

# TFL Today

*"A Beacon of Truth and Justice in a Topsy-Turvy World"*

## Barons ponder QB woes

**By Ringold Lardbrain**  
Baltimore Bulletin

"Put it on the boarrrrrrd . . . yyyesssss!" The words of Baltimore Barons play-by-play voice Hawk Hugglesby resonated up and down the Barons radio network Monday night as the final totals came in and made it clear the team had beaten Flint and gotten back in the TFL win column after four straight defeats.

Two more words resonated in Baltimore and in the mind of Barons head coach Berry Switzer at the same time: quarterback controversy. The Barons won this game over the still-winless Bison despite getting no touch-down passes, and not even any points, out of starting QB Drew Bledsoe, whose early-season funk has now become the sophomore slump he didn't have last season.

Reporters at Switzer's victorious press conference in the media room at the Harbordome couldn't blame the coach for having to consult Webster's Dictionary for a refresher on the term:

*Touchdown pass (n): An occurrence in*

*American-rules football in which the quarterback throws the ball and it is caught by a running back or receiver from the same team, and that player runs with the ball until he (or she) crosses a thick white line extending from sideline to sideline with a small, orange flag in the corner.*

The Barons have exactly one of those after six weeks of the 1995 season—by erstwhile backup Trent Dilfer, who accomplished the feat while substituting for Bledsoe during a recent bye week.

"Flabbergasted," was all a subdued Switzer could say about the cancerous trend on his team. "At least to have a QB controversy, you need two good quarterbacks. But in our case, they both suck."

But the coach, along with Barons owner Steve Katz, didn't just sit there. Immediately after beating Flint, they went after Jim Harbaugh, who's been lighting it up in Indianapolis in a relief role for another starter who has underachieved—Craig Erickson.

Until now, you could practically hear

Switzer, who was hired in mid-season last year with the then-Maryland Mania in the throes of an 0-7-1 start, sweat. Not for his job: His contract runs through next season. The trouble was scoring points. The Barons are next-to-last in the TFL with 170, and have scored 40 or more only once—this week.

"If you can't hang half a hundred in this league, you ain't gettin' very far," the coach said, spitting at a reporter's feet while working on a pinch of Skoal. He muttered something about his tobacco brand being the problem since it was recommended to him by Denver Pyles owner Mike Taylor. "Nah," he corrected himself. "The Pyles suck, too. But don't print that."

Switzer then headed off to help Bledsoe into the jacuzzi, dislocated shoulder and all, and to start getting ready to play mighty Marley this week.

"Emmitt Smith, Emmitt Smith, Emmitt Smith," Switzer muttered again. "I even called my wife 'Emmitt' a couple of times last week."



### Bo Knows

Bo CEPHUS' TFL PICKS

**GAME OF THE WEEK:** Dugway (4-2) at Dutch Harbor (4-2). Will the real contender please stand up . . . oh, sit down Kenny. Your Experiments have scored fewer points than three teams in your own division. I have complete lack of fath and confidence in your team's ability to win. Considering Casey was more concerned with improving U.S. relations with France, he drafted a solid team. Dugway's playoff dreams come

crashing down in an "Oh the Pain" blowout special. **Dawgs 45, Tubes 27.**

Baltimore (2-4) at Marley (4-1-1). The Barons aren't really that bad. This game could be closer than you think . . . naaaah. **Wailers 50, Barons 2.**

E. Hartford (3-3) at Limerick (2-4). The Commitment Bowl. Both owners miss game because wives take them shopping. Loons by a kitchen appliance. **Loons \$358.17, Ex-Eskimos \$275.50.**

Anchorage (5-1) at Alaska (3-3). Charles Bingham raids the kitchen. What else is new? **Dicks 51, Kitchen 37.**

Denver (2-4) at Narcoossee (3-3). Pyles have 249 points but just two wins. Is it bad karma? **Pyles 38, Nose Apes 35.**

Flint (0-5-1) at Willow (2-4). Beware of falling objects—like Don Carlock's winning percentage. **Weasels 9, Bison 8.**

Bagdad (3-3) at Sarasota (4-2). More felons in the owner's boxes than on the field. **Nevts 34, Sharks 12.**

**Bo's record:** Last week (3-4), season (19-15-1).

### TFL LINE

Favorite	Underdog
MARLEY .....	50 .....
E. Hartford .....	12 .....
ALASKA .....	3 .....
Denver .....	6 .....
DUTCH HARBOR .....	3 .....
Flint .....	5 .....
Bagdad .....	1 .....
	Baltimore
	LIMERICK
	Anchorage
	NARCOOSSEE
	Dugway
	WILLOW
	SARASOTA

# Pyles: One for the toilet in '95

By Morris Tinglenut  
Bagdad Newspapers, Inc.

