LINEUPS DUE 12:15 EST SATURDAY

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The TFL Today

The official newsletter of the world's greatest fantasy football league

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Wild cards begin the second season

Loons engage in usual war of words with red-hot Newts; Willow confronts Baltimore for third time this season

By Kelvin Christiansen

LIMERICK--Unlikely? Certainly. Unforeseen? Nearly. Unfortunate? Not for the Loons.

The greatest tie in TFL history, combined with the timing of the streaking Limerick Laughing Loons has landed Limerick in the final TFL playoff spot. After nearly falling out of the race, the Loons needed a victory as well as a tie between East Hartford and Dutch Harbor to win the No. 6 seed.

That's exactly what the Loons got.

Owner Michael Bourque celebrated Tuesday night at his home with a little Pad Thai (tie!).

Between noodles he smiled and shook his head. "You people should know by now that when the weather starts to suck, the Loons start their flight," the league's only two-time Sweeney Bowl champ said. "Sure, ties are slightly rare, but then, if we hadn't tied the Newts earlier in the year, it never would have come down to this."

In fact, Limerick and its





Limerick (7-6-1) at Bagdad (7-6-1) Line: Limerick – 1

The TFL's most incredible 3-way finish ever, along with the Newts' astounding run of 6 wins in their last 7 games, gave us this game. It's anybody's call.

first round opponent Bagdad did tie, 35-35, in Week 3 of the season. But that was before the deft hand of Loons' owner Bourque remade the team into a contender. Since that tie, the Loons lost the services of first round pick Randall Cunningham, who was victimized by an under performing offense.

And while a mid-season swoon nearly left the Loons to Pee Wee land, Bourque pulled off a few free agent moves and orchestrated a trade that is sure to show

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Cagey Bourque built the Loons

(Continued from page 1) postseason dividends.

"Several teams in this league saw their share of first-rounders getting sent to the sidelines," Bourque said. "Dugway, Denver, Flint, Anchorage all lost their No. 1. But only one of those teams is in the Sweeney playoffs. I guess you'll have to make your own judgment."

In Limerick, the votes are in. As the man who has brought the little Maine town two Sweeney Bowls, Bourque remains a legend in these parts. Fans here are never surprised by what he has been able to do.

But this owner is not one to rest on his past. In fact, he rarely mentions the two Sweeney titles or the fact that last years' team played the greatest game in TFL history, a 98-74, drubbing of the Bagdad Red-Bellied Newts.

Bourque knows that this week's game is yet another

week when he must prove his TFL prowess vs. the Newts loud-mouthed and lard-assed owner, Scott Lacy.

There is added interest in this week's game because of some of the participants. The Newts stole the Viking offense early this season when they scavenged Jeff George, a perennial Loon, off the free agent list. But the cagey Bourque watched a desperate Lacy give up on good players to make his playoff run.

Bourque quietly assembled several ex-Newts to lead him to the playoffs. Among them are Curtis Martin and Rod Smith. In addition, Bourque plans to use the newly-acquired Tony Banks, a player Lacy believed he had "discovered" a few years ago, against the Newts.

"This," said Bourque, tugging gently on his tie. "is going to be fun."

Financial breakdown

Here you have it: Who has how much left in the free agent bank.

Team	Amount
Alaska	\$40
Anchorage	35
Arctic	5
Bagdad	50
Baltimore	45
Denver	30
Dugway	25
Dutch Harbor	35
East Hartford	60
Flint	5
Lackawanna	40
Limerick	55
Narcoossee	40
Willow	25

Yes, Virginia, Limerick and East Hartford went over the limit. Limerick will have it taken out of their winnings, and East Hartford must send the league a check for \$10 ASAP.

Willow-Baltimore III: 'Van, are you all right?'

By Baron von Butterbrain TFL Todav

That's what ttalkers could have been forgiven for wondering when Willow's Van Williams made a rare appearance to, all of things, analyze the Horshack Division's glorious season and its place in TFL History.

First division since divisional play began in 1993 to have all its teams finish with winning records, for starters.

Two former champions, the '93 Sweeney Bowl teams, tied and facing each other in the playoffs.

We could go on, but Van's last sentence stopped Baltimore's Steve Katz in his tracks. Not so fast, Van.

Because, in the words of the song, "Now yo' messin' with a . . . Son of a biiiitch!!!"

It seems to me we've heard this song before. It is these teams' third meeting this season.

