. But the lyrics were anything but reassuring....

*"I come old friend from Hell tonight, across the rotting sea,  
Nor the nails of the cross nor the blood of Christ can bring you help this eve..."*

The lyrics of 'The Turkish Song of the Damned' formed a fitting epitaph for death of the Wrecking Balls' season.

### **KOZÓLOK CHINOBÓL**

At Ferenc-Liszt International Airport Stadium in Budapest, the North Stars pulled out a hard-fought victory over the Kozólok, overcoming a 21-10 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter deficit with three unanswered touchdowns to come out on top 31-21. With Brooklin losing to the Cubs this week, Budapest now has a two-game lead in the Coastal and appears ready to take full control of the division in the not-too-distant future. For the Kozólok, it was their third straight loss, which means they are now alone in the West Division basement – a place nobody expected them to occupy this far into the season.

It has been frustrating year so far for **Rob Nazar** and the Kozólok faithful. This game was no exception. The team that has fallen just a little short in all three losses looked to be the better team through three quarters of this contest until fatigue from a 17-hour flight from Ontario, CA to Budapest took its toll late in the game. The Chino offence simply stopped moving the ball and the defence stopped stopping in a 4<sup>th</sup> quarter that was owned by the Stars.

After an unremarkable first half, Budapest QB, *Aaron Rodgers* temporarily snapped out of his semi-stupor in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter with three consecutive completions totaling 51 yards which, along with a 15-yard personal foul penalty on *Gerald McCoy*, helped to set up a 12-yard touchdown run by *Jamaal Williams*. This narrowed Chino's lead to 21-17. It was after that score that the Chino offence stopped producing and – following a much-needed two series rest – the Stars' offence launched its signature drive.

Starting at his own 3-yard line, Rodgers went to work moving his team incrementally up the field. He fought off three false start penalties and converted two 3<sup>rd</sup> downs on passes to tight ends *George Kittle* and *Jacob Hollister*. By the two-minute warning, the Stars were in Kozólok territory at the 29 and pretty much committed to making this the final drive of the game, if they could. The Kozólok understood this and began to use their timeouts as Rodgers pushed forward, finally coming up against a 4<sup>th</sup> & 1 at the Chino 12 with just 1:19 remaining in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. With the Kozólok beefing up to a five-man front and playing short zone coverage, Rodgers dropped back and fired a ball to Kittle, who had nestled into a small hole in the zone. The big tight end grabbed the ball and fell backwards as safety *Antoine Bethea* zeroed in. He landed a glancing blow and Kittle landed on the goal line for a touchdown. The 8,685 fans on hand at Ferenc-Liszt went berserk, while heads dipped on the Kozólok sideline.

Trailing for the first time all game, 24-21, with 1:11 remaining, Chino needed a field goal to tie. But that would become a moot point four plays later when a 4<sup>th</sup> & 16 pass from *Dak Prescott* was intercepted by *Jamel Dean* and returned 37 yards for a touchdown, making the final score, 31-21 for Budapest. This little pick-six bitch slap at the end really soured the mood in Chino. And the subsequent ridicule in national and local media after an innocent gaffe by a scoreboard operator in Budapest, has fans feeling humiliated and angry.

You are likely wondering by now why I kept referring to the team from Chino as 'Kozólok,' and not Convicts. It is because, for the entire game, the scoreboard at Ferenc-Liszt displayed KOZOLOK where CONVICTS would normally appear. It was revealed later that the regular scoreboard operator had been sidelined with COVID-19. His replacement was new to the EFL gig and did not know the name of the team the North Stars were playing. One of his colleagues joked in Hungarian, "*they are Pirates, look at their helmets!*" And so, the operator, not knowing the English word for pirates, put up the Hungarian word, Kozólok. And now the name, at least the English version, has stuck.

"Well, come to think of it, that skull and crossbones does look like something you'd see flying from the mast of a pirate ship," noted CBS color commentator, **Rich Cannon**, in the post-game wrap-up. "What do they call it, the Jolly Roger? But you know, there was nothing jolly about that 4th quarter collapse as far as those Pirates are concerned!"

"It is getting so bad in Chino that Convicts fans are shopping for black bags to put over their heads while the team is trying to change its name without anyone noticing," quipped **Cowan Bullherd** the following morning on his nationally syndicated talk show, *Morning Bull*. "They're even switching the language - just to make sure!"

The situation in Chino has not reached the bag-wearing stage yet. But give it time. If they continue along this path, they might need to move the team as well. My guess is either Pittsburgh or the Caribbean.

