



The TFL Today

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

Wednesday, Dec. 23, 1998

TFL Today, Volume IX, Issue 16

Playoffs



Sweeney Bowl Tournament

East Hartford	49
Bagdad	42
Alaska	40
Dutch Harbor	34

Pee Wee Tournament

Willow	48
Narcoossee	29
Flint	61
Denver	36
Baltimore	21
Arctic	14
Dugway	41
Anchorage	13

Inside

• **Championship game at a glance** - page 3

◆ It began in Boston. Four months of hopes, dreams, records, tall talk (some of it backed up), trash talk, and always friendly debate later, it's time for ...

◆ Exmos sweat out scintillating semifinal, but not without uncanny defensive switch

◆ By PEARL NICHOLAS
Hebron Biweekly Bugle
HEBRON, Conn. -- Before this season, you could count on three things in the TFL: Scott Lacy losing every post-season game, the regular season champion watching the Sweeney Bowl on TV and Charles Bingham's draft drawing derision.

◆ Well, folks, this season, everything goes. Just one week after Lacy's Bagdad Red-Bellied Newts ended an 11-game winless run in the postseason, the East Hartford Ex-Eskimos became the first regular season champion to win

Sweeney Bowl IX



What:

⇒ The Sweeney Bowl

Who:

⇒ East Hartford Ex-Eskimos (13-2) vs. Alaska Oosiks (13-3-1)

TV:

⇒ If you can tear yourself away from WNBA action.

a playoff opener, holding off the Newts 49-42 and advancing to the Exmos' second Sweeney Bowl.

(Continued on page 2)

Oosiks win, and this time they played somebody

By Baron von Butterbrain
TFL Today

In this, the season, of the eternal search for a working definition of irony, we offer the following capper: The Alaska Oosiks winning a semifinal playoff game without a single point from Terrell Davis.

It happened.

And down went Dutch Harbor. At least the Dawgs can point with some satisfaction to the

(See Oosiks, page 2)

'Smos, Dicks: Brawl for it all

(Continued from page 1)

"I don't know that you could get a much better playoff game," a breathless Exmos owner Chris Reidy said at his postgame press conference. "Everything from watching Scott wriggle his way back from a 40-0 deficit, to Jason Elam's opening bomb of a field goal, to the Rod Smith 'immaculate deception' play ... I mean, just incredible."

The Exmos, who had the league's best record at 12-2, had closed the season in the grip of an icy points drought. They seemed ripe to continue the record of futility shown by TFL regular season champions: The eight previous teams to finish with the best record were 0-8 in their playoff openers, one of the more onerous streaks in TFL history.

But hold on, folks. Another streak will follow in its wake next week. While four previous points champions (for years records are available) have advanced to the Sweeney Bowl, none have won it. So this will mark the first time either the regular season or points champion has won all the money.

"Once again, we're on the cusp of history," Reidy said. "But not so close that we don't remember a little RECENT history."

That would refer to Week 6, when the 5-0 Exmos, who seemed to be dog sledding to a battle-of-

unbeatens matchup with the Newts, instead found themselves trampled 83-43 by the rampaging Dicks.

Bingham's draft -- which drew more than one guffaw at the TFL Convention -- ultimately resulted in 675 points, second-most in TFL history. And dealing a second stinging blow to the Exmos, Alaska edged East Hartford by two for the '98 points title.

"There's not much to say about that game," Reidy said. "Maybe we got caught looking ahead to that Battle of Bagdad. Rest assured, no one's looking down their nose at the Dicks any more."

The league awaits the rematch. If it's even half as dramatic as the two semifinals, it will be a Sweeney Bowl for the ages.

The Dicks were softened up by the late-charging Dutch Harbor Dawgs, but had enough staying power for a 40-34 victory. A late interception return for a touchdown by the Vikings defense -- the last "player" for either team -- turned out to be the winning score.

The Newts, after crawling out of the waters of playoff futility onto the dry land of a quarterfinal victory, found themselves trailing the Exmos 40-0 with four players left. But Randall Cunningham and Gary Anderson, playing in the Sunday night game, steadily cut

into that deficit until only five points separated the teams going into the Monday night game.

Elam, once more rewarding Reidy for picking him in the third round, gave the Exmos some breathing room with a five-point field goal. But late in the first half, John Elway scrambled toward the end zone before the ball slipped from his grasp like a salamander. Smith pounced on it in the end zone. Although Elam salvaged a point, the Exmos' lead was down to 46-41.

