



The TFL Today

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

Thursday, Dec. 31, 1998

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Playoffs



Sweeney Bowl

East Hartford **58**

Alaska **44**

Consolation

Dutch Harbor **71**

Bagdad **52**

Fifth place

Limerick **59**

Lackawanna **35**

Pee Wee Bowl

Willow **32**

Flint **20**

9th Place

Narcoossee **40**

Denver **23**

11th place

Dugway **38**

Baltimore **18**

13th place

Arctic **36**

Anchorage **15**

Sweeney Bowl IX: East Hartford 58, Alaska 44

Exmos take the T-Rex

Marino delivers again, lifting East Hartford to crown

By Baron von Butterbrain
TFL Today

Start counting converts.

Chris Reidy didn't need to win friends, but he just influenced a lot of people.

The East Hartford Eskimos, coming up just as big in the playoffs as they did during an awesome regular season, made it a wrap Sunday by beating the Alaska Oosiks, 58-44, to win the 1998 Sweeney Bowl.

Reidy did it despite being fooled by a knee injury to Steve Young, and starting Dan Marino, then watching Young gut out a 22-



The game, and the Exmos' place in history, as seen from Coach Reidy's eyes - page 3



E. Hartford		58
Dan Marino	15	
Riicky Watters	12	
Mike Alstott	19	
Leslie Shepherd	8	
Ben Coates	0	
Jason Elam	4	
New York Giants	0	

Alaska		44
Chris Chandler	15	
Garrison Hearst	1	
Terrell Davis	12	
Terrence Mathis	0	
Frank Sanders	6	
Morten Andersen	8	
Minnesota Vikings	2	

point effort on the bench. But if that's how gutty Reidy's bench was, now you know how good the rest of his team was.

A champagne-soaked Reidy could

barely get the words out in the victorious lockerroom without being drenched by liquid consumables. But in a coherent moment, he responded to the ques-

(Continued on page 2)

Marino the man for Exmos

(Continued from page 1)

tion of how his lineup wheels turned.

"[Marino] has been playing pretty well, and unlike Young, he'd have something to play for, guaranteed," Reidy said.

"Auuuuuggghh!!" he shrieked as a torrent of champagne hit him.

Never a master of prognostication, Reidy had almost nailed it before the game when he said,

"Speaking of guarantees, Young will now throw from 450 yards and five TDs."

In a moment of hesitation beforehand, Reidy had acquired and given thought to starting running back James "second coming of Gale Sayers against the Ravens defense the week before" Allen.

If he had started Allen, he would have been conducting interviews from the grave, after having just shot himself.

"I'm fighting my instincts to start the new guy," said Reidy, "but I feel good about Alstott - the Bengals are awful against the run (just ask "Judas" Priest Holmes.)"

Tampa's stud liked the Cincinnati defense so much after his first touchdown, he went back for seconds and thirds, and when he was done, so were the Oosiks.

The reference to Holmes was of course to the fact that the Ravens' slashing runner had chewed up the Bengals for a pair of career games during the season, with the

Dutch Harbor Dawgs the benefactor.

Reidy gave Ricky Watters the start at the other backfield spot after having some doubts.

"Watters I'm sure will get stuffed like a Christmas turkey at Denver," the Exmos owner said.

"Still, he is my No. 1 draft pick and came up huge last week."

Perhaps as much spurred by Reidy's sliver of doubt as he was motivated by the owner's

confidence, Watters ran in a touchdown and tossed a halfback option pass for a score in Seattle's loss at Mile High Stadium.

Reidy had allowed as how runner-up money isn't too bad, just not to let his hopes get too high.

For Charles Bingham, the final score wasn't the only different story.

In the days leading up to the championship game, Bingham had made use of the rule allowing only injury moves during playoffs - similarly to Reidy's pickup of Allen for the injured Edgar

Bennett - and gotten hold of Miami receiver Lamar Thomas to spell the injured Tyrone Davis, and quarterback Scott Zolak to sit in for the injured Rich Gannon. Davis and Gannon were, themselves, on the roster replacing other injured players.

Bingham's pickups were for the sole, admitted purpose of populating his roster with players who were, at the very least, healthy starters, in case the game was tied and he needed reserve points, which are the first tiebreaker in a playoff game.

"With the difference between the winner's check and the loser's check being nearly \$450, you can see why I'd want healthy backups on my roster," the Dicks' owner said.