### **THE KISS OF DEATH**

Another hair-raiser in Brooklin saw the Cubs pour on the offence to stay ahead of the hard-flapping Hawks and finish off a much-needed



The scoreboard at Ferenc-Liszt International Airport in Budapest shows the Stars trailing the Kozólok, 7-0 in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the Week 7 match-up between Chino and Budapest. With the usual stadium scoreboard operator self-isolating after testing positive for COVID-19, a new operator unfamiliar with the EFL posted the Hungarian word for ‘Pirates,’ believing that to be the name of the team from Chino.

42-28 victory.

Brooklin never led in this game, but the feeling that they were right behind the Cubs the whole time never went away. **Russell Wilson** kept his foot on the gas as a result, turning in a banner performance in the process. The Iowa quarterback completed 81% of his pass attempts for 288 yards, 4 TDs and led his squad to 6 touchdowns in 6 trips to the red zone. Hawks’ QB, **Derek Carr** was no slouch either, finishing with 271 yards passing and 2 TDs with no picks. He never stopped attacking the Cubs’ secondary, but safety **Jaylon Johnson** had a great day in coverage, batting down 3 passes and sticking with his assignments to blunt many deep Brooklin thrusts.

This barn-burner of a game might have turned out differently except for the extra urgency on the Cubs’ side, evident in cleaner and quicker execution, that enabled them to match the energy level of their opponent. It was an urgency born of concern that their season was about to slip away and that their coach of 14 seasons might not see the end of the 2020 campaign if things did not turn around really fast.

After the Cubs were whipped 36-9 by Bruxelles in Week Six, their worst defeat since dropping a 30-0 decision to Garland in 2013, no less than the owner himself decided it was time to send a message. The Alberhasky clan wheeled out 106-year old **G. Rodney Alberhasky**, CEO of Corner Pharmacy and owner of the Cubs, to deliver a ‘Webex’ message to the Media and the team in which he declared, between long pauses, dips of the head and the odd snore, his *100% confidence* in Head Coach, **Deron Redding**.

This pronouncement landed with the force of a 10-megaton bomb on the Iowa coach and everybody whose careers were tied to him. Redding had been on the hot seat many times before, but this was the first time the Alberhasky’s had pushed forward the “Big Guy,” the *Godfatherly* figure of their ancient CEO, to formally declare his 100% confidence in the coach. This – everyone understood – was the kiss of death. The final, final, *final* warning that things had better improve – and improve f^\$&ing now – or it would be all over for Redding and his staff.

Redding is a bit of a polarizing figure in the Iowa media, as evidenced by the long-standing duel between beat writers, **Sparky McGillicuddy** of *The Iowan* and **Archibald Thacker** of the *Des Moines Register*. McGillicuddy is the original Cubs’ beat writer who writes for a broader, primarily rural audience. He generally supports Redding and his decisions and speaks for fans who believe in loyalty and respect the team’s winning tradition. Thacker writes for a primarily urban, white collar city class who want to see advances in the Iowa City tech sector to attract higher paying jobs and increase the value of real estate they already own. This group has very little patience and the attention span to match. They want a championship – and *soon!* They acknowledge that the Cubs under Redding are almost always competitive – 10 seasons out of 13 making the playoffs – but that it is not good enough. They believe Redding does not have what it takes to coach a Champion and they want him out in favour of a young “whizz-kid” type who believes in and practices analytics. Thacker’s best columns come after Cubs’ losses – especially if a call or a game plan can be blamed for the loss.



“Yeah! Dat me, the MVP!” **Drew Brees** seems to be saying as he looks downfield in Week Seven action against Peg City. Brees, sharing time behind center with **Dwayne Haskins**, threw 5 TD passes on the day, 4 on consecutive possessions in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, to lead the Swordfish to 30 unanswered points and a stunning 37-27 comeback win.

These opposing factions do not exist in the Cubs’ locker room, however. The players are unified behind their coach. If nothing else, **Deron Redding** instills, from year-to-year, a strong team ethic and mandate of mutual support amongst his impressionable young players. He is a coach who genuinely puts the welfare of the players first and respects their views on everything from play design to way they practice. The players appreciate that – particularly the non-contact practices, the one-every-second-day walkthroughs, the “nap” times and the “study days” when they are allowed to “visualize” their moves by playing the popular *Badden* football video game all day. No team has it so easy and the players are well aware of this fact.

And so, it was with the aim of keeping their coach in a job that the Cubs players finally got off their tender backsides and laid it all out on the field of play. “*For coach!*” replaced the word “break” in the huddle and accompanied every high-five, slap on the butt or helmet bump after a good play. The results on the field speak for themselves. The question, of course, is whether this pace can continue. What will happen when the youngsters start feeling the bumps, bruises and muscle stiffness of giving it their all every week? Time will tell whether the Cubs’ players are able to keep sacrificing. In the mean time, Redding better work on that game plan.

