



The TFL Today

The official newsletter of the world's greatest fantasy football league

Volume 11, Issue 14
Sat., Dec. 9, 2000

Week 14
scores



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THE SECOND SEASON

Pyles, Lancers Loom Over Field As Wild Cards Gather 'Round

Here's handicapping the Sweeney Bowl tournament, as Dutch Harbor takes on Flint, Bagdad faces Baltimore; Pee Wee'ers get their due, too

By Pushpin Papoo
TFL Today

Baron von Butterbrain lived for this time of year.

Nothing got the old man's juices flowing more than playoff time. Before taking a new position at the beginning of this season, he told friends he'd still follow the league during the year, and if the new regime at the TFL Today needed any help along the way, he could lend some assistance and wisdom.

So we decided to call him and see how he'd handicap this year's playoffs. What follows is a list of each team and his remarks on what has to go right for them to win, and what could go wrong.

DENVER PYLES

The team to beat if: Most components of the team perform pretty much as expected. The oddity of the situation is that the Pyles have done it despite their No. 1 quarterback having just lost his job and their backup for most of the year being out with injury for several games. Griese is hoped to be back by the semis or finals, which obviously is the x-factor.



It'll be a long plane ride home if: Jamal Lewis gets food poisoning before the championship game, or Taylor makes a bad QB decision if Griese suddenly becomes available to him.

Taylor hasn't changed much since I covered the league. He was lucky then, and he's luckier now.

LACKAWANNA LANCERS

The team to beat if: Robert Smith and Stephen Davis continue to do an admirable job anchoring the attack. Quarterback is anybody's guess, with the Lancers

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The Big Dance Begins

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having ditched Jeff George in favor of the Buffalo tandem of Rob Johnson and Doug Flutie.

It'll be a long plane ride home if: Davis is affected by his broken arm, and Johnson can't get the job done in Buffalo. And hey, I'm only down on Buffalo because . . . it's Buffalo.

DUTCH HARBOR

The team to beat if:

Daunte Culpepper turns it up a notch, Torry Holt catches everything Kurt Warner throws, and the kicking game performs. Mid-season trade to break skid after 5-0 start has been largely ineffectual. Brogan being questioned on every street corner in Dutch Harbor. An improvement, since I remember him being questioned on every street corner in all of Alaska.



It'll be a long plane ride home if: Dawgs still can't rekindle the magic.

BALTIMORE

The team to beat if: Oakland and Denver battle down to the season's final day for playoff positioning, which would mean the Raiders have a reason to keep Rich Gannon on the field throughout. Rest of team one of league's most solid units over second half of season, winning 7 of 8 at one stretch to make playoffs. Baltimore's backup is Jay Fielder. You never know.

It'll be a long plane ride home if: Oakland sees fit to rest Gannon, and the backfield of James Stewart and Emmitt Smith gets hurt.

BAGDAD

The team to beat if: To find a reason to call this team the team to beat would really be pulling one out of my ass. Strangely, though, Favre, Ricky Watters and Tony Gonzales scare me, if I'm the Barons.

It'll be a long plane ride home if: Everything goes as it should for Baltimore.

FLINT

The team to beat if: Bison treat season-ending loss to Bagdad as a wake-up call. Bettis and Wheatley's fairly strong second half of the season was as responsible as anything for Flint getting to this point. The unexpected part was Shaun King's impersonation of a quarterback.

It'll be a long plane ride home if: Moss and Carter fall flat. But considering the Vikings meet the Rams this week in the offensive game of the week, at least one should do some damage.

The Pee Wee Bowl

Is anybody talking about it?

Here's a rundown of the principal players and personalities of note in the chase for 3 percent of the pot.

After becoming the second team in as many years to have Kurt Warner and not make the playoffs, **Narcoossee** should fare fairly well in this tournament. Granted, the Apes didn't have him for five games. Hey, the breaks. Warner got one rusty game out of his system, and all systems should be go for the next three games, which of course the Rams need to regain stature.

Arctic has been known to pull a shocker. I mean, it happened three times this season. They won, that is.

