

TFL Today

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Haiku
Harry

Gaping maw closes
Pyle prattle is nevermore
May Jeb rest in peace

Clutch your heart, my friend
Flag of red glory unfurls
Newts win ten again

Horse track, doggie track
Surrender the lottery
Lucky bastard Katz

Haiku Harry, a borderline sociopath, writes weekly on the compelling TFL issues of our day.

POWER POLL

1. Dugway	81.3
2. Marley	81.1
3. Bagdad	80.7
4. Alaska	78.0
5. Narcoossee	70.0
6. East Hartford	70.4
Limerick	70.4
8. Denver	67.6
9. Sarasota	66.5
10. Baltimore	66.2
11. Dutch Harbor	65.1
12. Willow	64.5
13. Flint	62.4
14. Anchorage	55.5

WARNING

Two Thursday games this week (Thanksgiving, imagine that). Lineups due at 12:15 p.m. EST on Thursday.

What if they held the playoffs and . . .

The best teams weren't there?

By Scoop Bias
Dugway Herald

DUGWAY, Utah — This time next week the seeds will be set for the Sweeney Bowl Tournament and the chase for the T. Rex will be on.

Don't expect the best teams in the TFL to be in that chase.

In the ultimate proof that luck is more important than talent, the top two teams in the Times Football League could miss the playoffs and have to battle for the first-ever Pee Wee Bowl crown.

Dugway, which leads the TFL in points and is the team Scott Lacy — owner of the regular season champion Bagdad Red-Bellied Newts — says he fears most in the playoffs, may not make it there.

The odds of the Marley Wailers, the No. 2 team in points scored, making it are also bleak.

And in a fitting end to what has been an unlucky season to both teams, they play each other this week.

And with these two teams on the verge of being eliminated, who's in?

Why the powerhouse Baltimore Barons of course (try saying that without

How lucky can you get?

Baltimore owner Steve Katz has been telling anyone who will listen how unlucky his team (No. 10 in the Power Poll) has been this year. You be the judge:

Baltimore 29	Dutch Harbor 25
Baltimore 27	Sarasota 19
Baltimore 24	Flint 21
Baltimore 28	Anchorage 24
Baltimore 32	Narcoossee 30

The Barons have won five games this year in games they have scored 32 or fewer points.

Rolling On The Floor Laughing Out Loud).

The Barons are 9-4 and have an outside chance at winning the regular season title (it'll take another 90-point game)

The Barons have won five games this year when the team scored 32 points or fewer, an amount usually reserved for losing teams.

"If I had the Barons schedule, hell, I'd be unbeaten," Dugway owner Ken Sain said.

So while the Experiments and Wailers are battling the likes of the Willow Weasels and Anchorage Kitchen in the Pee Wee Bowl Tournament, Katz's Barons will likely earn a bye to the semifinals where they will meet the Limerick Loons,

whose 2-5 start had fans laughing from coast-to-coast.

Limerick is the hottest team in the league now, having won six straight games to clinch the Kotter Division title. Bagdad has clinched the Barbarino crown and the Barons own the Horshack Division.

Also clinching a playoff spot are the Alaska Oosiks, who haven't been to this tournament since 1991.

That leaves two spots open and five teams still have a chance at earning those seeds (Dugway, Marley, East Hartford, Narcoossee and Dutch Harbor).

"It's a shame the best teams will be in the Pee Wee Bowl," Sain said. B y

Reasons to say thanks

Baron von Butterbrain
TFL Today Senior Writer

BALTIMORE - And so the end of another journey arrives. Thanksgiving means the final week of the regular season, and time to think about a few things we should be thankful for.

Let's be thankful that the TFL Today's editorial policy is to spare its readers any more of Ken Sain's whining about his bad luck. Just to bring you up to speed, TrashTalk's been clogged with another one of his self pity-fests, interspersed with Scott Lacy's attempts to slap him back to reality.

Sain just has to keep calling himself Charlie Brown, the guy who never gets to kick the ball.

Sain's Dugway Test Tubes were trumped by East Hartford this week, putting Dugway's second-half swoon at five losses in six games and improving Chris Reidy's winning streak to four, one victory away from a winning season and possible playoff berth after being 2-6-1 earlier. That is, if Barry Sanders keeps running wild and Drew Bledsoe keeps flinging it.

"That's a lot of ifs," Reidy said. "But I gotta give credit where credit's due. Sanders has finally pulled his head out of his ass. I think the fact that we certainly played our best game of the year against arguably one of the strongest teams in the league is definitely a confidence-builder."

And if the Ex-'Skimos lose their finale and pro-

FANTASY INSIDER

ceed, instead, to the 'Wee Wee Bowl' as he called it? Reidy will still be thankful. "Considering where we came from," he said, even 6-7 would be considered good.

