

# Nothing can stop Katz

**By Baron von Butterbrain**  
TFL Today

BALTIMORE - Let there be no debate over which team would reap the greater reward no matter the outcome of this week's Sweeney Bowl. It's not the Baltimore Barons, who are back in the TFL's championship game for the first time since 1993 and have a chance to atone for losing in the semifinals last year.

It's the Flint Bison, who went 13-1 three years ago but got bumped off in their first playoff game.

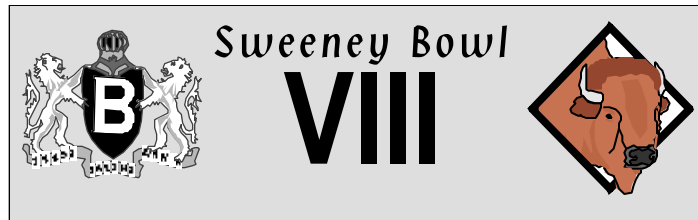
Why?

Bison owner Don Carlock plans to celebrate if he wins by having a champagne hot-tub party with wife Tina at their new house after the Monday night game. "Champagne in the hot tub with my lovely bird," Carlock said with long sigh. "It doesn't get any better than that."

And if Flint loses?

"Then she gets to console me in the hot tub," Carlock said. So he doesn't come out too badly, win or lose.

All kidding aside (except he wasn't kidding), Carlock already admits to a case of nerves as the big game approaches. "I'm terrible at quotes, but don't quote me on



that," he said.

"I'm all nervous. I'm nervous as hell. There's too much damn pressure. Money means nothing to me. It's all about winning. The pressure for me is the trophy that does not exist.

"Actually if we bring the trophy here, it would qualify for an unemployment check. We could put it on the GM payroll."

Katz, in an interview with TFL Today, shared Carlock's view of winning. And the reward, despite no chance of underwater sex surrounded by heated bubbles whether he wins or loses, is still very rich. "Nothing compares with winning the championship," Katz said. "I've already gotten there, now my only interest is in winning it. And if winning is priority 1, the money is probably 1a and four-fifths. It's nice."

Katz made sure to be gracious in looking back on the path he's taken to the mountain top.

"Other than Brett Favre and people like Mike Alstott and Antonio Freeman," he said, "the person I have most to thank is Ken Sain.

"Ken's probably wondering what I could possibly mean by that, so I'll explain. I'd like to thank Sain for never saying anything good about my team all year, except right before the two times the Barons played the Tubes. Dugway won the regular-season meeting and lost the rematch in last week's semifinal.

"Earlier this year, and at the end, he said Dutch Harbor had a team that looked like it would go all the way. Both times, the Dawgs lost their next game, the second time, of course, dropping out of the playoffs.

"At another point early on, Sain marveled at the on-paper strength of the Willow Weasels. They then lost the following week and eventually missed the playoffs. On yet a third occasion, Sain held

## Look Who's Talking

Here are how many posts each person has made in TrashTalk in the past year:

K. Sain	942
S. Katz	756
S. Lacy	594
M. Taylor	501
C. Brogan	379
C. Reidy	370
M. Fetsko	148
M. Bourque	136
N. Sagan	96
U. Cheerleader	32
V. Williams	24
J. Woodbury	24
C. Bingham	8

Marley up for admiration, when the Wailers were 3-0, and they went on a losing streak and limped into the Pee Wee Bowl tournament.

"Thanks, Ken, for dooming others with your praise."

The only people disappointed in this championship game will be veteran trash-talkers, as Carlock has said he will not mix it up verbally at all this week.

"That's just the way it is," he said. "I don't talk smack before the game. But make sure you quote me on my lovely bird."

# TFL Capsules

By Scoop Bias, Dugway Herald

## SWEENEY BOWL VIII



**Baltimore**  
vs.  
**Flint**



**Regular season:** Barons 8-6; Bison 8-6.

**Series:** Tied 2-2.

**Line:** Bison by 3.

**Outlook:** Flint dominated the regular season meeting, 56-25. As with most Sweeney Bowls, the game will probably come down to who does not play, instead of who does play. The Packers have nothing to play for. Still, QB Brett Favre threw three TDs last year in Week 17 with nothing to gain.