***A WIN IS A WIN...OR SO THEY SAY***

Durham edged out Charleswood 19-17 in a game where the only newsreel-worthy highlight was a 41-yard dump-off from the Pats’

*DeShaun Watson* to *Alvin Kamara* that came at a point in the game that I like to call “just-before-garbage-time.” You know the moment! It’s when you’ve put the garbage out to the curb and you can hear truck on the other street and know it’s coming around in about 5 minutes or so. It’s still not quite there, but you know it’s only a matter of time and you start to relax knowing your job is done.

Just-before-garbage-time came with Durham leading by 9 with 1:45 remaining in the 4<sup>th</sup> and the Pats beginning a new set of downs at the Lizard 43 with all their timeouts left. The way their offence had been playing, the Pats’ chance of victory was less than 5% at that point. Kamara’s big play gave Charleswood faint hope, bumping up the win chance to just above 9%. As nifty as it was, that was play’s only impact. Apart from that single play – unless you enjoyed watching *Nick Chubb* do his best *Earl Campbell* imitation – the game had nothing much to offer the viewer except to provide fodder for discussion around the water cooler about how un-explosive the Durham passing game is with *Mr. Big Arm* behind center. Not breaking 200 yards against the ravaged Pats’ secondary is simply inexcusable for a team with big post-season aspirations. Let’s face it; a victim does not get much more prostrate than a battered Pats’ secondary with no pass rush (not a single blitz) backing it up.

I got the impression that the Lizards were just trying a little too hard. For example, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, up 6-0, they went for it on 4th & 2 at Pats’ 9-yard line. Chubb was stopped for no gain and they turned the ball over on downs. *Really?* Why not put another 3 bucks in the piggy bank there? The answer, of course, is that 3 points are no longer good enough for many teams these days, even for teams like the Lizards who average just under 19 points per game (bottom quarter of the league). Why settle for 3 when you could have 6, 7, 8...or maybe 0? Hey, *not* coming away with cheap points was not fatal. After all, it was the Pats they were facing. But why go into a hurry-up, TD-or-bust mode early against a team like the Pats? It doesn’t make sense unless you are looking to set records or something.

Heck, a win is a win, as they say. As unimpressive and alarm bell-ringing as this outing was for Durham, it still counts the same as any other win in the standings! Diehard Thunder Lizards fans are clinging to that axiom in order to reassure themselves that it doesn’t ultimately matter that a 1-6 team almost pushed their alleged Gale Sayers Game hopefuls deeper into the hole they had already dug for themselves. All eyes will be upon them next week as they try to claim a piece of the North against Scarborough.

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

This was another fascinating week of games, packed with dramatic comebacks and results of significance to a rapidly developing and complex playoff picture. I will do my best to do justice to Week Seven while staying within my word limit.

~ At a sold-out Tillman Field in Cowtown, a large group of fans from Virден got to watch their team live for the first time this season and the Violators rewarded their loyalty with a 37-34 win over the home town Corn Kings. About 2,000 visiting fans packed the south end zone bleachers and whooped it up for their heroes with the zeal of a college crowd. The pent-up energy of being in lockdown and unable to watch their team at *TERRORDOME* exploded onto the soundscape of Tillman Field in counterpoint to the enthusiastic local fans, who took up the challenge of attempting to drown them out. This they managed to do for most of the game, up until *Nigel Bradham* abruptly and unexpectedly changed the trajectory of this contest in favour of the visitors with a dramatic scoop and run fumble recovery for a touchdown. Steady rain in Cowtown had a definite impact on the game: A 20-point explosion in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter by the Corn Kings was fueled by two lost fumbles by the Violators leading to two touchdowns and a 31-21 Cowtown lead; while the strip-sack of *Jimmy Garoppolo* by *Sheldon Richardson* that led to Bradham’s TD was also assisted by a slippery ball. In the end, the Corn Kings fumbled it once too often, with Garoppolo losing the handle while being sacked by *Jamie Collins Sr.* on the first snap of their first possession of overtime, leading to a 45-yard game-winning field goal by *Zane Gonzalez*. This was a well-played and exciting game in spite of the weather-induced errors on both sides. To my surprise, Cowtown was able to hang-in with Virден in a shootout while also getting some key stops from their defence that will go unnoticed by many due to the loss. For Virден, this victory was a vital gut check and one that demonstrated they can get game-altering plays from their defence as well as *Patrick Mahomes*.