"I didn't know what to think at that point," Reidy said. "I mean, Scott Lacy INVENTED the 'Monday Night Miracle.' And that play was nothing short of miraculous."

However, Elam would add one more field goal, giving the Exmos an eight-point cushion, and one receiving point from Smith (Lacy's other Monday nighter, Karim Abdul-Jabbar, was shut out) left the Exmos with a narrow 49-42 victory.

"I think Scott proved why his team is consistently one of the best," Reidy said. "Shaking that 0-11 tag should remove any doubt anyone ever had about that. And he came a newt's eyelash from getting to the big game."

"That was one hell of a team we just beat. I can only hope the experience toughens us up for the Dicks."

Oosiks

(Continued from page 1)

Jets' signing of The New Vinny to A New Contract That He'll Wear Out Before The End Of

But their improbable, admirable, semi-remote-control season was buoyed (actually *carried*) during a

5-game winning streak by Testaverde's talents, ran into Alaska's Chandler-to-Mathis combo and a cruel piece of defense by Minnesota, and said good night.

Oosiks owner Charles Bingham was on assignment and not able to see Davis not score. Reports

are he was at a high school game, but anybody who believes that is hereby awarded an at-large Pee Wee tournament berth for life.

Now comes one of the most hotly anticipated Sweeney Bowls ever. Charles, we'll never laugh at a pick of yours again.

Well ... *maybe* we won't.

Sweeney Bowl IX

Week 15

Week 16

Week 17

Bagdad (10-4)

Game 1

Limerick (9-5)

East Hartford (12-2)

Game 3

Bagdad, 50-42

East Hartford, 49-42

Game 5

Champion

Dutch Harbor (7-7)

Game 2

Lackawanna (9-5)

Dutch Harbor, 36-33

Game 4

Alaska, 40-34

Alaska, 78-?

Dutch Harbor

Game 6

Third place

Bagdad

Lackawanna

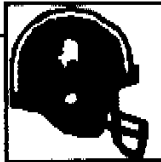
Game 7

Fifth place

Limerick

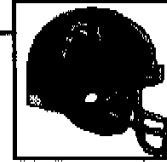
Tiebreakers

- 1) Reserve points
- 2) Total yardage by starters
- 3) Total yardage by reserves
- 4) Best of 3 coin flip (please yell)
- 5) Last man standing at next year's Tequilla Bowl.