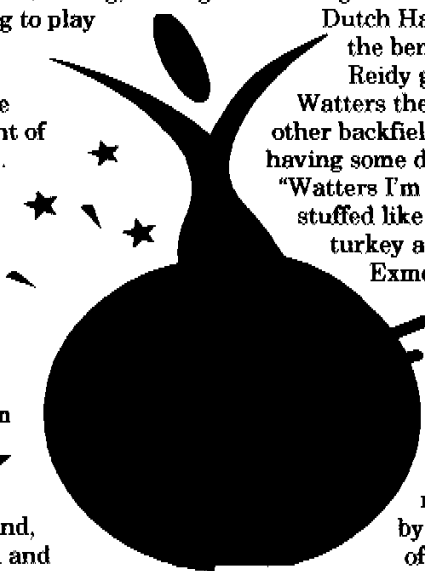
With a recent car repair bill of over \$1,000, it mattered.

Who can say Bingham wasn't within his rights to wonder what might have been. Chris Chandler had had to leave his game after throwing for two TDs, neither one to Terrance Mathis, and Garrison had had to leave his game with a strained hamstring that the 49ers naturally didn't want to risk for the playoffs.

Reidy could only grin a grin that wondered what the father of a toddler could do with a first prize of \$796.50, at last count.

"Yeeeeehaaahhhh!! Strained apricots all around, boys!!!!!"

Here's hoping Chis won't start charging for his autograph now.



Chris Reidy

Reidy: Numbers give us 'best ever' tag

By PEARL NICHOLAS
Hebron Biweekly Bugle

HEBRON, Conn. -- All season long, East Hartford owner Chris Reidy had preached one word: Balance. The Ex-Eskimos had been chided and derided as a one-man team, and with Steve Young scoring a record 266 points -- almost 40 percent of the Exmos' total -- it was a hard charge to dispute.

Sometime, Reidy would say, we're going to have to win a big game without Steve Young. Little did Reidy know the Exmos would pick up that gauntlet in the biggest game in franchise history.

With backup Dan Marino leading the way, the Exmos completed one of the TFL's best runs with a victory over the Alaska Oosiks in Sweeney Bowl IX, bringing Reidy his first TFL title.

"Man, I can not TELL you how great this feels. Rick Reilly be damned!" Reidy said in a joyous Exmos locker room as champagne formed foamy rivulets on his face. "And to do it the way we did, beating the other top contenders for the title AND without Steve Young in the final, well, the victory couldn't BE more complete!"

Another of Reidy's yearlong phrases had referred to the Exmos being "on the cusp of history." East Hartford finished the regular season 12-2, the second-best record in league history, and scored 673 points, the third-best total ever.

The Exmos' two playoff victories -- over Bagdad (10-4) and Alaska (10-3-1) -- gave the Exmos 14 victories overall, a TFL record. And East Hartford became the first regular season or points champion to follow up with a Sweeney Bowl title.

But it could hardly be called a perfect season. Both losses were

10 x 600

The four teams that have won 10 games and scored 600 points in the same season (points records incomplete for 1991-93 seasons):

Year	Team	Record	Points
1997	Dugway	11-3	613
1998	E. Hartford	12-2	673
1998	Alaska	10-3-1	675
1998	Bagdad	10-4	632

painful: an 83-43 dick-whipping by the Oosiks, and a 56-27 ass-biting by the Arctic Gators in the season finale, a performance that allowed Alaska to win the points title by two, the closest finish in TFL history.

By playing it safe and benching Young in the final, Reidy cost his team MVP a chance for his first Sweeney Bowl victory. Young's 22 points would have given the Exmos 65 and a TFL record for highest output in a Sweeney Bowl. Instead, the Exmos -- whose 16-point showing in SB III stands as the second-lowest point total in a title game -- will settle for second, to the Anchorage Kitchen's 59-point performance in SB VI.

"Hey, I think it was good to have those couple of screwups along the way," Reidy said, blinking the Korbels from his eyes. "Seriously, if it hadn't been for that Oosiks loss, we'd have faced the pressure of an undefeated season. And the Gators ... that one definitely hurt. I wanted that TFL Double. But, at the same time, it would have been really tough to finish the season with 10 straight wins. If we had to lose that second game, it came at a good time.