And with WR Yancey Thigpen minimizing the damage Flint QB Kordell Stewart can do. Besides, Baltimore has the finest team in TFL history.

**Pick:** Barons 96, Flint 40.

## THIRD PLACE GAME



**Dugway**  
vs.  
**Dutch Harbor**



**Regular season:** Experiments 11-3; Dawgs 9-5.

**Series:** Series tied 4-4.

**Line:** Pick'em.

**Outlook:** Both teams have lost all interest in football, having lost in the semifinals. Someone should check the crowd for a pulse if they really want to watch this one.

**Pick:** Dutch Harbor 12, Dugway 5.

## FIFTH PLACE GAME



**Denver**  
vs.  
**East Hartford**



**Regular season:** Pyles 9-5; Ex-'Mos 8-6.

**Series:** Tied 4-4.

**Line:** Pyles by 10.

**Outlook:** This is the third meeting this year between these rivals. They split the first two games. Rumor has it Reidy wants to flip coins, trusting his fate to luck alone.

**Pick:** Denver 60, East Hartford 2.

## PEE WEE BOWL II



**Alaska**  
at  
**Willow**



**Regular season:** Oosiks 6-8; Weasels 7-7.

**Series:** Alaska leads 4-3.

**Line:** Oosiks by 3.

**Outlook:** There are two things certain about the Boston Convention next Labor Day weekend. The T. Rex will be presented to the Sweeney Bowl winner for the first time at the Convention, and the Pee Wee Bowl winner will not be in attendance to pick up the Paul Reuben Trophy. Neither of these owners cares enough to be there.

**Pick:** Willow 42, Alaska 37.

## NINTH PLACE GAME



**Anchorage**  
at  
**Narcoossee**



**Regular season:** Kitchen 6-8; Nose Apes 6-8.

**Series:** Narcoossee leads 4-2.

**Line:** Nose Apes by 7.

**Outlook:** This is the third matchup where the teams are playing for the third time this year.

**Pick:** Narcoossee 10, Anchorage 6.

## ELEVENTH PLACE GAME



**Limerick**  
at  
**Marley**



**Regular season:** Loons 5-9; Wailers 6-8.

**Series:** Marley leads 3-1.

**Line:** Wailers by 3.

**Outlook:** Never underestimate the Loons impressive record in the postseason. Too bad they suck other times.

**Pick:** Limerick 47, Marley 38.

## THIRTEENTH PLACE GAME



**Sarasota**  
at  
**Bagdad**



**Regular season:** Sharks 3-11; Newts 6-8.

**Series:** Bagdad leads 7-1.

**Line:** Newts by 3.

**Outlook:** These two teams deserve each other. Can Lacy win his first-ever postseason game?

**Pick:** Sarasota 0, Bagdad 0 (Sharks win tiebreaker).

# Barons take on God for T. Rex

By Baron von Butterbrain  
TFL Today

BALTIMORE - The No. 1 pick vs. the 5th-round pick who turned into God.