East Hartford vs. Alaska

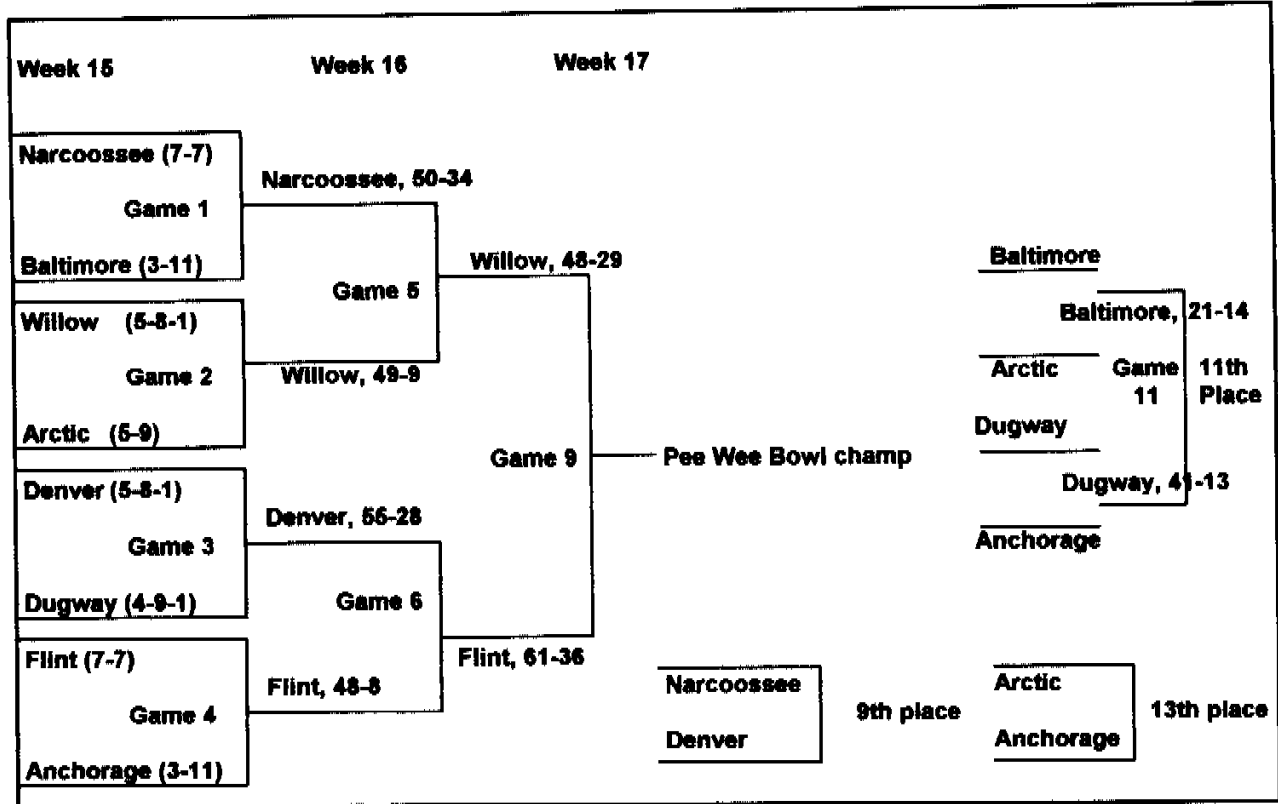
Line: Off



The Great Rematch. The 83-43 mashing is still fresh in the Exmos' minds. Too tough to handicap because both quarterbacks may be a game-day decision, sort of like who Casey Brogan will sleep with that night. Even though Marino showed Monday night there are still some bullets in the gun, who can say Neil O'Donnell won't outperform him for one game?

Terrell Davis needs a bunch to go over 2,000 yards, and if he has a Terrell kind of day, Charles Bingham could finally, actually afford some Bush Company women.

Pee Wee Bowl III



Here's what's on the other channel

By Baron von Butterbrain
TFL Today

Willow tries to win its second straight Pee Wee Bowl when it plays Flint.

Flint may consider it a slap to be in this game, when it was in *the* championship game last year, but so what? Look how far the Baltimore Barons have fallen. They play Dugway for 11th place in the Pee Wee tournament.

The First Goddamn Clue They've Had in Nine Weeks Award goes to the Barons, who picked up Frank Reich for the injured Charlie

Batch, just so they'd have a quarterback to suit up for the game.

Best Draft Pick on A Bad Team goes to Denver, in the 9th place game, with Randy Moss.

Loyalty to The Cause Award goes to Arctic. Way down there in the Basement Bowl. Three Gators plus five victories equals the 13th place game. But we hope you come back, Mark. At least everybody who needs to win more games next year.

The financial picture

Team	Spent	Left in bank
Alaska	\$15	\$35
Anchorage	25	25
Arctic	10	40
Bagdad	25	25
Baltimore	40	10
Denver	25	25
Dugway	35	15
Dutch Harbor	25	25
East Hartford	30	20
Flint	25	25
Lackawanna	15	35
Limerick	15	35
Narcoossee	15	35
Willow	20	30

The pot shown at left may increase during the playoffs due to more fines being possible. Please check your amount.

FINAL 1998 STANDINGS

Barbarino		Record			Points for			Points against			
Division	W	L	T	Tot.	Hi	Lw	Avg.	Tot.	Hi	Lw	Avg.
Alaska	10	3	1	675	83	14	48.2	462	74	7	33.0
Bagdad	10	4	0	632	84	7	45.1	550	98	19	39.3
Denver	5	8	1	580	75	9	40.0	605	84	15	43.2
Arctic	5	9	0	551	53	25	39.4	616	82	19	44.0
Dugway	4	9	1	372	53	8	26.6	578	76	27	41.3

Kotter		Record			Points for			Points against			
Division	W	L	T	Tot.	Hi	Lw	Avg.	Tot.	Hi	Lw	Avg.
East Hartford	12	2	0	673	82	27	48.1	539	83	20	38.5
Lackawanna	9	5	0	595	63	20	42.5	496	74	12	35.4
Limerick	9	5	0	590	98	19	42.1	528	61	9	37.7
Flint	7	7	0	557	76	21	39.8	476	59	15	34.0
Anchorage	3	11	0	414	51	13	29.6	619	69	22	44.2