~ *Lamar Jackson* continued to be the story out of Buffalo as the Derailers notched their 5<sup>th</sup> straight victory, defeating the Cadillac, 38-14. Jackson personally dominated the first half of this lop-sided contest, rushing for 92 yards and a touchdown and passing for 143 yards and 2 touchdowns in the first two quarters to all but single-handedly build a 31-7 lead. Few teams are able to recover from such a stunning opening haymaker, let alone Erieau. The Derailers coasted to victory in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half with little resistance from *Kyler Murray* and crew. Buffalo had success running out of a 4-wide receiver set with designed runs going routinely for 7 yards or more, including a 22-yard bootleg for the Derailers’ first TD. Only a quarterback like Jackson could get away with running the ball consistently well from an empty backfield. The Cadillac had never seen the look before and had no answer for it until the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, but by then it was too late. Defensive coordinators around the league take note: film study of this game is required homework.

~ Few football fans outside of the State of Georgia were aware of it beforehand, but this week’s 42-20 thumping of the Gladiators by the Coyotes was the first football contest ever played pitting one Georgian pro team against another. And despite their team’s lowly 1-6 record and even lowlier play, there is plenty of bitterness and acrimony in Greensboro over this loss to the upstart team from the Atlanta suburbs. “No Respect!” one Gladiator fan with the handle [@stiffsword](#) blasted on Twitter along with a meme of *Brandin Cooks* dancing in the end zone and pointing at the Gladiator bench after tearing through the secondary for a 90-yard TD late in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. It was the game’s final score and the image of Cooks taunting the Glads’ bench when up by 22 points will not be forgotten for a long time. Signs that this would a fun day for the Coyote offence came early, on the first play from scrimmage in fact, when *DeVante Parker* sliced through the secondary on a crossing route for a 58-yard gain to set up the game’s first touchdown, a 17-yard pass to *Jared Cook* on the next play. Then *Raheem Mostert* made Georgia pay for turning the ball over on downs at their own 45 with a 45-yard TD run. Less than five minutes into the game Cobb County led 14-0. Although the Glads put forth some resistance with a touchdown and field goal on consecutive drives to pull within 4 points, the Cobb County machine kept pouring on the offence. It was so

effortless that when **Teddy Bridgewater** came into the game to manage the second half he could not help throwing two more TD passes, giving the Wild Dogs five on the day. Let the office pools begin to pick the first defence to hold Cobb County to under 30 points.

~ At an empty Thermopylae Stadium in Pickering, **Philip Rivers** oversaw a two-minute drill in the 4th quarter that ended with him finding **Calvin Ridley** unattended in the end zone for the final touchdown and a razor-thin 23-22 victory over the Assassins. This contest was about as exciting as it gets for Pickering fans these days. But the build-up of tension, as Rivers battled the clock to get his team to the Vegas 1-yard line, followed by the thrill of the score masked the reality that this was not a pretty or particularly meritorious win. The Spartans of 2020 are probably not capable of winning “pretty,” so fans will take what the team gives them in the 'W' column. This felt less like a Pickering “win” than it did a Las Vegas “loss.” The visitors looked better in all areas except the most important one: Quarterback. **Carson Wentz** is simply not getting the job done. He did not turn the ball over in this game – a small mercy – but he managed just one scoring drive of more than 43 yards – a 78-yard effort in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter that ended with **Dalvin Cook** scoring from 4 yards out. Watching an uncertain and obviously unsettled Wentz barely but repeatedly missing his throws against the highly suspect defence of the Spartans was uncomfortable for me, let alone Assassins’ fans. Too often he threw the defender into position to make a play – in some instances it was a matter of being less than a foot off in placement and a split-second off in timing. The term “not clicking” comes to mind. Coach **Anthony Holguin**, who has been quick to give Wentz the hook when he isn't performing, kept him in for the entire game this time. He took the blame for not getting Cook more involved in the offence. The limitations of the Vegas attack have become more apparent over the past three weeks. Perhaps the Cubs and Convicts are breathing a little easier now.