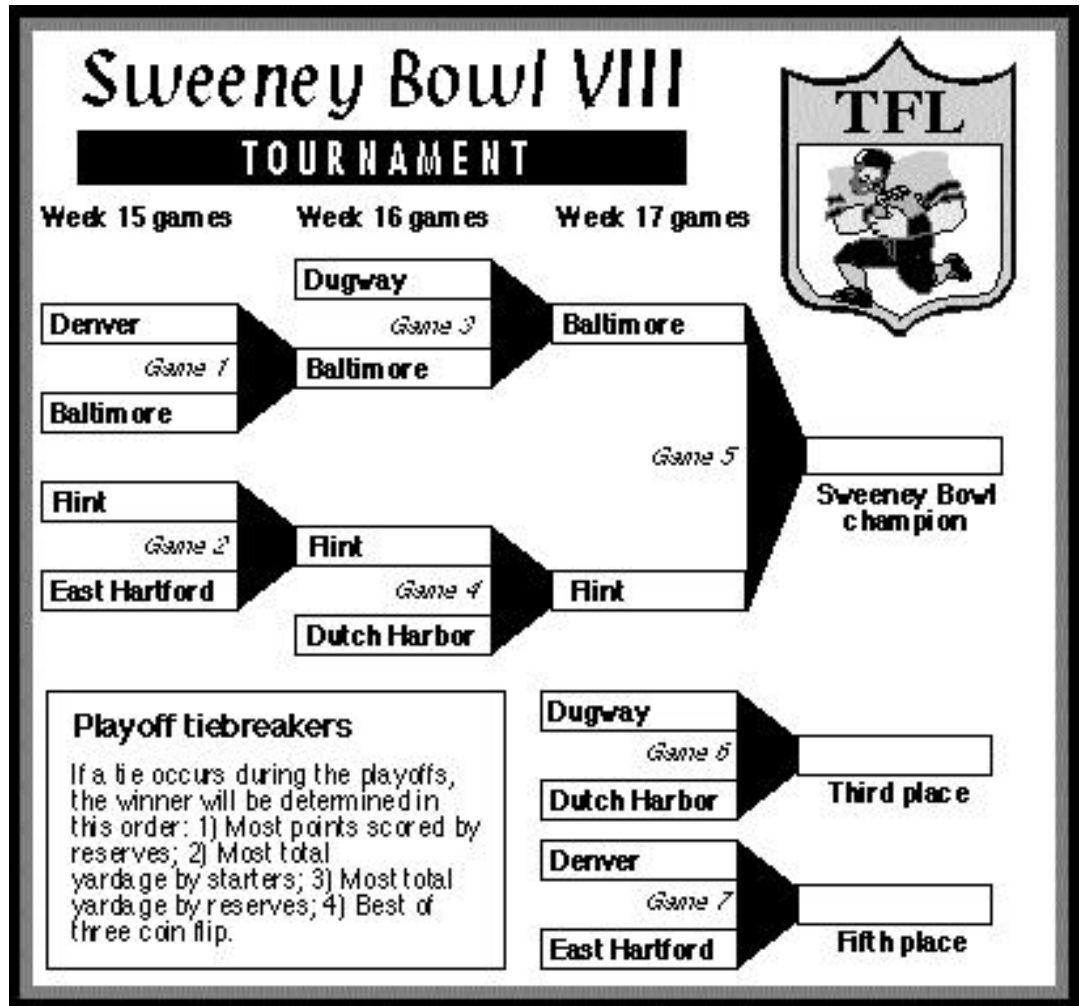
That's the Sweeney Bowl in a nutshell.

The Baltimore Barons based much of their success on drafting the hookup of Brett Favre and Antonio Freeman and have reaped the rewards. The mid-season pickup of Yancey Thigpen has been huge as well.

In the championship game, Thigpen will go toe-to-toe with his own quarterback, Flint's Kordell Stewart, who is largely responsible for Don Carlock's likely nomination as Coach of the Year. He has accomplished all this while having to play the season with No. 1 pick Jerry Rice on the injured list. "I'm thinking I stand a good chance of coming out on the short end of that one," Barons owner Steve Katz said. Even if Stewart hits Thigpen for a couple of scores, Kordell's going to run in at least one, giving him the edge."

Carlock doesn't agree so much. "Starting Thigpen neutralizes a ton of my points," said he, "and takes out my quarterback, and then I have to make back those points with a wide receiver."

And in that department, Carlock had to wave bye-bye to Rice this week, so Ben Coates and Keyshawn



Johnson are his weapons.

On the other hand, Katz's hookup could be his own undoing. If Favre and Freeman go to the house, Katz goes to the bank. If Favre only plays a half or so because Green Bay's already in the playoffs . . .

Twice during the season, Favre has thrown for 3 TDs, two to Freeman; once 4 TDs, with one to Freeman; and once 2 TDs, with both going to Freeman. And one magical day, Favre sprang for 5 scoring tosses, two to

Freeman.

"Those two hooking up doesn't worry me that much," Carlock said. "If they do hook up, you got a big day. If they don't hook up, you can almost stick a fork in you."

In the backfield, Carlock is feeling less and less secure about the productivity of Karim Abdul-Jabbar, whose playing time has suffered since the Dolphins brought in Lawrence Phillips.

