

# TFL Today

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 1996

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## Barons survive blunder

### *Baltimore, Dugway advance to Final 4*

#### BO KNOWS



#### **Baltimore at Limerick**

**WHAT:** Semifinals of the Sweeney Bowl playoffs.

**LINE:** Limerick favored by 2 points

**HOW THEY GOT THERE:** Baltimore defeated Dutch Harbor 20-16 in a wildcard game last week. Limerick received a bye.

**PAST HISTORY:** Both teams have played in the Sweeney Bowl, albeit under assumed names. Limerick (then Scarborough) won\* the Sweeney Bowl in 1992. The Barons (then Maryland) lost to Willow in 1994.

**PREDICTION:** Barons have a habit of winning low-scoring games. Neither team is capable of high scores. Barons 12-10.



#### **Dugway at Bagdad**

**WHAT:** Semifinals of the Sweeney Bowl playoffs.

**LINE:** Bagdad favored by 1 point

**HOW THEY GOT THERE:** Dugway blasted Alaska 88-22 in a wildcard game. Bagdad is the No. 1 seed and received a bye.

**PAST HISTORY:** Both teams are trying to overcome dismal playoff history. One will reach the Sweeney Bowl. Lacy is 0-8 in playoff games. Sain won his first winner's bracket game last week.

**PREDICTION:** The Experiments are going to wish they didn't waste all those points last week against the Dicks. Newts 33-27.

**By Baron von Butterbrain**  
TFL Today Senior Writer

BALTIMORE - The trees were still swaying Tuesday from the deep breath Steve Katz let out after beating Dutch Harbor, 20-16, in one of Sunday's wildcard playoff games, and Katz made no bones about having gotten away with his life.

"The fantasy gods won this one for me," Katz said in a relieved locker room after watching the Dallas-Arizona game along with his team. Dutch Harbor's Boomer Esiason failed to score a single point against Dallas in Sunday's late game, letting the Barons preserve their thin-as-cigarette-paper lead (a little Dan Rather election-night reference can't hurt.)

When reporters brought up the inevitable question of why Katz had benched his first and second-round draft picks for an opening playoff game, starting Ty Detmer instead of Scott Mitchell, and also benching Joey Galloway, Katz explained this way:

"Despite where someone's drafted, at a certain point he has to be judged like any other player, and Mitchell had sucked for a few weeks, and his receiving corps was a hospital ward, while Detmer was now as good as any QB in the league. He was throwing

against a banged-up Colts defense. Despite feeling like I had hanged myself when Detmer shot blanks on Thursday night, I see benching Mitchell woke him up, the way he played Sunday.