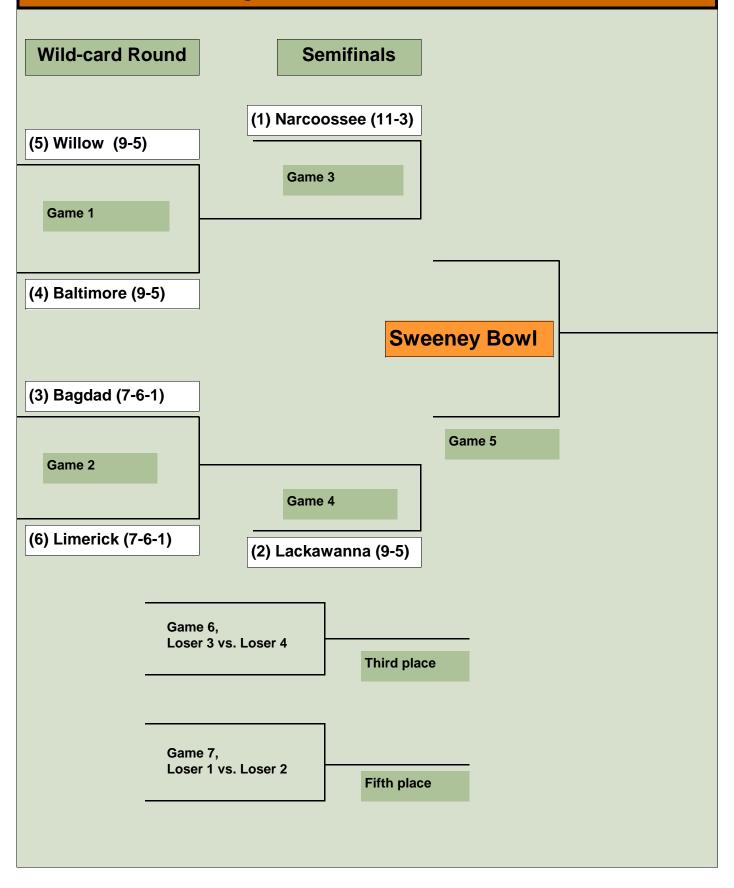
The Barons finished on a 4-game win streak but didn't get here unscathed, as James Stewart was declared out of this Sunday's game. A healthy, 13-touchdown running back goes poof, just like that.

"It was a jolt," Katz said, "but we'll just take it as if James had said to us, "Look, I gave you more than you ever expected, but that's all I've got to give you." Don't apologize, James, you did enough.

The Barons picked up Chris Warren. "We're not hoping Emmitt stays hurt, but we've got a concern if Warren doesn't produce," Katz said.

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Sweeney Bowl Tournament



Pee Wee Bowl Tournament (14) Arctic (7) East Hartford (11) Denver (10) Anchorage **Pee Wee Bowl Semifinals** (12) Dugway (9) Alaska (13) Flint (8) Dutch Harbor **Semifinal losers** 9th place 11-10 loser at 14-7 loser 11th place 12-9 loser at 13-8 loser 13th place

FINAL REGULAR-SEASON STANDINGS

Barbarino	F	Rec	ord		Points for				Points against				
Division	W	L	Т	Tot.	Hi	Lw	Avg.		Tot.	Hi	Lw	Avg.	
x Bagdad Newts	7	6	1	554	75	15	42.6		446	63	9	34.3	
Alaska Oosiks	7	7	0	439	64	11	33.8		439	65	8	33.8	
Dugway Tubes	5	9	0	515	57	16	39.6		556	66	17	42.8	
Denver Pyles	5	9	0	462	63	14	35.5		531	65	16	40.8	
Arctic Gators	3	11	0	351	61	5	27.0		546	75	17	42.0	
Kotter	Re	cor	ď		Poin	ts for			Р	oints	again	st	
Division	W	L	Т	Tot.	Hi	Lw	Avg.		Tot.	Hi	Ĺw	Avg.	
x Lackawanna	9	5	0	595	64	14	45.8		562	72	22	43.2	
y Limerick Loons	7	6	1	512	65	24	39.4		542	63	22	41.7	
East Hartford	7	6	1	497	72	9	38.2		458	64	13	35.2	
Anchorage Kitchen	6	8	0	527	75	15	37.6		550	67	11	42.3	
Flint Bison	4	10	0	431	68	13	33.2		493	54	17	37.9	
Horshack	Record				Points for				Points against				
Division	W	L	Т	Tot.	Hi	Lw	Avg.		Tot.	Hi	Ĺw	Avg.	
x Narcoossee N.Apes	11	3	0	596	63	16	45.8		426	56	9	32.8	
y Baltimore Barons	9	5	0	592	59	25	45.5		561	75	17	43.2	
y Willow Weasels	9	5	0	534	61	17	41.1		493	59	15	37.9	
Dutch Harbor Dawgs	7	6	1	477	48	19	36.7		473	64	5	36.4	
x clinched division; y c	linch	ied	wild	card									