Katz boasts Mike "The Magnificent" Alstott, who

has a deep thigh bruise and is being ordered to take it easy this week, although he reportedly took off for California to do a Wheel of Fortune taping.

Adrian Murrell and Bam Morris round out Baltimore's backfield, if ever a misnomer there was. "The second running back spot has been a weakness for us most of the year," Katz said.

Carlock answers with octogenarian Marcus Allen, who Katz originally drafted but waived.

# Bagdad blows in Pee Wee

## Different tourney, same results for the Newts

By **SCOOP BIAS**

TFL Today

BAGDAD, Ariz. — It was difficult, but this reporter did find three fans of the Newts among the crowd of people roaming the streets of downtown Bagdad.

All three said they had hoped a change of tournaments might change the postseason fortunes of the Red-Bellied Newts.

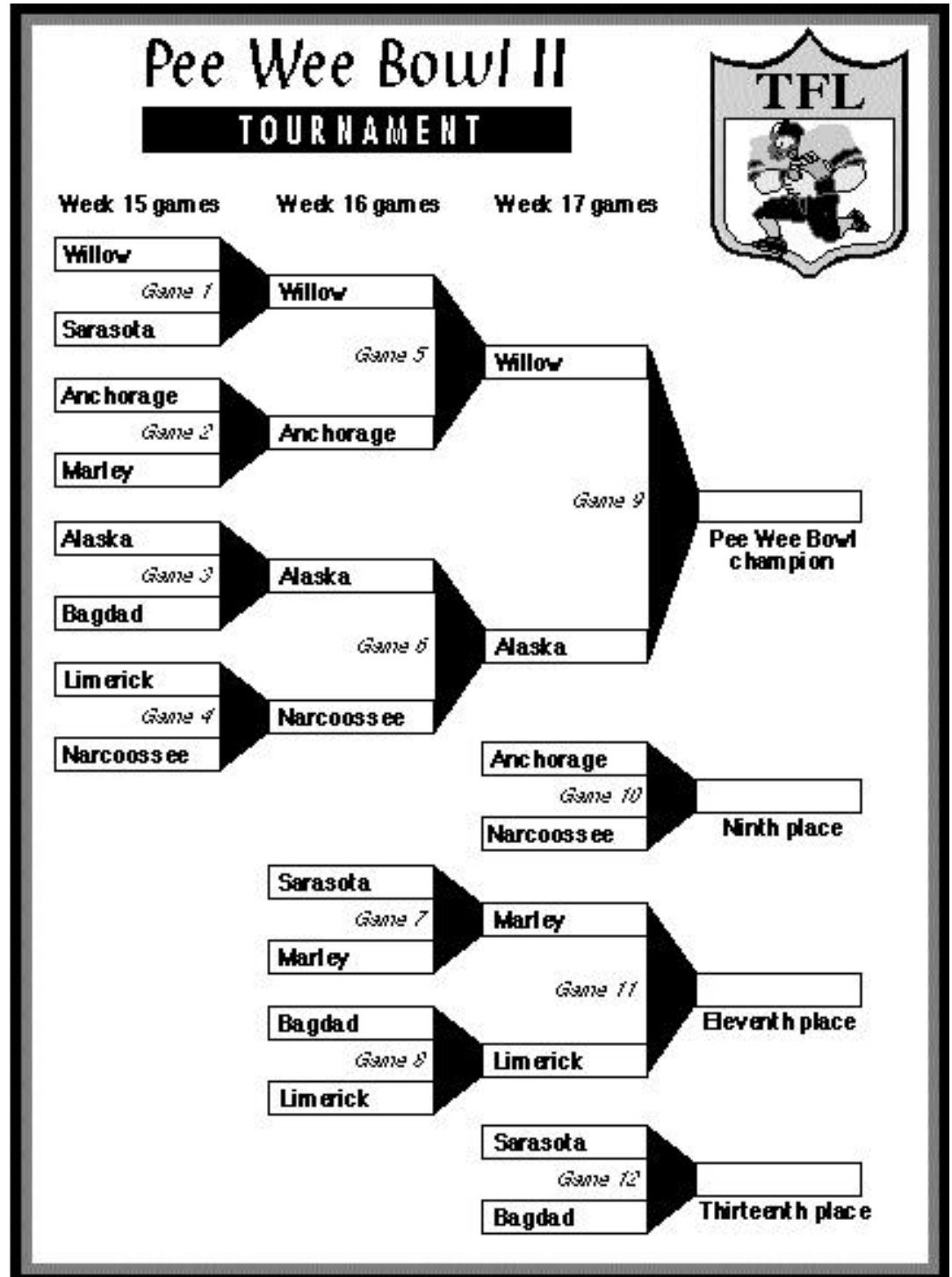
"I mean, we have to win a game some day, right?" asked a befuddled Thomas McCleary, the town drunk.