Speaking of which, the Great Pumpkin will arrive this year even for all the owners who won't make the playoffs. Which brings us to something else to be thankful for, for those teams: the first annual Pee Wee Bowl. Nate Sagan, Mike Taylor, Charlie Coggins, Don Carlock, Michele Fetsko and Van Williams and Reidy, if he loses this week, all will have some leftovers to shoot for.

It sounds like Reidy would almost rather go there than make the real playoffs under the increasingly-infamous Iggy Rule, which lets any non-wild card team in if they have a better record than one of the division winners, a rule devised so that an 8-6 team could get in if there were any division-winners with 7-7 records.

Reidy thought about this for a minute. "That's bullshit," he bellowed. "I'd like a rule that says if you win your last five games you get in," he said, drawing a parallel between the two arrangements in their silliness.

"Seven (actually six) teams make the playoffs already. That's 50-percent of the teams (actually 43 percent). Pretty soon we're

going to be like the NHL, where 17 teams get in."

Yes, Chris, but all 17 all probably thankful.

As thankful as Steve Katz, whose Baltimore Barons clinched their division with a win over fast-closing Narcoossee.

"The Nose Apes had Steve Young and Terry Allen in the 49er-Redskin game and we had Terry Kirby, and in a matchup in which every point scored was a mere bonus point, Kirby totaled five, and Young and Allen combined for just three," Katz said.

"And if Terry Glenn had caught just one more pass for Narcoossee, he would have given them three more bonus and a win, tying us for first. For us to have a realistic shot in the playoffs, our quarterback better start winging it like he did the first half of the season, and some other people on this team had better start scoring points in sixes instead of ones and twos."

The Barons close out the best season in their history by traveling to the Great White North to face Alaska.

Katz hopes the rest of the league forgets that this week lineups are due Thursday.

Let's all be thankful for his reminder.

CORRECTION:

A word was misspelled in a quote in this column last week. *TFL Today* apologizes for the error. Nah, hell with it. Scott Lacy, who complained, won't send anything in anymore without an engraved invitation.

If the season ended today

Here is how TFL teams would be seeded for the Sweeney Bowl if the regular season ended today:

Sweeney Bowl seeds

1. Bagdad 10-3-0
2. Baltimore 9-4-0
3. Limerick 8-5-0
4. Alaska 8-5-0
5. Dugway 7-6-0
6. Narcoossee 7-6-0

Team-by-Team

Bagdad: Has clinched Barbarino Division title.

Baltimore: Clinched Horshack. Must win, hope Bagdad loses, and outscore Newts by 51 points to win regular season title.

Limerick: Has clinched Kotter Division title.

Alaska: Owns a 45-point lead over Nose Apes and Dawgs, so they're in.

Dugway: A victory and the Tubes are in. A loss, and they make it if two of these three lose: Narcoossee, Dutch Harbor and East Hartford.

Narcoossee: A victory and they're in if they stay ahead of Dutch Harbor in points scored (they lead by 22).

Dutch Harbor: Must win and hope Dugway and or Narcoossee loses, or outscore Narcoossee by 22.

East Hartford: Win and hope two of three teams lose (Dugway, Narcoossee and Dutch Harbor).

Marley: Must win, and hope Apes, Dawgs and Ex'Mos all lose.

WEEK 13 STANDINGS

Barbarino Division	Record			Points for			Points against				
	W	L	T	Tot.	High	Low	Avg.	Tot.	High	Low	Avg.
Bagdad Red-Bellied Newts	10	3	0	518	57	17	39.8	408	90	12	31.4
Alaska Oosiks	8	5	0	507	69	9	39.0	479	55	17	36.8
Dugway Experiments	7	6	0	543	71	25	41.8	449	55	7	36.8
Sarasota Sharks	6	7	0	453	68	19	34.8	472	49	22	36.3
Denver Pyles	5	8	0	447	66	9	34.4	490	66	15	37.7

Kotter Division	Record			Points for			Points against				
	W	L	T	Tot.	High	Low	Avg.	Tot.	High	Low	Avg.
Limerick Laughing Loons	8	5	0	469	66	16	36.1	435	56	14	33.5
East Hartford Ex-Eskimos	6	6	1	459	55	17	35.3	432	70	16	33.2
Flint Bison	5	8	0	407	49	21	31.3	490	71	9	37.7
Anchorage Kitchen	3	10	0	368	49	14	28.3	462	56	9	35.5