All through the summer, as he basked in the afterglow of an underserved Sweeney Bowl championship, Denver owner Mike Taylor wasn't content to merely gloat about the Pyles' miraculous '94 season.

No, that wouldn't do. "The Pyles will win one for the middle finger in '95," Taylor predicted, repeating the mantra for anyone who cared to listen.

Six games into the season, Taylor has learned first-hand the difficulties of duplicating a championship. A raft of ill-conceived draft choices and a lack of overall intensity has left the Pyles in the Barbarino Division cellar, a 2-4 unit with little hope of even making the playoffs.

Taylor, though, refuses to accept responsibility for the Pyles' woes, choosing instead to finger TFL officials for their failure to produce the league championship trophy in a timely manner.

"Admittedly, not having the T-Rex Trophy as a motivational tool has hurt in the early going," Taylor said Tuesday. "It was supposed to be handed out at the TFL Convention, but intense envy on the part of Commissioner [Scott] Lacy and Commissioner Emeritus Ken Sain—who total zero Sweeney Bowl titles between them—inspired them to concoct a story blaming the engraver for the unavailability of the trophy.

"At least we know why the hardware was named after a dinosaur. By the time anyone sees it, the award will seem like ancient history."

That Taylor would attempt such an obvious misdirection play is no surprise. For years he has been the TFL's master magician, adroitly spewing rubbish with his mouth so as to draw attention away from the meager exploits of his gridiron unit.

For all their press releases, their inexplicable Sweeney Bowl title, the incessant yammering of their owner, the Pyles still are haunted by one damning statistic: no winning seasons since 1991.

"I think the Pyles' inability to post a winning season goes to the very heart of their inadequacy as a TFL entry," Bagdad's Scott Lacy said. "Mr. Taylor's bid for a second ring, while never actually conceivable, has already been flushed down the toilet that is Pyles football.

"At least he has his annual quest to play .400 football left to entertain him."

Unable to explain the sorry state of the Pyles, Taylor lobbed a final grenade at the

season was foiled when Kansas City's Tamarick Vanover returned a punt for a touchdown in overtime, denying Carney a decisive field goal attempt.

The Kitchen's allotment of good fortune no doubt was expended the previous week. Despite scoring just 16 points, the Kitchen eeked out a 16-14 victory over the Dugway Tubes. It was the third time this season that a Kitchen opponent scored 25 points or fewer.

## TFL TIDBITS

After six weeks, only five of the league's top 10 scorers were first-round draft picks.

Biggest surprises in the top 10: Marley's Jeff Blake, the 30th pick, who is second in the league with 89 points,

and Vinny Testeverde, the final pick of the fifth round, who is sixth with 65. . . . Denver's 78-point outburst against the Dicks was the fourth-largest in TFL history. . . . After a 2-1 start, the Limerick Laughing Loons have lost three straight. The Loons are averaging just 27 points a game, and only the presence of the winless Flint Bison have prevented them from slipping into the Kotter Division cellar. . . . Baltimore's Drew Bledsoe is off to the slowest start for a TFL quarterback since 1991, when Panama City's Jim Everett failed to score touchdown in his first six starts. Everett was traded after his sixth straight pointless outing. Could the same fate befall Bledsoe? . . . Bagdad leads all teams with 167 reserve points. Alaska has the fewest: 29.

## INSIDE THE TFL

“

**At least we know why the hardware was named after a dinosaur. By the time anyone sees it, the award will seem like ancient history.**

”

**Pyles owner Mike Taylor, on delayed arrival of championship trophy**

TFL's two highest-ranking officers.

"No wonder Lacy and Sain can't draft and craft a championship roster," he said. "It's taken them nine months to have the name Mike Taylor scrawled on a piece of sheet metal.

**TOPPELED**—Just when they were starting to resemble the 1994 Flint Bison, the Anchorage Kitchen's flow of karma dried up in a 30-28 loss to Narcoossee.

Needing just a John Carney field goal for victory, the Kitchen's bid for a perfect

## TRANSACTIONS

ALASKA—Activated kicker Chris Jacke. Released kicker Cary Blanchard.

