

TFL Today

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It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog

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Numbers kind to some, not to others

By Baron von Butterbrain

TFL Today Senior Correspondent

It's a numbers game.

Six 49er touchdowns and not a single one to Jerry Rice. Barons win, clinging to a 6-point lead and barely escaping a challenge from the Arctic Gators (the G in Gators standing for "gag.")

Of those six 49er touchdowns, Steve Young accounts for four. East Hartford's Ex-Eskimos turn a paltry, 9-point Sunday total into a 37-21 victory over Lackawanna.

And of Young's four, one of them is a pass to Terrell Owens, giving Willow a comeback win over Narcoossee

Meanwhile, of the two 49er scores that Young wasn't personally responsible for, Garrison Hearst handled one and went nuts on the ground, giving the Alaska Oosiks their second win and possession of league leadership in points.

You read right. The Alaska Oosiks are 2-0 and lead the TFL in points.

As far-reaching as Young's mastery of the Redskins' defense, so was his influence on the TFL standings.

Baltimore and Willow were the two luckiest benefactors. "We sweated bullets knowing all Rice had to do was catch one TD pass and we were at best tied," said Barons owner Steve Katz. "I mean, (Gators owner Mark) Dolan throws everything including the kitchen sink at me Sunday night. Even the stupid New England defense scored, making the situation pretty dicey entering Monday night.

But six touchdowns and not even one to Rice? That hasn't happened in San

Francisco since the earthquake. The 1906 one."

Rice did haul in a 57-yard pass and got all the way to the Redskins 10, with Katz screaming at him all the way, before Darrell Green, once the NFL's fastest man, got the angle and dragged him down.

The loss couldn't have happened to a nicer guy. Dolan went into Sunday's action knowing both his starting running backs were benched by their teams before the games, even though Curtis Enis did see some PT.

Gators, baby. Yeah, right.

Willow's Terrell Owens caught a scoring pass from Young and had 7 points, handing Narcoossee a 46-45 heartbreaker. "We're glad we won," said Willow's Van Williams in a made-up quote obtained out of thin air, where Van keeps an office.

That noise you just heard was Narcoossee's Wit Tuttell throwing a chair threw his window after enduring the loss. Tuttell was so despondent, he called the TFL offices to exchange a bad running back for a worse one, Charlie Garner for "Duces are wild" Staley.

In week 3, Tuttell has to sit down Jamal Anderson and Tony Martin on bye weeks for his game against Katz, who

could seize Horshack divisional leadership with a win.

In Barrow, Alaska, the mood was as good . . . as the mood can be in Barrow, Alaska. Charles Bingham's first phone message of the year began with, "Laugh at my picks, will you?" Bingham rode Hearst's rushing performance to a 53-point output in trouncing Limerick.

Terrell Davis was the star of the Oosiks' show, racking up 31 points on an electrifying, 3-touchdown day at Mile High Stadium. Bingham calmly explained he hadn't expected to get two backs of that quality.

"Hearst was my 8" or 9" rated back, and I read a couple magazines that said if you can one of the top 10, grab him. And I got two."

Team Mirage takes a rest this week, though, when Bingham has to sit half his team on byes.

There is, by the way, another 2-0 team. Speaking of electrifying, Barry Sanders shake-and-baked (or is that shook-and-baked?) his way to a Barry Sanders day, with three scintillating scoring dashes and a 27-point day. We'll hear more about it when Denver Pyles owner Mike Taylor writes a story.

Injuries have league-wide ripple effect

By Baron von Butterbrain
TFL Today

Ickey Woods had nothing on the TFL. Get ready for the Roster Shuffle.

Elvis Grbac got hurt last week and will miss a few weeks, and this week it was Brad Johnson, Troy Aikman and Dorsey Levens suffering injuries that will shelve them for at least a month. Jim Harbaugh's finger took a beating last week as well, but he played Sunday and may continue to.

The effects of this on the TFL? Rich Gannon replaced Grbac but hasn't been picked up by anybody. Instead, Baltimore owner Steve Katz

plucked Danny Kannell of the New York Giants from the ranks of the undrafted.

Johnson's replacement, Randall Cunningham, is also Scott Lacy's. The Bagdad owner drafted him as insurance in case Johnson's neck injury flared up. Instead, a defensive lineman flared into Johnson's leg and broke it, giving Cunningham a starting job for at least a few weeks and Bagdad a simple, plug-in roster move.

Anchorage's Nate Sagan replaced Aikman with Jason Garrett, a non-fantasy factor in his own right, but owners of Michael Irvin (Katz) and Emmitt Smith (Limerick's Michael Bourque) may feel

some impact because of adjustments in Dallas's attack.