WEEK 14 SCORES									
Bagdad	28	Flint	24	Dugway	37	Anchorage	29		
Jeff George	12	Chris Chandler	0	Jon Kitna	8	Steve McNair	6		
Joe Montgomery	2	Stephen Davis	15	Mike Alstott	12	Fred Taylor	7		
Wilmont Perry	1	Donnell Bennett	-	Mario Bates	0	Jerome Bettis	6		
Tim Brown	0	K. McCardell	0	Herman Moore	0	Jimmy Smith	1		
Cris Carter	0	Terance Mathis	1	M. Westbrook	7	Albert Connell	1		
Steve Christie	7	M. Andersen	1	Todd Peterson	10	Olindo Mare	8		
KC Chiefs	6	Detroit	0	Dallas	0	Jacksonville	0		
Narcoossee	47	Lackawanna	31	Limerick	46	Arctic	30		
Brett Favre	15	Brad Johnson	12	Jeff Blake	9	Mark Brunell	0		
Priest Holmes	13	M. Pittman	0	Eddie George	19	T. Biakabutuka	Õ		
Charlie Garner	10	Edgerrin James	9	Curtis Martin	2	Rob Konrad	0		
Marvin Harrison	3	Joey Galloway	2	Tony Martin	0	E. Kennison	2		
G. Crowell	0	Eric Moulds	1	Rod Smith	8	Keyshawn	19		
Kris Brown	6	Pete Stoyo	7	M. Vanderjagt	8	Adam Vinatieri	9		
Atlanta	0	Buffalo	0	Indianapolis	0	New England	0		
Baltimore	48	Willow	22	Alaska	60	Denver	42		
Peyton Manning	12	Gus Frerotte	0	Jake Plummer	0	S.Beuerlein	29		
James Stewart	14	Ricky Watters	2	Marshall Faulk	18	Olandis Gary	7		
De'Mond Parker	0	Ant. Smith	0	Corey Dillon	24	Robert Smith	3		
Ant. Freeman	6	Isaac Bruce	3	Darnay Scott	11	Rocket Ismail	1		
Jerry Rice	0	Randy Moss	14	Frank Sanders	0	Carl Pickens	0		
Mike Hollis	10	Al Del Greco	3	Ryan Longwell	7	Michael Husted	2		
Green Bay	6	Arizona	0	St. Louis	0	Denver	0		
				D. Harbor	29	E. Hartford	29		
				Kurt Warner	16	Drew Bledsoe	12		

J.J. Johnson

Terry Allen

Ike Hilliard

Richie C.

Amani Toomer

New York Jets

Emmitt Smith

Rob Moore

Seattle

Brett Conway

Tony Gonzalez

0

1

6

0

6

Tyrone Wheatley 0

13

0 4

0

TRANSACTIONS

Dec. 14

Alaska places K John Kasay on I.R., adds K Cary Blanchard. Puts WR Corey Bradford on I.R., adds WR Terrence Wilkins. Puts RB Errict Rhett on I.R., adds RB Greg Hill.

Bagdad puts WR Cris Carter on I.R., adds WR Jake Reed.

Narcoossee retains RB Priest Holmes, waives RB Duce Staley.

Limerick waives QB Brian Griese, adds QB Tony Banks.

Baltimore puts QB Donovan McNabb on I.R., adds QB Mike Tomczak. Puts RB James Stewart on I.R., adds RB Chris Warren.

Dec. 9

Lackawanna waives RB Jonathan Linton, activates RB Michael Pittman.

Dutch Harbor waives WR Terrell Owens, adds WR Amani Toomer.

Bagdad puts RB Sedric Irvin on I.R., adds RB Wilmont Perry.

Baltimore waives WR Terrence Wilkins, adds WR Jerry Rice. Waives RB Greg Hill, adds RB De'Mond Parker.

Denver Pyles

- **QB Jim Miller**
- **QB** Steve Beuerlein
- **RB** Tommy Vardell
- **RB** Robert Smith
- **RB** Olandis Garv
- **WR** Carl Pickens
- WR Az-zahir Hakim
- WR Rocket Ismail
 - K Wade Richie
 - K Michael Husted
 - **D** Denver
 - **D** Cincinnati
- I.R. Terrell Davis Shannon Sharpe

Narcoossee

- **QB** Brett Favre
- **QB Randall Cunningham**
- **RB** Priest Holmes
- **RB Duce Staley**
- **RB** Charlie Garner
- WR Marvin Harrison
- **WR** Tim Dwight
- **WR** Germaine Crowell
 - K Jason Elam
 - K Kris Brown
 - **D** Atlanta
 - **D** Tampa Bay
- IR Garrison Hearst Natrone Means