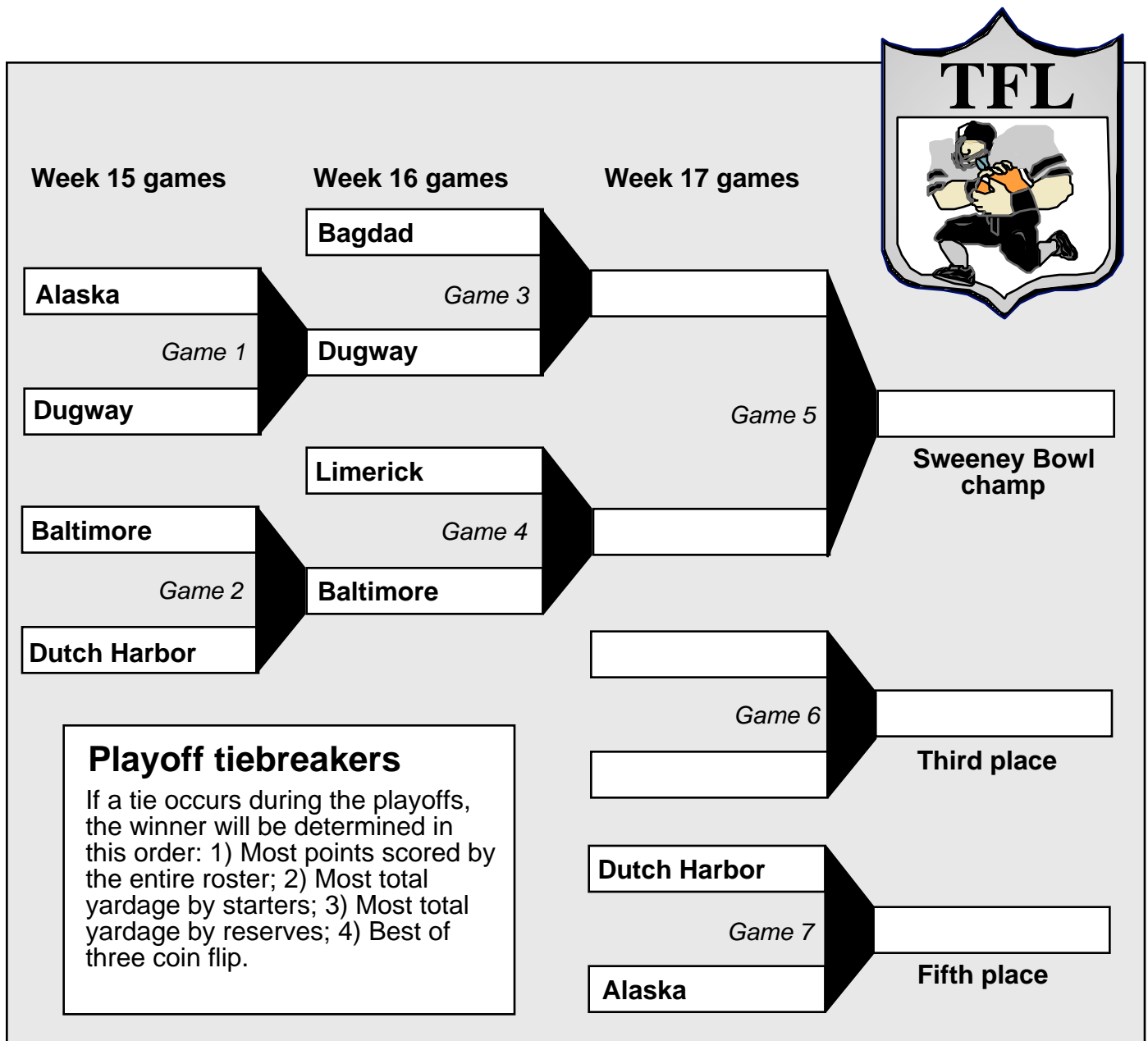
"You can second-guess me on Galloway, since he caught a TD pass, but looking further, you'll see that was the only pass he caught all day. One catch, for 27 yards, and it was a touchdown. That's the second time I've benched a guy who had just one touch all day but scored on it."

But with near-disaster behind the Barons, it's onward now to a semifinal encounter with Limerick, winners of their last seven straight with the help of Jeff Blake's torrid stretch of games since Bruce Coslet took over as Cincinnati's coach.

But where was Limerick owner Mike Bourque?

Unable to return phone calls, it seems, or at least call the TFL Today offices without prompting, knowing it was time to talk serious trash. What was Bourque doing, Katz wondered? Trying to feign quiet confidence? That may be, since it was the Loons, after all, who outscored the Barons by all of two points over the season to earn the playoff bye.

See Barons, page 2



# Barons

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But the Barons had won the only meeting between the two teams, back in Week 4. Katz may look back at that 56-20 victory and snap back to his senses regarding Mitchell, because he scored 37 points that day. As others would argue, for Baltimore to have outscored Limerick by 36 that day but still wind up getting out-pointed by

two by the Loons on the season total, shows the true weakness of the Barons.

"But every week is a new game, and every team needs luck to win," Katz said. So it seems bragging rights were perhaps equal on both sides.

The other semifinal matched what most consider the league's two strongest teams, Bagdad, with the TFL's best record, and Dugway, the scoring champion and arguably the

league's best team, although the Tubes closed the season with a 3-5 stretch.

This matchup does guarantee one of those two will play for the T. Rex in the Sweeney Bowl.

"If nothing else, I'm happy about that," said Dugway owner Ken Sain. "If Scott beats me like he's favored to do, then I hope he wins the T. Rex.

"No one, with the possible exception of myself, has

given more to the league than Scott, so he deserves this. And if I do beat him, so do I.

"So I just hope the winner of our game, wins it all."

In the Pee Wee Tournament, otherwise known as the chase for the "Who Cares Except That The Winner Pockets About a Buck and a Half" Bowl, the first-round winners were East Hartford, Sarasota, Flint and Narcoossee.

