

# TFL Today

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## Loons deflate Tubes

*Wanna cry, wanna croon  
Wanna laugh like a Loon  
It's that old, devil moon  
In your eyes.*  
— Frank Sinatra

**By Baron von Butterbrain**  
TFL Today Senior Writer

NEW ORLEANS - It's all over.

The Limerick Laughing Loons are the champions of the Times Football League for 1997, beating the Dugway Proving Grounds Experiments (might as well use formal names on first reference, in deference to the championship game) in Sweeney Bowl VII.

Not only did Jeff Blake

continue his second-half-of-the-season revival with three TDs, but the Loons got a contribution from every area of their roster in trouncing Dugway, 52-30, despite Brett Favre's clock-work-like, three touchdown day.

Dugway was hurt by Larry Centers and Michael Irvin being blanked, in Irvin's case because his coach was treating Dallas's game as a "bye week."

Loons owner Michael Bourque was at no shortage for words in a champagne-soaked lockerroom.

"We're a little raspy-

voiced here from all the celebrations," he shouted above the din.

"It's been a glorious week in Limerick. Going into this game we were far from a favorite. And we didn't back into it, we earned it. And with this victory, the curse of the married man is over."

Bourque, whose remarks have in the past been characterized as smug by opponents, didn't win any additional friends as he continued his post-game remarks.

"Mr. Sain was an able opponent, but we all knew where he was going to end

up. He had predicted it so many times during the year."

Sain's retort needs no introduction.

"Explain to me," he began, "why that guy gets to win and I don't. Just explain to me. Next time I completely outclass all you guys, I want a God damn championship for my trouble. Is that too much to ask?"

That was just the edited version. He kept reporters on the phone for several minutes before he could be subdued.

**See Loons, page 2**

## Bourque parties after his second TFL title

**By Kelvin Christiansen**  
TFL Today

LIMERICK, Maine -- Thousands lined the streets of this tiny Maine town today to celebrate the fantasy football victory of the Limerick Laughing Loons who on Sunday became the first ever Times Football League franchise to win two Sweeney Bowls.

The well-wishers chanted "Loon-y! Loon-y! Loon-y!" while intermittently sipping bottles of Brown Dog's Delight.

"We'd rather be loony than good," Loons owner

and general manager Michael Bourque said, clenching a cigar in his teeth. "But we were both! The curse of the married man has ended, not in divorce, but in victory."

The Loons defeated the highly-favored Dugway Proving Grounds Experiments, who boasted a pair of MVP candidates, by a score of 52-30. Limerick was led by the quarterback Jeff Blake who won his battle with Brett Favre, the No. 1 pick in the 1996 draft.

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QB Brett Favre	18	QB Jeff Blake	20
RB Terrell Davis	6	RB Adrian Murrell	7
RB Larry Centers	0	RB Raymont Harris	6
WR Michael Irvin	0	WR Quinn Early	6
WR Antonio Freeman	1	WR Bert Emanuel	1
K Adam Vinatieri	6	K Morten Andersen	6
D Kansas City	0	D Indianapolis	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>

### Previous winners

1990 Balboa Constrictors	John Sweeney
1991 Hogtown Halibut	Paul Ramey
1992 Scarborough Stunting Caesars*	Michael Bourque
1993 Willow Weasels	Van Williams
1994 Denver Pyles	Mike Taylor
1995 Anchorage Kitchen	Nate Sagan
1996 Limerick Laughing Loons	Michael Bourque

# Bourque: Offers to help the stupid

**Continued from page 1**

Limerick was an even more unlikely winner because it had to take the field without its star running back Jerome Bettis who was sidelined by a sore ankle, not to mention an anemic Steeler offense.

But it became apparent early on to the woeful Ken Sain that his Experiments would face defeat. Loons running backs Adrian Murrell and Raymont Harris picked up the slack for the absent Bettis with first quarter touchdowns. The Loons defense notched an early score as well when Indy's Jason Belser ran an interception back for a touchdown.

Bourque's defense is the only remaining member from the team that won the 1993 Sweeney Bowl under the name of the Scarborough Stunting Caesars.

But Sain's fate was finally sealed at 3:27 EDT when the much-maligned (and

*Bourque will offer seminars to help TFLers "at least keep this thing interesting."*

Mighty) Quinn Early caught a touchdown pass.

"We were playing a team that has two players who will probably be the player of the year for their respective leagues (Favre and Terrell Davis)," Bourque told a breathless press room that hung on his every word, "but this is team game and its depth that wins championships. We knew there would be snickering in the draft room when we selected players named "Adrian" and "Quinn" but that's how championships are won."

Bourque should know. Not only does he become the only owner to have won two Sweeney Bowl titles, but he has now won two titles in just five

years in the league. Before joining the TFL, Bourque's entry in the Pacific Hack League was much-feared by rival fantasy baseball owners.