~ At the Fish Tank in Sebastian, **Drew Brees** engineered an amazing comeback, leading the Swordfish to 30 unanswered, 2<sup>nd</sup> half points to overcome the Crusaders, 37-27. It was the proverbial “Tale of Two Halves,” with Peg City dominating the first and Sebastian owning the second. I don't understand what's going on at the QB position in Sebastian. **Dwayne Haskins** started under center for the second straight week, but was pulled after 8 plays in favour of Brees, who threw the TD pass to **Jonathan Taylor** that ended the opening drive. Haskins popped up for about two-dozen plays throughout the game, usually in running situations, but occasionally just because. Despite the distraction of Haskins entering, leaving and re-entering the game, sometimes on the same drive, the focus ended up on the heroics of Brees, who finished the game 23 of 29 for 371 yards, 5 TDs and a perfect game-day passer rating. The Fish needed those heroics. They looked like their own worst enemy in the 1<sup>st</sup> half. Two **Jalen Reagor** fumbles were turned into 14 Peg City points and a failed 4<sup>th</sup> down at the Crusaders' 40-yard line was answered with 7 more. The Pegs led 27-7 at half time and looked in complete control. Nobody thought the weird Sebastian QB Dance would do anything to help their cause in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. But Brees was permitted to stay on the field uninterrupted for most of the second half, throwing TD passes of 88 and 34 yards to Reagor, 45 yards to **Laviska Shenault** and an 8-yard check down to Taylor before Haskins was allowed back on the field, only to lose 4 yards on a bootleg read all the way by the Peg City defence. Even with these shenanigans, the Swordfish blew up the stat sheet with 545 yards of offence, 24 1<sup>st</sup> downs and 35 minutes of possession time. Or perhaps this is because of those shenanigans...oh no, figuring out the Swordfish makes me dizzy.

~ Rookie **Jacob Eason** got the spot start for Aurora after **Matt Ryan** was placed on the COVID-19 reserve list for having been exposed to the virus after being tested in the *same room* as a staff member who had tested positive for COVID-19 earlier. Yes, I am not kidding! It is as if they are looking for ways to keep top players out of games in order to, in some way, promote the virus as a threat. The EFL scarab amulet is doing its job though, and people in the Virus Industry are not happy about it. Anyway, having Eason behind center took away the explosiveness of the Mustangs offence. The only explosive play they got came from running back **Kenyan Drake**, who broke containment on a pitch and dodged three tackles on his way to a 59-yard TD run for the first of two Aurora touchdowns on the day. Once the Bombers' defence settled down and started to contain Drake, it was only a matter of time before their offence, behind the arm of **Jared Goff** and another 100-yard rushing day by **Leonard Fournette**, pulled away to a comfortable 30-14 win. COVID-19 not only claimed another loss to a favoured team, it broke Matt Ryan's consecutive starts streak of 161 consecutive starts for the Mustangs going back to 2010 when the team as in Garland.

~ At the Wolverine's Den in Toronto, the home team Blue Eagles stayed one leg up the North Division standings with a blue-collar 19-14 win over the Triumph. **Chris Carson** made the game's signature play by breaking 3 tackles on a broad sweep behind pulling guard **Zack Martin** to bull his way to a 66-yard score. **Joe Burrow** was a quiet and efficient game-manager, finishing 20 of 25 for 187 yards, and no TDs but also no interceptions. **Mitch Trubisky** started for the Triumph and, as in his first start, he oversaw a slow-burner of a game in which he found his team just slightly out of reach of their opponent the whole way. It may be that "Death by Jameis" is preferable to the slow torture of a Trubisky-led offence – at least it's over quickly.

~ And finally, at Camelot, the Excaliburs slowly – very slowly – grounded the Pilots under the cleats of **Derrick Henry** and the Master's hand of **Tom Brady** to emerge with a decisive 20-7 win. The game moved forward in slow motion as penalties and mediocre offensive execution kept both teams from getting into an early rhythm. It took a 15-yard personal foul call on **Marshon Lattimore** tacked on to a 15-yard pass to **Mike Williams** to finally kick-start the York offence, which broke the deadlock with 31-yard **Steve Hauschka** field goal with 12 minutes left in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. The highlight-reel from this contest is more of a ‘highlight meme’ of **Tom Brady** reluctantly and gingerly scrambling out of the pocket for 10 yards to the Seattle end zone for the touchdown that gave the Swords a 20-0 lead in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Despite this game being a major snore-fest for everyone else, it apparently almost caused York coach, **Jay Hammond** to have a heart attack on the sideline after **Marlon Mack** scored Seattle's only TD after an 18-play, 75-yard drive that ate up over 7½ minutes off the clock. All Hammond had been talking about in the week leading up to this game was how no lead was ever safe against these new ‘*Kardiac Kids*’ from Seattle. As he imagined the 20-point lead his offence had painstakingly built up over 3-and-a-half quarters disappearing in a jet stream of **Sam Darnold**-led magic, he almost had the big one right then and there.

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## *Jimmy's WEEK EIGHT PICKS*

### **BRUXELLES @ CHARLESWOOD (line – BOMBERS by 8)**

**INJURIES:** **Bruxelles** – Emmanuel Ogbah (DOUBTFUL); **Charleswood** – Jalen Mills (DOUBTFUL), Parris Campbell (OUT), Derwin James (OUT), Devin Funchess (IR), CJ Mosley (IR).