"I feel badly, too, for Steve. Here's the best player in franchise history, a guy who will follow Emmitt Smith and Drew Bledsoe into the Igloo of Honor, and I sit him

down, deny him a well-deserved bit of history."

Fortunately, Marino helped ensure the decision wouldn't be too costly. He came through with 15 points, answering the 15 put up by Dicks QB Chris Chandler. In Marino's three starts this season, he averaged 12 points a game and led the Exmos to a 53.0-point average.

Also coming up big was first-round pick Ricky Watters, who saved two of his biggest games for the playoffs. He had 12 points each in the semifinal and final. Perhaps biggest of all was backfield mate Mike Alstott, who the Exmos picked up on waivers after Week 10. Alstott, joining other Exmos reclamation projects such as Gary Brown ('95) and Leroy Hoard ('96), scored 19 points in the final, singlehandedly outscoring the Oosiks' high-powered backfield of Terrell Davis (12) and Garrison Hearst (1).

All that was left, perhaps, was to assess the Exmos' place in history.

"The greatest team ever? Now you're trying to get me in trouble," Reidy said.

"First, let me say again I think this was the greatest year the TFL has ever had. Before this year, only one team had ever won 10 games and scored 600 points. This year, three teams did it. We also had that Loons-Newts game, one that rewrote the scoring records.

"You look at us winning the Kotter, a division that already had three Sweeney Bowl champs, far and away the most of any division, then beating two great, great teams in the playoffs. Then, we became the first team to win a regular season title AND a Sweeney Bowl title. That in itself is unprecedented. But think about this: another four points, and we'd have won the league's first Triple Crown.

"Until someone makes up those four points on us, yeah, I'd have to put this team at the top of the list."

Dawgs bite Newts for third place

By Baron von Butterbrain
TFL Today

Dutch Harbor got an almost Oosik-like performance from its whole roster in winning what was, for the second year in a row, a higher-scoring consolation game than the championship game.

Led by Broadway Vinny's 24 points and double figures from three other players, the Dawgs put away the Bagdad Red-bellied Newts, 71-52.

If only Ken Sain were around to say the real excitement was in this game. It should be pointed out, however, that Sain did offer what was, for him, a gracious tip of the cap to East Hartford's Chris Reidy for

his championship win.

Bagdad, too, got double figures from four players, but zeros from everybody else.

Limerick rode John Elway's shoulders to a victory over Lackawanna in the fifth-place game, prompting some to wonder of the Brothers Continelli: *Who* let these guys in?

There are rumors that the league will convene a hearing sometime in January to review their continuance as owners. The only question is whether to make it a trial or just a censure. No doubt, whatever happens, their popularity will soar.

If the Baltimore Barons showed you can win a

Sweeney Bowl without much quarterback production last year, the Willow Weasels proved you can win the Pee Wee Bowl without any on Sunday.

Willow beat Flint to win its second straight Pee Wee title, but got just one point from Steve McNair. The punctuated a season of partial re-emergence from Van Williams, who followed his exclusive interview with the TFL Today with several signs of life in TrashTalk as the year wore on.

We'd be remiss in not mentioning the Battle to Stay Out of The Basement, in which Arctic beat Anchorage. Get in line behind the Continellis, Mr. Dolan.

Willow beat Flint for its second straight Pee Wee Bowl title.

Viva Las Vegas! See you all there

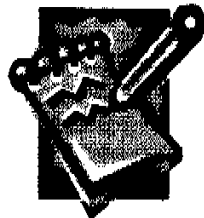
By Baron von Butterbrain
TFL Today

Cleaning out the notebook: The 1999 TFL Convention will be held the weekend after Labor Day in Las Vegas. It has always been held over Labor Day weekend, the traditional beginning of the NFL season, but the league announced some time ago that its 1999 season will open the week after.

Ideas have been tossed about for TFL expansion and realignment, but it would take the NFL going to 32 teams for a fantasy league ex-

pansion to work, in terms of divisional alignment and scheduling.

Other future topics include:



Adopting an extra receiver as part of the basic roster make-up. At issue is whether to replace one of the existing wide receivers with a tight end, or add a fourth wide receiver and be required to start three, because wideouts are more plentiful and get more touches on NFL teams than do tight ends.