Horshack		Record			Points for			Points against			
Division	W	L	T	Tot.	Hi	Lw	Avg.	Tot.	Hi	Lw	Avg.
Narcoossee	7	7	0	587	64	18	41.9	508	75	14	36.3
Dutch Harbor	7	7	0	501	69	12	35.8	563	46	8	40.2
Willow	5	8	1	539	60	22	38.5	578	51	22	41.3
Baltimore	3	11	0	436	45	17	31.4	564	48	16	40.3

SWEENEY BOWL TOURNAMENT

E. Hartford 49	Bagdad 42	Alaska 40	Dutch Harbor 34
Steve Young 16	Randall C. 18	Chris Chandler 12	Vinny T. 15
Ricky Watters 12	Bam Morris 0	Garrison Hearst 3	Priest Holmes 0
Mike Alstott 2	Karim 0	Terrell Davis 0	Dorsey Levens 1
Ch. Johnson 1	Rod Smith 7	Terrence Mathis 6	Tim Brown 6
Ben Coates 0	Johnnie Morton 0	Frank Sanders 7	Rob Moore 5
Jason Elam 9	Gary Anderson 17	Mort. Andersen 6	Richie C. 7
Giants 9	Tennessee 0	Minnesota 6	Kansas City 0

PEE WEE BOWL TOURNAMENT

Willow 48	Narcoossee 29	Flint 61	Denver 36
McNair 20	P. Manning 10	Trent Green 6	Jake Plummer 6
Adrian Murrell 7	Terrell Fletcher 1	Robt Edwards 16	Gary Brown 9
Marshall Faulk 0	J. Anderson 16	LeRoy Hoard 0	Barry 2
Sh. Sharpe 0	OJ McDuffie 1	Ed McCaffrey 2	Randy Moss 7
Terrell Owens 7	Tony Martin 0	Ant. Freeman 30	Cris Carter 6
John Kasay 8	Stoyanovich 1	Olindo Mare 7	Vinatieri 6
Seattle 6	Miami 0	Buffalo 0	Carolina 0

Baltimore 21	Arctic 14	Dugway 41	Anchorage 13
Charlie Batch 0	Jamie Martin 6	Jon Kitna 6	Troy Aikman 0
Darick Holmes 0	Fred Taylor 3	Jerome Bettis 9	Nap Kaufman 0
Eddie George 2	Derrick Cullors 0	June Henley 1	R. Smith 3
Joey Galloway 7	Jacquez Green 0	Andre Rison 1	K. McCardell 0
Derrick Mayes 0	Keyshawn 1	Jerry Rice 12	JJ Stokes 1
Ryan Longwell 12	John Hall 4	Mike Vander. 12	Todd Peterson 9
Ravens 0	New England 0	Tampa 0	Arizona 0

TRANSACTIONS

Tuesday, Dec. 22
Baltimore places QB Charlie Batch on I.R., adds QB Frank Reich.

Saturday, Dec. 19
Arctic places QB Jamie Martin on I.R., adds QB Jonathon Quinn.

Friday, Dec. 18
Anchorage waives RB Tim Blakabatuka, activates RB Robert Smith.

Thursday, Dec. 17
Alaska places WR Tyrone Davis on I.R., adds receiver Mark Chmura.

Wednesday, Dec. 16
Dugway places RB Tavian Banks on I.R., adds RB June Henley.

The pot

Franchise fees	\$1,400
Transactions/fines	320
CD interest	50
Total in pot	1,770

Who gets how much?

Sweeney Bowl champ	\$708
runnerup	265.50
Third place	194.70
Fourth place	159.30
Fifth place	123.90
Sixth place	88.50
Regular season title	88.50
Points scoring title	88.50
Pee Wee Bowl champ	53.10

Lackawanna

QB Brett Favre
 QB **Steve Bueherlein**
 RB Antowain Smith
 RB Terry Allen
 RB **Harvey Wms.**
 WR Herman Moore
 WR **Yancey Thigpen**
 WR Eric Moulds
 K Jason Hanson
 K **Brad Daluiso**
 D San Francisco
 D Chicago

Alaska

QB Chris Chandler
 QB **Rich Gannon**
 RB Terrell Davis
 RB Garrison Hearst
 RB John Avery
 WR Terrance Mathis
 WR **Mark Chmura**
 WR **Frank Sanders**
 K Morten Andersen
 K Doug Pelfrey
 D Minnesota
 D San Diego