Limerick's hospital ward of a team faces a **Dugway** team that's been piling up the points lately and managed to finish at .500. One argument says Limerick could be the favorite in the tournament, with more of his team on the field than he's had for most of the year. Or not. And if anyone has an argument that favors Dugway, send it in.

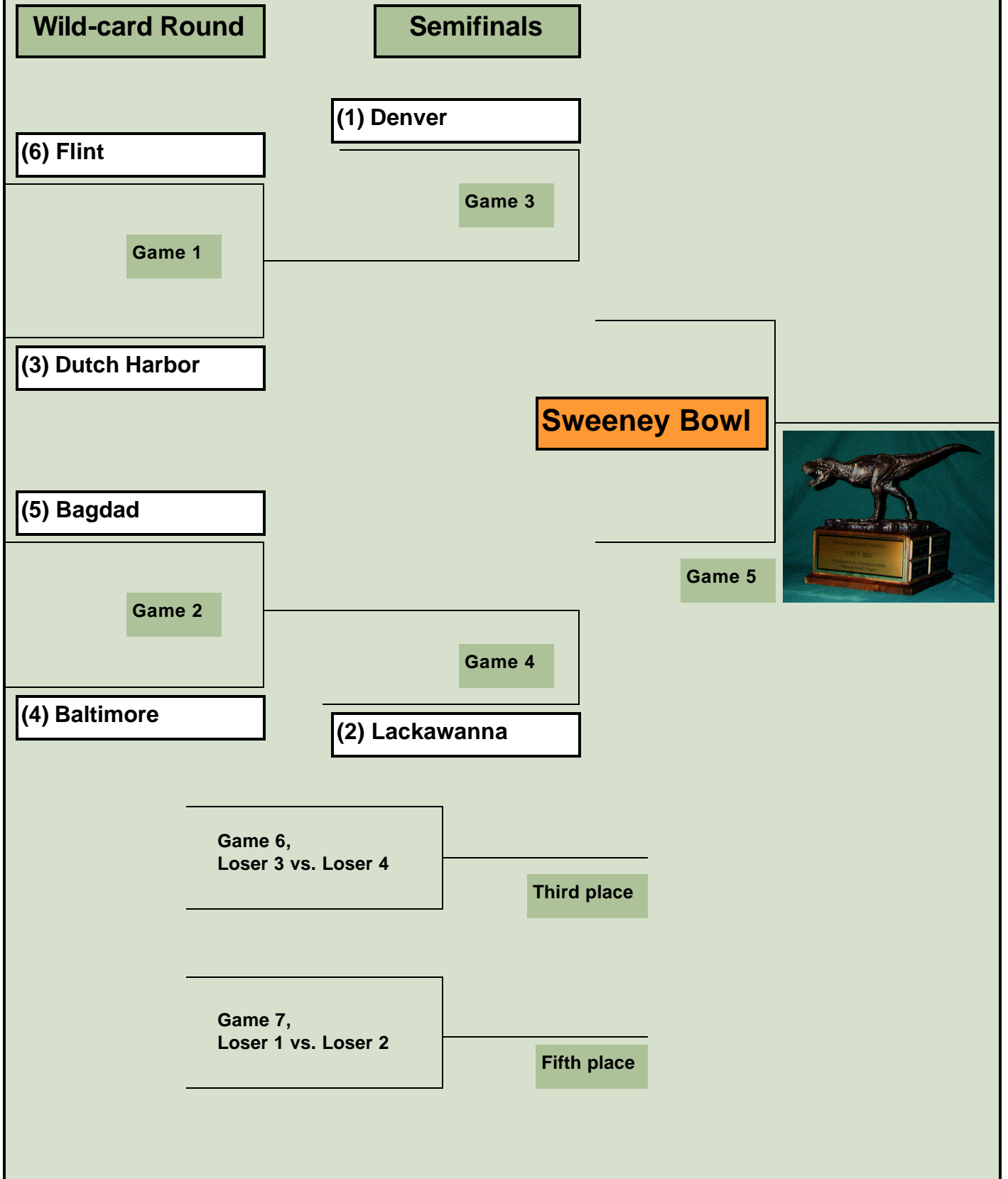
Anchorage had some of the league's better athletes but they never performed, and No. 1 pick Edgerrin James had his moments but not enough of them. They collide with **East Hartford**. Coach Reidy threw a virtual replacement team together around midseason, and it almost worked. His downfall in the postseason will surely be that he can no longer pick up and toss aside free agents like so many dirty socks.