The Bombers are coming off two big wins against the Cubs and the Mustangs and are back in the race for the East Division. The offence was steady in those wins, but the most encouraging sign for their long term prospects was the play of their defence, which is beginning to repair its standing in the league rankings. It is clear that the Jared Goff version of the Bombers' offence has limitations in the outside passing game and that it is transitioning to a power run scheme behind Leonard Fournette, which increases the pressure on the defence to keep games in hand. It is unlikely that the Pats will win this game. But what remains of the talent on its roster resides on the offensive side of the ball. DeShaun Watson is capable of scoring that late, line-wrecking touchdown in a lost cause. **PICK: CHARLESWOOD**

### **TWIN CITIES @ NEW JERSEY (line – WRECKING BALLS by 4)**

**INJURIES:** **Twin Cities** – Kwon Alexander (OUT), Trent Brown (OUT), Chris Lindstrom (OUT), Russell Okung (OUT), Antonio Brown (COVID-19); **New Jersey** – Matthew Stafford (OUT).

Watching the way the Wrecking Balls have lost the last two weeks against teams they should have beaten makes me wonder how they can be favoured against anybody. But the Triumph are going through a similar rough period – not so much cursed, but playing so poorly that they might as well be. It is likely too late for either team to save its season, but the loser will have any doubt removed. New Jersey has surrendered a league-high 82 points in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and 68 points in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, showing a tendency to let up or tire in the back stretch of halves. The Triumph are dead last in scoring, but when they score it is most likely to happen in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters. With no lead being safe for the Wrecking Balls, starting the game in hurry-up and playing like they are in catch-up might be the answer. For the Triumph, finding a way to get the run game more involved will be the key to improving an erratic air attack. **PICK: NEW JERSEY**

### **VIRDEN @ BUFFALO (line – VIOLATORS BY 1)**

**INJURIES:** **Virden** – Derrius Guice (IR); **Buffalo** – Jonathan Abram (IR).

Three weeks ago, I would not have hesitated to run with Virden here and not look back. But after barely escaping Cowtown with the '1' in their loss column intact, and experiencing two weeks of sleepy Finlay Football before that, I detect a slight limp in the Violator swagger. The Derailers are back on track and chugging with a full head of steam in pursuit of undefeated Cobb County. This is a battle of premiere quarterbacks with different strengths and styles but with the common ability to extend plays to their ridiculous and improbable extremes. No team that has faced Lamar Jackson this year, other than the Coyotes, has solved the puzzle of how to deal with him. I don't expect Virden will either, but they certainly have the firepower to blow up the Buffalo defence and force Jackson to air it out more often than he would like to a limited target set. Could go either way, but Virden is the more complete team. **PICK: VIRDEN**

### **COBB COUNTY @ PEG CITY (line – COYOTES by 1)**

**INJURIES:** **Cobb County** – Robert Hunt (OUT). **Peg City** – Chris Jones (COVID-19);

The Crusaders collapsed on both sides of the ball in the second half of their loss to Sebastian last week. Collapses like that can happen. But when one happens with a 20-point lead it sets off alarm bells for people like me, who see the talent on this squad but question whether they possess the discipline and mental fortitude to take on the established heavy hitters in a meaningful game. This is the Crusaders' opportunity to bring what they've got against what is hands-down the best team in the league at the moment. The Coyotes have done nothing poorly and have won all their games running away – hardly breaking a sweat in the process. Common sense says this cannot continue, but if the Coyotes are due for a dry spell, I am at a loss to predict what might cause it, apart from the obvious 'key

injury' possibility; or boredom leading to complacency. The Pegs will challenge and the Coyotes will answer. **PICK: COBB COUNTY**

### **CHINO @ SEATTLE (line – PILOTS by 6)**

**INJURIES:** Chino– Morgan Burnett (OUT), Melvin Ingram III (OUT), Kawann Short (IR); Seattle – Bobby Massie (OUT), Olivier Vernon (OUT).

The state of the union in Chino is fractious, with blame beginning to center on Dak Prescott and Coach Rob Nazar for overseeing a far too predictable dink-and-dunk offence that cannot keep pace with the leaky Convicts' defence. Christian McCaffery has been targeted on 35% of passes, most of them flats and screens. While getting the ball into the hands of your no.1 asset is vital, not challenging opponents down field has enabled defences to keep McCaffery somewhat in a box. The Pilots, after winning three straight games, laid an egg in York last week. Nevertheless, fans are happy with the team's performance overall. The defence is bending a lot, but holding up well in the red zone, while the offence seems to have a trick up its sleeve when most needed in close games. They are rightly favoured here, but historically Chino tends to get meaner the more they are backed into a corner; and this is a must-win for the Felons. **PICK: CHINO**

