

TFL Today

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Dugway holds on

Newts rally, but fall short

By Baron von Butterbrain
TFL Today Senior Writer

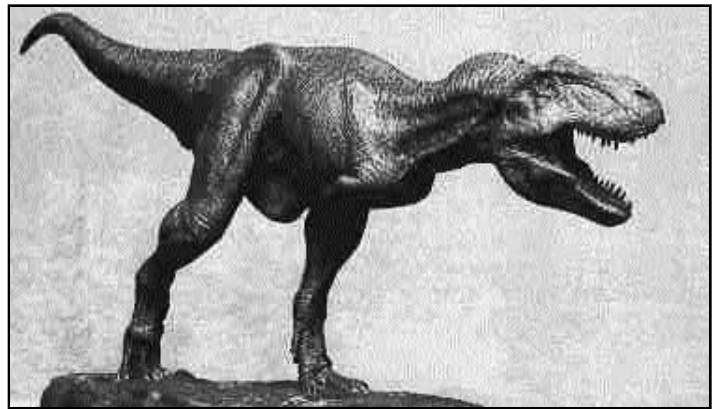
NEW ORLEANS - The Crescent City has no idea what's about to hit town, but New Orleanans hope it's a lot smaller than a freighter. It is, but not by much. Dugway will tackle Limerick for the T-Rex.

Dugway outlasted Bagdad this week in what turned into one of the most breathless semifinals in recent TFL playoff memory. The Tubes led, 47-29 going into the Monday night game, and Bagdad's combination of Andre Reed and

Karim Abdul-Jabbar beating the double-team in the low post valiantly made up all but three points. Test Tubes owner Ken Sain kicked off championship week in Dugway with a rally that confused some as to who had really won.

"Woe! Is! Me! Woe! Is! Me!" chanted the sullen crowd, over and over. And over. And over and over. And then again. And then over again. And then over and over again.

Dugway's team boat, the "Woe is Me," was used for the rally but will not



This is the statue on the top of the T. Rex Trophy, presented to the winner of the Sweeney Bowl.

make the trip because it would have no chance against the currents of the mighty Mississippi, even though some types of pleasure craft can fit right inside

the Riverwalk this week.

Sain did, however, have his supporters. Bagdad owner Scott Lacy was one.

"As a member of the

See T. Rex, page 2

BO KNOWS



Ken Sain

"Woe is me."
— Ken Sain

"I think we've earned a little respect."
— Michael Bourque

Michael Bourque



Michael Bourque

Dugway vs. Limerick

WHAT: Sweeney Bowl VII.

LINE: Dugway by 6.

HOW THEY GOT THERE: Limerick eliminated Baltimore 31-25 in the first semifinal game. Dugway held on to a 47-44 thriller over rival Bagdad in the other. Observers are calling it the best playoff game in TFL history.

PAST HISTORY: Limerick won Sweeney Bowl III, but that title has been stained by an asterisk. This is Dugway's first Sweeney Bowl. Owner Ken Sain is 0-2 in other fantasy league title games.

PREDICTION: The temptation is to pick the Tubes, because of all the points they have scored. However, the Loons are the hottest team, having won eight straight games. Besides, Charlie Brown never gets to kick the football.

Loons 35, Tubes 33.

Then there were three

TFL Wire Services

It's official. The 1997 TFL Convention will NOT be in Salt Lake City.

After 10 days of balloting in which TFLowners put 21 cities under the microscope, little in the way of consensus emerged. TFL convention czar Scott Lacy, responding to the lack of a clear-cut favorite, declared a runoff between the top three finishers: Boston, Denver, and Las Vegas.

Runoff voting began Tuesday and will continue throughout the week. Those who have yet to vote can do so by hitting the link in TrashTalk on the TFL Web Site.

"We've seen a stronger-than-expected preference for Western sites," Lacy said. "Turns out that in addition to strong support from the Alaska delegates, many eastern delegates expressed a strong desire to escape to the west in '97."

Denver, home of struggling Pyles owner Mike Taylor, led all 21 cities with a 7.21 rating. Following

Convention 1997?

Here are the results of the owners poll on where they would like to have the next convention:

Denver, 7.21
 Las Vegas, 6.86
 Boston, 6.71
 San Francisco, 6.36
 Seattle, 5.93
 San Diego, 5.86
 New York, 5.50
 Chicago, 5.29
 Miami, 5.14
 Phoenix, 5.00
 Washington, D.C., 5.00
 Kansas City, 4.71
 Portland, Ore., 4.64
 Atlanta, 4.50
 Dallas, 4.36
 Philadelphia, 3.79
 Salt Lake City, 3.64
 Los Angeles, 3.64
 Minneapolis, 3.21
 Cleveland, 3.14
 St. Louis, 3.00

close behind were Las Vegas (6.86) and Boston (6.71), the latter of which the only eastern city among

the top six. San Francisco and Seattle rounded out the top 10.