*I.R. Neil O'Donnell
 Tyrone Davis*

Denver

QB Jake Plummer
 QB **Doug Flutie**
 RB Barry Sanders
 RB **Gary Brown**
 RB **Ahman Green**
 WR Cris Carter
 WR **M. Muhammad**
 WR Randy Moss
 K Adam Vinatieri
 K Norm Johnson
 D Carolina
 D Philadelphia

Dugway

QB **Jeff George**
 QB **John Kitna**
 RB **Tommy Vardell**
 RB Natrone Means
 RB **June Henley**
 WR **Jerry Rice**
 WR **Andre Rison**
 WR **Jake Reed**
 K Mike Vanderjagt
 K **Steve Christie**
 D Tampa Bay
 D St. Louis

*I.R. Jerome Bettis
 Tavian Banks*

"Who's got who" (playoff rosters)

**Bold = acquired via free agent, I.R.
 or bye week pick-up,
 or trade (as if there are any other ways)**
Italic = on injured reserve or bye

Anchorage

QB Kordell Stewart
 QB Troy Aikman
 RB Robert Smith
 RB Napoleon Kaufman
 RB **Robert Holcombe**
 WR **Carl Pickens**
 WR Keenan McCardell
 WR **J.J. Stokes**
 K Todd Peterson
 K Jeff Wilkins
 D Pittsburgh
 D Arizona

Baltimore

QB Elvis Grbac
 QB **Frank Reich**
 RB Eddie George
 RB **Chris Warren**
 RB **Darick Holmes**
 WR Joey Galloway
 WR Michael Irvin
 WR **Derrick Mayes**
 K Ryan Longwell
 K Greg Davis
 D Baltimore
 D New Orleans

*I.R. Charlie Batch
 Travis Jervey*

Narcoossee

QB **Peyton Manning**
 QB **Warren Moon**
 RB Corey Dillon
 RB Jamal Anderson
 RB **Terrell Fletcher**
 WR Tony Martin
 WR **OJ McDuffie**
 WR Andre Reed
 K Pete Stoyanovich
 K Wade Richie
 D Miami
 D Jacksonville

*I.R. Ray Zellers
 Marvin Harrison*

Arctic

QB Jonathon Quinn
 QB **Danny Weurffel**
 RB **Fred Taylor**
 RB **Derrick Cullors**
 RB Sedrick Shaw
 WR **Terry Glenn**
 WR **Jacquez Green**
 WR Keyshawn Johnson
 K Mike Hollis
 K John Hall
 D New England
 D Denver

*I.R. Mark Brunell
 Jamie Martin*

Dutch Harbor

QB **Glenn Foley**
 QB **Vinny T.**
 RB **Charlie Garner**
 RB Donnell Bennett
 RB **Priest Holmes**
 WR Tim Brown
 WR Rob Moore
 WR Jermaine Lewis
 K Richie Cunningham
 K Doug Brien
 D Kansas City
 D Dallas

I.R. Dorsey Levens

Limerick

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

East Hartford

QB Steve Young
 QB Dan Marino
 RB Ricky Watters
 RB **Edgar Bennett**
 RB **Mike Alstott**
 WR **Ben Coates**
 WR Charles Johnson
 WR **Leslie Shepherd**
 K Jason Elam
 K John Carmey
 D NY Giants
 D Atlanta

I.R. Greg Hill

Michael Westbrook

Bagdad

QB Brad Johnson
 QB Randall Cunningham
 RB Karim A-Jabbar
 RB **Bam Morris**
 RB Lamar Smith
 WR Rod Smith
 WR **Derrick Alexander**
 WR Johnnie Morton
 K Gary Anderson
 K Matt Stover
 D Tennessee
 D Detroit

I.R. Isaac Bruce

Willow

QB Steve McNair
 QB **Jeff Blake**
 RB Marshall Faulk
 RB **Fred Lane**
 RB Adrian Murrell
 WR Shannon Sharpe
 WR Terrell Owens
 WR **Reidel Anthony**
 K John Kasay
 K Jeff Jaeger
 D Seattle
 D Washington

I.R. Erik Kramer

Flint

QB Drew Bledsoe
 QB **Trent Dilfer**
 RB Warrick Dunn
 RB Robert Edwards
 RB **Leroy Hoard**
 WR Antonio Freeman
 WR **Ed McCaffrey**
 WR James Jett
 K Olindo Mare
 K Chris Boniol
 D Green Bay
 D **Buffalo**