The Garcia-Owens-Richey trio gave **Willow** a nice ride up to a certain point during the year. Then the bottom seemed to drop out. Weasels probably have one of the strongest teams that ever went 7-7, but just didn't do it on the field enough times. With the above players, plus Warwick Dunn being 90 percent of Tennessee's offense.

Alaska's upset of a depleted Denver team in week 14 could be interpreted as the highlight of their year. If anybody wants to call them the team to beat, be my guest.

Coach Reidy's downfall in the postseason will surely be that he can no longer pick up and toss aside free agents like so many dirty socks.

The Sweeney Bowl



The Pee Wee Bowl

(14) Arctic

(7) Narcoossee

(11) Limerick

(10) Dugway

Semifinals

Pee Wee Bowl

(12) Anchorage

(9) East Hartford

(13) Alaska

(8) Willow

Semifinal losers

9th place

11-10 loser
at 14-7 loser

11th place

12-9 loser
at 13-8 loser

13th place

FINAL 2000 STANDINGS

TRANSACTIONS

Barbarino Division	Record			Points for			Points against				
	W	L	T	Tot.	Hi	Lw	Avg.	Tot.	Hi	Lw	Avg.
Denver	10	4	0	639	75	27	45.6	507	51	14	36.2
Bagdad	8	6	0	538	55	11	38.4	533	84	19	38.1
Dugway	7	7	0	529	66	18	37.8	563	57	22	40.2
Alaska	5	9	0	444	54	9	31.7	569	66	23	40.6
Arctic	3	11	0	463	63	14	33.1	682	74	19	48.7

Kotter Division	Record			Points for			Points against				
	W	L	T	Tot.	Hi	Lw	Avg.	Tot.	Hi	Lw	Avg.
Lackawanna	9	4	1	566	61	15	40.4	455	61	9	32.5
Flint	8	6	0	550	56	14	39.3	569	60	22	40.6
East Hartford	7	7	0	515	61	18	36.8	581	53	29	41.5
Limerick	5	8	1	610	82	20	43.6	635	63	18	45.4
Anchorage	5	9	0	560	72	20	40.0	584	74	18	41.7

Horshack Division	Record			Points for			Points against				
	W	L	T	Tot.	Hi	Lw	Avg.	Tot.	Hi	Lw	Avg.
Baltimore	8	6	0	670	74	23	47.9	638	89	14	45.6
Dutch Harbor	8	6	0	593	89	22	42.4	519	63	18	37.1
Willow	7	7	0	641	71	16	45.8	591	82	26	42.2
Narcoossee	7	7	0	629	84	19	44.9	521	72	11	37.2