The strong showing of western cities was the story of the initial balloting. Of the seven western sites on the ballot, only Portland, Ore., failed to score above a 5. Conversely, traditional eastern cities Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and Atlanta all failed to crack the top 10.

Middle America fared poorly as well. St. Louis, Kansas City, Cleveland and Minneapolis all failed to break the 5.0 mark.

"I'm bitterly disappointed about St. Louis' poor showing," Lacy said. "It's a fine town, and I hear rooms in East St. Louis can be had on the cheap. Then again, rooms in Mike Taylor's house should be even cheaper--assuming he doesn't charge us."

The runoff pits the old-world charm of Boston against the tony trappings of Las Vegas and the natural splendor of Denver.

Although the runoff

promised to be a tight race, sentiment for Denver was growing as presstime neared. Lacy cited Denver's geographic neutrality, natural beauty, cheap lodging and nearby gambling town Central City as strong evidence of the city's suitability as a convention site.

Baltimore's Steve Katz, however, leads a strong pro-Vegas group that includes Anchorage's Nate Sagan, Willow's Van Williams and Sarasota's Charlie Coggins. Katz denounced Denver early in the initial balloting, but has since softened his stance following a barrage of pro-Denver rhetoric from Taylor.

Boston, the early favorite to host the convention, has become somewhat of a long shot after the Alaska contingent drubbed it in the balloting. Still, Beantown has solid support from Limerick's Michael Bourque and East Hartford's Chris Reidy, who both live within 150 miles of the city.

T. Rex

Continued from page 1

Barbarino, I certainly have all my best wishes with the Tubes," said Lacy, who continues as the league's All-Time Losingest Playoff Owner (ALPO) at 0-7. "I have nothing to say," he added. "I'm just empty. I fell like a character in a Kafka novel. Life is point-

less and dreary. My next eight months will be devoted to devising next year's draft strategy. Dammit, we're gonna win it one of these days."

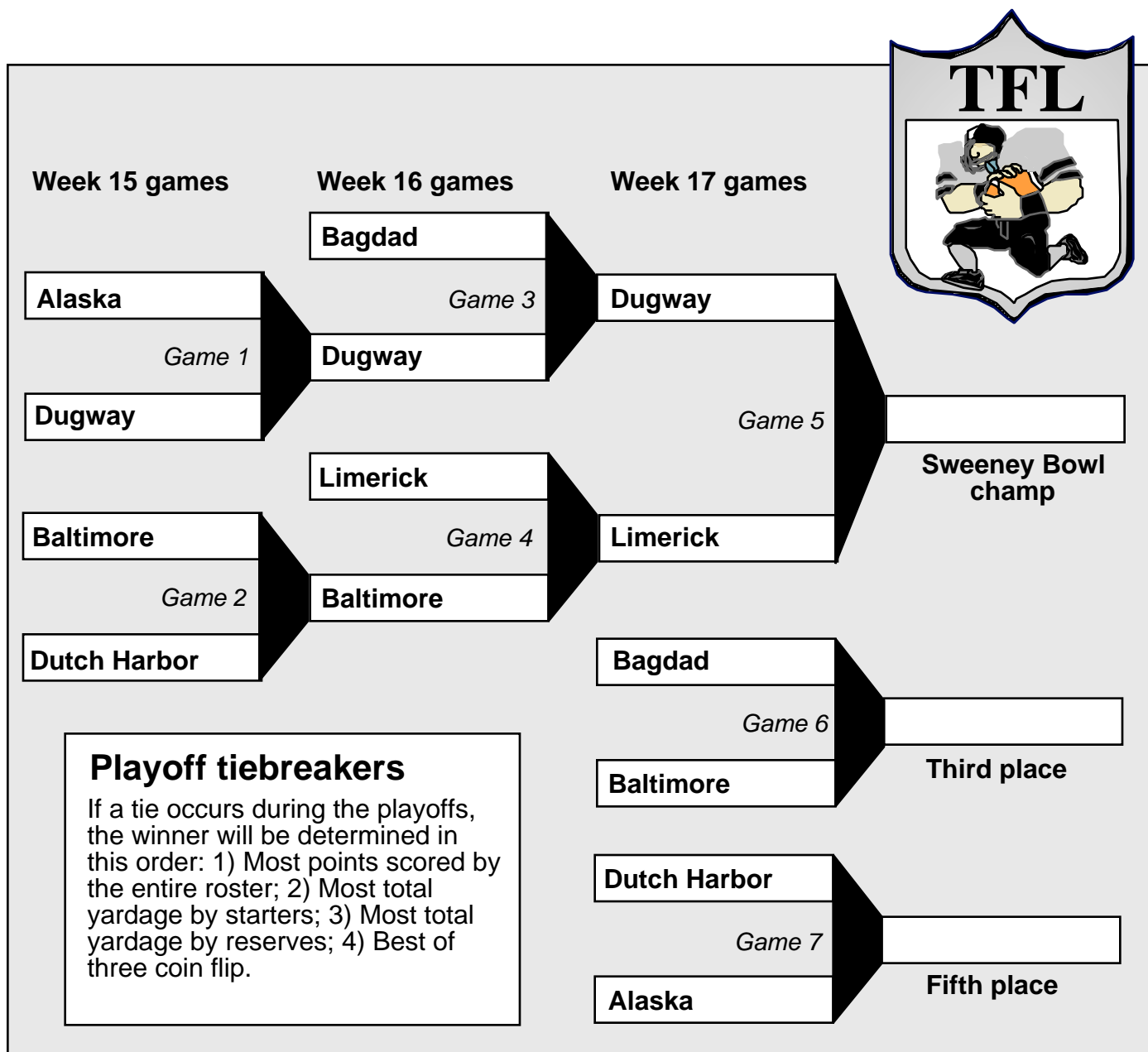
Lacy will face off against Baltimore in the third-place game. The Barons lost to the Limerick Laughing Loons in the other semifinal when Scott Mitchell, the No. 6 pick in the draft, was shut out by Green Bay at home on Sunday.