Horshack Division	Record			Points for			Points against				
	W	L	T	Tot.	High	Low	Avg.	Tot.	High	Low	Avg.
Baltimore Barons	9	4	0	467	90	13	35.9	403	56	19	31.0
Narcoossee Nose Apes	7	6	0	462	55	22	35.5	428	54	22	32.9
Dutch Harbor Dawgs	7	6	0	440	70	12	33.8	441	48	17	33.9
Marley Wailers	6	6	0	520	58	16	40.0	476	65	12	36.6
Willow Weasels	3	9	1	418	56	7	32.2	561	69	13	43.2

WEEK 13 RESULTS

Alaska 59	Marley 46	Denver 24	Limerick 66
Brunell 17	Kelly 18	Elway 16	Blake 31
Stewart 6	E. Smith 0	Byner 0	Bettis 3
Hearst 1	Morris 7	Kaufman 3	Harris 9
Rice 5	Conway 7	Sharpe 2	Emanuel 7
Martin 16	Jackson 8	Beebe 0	Early 0
Wilkins 14	Carney 4	Elam 3	Andersen 7
Jaguars 0	Lions 0	Broncos 0	Packers 9
Baltimore 32	Narcoossee 30	Flint 15	Willow 24
Mitchell 6	Young 2	Tomczak 7	Marino 7
George 1	Allen 1	Thomas 0	Bennett 0
Kirby 5	Anderson 8	Faulk 0	Allen 1
Galloway 2	Glenn 8	Brown 2	Chrebet 5
Smith 7	K.Johnson 0	Kennison 0	Perriman 5
Christie 5	Pelfrey 11	Jacke 6	Boniol 6
Ravens 6	49ers 0	Cowboys 0	Seahawks 0
Dugway 46	East Hartford 55	Bagdad 56	Anchorage 27
Favre 12	Bledsoe 12	Hebert 21	Everett 6
Davis 13	Sanders 9	Watters 13	Warren 8
Rhett 2	Hoard 0	Abdul-Jabbar 1	L. Johnson 0
Irvin 2	Bruce 7	H. Moore 1	Fryar 4
Moore 8	Harrison 8	A. Reed 12	Reed 1
Vinatieri 9	Ford 10	Kasay 8	Hollis 8
Chiefs 0	Panthers 9	Oilers 0	Vikings 0
Sarasota 48	Dutch Harbor 39	WEEK 14 GAMES	
Hostetler 12	Aikman 2	Anchorage at East Hartford	
Martin 10	Carter 0	Marley at Dugway	
Floyd 6	Phillips 0	Alaska at Baltimore	
Carter 10	Coates 0	Dutch Harbor at Willow	
Haynes 0	Pickens 30	Bagdad at Flint	
Johnson 7	Del Greco 7	Denver at Sarasota	
Buccaneers 3	Steelers 0	Limerick at Narcoossee	

TRANSACTIONS

Nov. 26, 1996
 1) Dugway waives WR Terrell Owens, activates WR Antonio Freeman.
 2) Dutch Harbor waives QB Jeff George, adds QB Boomer Esiason.
 3) Limerick places WR Thomas Lewis on IR, adds WR Jeff Graham.

Nov. 20, 1996
 1) Baltimore places WR Charie Jones on IR, adds WR Jimmy Smith.
 2) East Hartford places WR Haywood Jeffries on IR, adds WR Marvin Harrison.

Nov. 17, 1996
 1) Bagdad waives WR Desmond Howard, adds WR Derrick Alexander.

Nov. 16, 1996
 1) East Hartford waives RB Reggie Brooks, adds RB Leroy Hoard.

Nov. 15, 1996
 1) Baltimore waives RB Ray Zellars, adds RB Greg Hill.

Nov. 14, 1996
 1) Limerick waives WR Anthony Morgan, adds WR Thomas Lewis.
 2) Marley waives WR Yancy Thigpen, who was on the injured reserve list.

Nov. 10, 1996
 1) Baltimore waives WR Derrick Mayes, adds WR Fred Barnett.

Nov. 6, 1996
 1) Baltimore waives WR Darnay Scott, adds WR Charlie Jones.
 2) Narcoossee waives WR Charles Johnson, activates WR Eric Metcalf. Narcoossee fined \$5 because Metcalf played.

Nov. 5, 1996
 1) Alaska waives WR Fred Barnett, adds WR Terry Mickens.

Nov. 3, 1996
 1) Marley trades K John Kasay to Bagdad for K Doug Brien and WR Andre Rison. Marley places WR Yancy Thigpen on IR.
 2) Bagdad adds WR Desmond Howard.

Nov. 2, 1996
 1) Narcoossee places WR Eric Metcalf on IR, adds WR Charles Johnson.
 2) Narcoossee waives QB Brad Johnson, activates QB Steve Young.