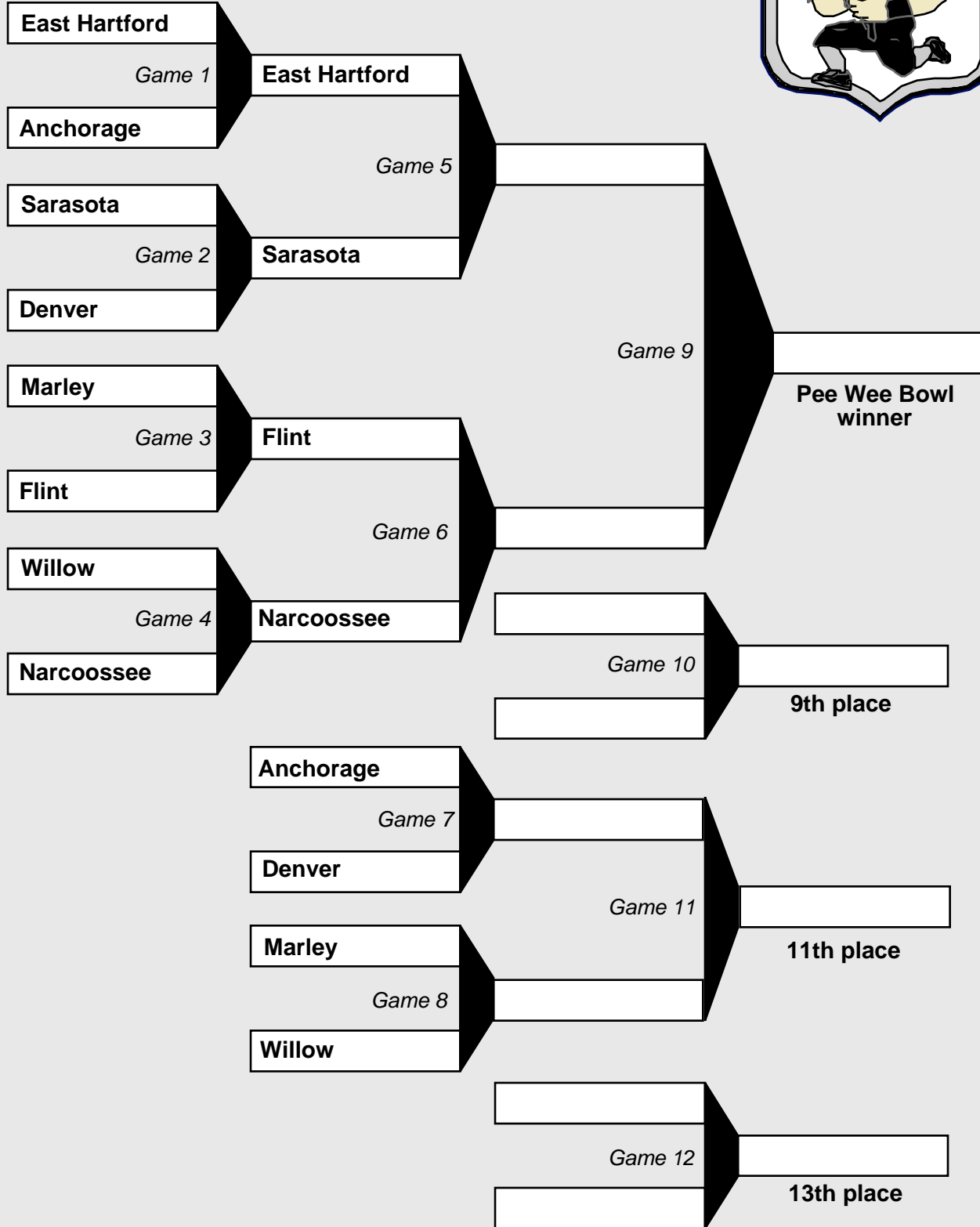
# Pee Wee Bowl Tournament



Week 15 games

Week 16 games

Week 17 games



## WEEK 15 RESULTS

### Sweeney Bowl wildcard games

<b>Dugway</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>Alaska</b>	<b>22</b>
Favre	29	Brunell	0
Davis	1	Stewart	0
Centers	0	Hearst	3
Irvin	18	Rice	13
Freeman	30	Martin	0
Vinatieri	10	Wilkins	6
Chiefs	0	Jaguars	0