Bourque's fantasy career also includes a championship in the Pine Tree League of Greater Washington, DC. (While the title is officially shared with all-time TFL playoff loser Scott Lacy, it is widely known that Bourque ran the club.)

"It's an honor to win once again the game named for the irascible John M. Sweeney," Bourque said. "Never again will there be such a man, atrophied forelegs and all. John Sweeney was the only man I ever knew who could spit sunflower seeds while tapping out the San Diego State fight song on his keyboard. A single flick of his withered wrists on the keyboard could salute the '77 'Panners, whoever they were. . ."

A despondent Sain

seemed unable to react to the loss he himself had predicted so many times in the past few weeks. Sain's reverse psychology could not work this time. As Sain himself said so many times: Charlie Brown never gets to kick the football.

In a missive to rival TFL owners on Sunday night, Bourque said he planned to write a book on how to assemble a fantasy football team.

Bourque also said he would offer seminars at next year's convention to help TFLers "at least keep this thing interesting."

The victory will likely keep the Loons in Limerick. Later this year a referendum is set to determine whether or not the Loons will get a publicly funded stadium deal. Bourque has said he might have to move the team to neighboring Freeport if The Lake could not be replaced or refurbished with more luxury boxes.

## Loons

**Continued from page 1**

"Just look at his team. Adrian Murrell? Raymont Harris? Quinn Early? That's his team," Sain said. "As Lacy pointed out in TrashTalk, Terrell Davis scored one less touchdown all year than Murrell, Harris and Early did combined."

There was no consoling Sain — not that any attempt was in order.

But if Bourque's Loons accomplished something by winning nine straight culminating in the Sweeney Bowl - their second, making them the first franchise ever to win two, even if the first one was asterisk-stained - so did Chris Reidy's East Hartford club.

The Ex-Eskimos ran the table in their final nine as well, culminating in the first annual Pee Wee Bowl victory (can you bring yourself to call it a championship?)

Barry Sanders came through for Reidy with a 15-point performance, easily beating Wit Tuttell's Narcoossee Nose Apes.

"Barry's performance almost makes me believe he's a man," Reidy said. Sanders finished with 11 TDs, which approaches a number befitting a back of his stature but is nothing spectacular. For Reidy's purposes, most of Sanders' touchdowns came too late in the season.

It could very well be

argued that Tuttell lost it as much as Reidy won it, benching Terry Allen's 20 points and starting Mario Bates. But it wasn't the first time we've seen stupidity lose games.

Tuttell was invited to comment on the game but did not return calls by presstime.

Reidy said, "We're extremely pleased. I finished with seven consecutive wins and beat both Sweeney Bowl participants."

# You're still a loser, Charlie Brown

**By Scoop Bias**  
Dugway Herald

DUGWAY, Utah — This time it was going to be different.

This time, Charlie Brown was going to finally kick the ball.

Dugway owner Ken Sain likes to tell the tale of his childhood when a woman accidentally put rocks in his Halloween bag while he was Trick-Or-Treating.

That's when his parents began calling him Charlie Brown.

Since Charlie Brown began appearing in newspapers before Sain was born, we won't accuse Charles Schulz of modeling his character of the lovable loser after Sain.

Perhaps Sain just needs to find better role models.

Once again, Lucy had the ball up on the tee, holding it with her finger, practicing letting go just before the crucial moment.

Once again, Charlie Brown thought he could sneak up on Lucy and kick it before she swiped it away.

This time it seemed certain he would finally connect with the football instead of landing on his backside as a snickering Lucy would say, "When will you ever learn, Charlie Brown?"

Sain's Experiments were

## Records since '93\*

1. Dugway	32	23	1
2. Bagdad	29	26	1
3. E.Hartford	28	27	1
4. Baltimore	27	27	2
5. Limerick	26	27	2
6. Denver	26	30	0
7. Narcoossee	26	30	0
8. Alaska	24	31	1
9. Flint	23	17	2
10. D.Harbor	23	18	1
11. Marley	23	18	1
12. Sarasota	23	33	0
13. Willow	18	22	1
14. Anchorage	11	17	0

\*Before the 1993 season, Scott Lacy and Mike Taylor said Ken Sain was better at self-promotion than he was fantasy football. Angered by those comments, Sain promised to return to the top of the TFL. He has kept his word.

easily the best team in the TFL this year.

Dugway led the league in points, but that's only half the story.

One quarterback was second in the NFL this year in touchdown passes with 33. That was Sain's backup, Vinny Testaverde.

Brett Favre threw 39 TD passes, justifying his selection as the No. 1 pick.

In addition to having the No. 1 and No. 2 quarterbacks in the NFL (based on touchdown passes) Sain

also have the top running back.

Terrell Davis led the NFL in rushing yards and was among the top three in scoring.

Sain's backup running back (Errict Rhett) was a first-round draft pick in 1995.

And both receivers — Michael Irvin and Antonio Freeman — were capable of huge games any week. Freeman has scored in the 30s this year, and Irvin had a 19-point game against Bagdad.