BALTIMORE—Acquired quarterback Jim Harbaugh. Released quarterback Trent Dilfer.

EAST HARTFORD—Acquired quarterback Bernie Kosar. Placed quarterback Dan Marino on injured reserve.

MARLEY—Acquired running back Brian Mitchell. Released running back Napoleon Kaufman.

SARASOTA—Acquired quarterback Gail Gilbert. Released quarterback Wade Wilson.

## Standings

### Barbarino

Team	W	L	T	PF	PA
Dugway	4	2	0	228	186
Sarasota	4	2	0	213	192
Alaska	3	3	0	242	273
Bagdad	3	3	0	234	199
Denver	2	4	0	249	265

### Kotter

Team	W	L	T	PF	PA
Anchorage	5	1	0	247	177
E. Hartford	3	3	0	230	210
Limerick	2	4	0	160	243
Flint	0	5	1	202	275

### Horshack

Team	W	L	T	PF	PA
Marley	4	1	1	308	242
Dutch Harbo	4	2	0	244	177
Narcoossee	3	3	0	217	251
Willow	2	4	0	220	245
Baltimore	2	4	0	170	232

## Last Week's Results

Baltimore 42, Flint 34  
 Willow 53, Bagdad 47  
 Sarasota 33, East Hartford 19  
 Narcoossee 30, Anchorage 28  
 Denver 78, Alaska 36  
 Dugway 53, Marley 47  
 Dutch Harbor 71, Limerick 23

## This Week's Games

Baltimore at Marley  
 East Hartford at Limerick  
 Anchorage at Alaska  
 Narcoossee at Denver  
 Dugway at Dutch Harbor  
 Flint at Willow  
 Bagdad at Sarasota

## Games of Oct. 8

Flint	34	Baltimore	42
Elway	17	Bledsoe	0
R. Smith	7	Pegram	1
Heyward	0	Garner	24
A. Reed	0	F. Barnett	7
W. Davis	0	Cash	0
Boniol	10	Kasay	10
Chargers	0	Bills	0

Sarasota	33	E. Hartford	19
Testaverde	12	Marino	6
Warren	1	D. Moore	0
Thomas	10	Byars	0
Brisby	0	Pickens	0
Copeland	0	Westbrook	0
N. Johnson	10	Anderson	13
Redskins	0	Eagles	0

Denver	78	Alaska	36
Bono	16	Harbaugh	21
Sanders	26	Allen	1
T. Davis	9	Bennett	3
A. Miller	11	Martin	2
D. Scott	1	Reed	1
Elam	15	Stover	8
Vikings	0	Lions	0

## Power Poll

1. Marley	141.9
2. Bagdad	119.3
3. Dutch Harbor	117.4
4. Denver	113.7
5. Dugway	110.1
6. East Hartford	109.8
7. Anchorage	109.4
8. Narcoossee	104.2
9. Alaska	100.3
10. Flint	98.1
11. Willow	95.5
12. Sarasota	95.3
13. Baltimore	81.0
14. Limerick	70.7

Willow	53	Bagdad	47
Moon	14	Hostetler	19
Means	6	Faulk	0
Kirby	14	H. Williams	17
Brown	13	Pritchard	0
Sharpe	6	E. Green	0
Ford	0	Hanson	11
Packers	0	Steelers	0

Narcoossee	30	Anchorage	28
Kelly	6	Chandler	0
B. Morris	0	Murrell	0
Wheatley	1	Meggett	1
H. Moore	7	Fryar	1
Galloway	8	Ellard	15
Stoyanovich	8	Carney	11
Browns	0	Chiefs	0

Marley	47	Dugway	53
Blake	6	Favre	20
E. Smith	15	Watters	9
Kaufman	0	Salaam	3
C. Carter	21	Brooks	6
McCardell	0	Harper	3
Reveiz	5	Elliot	12
Cowboys	0	Bears	0

D. Harbor	71	Limerick	23
Mitchell	13	Ferrotte	19
Hearst	3	Parmalee	0
Rhett	8	Hoard	0
Irvin	14	Rison	0
Perriman	14	R. Moore	0
Christie	19	Lowery	4
Raiders	0	Dolphins	0

## TFL Leaders

1. Smith	94	6. Testaverd	65
2. Blake	89	7. Everett	64
3. Young	87	Dan Marir	64
4. Favre	82	9. Rice	61
5. Hostetler	72	Pickens	61