<b>Dutch Harbor</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Baltimore</b>	<b>20</b>
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Esiason	0	Detmer	0
Carter	0	George	6
Phillips	0	Kirby	2
Pickens	8	Smith	1
Mathis	0	Barnett	4
Del Greco	5	Anderson	4
Steelers	3	Giants	3

### Pee Wee Bowl quarterfinals

<b>Anchorage</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>East Hartford</b>	<b>35</b>
Everett	0	Bledsoe	7
Warren	3	Sanders	10
L. Johnson	0	Russell	1
Fryar	6	Bruce	2
Reed	6	Harrison	9
Hollis	11	Ford	6
Vikings	0	Panthers	0

<b>Sarasota</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>Denver</b>	<b>24</b>
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Hostetler	18	McNair	9
Martin	8	Byner	0
Floyd	0	Kaufman	3
Carter	8	Sharpe	0
Haynes	0	Beebe	6
Johnson	11	Elam	6
Buccaneers	0	Broncos	0

<b>Flint</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>Marley</b>	<b>37</b>
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Tomczak	6	Collins	22
Thomas	1	E. Smith	1
Faulk	15	Morris	3
Brown	7	Conway	6
Kennison	7	Jackson	2
Jacke	11	Carney	3
Cowboys	3	Lions	0

<b>Willow</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Narcoossee</b>	<b>43</b>
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Marino	6	Young	25
Bennett	0	Allen	0
Allen	1	Anderson	1
Chrebet	1	Glenn	1
Perriman	0	K. Johnson	8
Boniol	4	Pelfrey	7
Seahawks	0	49ers	0

## SATURDAY GAMES THIS WEEK

Lineups due at 12:15 p.m. EST

## MONEY MATTERS

### TFL Financial report

<b>Income</b>	
Franchise fees	\$1,400.00
Transaction fees	\$290.00
Fines	\$60.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,750.00</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	
Katz's costs	\$100.00
Sain's costs	\$150.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>

<b>Pot</b>		<b>\$1,500.00</b>
Sweeney Bowl winner	\$525.00	
Sweeney runnerup	\$225.00	
Third place	\$180.00	
Fourth place	\$150.00	
Fifth place	\$120.00	
Sixth place	\$90.00	
Regular season champ (Bagdad)	\$75.00	
Points scoring champ (Dugway)	\$75.00	
Pee Wee Bowl winner	\$60.00	

### Who owes how much?

Here is the list of how much each owner owes the pot:

Owner	Amount
Charles Bingham	\$30.00
Nate Sagan	\$20.00
Scott Lacy	\$30.00
Steve Katz	\$35.00
Mike Taylor	\$40.00
Ken Sain	\$25.00
Casey Brogan	\$130.00
Chris Reidy	<\$25.00>
Don Carlock	\$10.00
Michael Bourque	\$30.00
Michele Fetsko	\$30.00
Wit Tuttell	\$35.00
Charles Coggins	\$10.00
Van Williams	\$0.00
<b>Outstanding balance</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>

### Time to pay the piper

The TFL office is going to make every attempt to pay the winners in January, allowing them to enjoy the cash before next fall.

To do so, you will have to pay your bill. Please send in the amount you owe to Commissioner Ken Sain once your team has been eliminated from any chance of winning money.

Thanks.

**Send checks to:**  
Ken Sain  
403-5 Riverside Dr. Apt. 22  
Covington, KY 41011

## TRANSACTIONS

### Dec. 10, 1996

1) Limerick waives WR Jeff Graham, activates WR Thomas Lewis. Limerick is fined \$5 for failing to activate Lewis before he played.

2) Limerick places RB Raymont Harris on IR, adds RB Natrone Means.

### Dec. 4, 1996

1) Alaska waives WR Terry Mickens, adds WR Charles Johnson.

2) Baltimore waives WR Charlie Jones, who was on IR.

### Dec. 3, 1996

1) Denver waives QB Kent Graham, adds QB Steve McNair.

### 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.

4) Dutch Harbor waives QB Neil O'Donnell, who was on the IR.

### Nov. 20, 1996

1) Baltimore places WR Charlie Jones on IR, adds WR Jimmy Smith.

2) East Hartford places WR Haywood Jeffires 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.