### **IOWA CITY @ LAS VEGAS (line – ASSASSINS by 3)**

**INJURIES:** Iowa City – Will Dissly (OUT), Reshad Jones (OUT). Las Vegas – None;

The Cubs' offence finally broke out with its best display of power and finesse last week. That it came against the Hawks is a point of caution to consider before snatching the attractive spread for a Cubs cover. Russell Wilson (the other name for the Cubs' offence) has really struggled against the better defences he has faced this year. The Assassins, despite giving up a late TD to creaky Philip Rivers last week, possess a solid defence, ranked third in efficiency at 5 yards-per-play. Unfortunately, the Vegas offence has only netted 4.9 yards-per-play. Although it is more talented, the Cubs' defence is currently performing far below the level of the Spartan defence that Carson Wentz fizzled out against last week. If the Cubs' back end keeps struggling on 3<sup>rd</sup> down and is unable to take the ball away, Wentz could get back his old groove here. But I doubt it. Iowa is preparing to deliver a strong message to rest of the West. **PICK: IOWA CITY**

### **COWTOWN @ SEBASTIAN (line – Pick 'Em)**

**INJURIES:** Cowtown – Cordy Glenn (OUT); Sebastian – Denzel Perryman (OUT).

These teams were on opposite sides of come-from-behind victories last week. The Swordfish rose from the dead in the second half versus Peg City and in the process highlighted the big-play ability of their rookie receivers, Jalen Reagor and Laviska Shenault. The Corn Kings fumbled away their chance to knock off powerhouse Virden. Although there is no shame in losing to Virden in such a close game, doing it through turnovers has to be deflating. Can the visitors recover their morale on the road against a division rival? The North is shaping up to be a tighter race than expected and both these teams are in the thick of it. The Cowtown defence still ranks no.2 even after surrendering 37 points to Virden. They will need to contain the explosiveness of the Sebastian attack to give their offence a chance. Cowtown will want to slow the game down, while the Fish will be happy to keep things as chaotic as possible. **PICK: SEBASTIAN**

### **DURHAM @ SCARBOROUGH (line – BLUE EAGLES by 4)**

**INJURIES:** Durham – Darnay Holmes (QUESTIONABLE); Scarborough – DeSean Jackson (OUT).

Nobody expected a scenario where the Thunder Lizards would be chasing the Blue Eagles for first place in the North Division in Week Eight. So, what is a prognosticator to make of the situation? Are the Eagles for real? Was everybody wrong about Durham? This is the decision point for these teams. If the Eagles are for real, they will need to get past these Thunder Lizards to make the glass slipper fit. The Lizards lead the league in rushing but have not been able to turn that strength into points. Josh Allen has been no better than mediocre through 7 games. He needs to improve his consistency or his team's fortunes will continue to rise and dip and ultimately go flat line. Joe Burrow has not thrown an interception and leads a steady and balanced offence that can achieve success in both phases. The Durham defence, however, features an elite-grade secondary and a pass rush that has 13 sacks in their last 4 games after a slow start. Chris Carson must make his presence felt to open up play-action or it could be a brutal initiation for the no.1 rookie. **PICK: DURHAM**

### **EAST ELMHURST @ BUDAPEST (line – NORTH STARS by 10)**

**INJURIES:** East Elmhurst – Dontari Poe (OUT), Jalen Ramsey (OUT), CJ Anderson (IR); Budapest – DJ Hayden (DOUBTFUL).

The Stars are coming off a clutch win over Chino after a couple of shaky outings. It is fair to say that Budapest is still finding its offensive identity with Aaron Rodgers under center. Not that he has been playing poorly – it is that he has not clearly elevated the play of those around him, particularly the wide receivers. Defences are wary of the one-time champ as well, expecting the pass. The running backs, Jordan Howard and Jamaal Williams, have taken advantage of this to help boost the team rushing average to 5.1 yards per carry. This week Rodgers faces his former team, the new management of which did not see him as a long term answer and dealt him for Baker Mayfield, Ryan Fitzpatrick and a first round pick. It will be interesting to see which quarterback the Irish start in this contest. Fitzpatrick was on the roster, but never saw the field for Budapest, while Mayfield was the North Stars' 1<sup>st</sup> -round pick in 2018. Could young Baker

be nursing a grudge against his former team? This is a mismatch, but luck of the Irish will keep it close. **PICK: EAST ELMHURST**

### **ERIEAU @ PICKERING (line – SPARTANS by 3)**

**INJURIES:** Erieau – Myles Garrett (OUT), Joe Staley (IR), Akiem Hicks (IR); **Pickering** – Darqueze Dennard (OUT), Xavien Howard (OUT), Derek Wolfe (OUT).