WEEK 14 SCORES

Alaska 54 Vinny Testaverde 14 Michael Pittman 1 Curtis Martin 13 Johnnie Morton 1 Jerry Rice 12 Ryan Longwell 4 Green Bay 9	Denver 27 Brad Johnson 0 Lamar Smith 9 Tiki Barber 2 Ed McCaffrey 1 Jimmy Smith 3 Gary Anderson 6 Jacksonville 6	Willow 67 Jeff Garcia 17 Warrick Dunn 22 Eddie George 3 Terrell Owens 2 M. Muhammad 5 Mike Hollis 12 Seattle 6	Baltimore 35 Rich Gannon 7 Emmitt Smith 8 James Stewart 7 Tim Brown 2 Rod Smith 0 Jason Elam 8 New York Giants 3
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Limerick 68 Mark Brunell 12 Marshall Faulk 2 Mike Anderson 33 Amani Toomer 0 Oronde Gadsden 6 Martin Gramatica 9 Oakland 6	Arctic 37 Peyton Manning 16 Charlie Garner 6 Brian Mitchell 0 Keyshawn 0 Jacquez Green 0 Adam Vinatieri 15 New England 0	Dugway 37 Steve Beuerlein 0 Ron Dayne 1 Fred Taylor 24 Peter Warrick 0 Marvin Harrison 11 Tim Seder 1 Detroit 0	Anchorage 22 D. McNabb 6 Ahman Green 7 Edgerrin James 0 Frank Wycheck 1 Antonio Freeman 7 Cary Blanchard 1 KC Chiefs 0
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Bagdad 35 Brett Favre 6 Ricky Watters 9 Jamal Anderson 0 Eric Moulds 0 Tony Gonzalez 13 David Akers 7 Tennessee 0	Flint 21 Shawn King 0 Jerome Bettis 4 Ty Wheatley 1 Randy Moss 0 Cris Carter 6 Jason Hanson 7 Washington 3	East Hartford 36 Elvis Grbac 26 Jerald Moore 0 Brad Hoover 1 Isaac Bruce 1 Joe Horn 8 Steve Christie 0 Philadelphia 0	Dutch Harbor 29 D. Culpepper 6 JJ Johnson 0 J.R. Redmond 0 Torry Holt 0 Keenan McCardell 0 Seabass 8 Tampa Bay 9
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Lackawanna 61 Rob Johnson 0 Stephen Davis 0 Robert Smith 18 Derrick Alexander 12 David Boston 21 Joe Nedney 10 Buffalo 0	Narcoossee 29 Kurt Warner 0 Terrell Fletcher 6 Corey Dillon 13 Derrick Mason 2 Terry Glenn 0 Mike Vanderjagt 5 Miami 3
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Dec. 8
Limerick reactivates WR Albert Connell and Ike Hilliard, releases Ken Dilger and Amani Toomer.

Dec. 6
Baltimore relinquishes QB Aaron Brooks, returns Jay Fielder from IR.

Nov. 29
Anchorage releases K Richie Cunningham, adds Cary Blanchard.
Baltimore places QB Jay Fielder on IR, adds Aaron Brooks; places RB Sammy Morris on IR, adds KaRon Coleman; releases K Pete Stoyanovich, adds Brad Daluiso.
Flint reactivates RB Tyrone Wheatley, drops Zack Crockett.
Narcoossee reactivates QB Kurt Warner, drops Jon Kitna.
Arctic releases RB Natrone Means, adds Brian Mitchell.

Nov. 28
East Hartford releases RB Jermaine Fazande, adds Jerald Moore.
Limerick places WR Albert Connell on IR, adds Amani Toomer.
Lackawanna releases QB Jeff George, adds Doug Flutie.

Nov. 22
East Hartford releases QB Jim Harbaugh, adds Troy Aikman; releases RB Tony Richardson, adds Jermaine Fazande.
Flint places RB Tyrone Wheatley on IR, adds Zack Crockett.
Limerick places WR Ike Hilliard on IR, adds Ken Dilger.
Dutch Harbor releases RB Terry Allen, adds JJ Johnson; places Mike Alstott on IR, adds Darnell Autry.
Lackawanna releases WR Shawn Jefferson, adds Jay Riemersma.

**Who's got who
(current rosters)
Bold = free agent or trade pickup**

Alaska

QB Steve McNair
QB *Vinny Testaverde*
RB **Justin Watson**
RB Michael Pittman
RB Curtis Martin
WR **Johnnie Morton**
WR Jerry Rice
WR *Qadry Ismail*
K Ryan Longwell
K Al Del Greco
D Chicago Bears
D Green Bay Packers
WR *Carl Pickens IR*
WR *Corey Bradford IR*

Anchorage

QB **Kerry Collins**
QB Donovan McNabb
RB **Ahman Green**
RB Edgerrin James
RB **Kimble Anders**
WR Frank Wycheck
WR Tim Dwight
WR Antonio Freeman
K **Cary Blanchard**
K Matt Stover
D Kansas City Chiefs
D Atlanta Falcons
QB *Cade McNown IR*

Arctic

QB Peyton Manning
QB Tony Banks
RB Antowain Smith
RB Charlie Garner
RB **Brian Mitchell**
WR Peerless Price
WR *Jacquez Green*
WR Keyshawn Johnson
K John Hall
K Adam Vinatieri
D St. Louis Rams
D New England Patriots