The Newts entered this season a combined 0-8 in Sweeney Bowl playoff games. The Newts were so awful this year, they did not qualify for the Sweeney Tournament this year, instead having to settle for playing for the Paul Reuben Trophy in the Pee Wee Bowl Tournament.

"I mean, we have to win a game some day, right?" McCleary asked again.

Well, not really Mr. McCleary. The Newts have lost both postseason games this year and now stand at 0-10 all time in postseason games.

The Newts play the equally-bad Sarasota Sharks, who don't have a QB, to see which team finishes in 14th place among the league's 14 teams.



**WEEK 16 RESULTS**

**Sweeney Bowl semifinals**

<b>Baltimore</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>Dugway</b>	<b>19</b>
Favre	22	Elway	0
Alstott	0	George	4
Morris	1	Means	8
Freeman	23	Rod Smith	1
Thigpen	2	Emanuel	0
Vinatieri	3	Cunningham	6
Baltimore	0	New England	0
<b>Flint</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>Dutch Harbor</b>	<b>31</b>
K. Stewart	16	McNair	13
Abdul-Jabbar	0	Sanders	4
M. Allen	6	Levens	1
Coates	6	Irvin	6
K. Johnson	6	Fryar	0
Stoyanovich	10	Longwell	7
Dallas	0	Green Bay	0

**Pee Wee Bowl semifinals**

<b>Anchorage</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Willow</b>	<b>27</b>
B. Johnson	1	Brunell	9
C. Martin	0	E. Smith	1
Hill	0	Dunn	2
Rison	1	C. Carter	0
Morton	5	Owens	0
Wilkins	5	Nedney	4
Minnesota	0	Kansas City	11
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>Narcoossee</b>	<b>35</b>
Bledsoe	18	Young	8
Dillon	10	Rob. Smith	9
J. Moore	6	Kaufman	0
Martin	1	H. Moore	7
J. Reed	0	Dudley	7
Hollis	9	Kasay	4
Tampa Bay	0	Jacksonville	0

**Pee Wee Bowl consolation games**

<b>Sarasota</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Marley</b>	<b>47</b>
Moon	0	Testaverde	8
J. Anderson	8	Bettis	2
T. Thomas	0	Autry	0
Bruce	0	Jackson	7
Chrebet	0	McCaffrey	12
Pelfrey	7	Elam	6
Oakland	0	San Francisco	12
<b>Bagdad</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Limerick</b>	<b>57</b>
Kramer	9	J. George	19
Carter	0	Watters	8
Zellers	1	Lane	9
T. Brown	1	McCardell	2
Miller	5	A. Reed	0
Del Greco	7	Blanchard	13
Tennessee	0	Indianapolis	6

**Not playing this week**

<b>East Hartford</b>	<b>Denver</b>
Mitchell	Marino
A. Smith	T. Davis
G. Brown	Stewart
J. Smith	Sharpe
Proehl	R. Moore
Hall	Stover
Carolina	Denver

**MONEY MATTERS**

**The pot**

Here's a breakdown of how much money is in the pot and how it will be split as of this date:

**Income\***

Franchise fees	\$1,400
Transactions and fines	\$430
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,830</b>

**Expenses**

Web site (Lacy)	\$150
Media guide, faxes, trophy (Sain)	\$150
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$300</b>

**The Split**

Sweeney Bowl champion	\$612.00
Second place	\$229.50
Third place	\$168.30
Fourth place	\$137.70
Fifth place	\$107.10
Sixth place	\$76.50
Pee Wee champion	\$45.90
Regular season champion	\$76.50
Points scoring champion	\$76.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1530.00</b>

\*Amount is not final. Interest from the CD has not been added and there may be more fines during the postseason.