The Erieau offence, while no juggernaut, has been creeping up in the team rankings. They sit at no.16 in terms of efficiency, which is a historic high point for a Cadillac offence this far into the season. This is almost entirely due to Kyler Murray, who leads the team in rushing as well as passing. They are still struggling to put points on the board, however, and this is due to a lack of balance. Most of Murray's rushing yards have come on scrambles; there is little conventional running in the Caddies' offence. The Spartans are a relatively soft target defensively, but they will hold their ground if they know what is coming. Pickering is coming off a gritty upset of Las Vegas and they feel good about themselves. Win or lose, they put forth a steady, strong effort. **PICK: PICKERING**

### **YORK @ AURORA (line – EXCALIBURS by 2)**

**INJURIES:** York – Everson Griffen (QUESTIONABLE), Malcolm Butler (OUT), Darren Sproles (OUT); **Aurora** – None.

The Excaliburs are moving up in the power rankings thanks to back-to-back wins over power ranking darlings, Scarborough and Seattle. This recognition is not due to their offence. The defence has kept York in games they should have lost, which is amazing given the retooling of that unit and the loss of Von Miller. They have been solid against the pass and superlative against the run. This means Aurora will need to re-establish the Matt Ryan-to-Davante Adams Express, a train that has not run on time so far this year. Sizing up the raw talent on both sides, Aurora has the advantage due to its offensive line and better weapons. But the York coach has been game-planning well on 'D' and knows this opponent. On offence, Tom Brady's raw numbers aren't overly impressive, but he has a way of getting the job done in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter when the game is close. But with an angry Ryan back, don't expect it to be so close. **PICK: AURORA**

### **BROOKLIN @ GEORGIA (line – HAWKS by 4)**

**INJURIES:** Brooklin – Leighton Vander Esch (PROBABLE), Pernell McPhee (OUT), Stephon Tuitt (OUT), JoeJuan Williams (OUT), DeShon Elliott (IR); **Georgia** – John Johnson III (OUT), Jimmy Smith (OUT).

The Brooklin offence showed up against Iowa City last week but the defence finally showed its true colours by forcing just one punt and allowing the Cubs to score six touchdowns in six trips to the red zone. That was the Brooklin team most analysts had expected to see – one that scored a lot of points but got buried under its defence every week. The Hawks have a chance to stabilize here against a Glads team that is proving to be deserving of the conference basement and may, in fact, be the worst team in the league. It will be a close race to the bottom, but if the Glads somehow miss the 'Tanking for Trevor' sweepstakes, it will be because they get to face the teams in their division not named the Mustangs and teams like the Hawks, with critical flaws in their make-up. **PICK: GEORGIA**



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

FROM THE EFL ARCHIVES – Week Seven of the 2014 EFL season was the week the EFL got to see one of the great signature comebacks led by the Cubs' **Russell Wilson** as his team nosed past the Thunder Lizards at the finish line, 37-35. Down by 10, with 3:45 remaining in the 4<sup>th</sup>, Wilson oversaw a gargantuan 89-yard TD drive, one in which he converted three 4<sup>th</sup> downs, to pull within 5 points with just 0:46 left. Miraculously, with the hands team on the field for Durham, the Cubs recovered the onside kick and three plays later a scrambling Wilson found **Darren Sproles** wide open in the end zone for a 29-yard TD with only 0:12 left in the

4<sup>th</sup>. The game ended with **Drew Brees** being crushed under the weight of **Muhammad Wilkerson** before he could get off a desperation bomb.

The Corn Kings pulled off the shocker of the week, however, by upsetting the Banana Sluggs, 34-28. **Alfred Morris** gashed a wildly aggressive Santa Clara defence for 239 yards and a TD on 29 carries while the trio of Cowtown wide receivers put up good numbers against one of the top cornerback groups in the league. Despite its repeated lack of success, Slugg coach, **Cooper Gerow** stuck with the 'Offence 2' doctrine on defence and attacked the line of scrimmage with blitzes, even when the ball was being carried well past it.

But despite Morris' big day, the Offensive Player of the Week honours went to the Convicts' **Cam Newton**, who threw 4 TD passes and rushed for another in a 35-27 victory on the road over Sebastian. In a week when defence was hard to find, Regulators' safety **Mike Mitchell** earned Defensive Player of the Week recognition for his 2 interceptions, one of those a red zone pick, in his team's 27-10 victory over the Hellfire. The special teams standout was Charleswood kick returner, **Keshawn Martin**, who returned 6 kicks for 248 yards, including a 107-yard TD, in the Pats' 27-10 loss to the Excaliburs.