"We hope Jason Garrett can get the ball to Irvin the way Troy could, but it's just crossing our fingers for now." But Katz calmly sat tight rather than entertain thoughts of giving up on Irvin because of that concern. "The Cowboys' offense is still designed to get the ball in his hands. We'll just see what happens."

Dutch Harbor's Dorsey Levens might as well have held out longer for all the good it did him to report to the team. The Dawgs hadn't found an I.R. replacement for him yet as of presstime. But in an odd sort of way, Baltimore may

come out of that situation with the Packers' most valuable valuable fantasy player behind Favre and Freeman. Their kicker, Ryan Longwell.

"Here's hoping Antonio Freeman gets stopped at the one after most of his long receptions, and they go for the field goal," said Katz.

WEEK 2 STANDINGS

Barbarino Division	Record			Points for				Points against			
	W	L	T	Tot.	Hi	Lw	Avg.	Tot.	Hi	Lw	Avg.
Alaska Oosiks	2	0	0	115	62	53	57.5	62	38	24	31.0
Denver Pyles	2	0	0	97	51	46	48.5	72	45	27	36.0
Bagdad R-B Newts	2	0	0	85	48	37	48.0	64	32	32	32.0
Arctic Gators	1	1	0	76	47	29	38.0	61	33	28	30.5
Dugway Experiments	0	2	0	47	27	20	23.5	92	51	41	46.0

Kotter Division	Record			Points for				Points against			
	W	L	T	Tot.	Hi	Lw	Avg.	Tot.	Hi	Lw	Avg.
East Hartford Exmos	2	0	0	85	48	37	42.5	66	45	21	33.0
Anchorage Kitchen	1	1	0	75	51	24	37.5	91	62	29	45.5
Lackawanna Lancers	1	1	0	62	41	21	31.0	57	37	20	28.5
Flint Bison	0	2	0	77	45	32	36.5	85	48	37	42.5
Limerick Loons	0	2	0	73	38	35	36.5	97	53	44	48.5

Horshack Division	Record			Points for				Points against			
	W	L	T	Tot.	Hi	Lw	Avg.	Tot.	Hi	Lw	Avg.
Narcoossee NoseApes	1	1	0	86	44	42	43.0	81	46	35	40.5
Baltimore Barons	1	1	0	78	45	33	36.0	65	46	29	32.5
Willow Weasels	1	1	0	74	46	28	37.0	89	47	42	44.5
Dutch Harbor Dawgs	0	2	0	64	32	32	32.0	99	51	48	49.5

WEEK 2 RESULTS

Anchorage 51	Dutch Harbor 29	East Hartford 37	Lackawanna 21
Kordell Stewart 6	Glenn Foley 6	Steve Young 27	Brett Favre 12
Napoleon Kaufman 13	Dorsey Levens 0	Edgar Bennett 0	Terry Allen 2
Robert Smith 21	Donnell Bennett 0	Ricky Watters 3	Antowain Smith 0
Keenan McCardell 0	Rob Moore 0	J.J. Stokes 1	Herman Moore 2
Robert Brooks 0	Tim Brown 10	Charles Johnson 0	Yancey Thigpen 1
Todd Peterson 11	Richie Cur'gham 13	Jason Elam 6	Jason Hanson 4
Pittsburgh Steelers 0	Kansas City Chiefs 0	Atlanta Falcons 0	San Francisco 49ers 0

Bagdad 38	Flint 32	Alaska 53	Limerick 38
Brad Johnson 6	Drew Bledsoc 6	Chris Chandler 6	John Elway 19
Fred Lane 3	Tommy Vardell 6	Terrell Davis 31	Curtis Martin 2
Karim Abdul-Jabbar 2	Warrick Dunn 0	Garrison Hearst 10	Emmitt Smith 8
Isaac Bruce 18	Antonio Freeman 8	Curtis Conway 1	Michael Jackson 1
Johnnie Morton 1	Carl Pickens 5	Terrance Mathis 0	Jimmy Smith 7
Gary Anderson 8	Olindo Mare 7	Mort. Andersen 5	Al Del Greco 1
Tennessee Oilers 0	Green Bay Packers 0	Minnesota 0	New York Jets 0