**The bank**

Here is how much money each team has spent from there bank account this year and how much they can expect to be refunded in February:

Team	Fees	Bal.
Alaska Oosiks	\$10	\$40
Anchorage Kitchen	\$25	\$25
Bagdad Red-Bellied Newts	\$30	\$20
Baltimore Barons	\$45	\$ 5
Denver Pyles	\$55	#(-\$5)
Dugway Experiments	\$25	\$25
Dutch Harbor Dawgs	\$40	\$10
East Hartford Ex-Eskimos	\$50	\$ 0
Flint Bison	\$30	\$20
Limerick Laughing Loons	\$55	(-\$5)
Marley Wailers	\$30	\$20
Narcoossee Nose Apes	\$15	\$35
Sarasota Sharks	\$20	\$30
Willow Weasels	\$ 0	\$50

# Money owed will be taken out of that team's prize money.

**TRANSACTIONS**

**Dec. 12, 1997**  
Anchorage puts RB Curtis Martin on I.R., adds RB Donnell Bennett.

**Dec. 11, 1997**  
Flint activates WR Jerry Rice from I.R., waives WR Jermaine Lewis.

**Dec. 10, 1997**  
Marley places QB Gus Frerotte on I.R., adds QB Jeff Hostetler.

Marley activates WR Curtis Conway, waives WR Mark Chmura.  
Limerick failed to activate RB Tim Biakabutka, so he becomes a free agent.

**Dec. 9, 1997**  
Marley fined \$5 because WR Curtis Conway played while on the I.R. list. Marley must activate him by 11:59 p.m. today or he becomes a free agent.

Alaska fined \$5 because QB John Friesz played while on the I.R. list. Alaska waives QB John Friesz.

Limerick fined \$5 because RB Tim Biakabutka played while on the I.R. list. Limerick must activate him by 11:59 p.m. today or he becomes a free agent.

East Hartford places QB Paul Justin on I.R., adds QB Boomer Esiason.

Dugway places RB Raymont Harris on I.R., adds RB Tommy Vardell.

**Dec. 2, 1997**  
Alaska places RB Garrison Hearst on I.R., adds RB Jerald Moore.

Baltimore fined \$5 because RB Jay Graham played while on the I.R. Baltimore has until 11:59 p.m. today to activate him, or he becomes a free agent.

**Nov. 27, 1997**  
Dutch Harbor waives QB Craig Wehlihan, adds QB Steve McNair.

**Nov. 26, 1997**  
Denver waives RB Lawrence Phillips, adds RB Charlie Garner.

Dutch Harbor waives RB Antowain Smith, adds RB Charles Way.  
Baltimore waives WR Chris Calloway, adds WR Frank

## CURRENT ROSTERS

### Alaska

QB Drew Bledsoe  
 QB Rich Gannon  
 RB Chris Warren  
 RB Jerald Moore  
 RB Corey Dillon  
 WR Tony Martin  
 WR Jake Reed  
 WR Terance Mathis  
 K Jason Hanson  
 K Mike Hollis  
 D Tampa Bay  
 D Miami

#### Injured reserve

RB Garrison Hearst



### Marley

QB Vinny Testaverde  
 QB Jeff Hostetler  
 RB Jerome Bettis  
 RB Tiki Barber  
 RB Darnell Autry  
 WR Michael Jackson  
 WR Ed McCaffrey  
 WR Curtis Conway  
 K Jason Elam  
 K Olindo Mare  
 D San Francisco  
 D Philadelphia

#### Injured reserve

QB Gus Frerotte

### Anchorage

QB Brad Johnson  
 QB Rodney Peete  
 RB Curtis Martin  
 RB Leroy Hoard  
 RB Greg Hill  
 WR Robert Brooks  
 WR Johnnie Morton  
 WR Andre Rison  
 K Chris Boniol  
 K Jeff Wilkins  
 D Minnesota  
 D St. Louis