Bagdad

QB **Brett Favre**
QB Charlie Batch
RB **Jamal Anderson**
RB Terrell Davis
RB Ricky Watters
WR Travis Taylor
WR Eric Moulds
WR **Tony Gonzalez**
K David Akers
K **Todd Peterson**
D Indianapolis Colts
D Tennessee Oilers

Baltimore

QB Jay Fiedler
QB Rich Gannon
RB *KaRon Coleman*
RB James Stewart
RB Emmitt Smith
WR *Sylvester Morris*
WR Rod Smith
WR Tim Brown
K Jason Elam
K **Pete Stoyanovich**
D New York Giants
D Minnesota Vikings

RB *Sammy Morris IR*

Denver Pyles

QB *Trent Dilfer*
QB Brad Johnson
RB Jamal Lewis
RB Lamar Smith
RB Tiki Barber
WR Ed McCaffrey
WR Jimmy Smith
WR Shannon Sharpe
K Paul Edinger
K Gary Anderson
D Jacksonville Jaguars
D Denver Broncos

QB *Brian Griese IR*

Dugway

QB Jake Plummer
QB Steve Beuerlein
RB Shaun Alexander
RB Ron Dayne
RB Fred Taylor
WR Peter Warrick
WR Wesley Walls
WR Marvin Harrison
K Tim Seder
K Neil Rackers
D Detroit Lions
D Baltimore Ravens

Dutch Harbor

QB Daunte Culpepper
QB Bubby Brister
RB **J.R. Redmond**
RB *Darnell Autry*
RB **JJ Johnson**
WR Marcus Robinson
WR **Torry Holt**
WR **Keenan McCardell**
K *Sebastian Janikowski*
K Doug Brien
D Tampa Bay Buccaneers
D Pittsburgh Steelers

K *Jeff Wilkins IR*
RB *Mike Alstott IR*

East Hartford

QB Elvis Grbac
QB **Jim Harbaugh**
RB James Allen
RB **Jerald Moore**
RB *Brad Hoover*
WR Donald Hayes
WR **Joe Horn**
WR Isaac Bruce
K **Jeff Hall**
K Steve Christie
D Philadelphia Eagles
D Arizona Cardinals
QB *Tim Couch IR*
RB *Errict Rhett IR*
RB *Tim Biakabutuka IR*

Flint

QB Shaun King
QB *Chris Chandler*
RB Donnell Bennett
RB *Tyrone Wheatley*
RB Jerome Bettis
WR Az-Zahir Hakim
WR Randy Moss
WR Cris Carter
K John Carney
K Jason Hanson
D Washington Redskins
D San Francisco 49ers

QB *Jim Miller IR*

Lackawanna

QB Rob Johnson
QB **Doug Flutie**
RB Shawn Bryson
RB Robert Smith
RB Stephen Davis
WR Derrick Alexander
WR **David Boston**
WR **Jay Riemersma**
K Olindo Mare
K **Joe Nedney**
D San Diego Chargers
D Buffalo Bills

Limerick

QB Mark Brunell
QB *Gus Frerotte*
RB *Mike Anderson*
RB *Chad Morton*
RB *Marshall Faulk*
WR Ike Hilliard
WR *Albert Connell*
WR **Orande Gadsden**
K Martin Gramatica
K Morten Andersen
D New Orleans Saints
D Oakland Raiders
WR *Germaine Crowell IR*
RB *Olandis Gary IR*
RB *Trung Canidate IR*
RB *Ricky Williams IR*
QB *Jeff Blake IR*

Narcoossee

QB Trent Green
QB *Kurt Warner*
RB **Napoleon Kaufman**
RB **Travis Prentice**
RB Corey Dillon
WR Derrick Mason
WR Terry Glenn
WR **Andre Rison**
K Kris Brown
K Mike Vanderjagt
D Miami Dolphins
D Carolina Panthers
RB *Garrison Hearst IR*
RB *Duce Staley IR*

Willow

QB Jeff Garcia
QB Drew Bledsoe
RB **Warrick Dunn**
RB Eddie George
RB Dorsey Levens
WR Muhsin Muhammad
WR Wayne Chrebet
WR Terrell Owens
K Wade Richey
K Mike Hollis
D Seattle Seahawks
D New York Jets