Baltimore 33	Arctic 29	Willow 46	Narsoossee 42
Kerry Collins 7	Mark Brunell 6	Steve McNair 6	Warren Moon 12
Eddie George 0	Curtis Enis 2	Marshall Faulk 5	Jamal Anderson 7
Errict Rhett 1	Sedrick Shaw 0	Mike Alstott 0	Corey Dillon 8
Joey Galloway 6	Jerry Rice 2	Shannon Sharpe 14	Andre Reed 0
Michael Irvin 2	Terry Glenn 6	Terrell Owens 7	Tony Martin 2
Ryan Longwell 11	John Hall 4	John Kasay 2	Pete Stoyanovich 10
Baltimore Ravens 6	NE Patriots 9	Seattle 12	Miami Dolphins 3

Denver 51	Dugway 27
Ryan Leaf 0	Jeff George 9
Barry Sanders 27	Jerome Bettis 10
James Stewart 9	Natrone Means 8
Cris Carter 7	Rickey Dudley 0
Randy Moss 2	Jake Reed 0
Norm Johnson 6	Mike Vanderjagt 0
Carolina Panthers 0	Tampa Bay Bucs 0

TRANSACTIONS

Tuesday, Sept. 8

Dutch Harbor places QB Jim Harbaugh on I.R., adds QB Glenn Foley.

Limerick places WR Bert Emanuel on I.R., adds WR Wayne Chrebet.

Thursday, Sept. 10

Anchorage waives WR Rac Carruth, adds WR Bryan Still.

Friday, Sept. 11

Baltimore places QB Elvis Grbac on I.R., adds QB Danny Kannell.

Sunday, Sept. 13

East Hartford places WR Ben Coates on I.R., adds WR J.J. Stokes.

Tuesday, Sept. 15

Dutch Harbor fined \$5 because Harbaugh played.

Dugway places WR Andre Rison on I.R., picks up WR Darnay Scott.

Wednesday, Sept. 16

Denver waives RB Zack Crockett, picks up RB Ahman Green.

Dutch Harbor loses QB Jim Harbaugh, must keep Glenn Foley

Lackawanna

QB Brett Favre
 QB Peyton Manning
 RB Antowain Smith
 RB Terry Allen
 RB Jay Graham
 WR Herman Moore
 WR Yancey Thigpen
 WR Eric Moulds
 K Jason Hanson
 K Steve Christie
 D San Francisco
 D Chicago

Alaska

QB Chris Chandler
 QB Neil O'Donnell
 RB Terrell Davis
 RB Garrison Hearst
 RB John Avery
 WR Terrance Mathis
 WR James McKnight
 WR Curtis Conway
 K Morten Andersen
 K Doug Pelfrey
 D Minnesota
 D San Diego

Denver

QB Jake Plummer
 QB Ryan Leaf
 RB Barry Sanders
 RB James Stewart
 RB **Ahman Green**
 WR Cris Carter
 WR Marvin Harrison
 WR Randy Moss
 K Adam Vinatieri
 K Norm Johnson
 D Carolina
 D Philadelphia

Dugway

QB Jeff George
 QB Tony Banks
 RB Jerome Bettis
 RB Natrone Means
 RB Fred Taylor
 WR **Darnay Scott**
 WR Jake Reed
 WR Rickey Dudley
 K Mike Vanderjagt
 K Brad Daluiso
 D Tampa Bay
 D St. Louis

I.R. Andre Rison

Anchorage

QB Kordell Stewart
 QB **Jason Garrett**
 RB Robert Smith
 RB Napoleon Kaufman
 RB Robert Edwards
 WR Robert Brooks
 WR Keenan McCardell
 WR **Bryan Still**
 K Todd Peterson
 K Jeff Wilkins
 D Pittsburgh
 D Arizona

I.R. Troy Aikman
 Dropped: Rae Carruth

Baltimore

QB **Danny Kannel**
 QB Kerry Collins
 RB Eddie George
 RB Errict Rhett
 RB Harvey Williams
 WR Joey Galloway
 WR Michael Irvin
 WR Wesley Walls
 K Ryan Longwell
 K Greg Davis
 D Baltimore
 D New Orleans

I.R. Grbac

Narcoossee

QB Warren Moon
 QB Rob Johnson
 RB Corey Dillon
 RB Jamal Anderson
 RB Charlie Garner
 WR Tony Martin
 WR Andre Reed
 WR Tony Gonzalez
 K Pete Stoyanovich
 K Wade Richie
 D Miami
 D Jacksonville

Arctic

QB Mark Brunell
 QB Gus Frerrotte
 RB Curtis Enis
 RB Tiki Barber
 RB Sedrick Shaw
 WR Jerry Rice
 WR Terry Glen
 WR Keyshawn Johnson
 K Mike Hollis
 K John Hall
 D New England
 D Denver