"How do you not start your No. 1 pick in the semifinals?" asked Katz a bit rhetorically and in apparent contradiction to his theory last week on why he hadn't started Mitchell in the wildcard game. "I started to think about starting Detmer, who had had the long week and was facing the Jets, but my decision was to send the No. 1 pick out there, otherwise why did we draft him?"

Lacy came up dry in his attempt at wit leading up to a game that meant nothing except third-place money. "If you're not playing for the chance to fondle the T-Rex, it's meaningless," he said.

"If you'll pardon a mere moment of complaining, I thought I'd note that for the second straight year the Newts 1) were the second-

See T. Rex, page 3



T. Rex

Continued from page 2

highest scoring team in the semis and lost, and 2) were knocked out of the Sweeney Bowl BECAUSE they got a first-round bye. Yes, that's right. If I had had the good sense to lose my final two regular-season games, I'd be in the Sweeney Bowl right now. That's life in the TFL."

Lacy noted this is the third time in the league's

history that a rule he wrote had prevented his own team from winning a playoff game.

Katz, who has at least been to one championship game, said every little bit helps toward paying bills, so the third-place money means something, if not much."

Contacted late Tuesday night at Loons headquarters, Mike Bourque said, "We'll be the dogs once again. I don't think we've

been the favorite all year. You realize that we're playing for married men everywhere. We've been compared to Joe Namath all year," he said, referring to his chance to pull the grandest upset of all, not just beating Dugway, but defeating the basic tenet that married men can't win.

"Kenny and his friends can have their he-man women haters club, but it'll be a poor club. With the Experiments in the

Sweeney Bowl, there's one experiment we know will be disproven. We're a small place here in the wilderness, but we're the Green Bay of the TFL. Now we're headed for our second Sweeney Bowl, so I think we've earned a little respect."

The Loons won the 1992 championship. By winning the championship, the Loons would cap off a 9-game winning streak.

"Don't forget to mention that," Bourque said.