Alaska Oosiks

QB Dave Krieg
 QB Mark Brunell
 RB Rodney Hampton
 RB Garrison Hearst
 RB James Stewart (Jax)
 WR Jerry Rice
 WR Tony Martin
 WR Terry Mickens
 K Jeff Wilkins
 K Jeff Jaeger
 D Arizona
 D Jacksonville
Injured reserve
 QB Erik Kramer

**Current TFL Rosters****Marley Wailers**

QB Kerry Collins
 QB Jim Kelly
 RB Emmitt Smith
 RB Bam Morris
 RB Anthony Johnson
 WR Curtis Conway
 WR Michael Jackson
 WR Andre Rison
 K John Carney
 K Doug Brien
 D San Diego
 D Detroit

Anchorage Kitchen

QB Jim Everett
 QB Steve Bono
 RB Chris Warren
 RB LeShon Johnson
 RB Derek Loville
 WR Anthony Miller
 WR Irving Fryar
 WR Jake Reed
 K Matt Stover
 K Mike Hollis
 D Minnesota
 D Atlanta

Denver Pyles

QB John Elway
 QB Kent Graham
 RB Rashaan Salaam
 RB Napoleon Kaufman
 RB Ernest Byner
 WR Don Beebe
 WR Shannon Sharpe
 WR Keith Jackson
 K Jason Elam
 K Nick Lowery
 D Philadelphia
 D Denver

East Hartford Ex-Eskimos

QB Drew Bledsoe
 QB Gus Frerotte
 RB Barry Sanders
 RB Leonard Russell
 RB Leroy Hoard
 WR Isaac Bruce
 WR Ted Popson
 WR Marvin Harrison
 K Pete Stoyanovich
 K Cole Ford
 D Carolina
 D Washington

Narcoossee Nose Apes

QB Stan Humphries
 QB Steve Young
 RB Terry Allen
 RB Mario Bates
 RB Jamal Anderson
 WR Keyshawn Johnson
 WR Eric Metcalf
 WR Terry Glenn
 K Doug Pelfrey
 K Cary Blanchard
 D San Francisco
 D Oakland

Bagdad Red-Bellied Newts

QB Elvis Grbac
 QB Bobby Hebert
 RB Ricky Watters
 RB Harold Green
 RB Karim Abdul-Jabbar
 WR Herman Moore
 WR Derrick Alexander
 WR Andre Reed
 K Jason Hanson
 K John Kasay
 D Houston
 D Cincinnati

Dugway Experiments

QB Brett Favre
 QB Vinny Testaverde
 RB Terrell Davis
 RB Errict Rhett
 RB Larry Centers
 WR Rob Moore
 WR Antonio Freeman
 WR Michael Irvin
 K Scott Sisson
 K Adam Vininteria
 D Kansas City
 D Buffalo

Injured reserve

WR Heywood Jeffires

Injured reserve

RB Tim Biakabatuka

Injured reserve

WR J.J. Stokes

Sarasota Sharks

QB Jeff Hostetler
 QB Chris Chandler
 RB Curtis Martin
 RB Craig Heyward
 RB William Floyd
 WR Cris Carter
 WR Michael Haynes
 WR Frank Sanders
 K Norm Johnson
 K Joe Nedney
 D Tampa Bay
 D Miami

Baltimore Barons

QB Scott Mitchell
 QB Ty Detmer
 RB Eddie George
 RB Terry Kirby
 RB Greg Hill
 WR Joey Galloway
 WR Jimmy Smith
 WR Fred Barnett
 K Steve Christie
 K Gary Anderson
 D Baltimore
 D New York Giants

Dutch Harbor Dawgs

QB Boomer Esiason
 QB Troy Aikman
 RB Lawrence Phillips
 RB Joe Aska
 RB Ki-Jana Carter
 WR Carl Pickens
 WR Terrance Mathis
 WR Ben Coates
 K Al Del Greco
 K Greg Davis
 D Pittsburgh
 D Chicago

Injured reserve

QB Neil O'Donnell
 RB Robert Smith

Limerick Laughing Loons

QB Jeff Blake
 QB Tony Banks
 RB Jerome Bettis
 RB Adrian Murrell
 RB Raymont Harris
 WR Quinn Early
 WR Bert Emanuel
 WR Jeff Graham
 K Morten Andersen
 K Michael Husted
 D Indianapolis
 D Green Bay

Injured reserve

QB Rodney Peete
 RB Zack Crockett
 WR Thomas Lewis

Willow Weasels

QB John Friesz
 QB Dan Marino
 RB Edgar Bennett
 RB Marcus Allen
 RB Darick Holmes
 WR Wayne Chrebet
 WR Michael Westbrook
 WR Brett Perriman
 K Chris Boniol
 K Todd Peterson
 D Seattle
 D St. Louis

Injured reserve

WR Robert Brooks