Dutch Harbor

QB **Glenn Foley**
 QB Erik Kramer
 RB Dorsey Levens
 RB Donnell Bennett
 RB Larry Centers
 WR Tim Brown
 WR Rob Moore
 WR Jermaine Lewis
 K Richie Cun'gham
 K Doug Brien
 D Kansas City
 D Dallas

I.R. Harbaugh

Limerick

QB John Elway
 QB Trent Dilfer
 RB Curtis Martin
 RB Emmitt Smith
 RB Charles Way
 WR Jimmy Smith
 WR Michael Jackson
 WR **Wayne Chrebet**
 K Al Del Greco
 K Michael Husted
 D NY Jets
 D Oakland

I.R. Emanuel

East Hartford

QB Steve Young
 QB Dan Marino
 RB Ricky Watters
 RB Greg Hill
 RB Edgar Bennett
 WR **J.J. Stokes**
 WR Charles Johnson
 WR Irving Fryar
 K Jason Elam
 K John Carney
 D NY Giants
 D Atlanta

I.R. Coates

Bagdad

QB Brad Johnson
 QB Randall Cun'gham
 RB Karim A-Jabbar
 RB Fred Lane
 RB Lamar Smith
 WR Rod Smith
 WR Isaac Bruce
 WR Johnnie Morton
 K Gary Anderson
 K Matt Stover
 D Tennessee
 D Buffalo

Willow

QB Steve McNair
 QB Bobby Hoying
 RB Marshall Faulk
 RB Mike Alstott
 RB Adrian Murrell
 WR Shannon Sharpe
 WR Terrell Owens
 WR Ike Hilliard
 K John Kasay
 K Jeff Jaeger
 D Seattle
 D Washington

Flint

QB Drew Bledsoe
 QB Scott Mitchell
 RB Warrick Dunn
 RB Robert Holcombe
 RB Tommy Vardell
 WR Antonio Freeman
 WR Carl Pickens
 WR James Jett
 K Olindo Marc
 K Chris Boniol
 D Green Bay
 D Detroit

Exmos on the march

By PEARL NICHOLAS

Hebron Biweekly Bugle
HEBRON -- Two ghosts
down, one to go.

The East Hartford Ex-Eskimos rallied behind Steve Young's 27-point performance Monday night to overcome the Lackawanna Lancers 37-21, giving the Exmos their first 2-0 start since the 1996 Pee Wee Bowl title team. But perhaps more important, the Exmos have slammed the closet door on a couple of their most embarrassing skeletons. The Exmos opened the season with a two-point victory over the Flint Bison, a team that has historically treated East Hartford like a president would treat a blue dress from the Gap.

The Exmos had beaten the Bison only once in five previous meetings, with Flint winning its four games by an average score of 51.7 to 19.5. The Bison gored the Exmos twice last season, virtually clinching the Kotter Division (that is, if you count unimportant things like head-to-head meetings) with a 54-9 whipping on the penultimate week of the season.

After the harpooned Exmos limped into the playoffs, the Bison finished their work with a 64-33 thrashing in the opening round.

"Needless to say, seeing 'Flint' next to the first line of the schedule didn't exactly have me clicking my heels. Well, that and my knee injury," Exmos owner Chris Reidy said. "It was certainly satisfying to eke out a victory against a team that is not only among the TFL elite, but has tapdanced on our parkas a few too many times along the way."

Next up were the Lancers, who in their only season, 1994, opened with a 66-37 dirt-napping of the then-West Hartford Exmos. That got the

Exmos rolling down the sheer incline of a 4-10 season, their only losing record in six years. It was looking bleak again for East Hartford, which trailed 19-9 going into the Monday night game. But for the second game in a row, Young carried the Exmos to a victory.

"That one was another relief," Reidy said. "Especially since I'd been reading that the Lancers were destined to play the Test. Especially with another big challenge staring the Exmos in the eye. Next week brings the Perennially Great Pyles, another team that has had its way with the Exmos. Denver holds a 5-2 series edge, beating East Hartford twice in the final four weeks last season.

"One thing about the Pyles -- they always come to play," Reidy said. "We'll have to strap on the mukluks and try to get ready for another test." Tubes in the Sweetney Bowl, and that all the other franchises might as well focus on their New Year's Eve party plans. I'll tell you, Steve Young is beginning to look like another Emmitt."

The Exmos could use another Emmitt -- even Kelly -- in the backfield. Through two games, East Hartford's running backs have totaled four points, three coming on Ricky Watters' 100-yard game Sunday.

"We can't expect to keep winning with that kind of production, if you can call it that," Reidy said. "We can't keep waiting for Steve Young to bail us out every week."