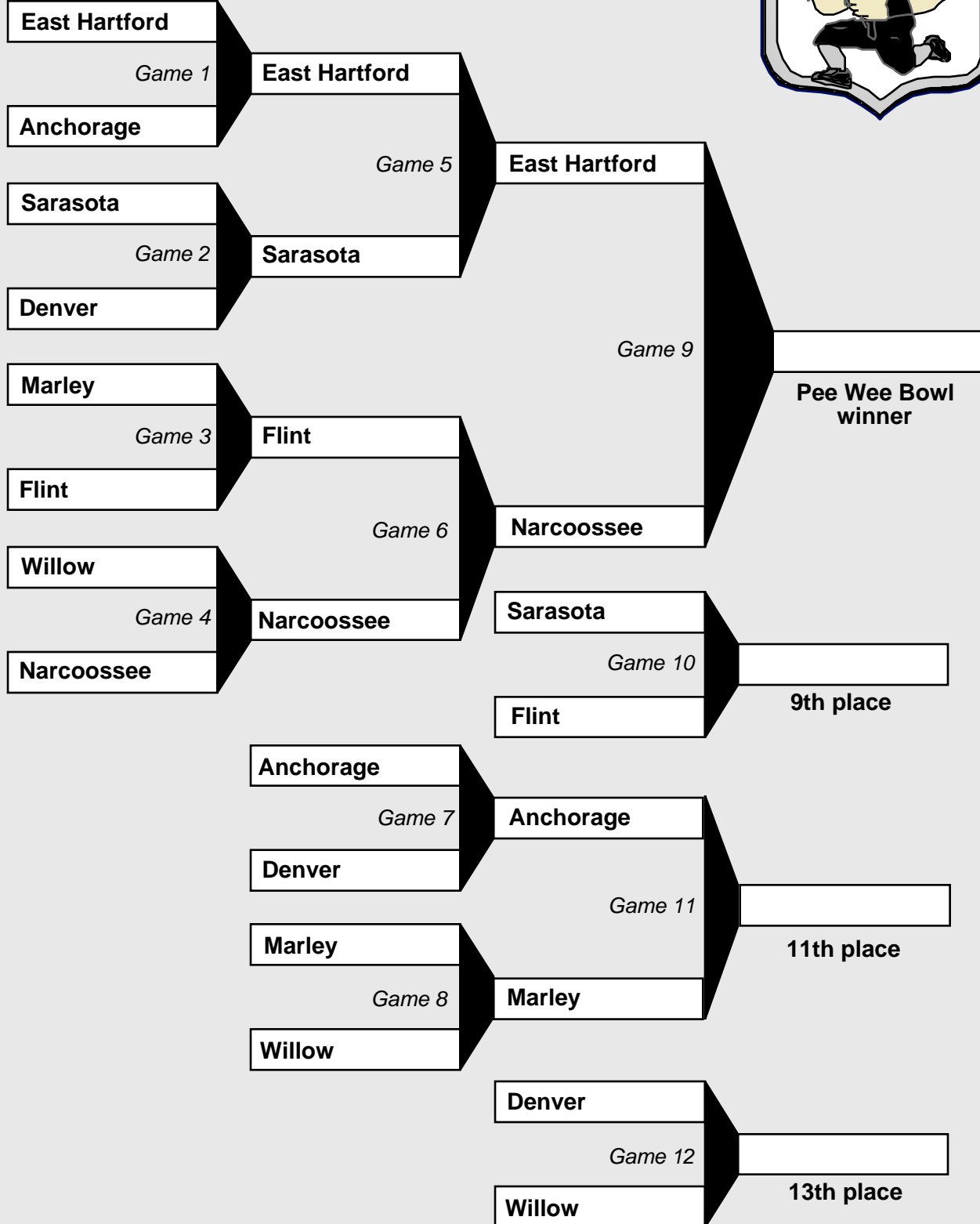
Pee Wee Bowl Tournament



Week 15 games

Week 16 games

Week 17 games



WEEK 15 RESULTS

Sweeney Bowl semifinals

Dugway	47	Bagdad	44
Favre	14	Hebert	17
Davis	8	Watters	2
Centers	10	Abdul-Jabbar	2
Irvin	2	Moore	1
Freeman	7	Reed	13
Vinatieri	6	Kasay	9
Chiefs	0	Oilers	0

Baltimore	25	Limerick	31
Mitchell	0	Blake	6
George	2	Means	2
Kirby	0	Murrell	0
Galloway	2	Early	0
Smith	18	Emanuel	14
Anderson	3	Andersen	9
Giants	0	Colts	0

Pee Wee Bowl semifinals

Sarasota	26	East Hartford	45
Hostetler	6	Bledsoe	0
Martin	2	Sanders	2
Floyd	6	Hoard	15
Carter	11	Bruce	0
Haynes	0	Harrison	21
Johnson	1	Ford	7
Buccaneers	0	Panthers	0

Flint	19	Narcoossee	46
Tomczak	9	Young	19
Thomas	0	Allen	7
Faulk	1	Anderson	2
Brown	1	Glenn	5
Morton	0	K.Johnson	8
Jacke	5	Pelfrey	3
Cowboys	3	49ers	2

Pee Wee Bowl consolations

Anchorage	23	Denver	14
Everett	0	McNair	6
Warren	0	Byner	0
L. Johnson	0	Kaufman	0
Fryar	14	Sharpe	0
Reed	1	Beebe	2
Hollis	8	Elam	6
Vikings	0	Broncos	0

Willow	28	Marley	33
Marino	7	Collins	13
Bennett	3	E. Smith	3
Allen	1	Morris	2
Chrebet	1	Conway	6
Perriman	5	Jackson	7
Boniol	12	Carney	2
Seahawks	0	Lions	0

SATURDAY GAMES THIS WEEK

Lineups due at 12:15 p.m. EST

MONEY MATTERS

TFL Financial report

Income	
Franchise fees	\$1,400.00
Transaction fees	\$285.00
Fines	\$60.00
Total	\$1,745.00

Expenses	
Katz's costs	\$100.00
Sain's costs	\$145.00
Total	\$245.00

Pot		\$1,500.00
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	\$25.00
Michele Fetsko	\$30.00
Wit Tuttell	\$35.00
Charles Coggins	\$10.00
Van Williams	\$0.00
Outstanding balance	\$395.00

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.