### Denver

QB Dan Marino  
 QB Jake Plummer  
 RB Terrell Davis  
 RB James Stewart  
 RB Charlie Garner  
 WR Shannon Sharpe  
 WR James Jett  
 WR Rob Moore  
 K Matt Stover  
 K Eddie Murray  
 D Denver  
 D New Orleans

### East Hartford

QB Scott Mitchell  
 QB Glenn Foley  
 RB Larry Centers  
 RB Gary Brown  
 RB Terry Allen  
 WR Jimmy Smith  
 WR Ricky Proehl  
 WR Muhsin Muhammad  
 K Gary Anderson  
 K John Hall  
 D Carolina  
 D Seattle

#### Injured reserve

RB Rashaan Salaam

### Narcoossee

QB Steve Young  
 QB Elvis Grbac  
 RB Napoleon Kaufman  
 RB Robert Smith  
 RB Terry Kirby  
 WR Herman Moore  
 WR Wesley Walls  
 WR Ricky Dudley  
 K John Kasay  
 K Scott Blanton  
 D Pittsburgh  
 D Jacksonville

### Bagdad

QB Tony Banks  
 QB Erik Kramer  
 RB Ki-Jana Carter  
 RB Ray Zellars  
 RB William Floyd  
 WR Carl Pickens  
 WR Tim Brown  
 WR Anthony Miller  
 K Al Del Greco  
 K Steve Christie  
 D Tennessee  
 D N.Y. Giants

#### Injured reserve

QB Stan Humphries

### Dugway

QB John Elway  
 QB Chris Chandler  
 RB Eddie George  
 RB Natrone Means  
 RB Tommy Vardell  
 WR Rod Smith  
 WR Michael Westbrook  
 WR Bert Emanuel  
 K Richie Cunningham  
 K Greg Davis  
 D Cincinnati  
 D New England

#### Injured reserve

RB Raymont Harris

### Flint

QB Kordell Stewart  
 QB Steve Beuerlein  
 RB Karim Abdul-Jabbar  
 RB Marshall Faulk  
 RB Marcus Allen  
 WR Jerry Rice  
 WR Keyshawn Johnson  
 WR Ben Coates  
 K Morten Andersen  
 K Pete Stoyanovich  
 D Dallas  
 D Detroit

### Sarasota

QB Jeff Blake  
 QB Warren Moon  
 RB Jamal Anderson  
 RB Herschel Walker  
 RB Thurman Thomas  
 WR Isaac Bruce  
 WR Chris Sanders  
 WR Wayne Chrebet  
 K Doug Pelfrey  
 K Kevin Butler  
 D Oakland  
 D Washington

#### Injured reserve

K Brett Conway

### Baltimore

QB Brett Favre  
 QB Trent Dilfer  
 RB Adrian Murrell  
 RB Mike Alstott  
 RB Bam Morris  
 WR Antonio Freeman  
 WR Frank Sanders  
 WR Yancey Thigpen  
 K Adam Vinatieri  
 K Cole Ford  
 D Baltimore  
 D Chicago

#### Injured reserve

RB Jay Graham

### Dutch Harbor

QB Neil O'Donnell  
 QB Steve McNair  
 RB Barry Sanders  
 RB Dorsey Levens  
 RB Charles Way  
 WR Michael Irvin  
 WR Irving Fryar  
 WR Joey Galloway  
 K Ryan Longwell  
 K Todd Peterson  
 D Green Bay  
 D N.Y. Jets

#### Injured reserve

QB Dave Brown

### Limerick

QB Jeff George  
 QB Kerry Collins  
 RB Ricky Watters  
 RB Fred Lane  
 RB Tyrone Wheatley  
 WR Terry Glenn  
 WR Keenan McCardell  
 WR Andre Reed  
 K Cary Blanchard  
 K Michael Husted  
 D Buffalo  
 D Indianapolis

### Willow

QB Mark Brunell  
 QB Troy Aikman  
 RB Emmitt Smith  
 RB Warrick Dunn  
 RB Mario Bates  
 WR Cris Carter  
 WR Derrick Alexander  
 WR Terrell Owens  
 K Joe Nedey  
 K Jeff Jaeger  
 D Kansas City  
 D Arizona