So this was Sain's best opportunity to shake the lovable loser label and kick the damn football, finally winning a championship.

His team scored 88 points, a TFL record, in its first playoff game.

Then the Test Tubes followed that with an exciting 47-44 victory over the regular-season champs, Bagdad.

Charlie Brown waited until Lucy seemed distracted. He moved from tree to tree, hiding his oversize body, hoping Lucy would remain oblivious as he crept closer.

When he was only 10-feet away, Linus called to Lucy. Her head turns, but her finger remains on the ball. Now is Charlie Brown's chance.

He leaps from behind the tree and begins his full-

speed dash toward the football.

Lucy keeps her finger on the ball and shows no sign of knowing Charlie Brown is only five feet away, close to finally achieving his goal.

With all his might, Charlie Brown lets one leg swing back, he takes careful aim, then lets it follow through at full speed.

Lucy yanks the ball away just before Charlie Brown flies into the air and comes crashing down on his ass.

"Oh, I'm sorry Charlie Brown, were you trying to kick this?" Lucy says. "I didn't know you were coming. Why don't you try again, and this time I promise to hold on."

You can toss aside your laws of science, the laws we use to govern society and your own personal laws that dictate how you will live your life.

There is only one universal truth in this world.

Charlie Brown never gets to kick the football.

**Editor's Note:** Charlie Brown gets one more chance this year. Ken Sain is hoping to celebrate the first championship for one of his teams ever next week if Arizona State can win the national championship in college football. That means Ohio State is a lock to win the Rose Bowl.

## WEEK 17 RESULTS

### Third-place game

Baltimore (w)	47	Bagdad (l)	47
Mitchell	6	Hebert	6
George	8	Watters	8
Kirby	0	Abdul-Jabbar	11
Galloway	6	Moore	10
Smith	2	Reed	2
Anderson	17	Kasay	10
Giants	8	Oilers	0

### Fifth-place game

Dutch Harbor	26	Alaska	16
Esiason	6	Brunell	6
Carter	2	Stewart	0
Phillips	0	Hearst	2
Pickens	0	Rice	0
Mathis	14	Martin	1
Del Greco	9	Wilkins	7
Steelers	0	Jaguars	0

### Pee Wee Bowl

Narcoossee	38	East Hartford	56
Young	12	Bledsoe	15
Bates	7	Sanders	15
Anderson	1	Hoard	0
Glenn	12	Bruce	8
K. Johnson	0	Harrison	2
Blanchard	6	Ford	14
49ers	0	Panthers	2

### Ninth-place game

Sarasota	9	Flint	16
Hostetler	0	Tomczak	6
Martin	0	Thomas	0
Floyd	0	Faulk	1
Carter	6	Brown	1
Haynes	1	Morton	0
Johnson	2	Jacke	8
Buccaneers	0	Cowboys	0

### Eleventh-place game

Anchorage	14	Marley	50
Bono	0	Collins	6
Warren	0	E. Smith	0
L. Johnson	0	Morris	2
Fryar	0	Conway	6
Reed	1	Jackson	24
Hollis	13	Carney	12
Vikings	0	Lions	0

### Thirteenth-place game

Willow	43	Denver	19
Marino	22	McNair	12
Bennett	9	Byner	0
Allen	2	Kaufman	1
Chrebet	6	Sharpe	0
Perriman	0	Beebe	0
Boniol	4	Elam	6
Seahawks	0	Broncos	0

## MONEY MATTERS

### TFL Financial report

#### Income

Franchise fees	\$1,400.00
Transaction fees	\$285.00
Fines	\$65.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,750.00</b>

#### Expenses

Katz's costs	\$100.00
Sain's costs	\$150.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>

#### Pot

<b>Pot</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>
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 gets how much?

Here is the list of how much each owner wins:

Owner	Amount
Charles Bingham	\$60.00
Scott Lacy	\$195.00
Steve Katz	\$180.00
Ken Sain	\$275.00
Chris Reidy	\$85.00
Michael Bourque	\$495.00

Outstanding balance \$1,290.00

### Who owes how much?

Here is the list of who still owes the pot:

Owner	Amount
Nate Sagan	\$20.00
Mike Taylor	\$40.00
Casey Brogan	\$10.00
Michele Fetsko	\$30.00
Wit Tuttell	\$35.00
Charles Coggins	\$10.00

Outstanding balance \$145.00

### 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.

Some people have not been paid from the 1995 season. Folks, if you were to win, you would want your money. Show some courtesy to others and send in your cash.

#### Send checks to:

Ken Sain  
403-5 Riverside Dr. Apt. 22  
Covington, KY 41011

## TRANSACTIONS

### Dec. 20, 1996

1) Limerick waives RB Natrone Means; activates RB Raymont Harris off IR. Limerick fined \$5 for failing to activate Harris before he played.

### 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.