Anchorage

- **QB** Steve McNair
- **QB** Elvis Grbac
- **RB** Fred Taylor
- **RB** Jerome Bettis **RB Ahman Green**
- **WR Albert Connell**
- WR Ed McCaffrey
- **WR Jimmy Smith**
 - K Olindo Mare
 - K Jeff Wilkins
 - **D** Jacksonville
 - **D** Washington

Dutch Harbor

- **QB** Kerry Collins
- **QB Kurt Warner**
- **RB** Terry Allen
- **RB** Curtis Enis
- RB J.J. Johnson
- WR Ike Hilliard
- **WR** Curtis Conway WR Amani Toomer
- K Richie Cunningham
 - K John Carney
 - **D** New York Jets
 - **D** Carolina
- I.R. Steve Young

Who's got who (current rosters)

Bold = free agent or trade pickup Italic = Injured reserve acquisition

Willow

- **QB** Charlie Batch
- **QB Gus Frerotte**
- **RB** Ricky Watters
- **RB** Antowain Smith
- **RB Ken Oxendine**
- **WR** Randy Moss
- **WR** Isaac Bruce
- **WR Johnnie Morton**
 - K Al Del Greco
 - **K Norm Johnson**
 - **D** Arizona
 - **D** Cleveland

Flint

Baltimore

- **QB** Peyton Manning
- **QB** Mike Tomczak
- **RB Robert Holcombe**
- **RB James Stewart**
- **RB Grea Hill**
- **WR** Antonio Freeman
- WR Terry Glenn
- **WR Terrence Wilkins**
 - K Mike Hollis
 - K Martin Gramatica
 - **D** Green Bay
 - **D** Baltimore

I.R. Donovan McNabb

- **QB** Akili Smith **QB** Chris Chandler
- **RB** Donnell Bennett
- **RB** Ron Rivers
- **RB Stephen Davis**
- **WR** Terance Mathis
- **WR** Ben Coates
- WR Keenan McCardell
 - K Morten Andersen
 - K Doug Pelfrey
 - **D** Minnesota
 - **D** Detroit

I.R. Jamal Anderson

Bagdad

- **QB** Rich Gannon
- **QB Jeff George**
- **RB** Skip Hicks
- **RB** Joe Montgomery
- **RB** Wilmont Perry
- WR Kevin Johnson
- WR Tim Brown
- **WR Cris Carter**
 - K Steve Christie K Doug Brien
 - **D** Tennessee
 - **D** Kansas City

I.R. Cecil Collins Ricky Williams Sedric Irvin

Limerick

- **QB Jeff Blake**
- **QB** Tony Banks
- **RB** Eddie George
- **RB Curtis Martin**
- **RB Bam Morris WR Shawn Jefferson**
- **WR** Tony Martin
- **WR Rod Smith**
 - K Mike Vanderjagt K Brad Daluiso
 - **D** Oakland
 - **D** Indianapolis

Arctic

- **QB** Mark Brunell
- **QB** Trent Dilfer
- **RB** Warrick Dunn
- **RB Rob Konrad**
- **RB** Tim Biakabutuka
- WR Keyshawn Johnson WR Eddie Kennison
- WR Bert Emanuel
 - K Adam Vinatieri
 - K Chris Jacke
 - **D** Miami
- **D** New England

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I.R. Michael Irvin

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Alaska

- **QB** Jake Plummer
- **QB** Damon Huard
- **RB** Marshall Faulk
- **RB** Corey Dillon
- **RB** Greg Hill
- WR Frank Sanders
- **WR Darnay Scott**

WR Terrence Wilkins

- K Ryan Longwell
- K Cary Blanchard
- D St. Louis
- **D** San Francisco
- I.R. Dan Marino
 - Errict Rhett
 - Corey Bradford John Kasay

Lackawanna

- **QB** Brad Johnson
- **QB** Doug Flutie
- **RB** Edgerrin James
- **RB** Jonathan Linton
- **RB Lerov Hoard**
- WR Eric Moulds WR Joev Galloway
- **WR** Marcus Robinson
 - K John Hall
 - K Pete Stovanovich
- **D** Buffalo **D** Pittsburgh
- I.R. Gary Brown Michael Pittman

Dugway

- **QB** Jon Kitna
- QB Shaun King **RB** Dorsey Levens
- **RB** Mike Alstott
- **RB Mario Bates** WR Wesley Walls
- **WR** Herman Moore
- WR M. Westbrook K Todd Peterson
 - K Jason Hanson
 - **D** San Diego **D** Dallas
- IR Vinny Testaverde

East Hartford

- **QB** Drew Bledsoe
- **QB Trov Aikman RB** Adrian Murrell
- **RB** Tyrone Wheatley
- **RB** Emmitt Smith
- **WR** Muhsin Muhammad WR Rob Moore
- **WR Tony Gonzalez** K Gary Anderson
 - **K Brett Conway**
 - **D** Seattle
 - **D** New York Giants