Allowing an owner to start any combination of running backs and

receivers that he wants to, as long as the basic starting lineup is still seven. Such a proposal is said to have limited chances of surviving because of Steve Katz's inability to count that high.

Drafting a "team quarterback," meaning if an owner has Steve Young and Young is injured during a game or has an injury that makes him a game-day decision, the owner gets to use Young's backup as his quarterback for that day.

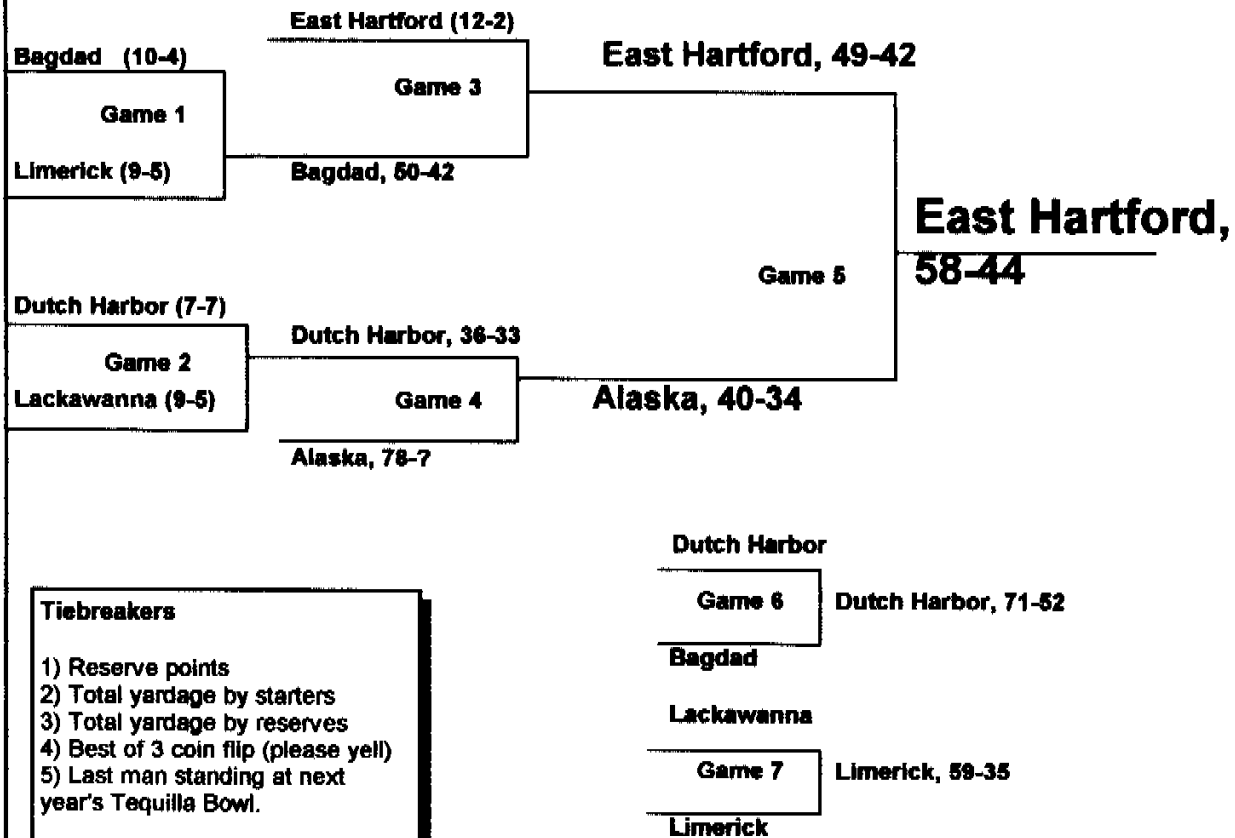
Other suggestions are always welcome and will be put out for discussion over the offseason and at the next convention.

Sweeney Bowl IX

Week 15

Week 16

Week 17



Commissioner offers up some thoughts on the season that was

Letter from the commissioner:

Fellas,

I didn't think I should let the season expire on us without saying a word about this job.

I want to thank all of you for your acceptance of me in the commissioner's chair, for your positive comments, which I hope I earned, and for the negative comments I

also drew, from which I hope I can learn.

It was hard but rewarding work, and I hope the newsletter was as enjoyable to partake of as it was to write. I would gladly handle it again - eight months from now. Next week I get my life back.

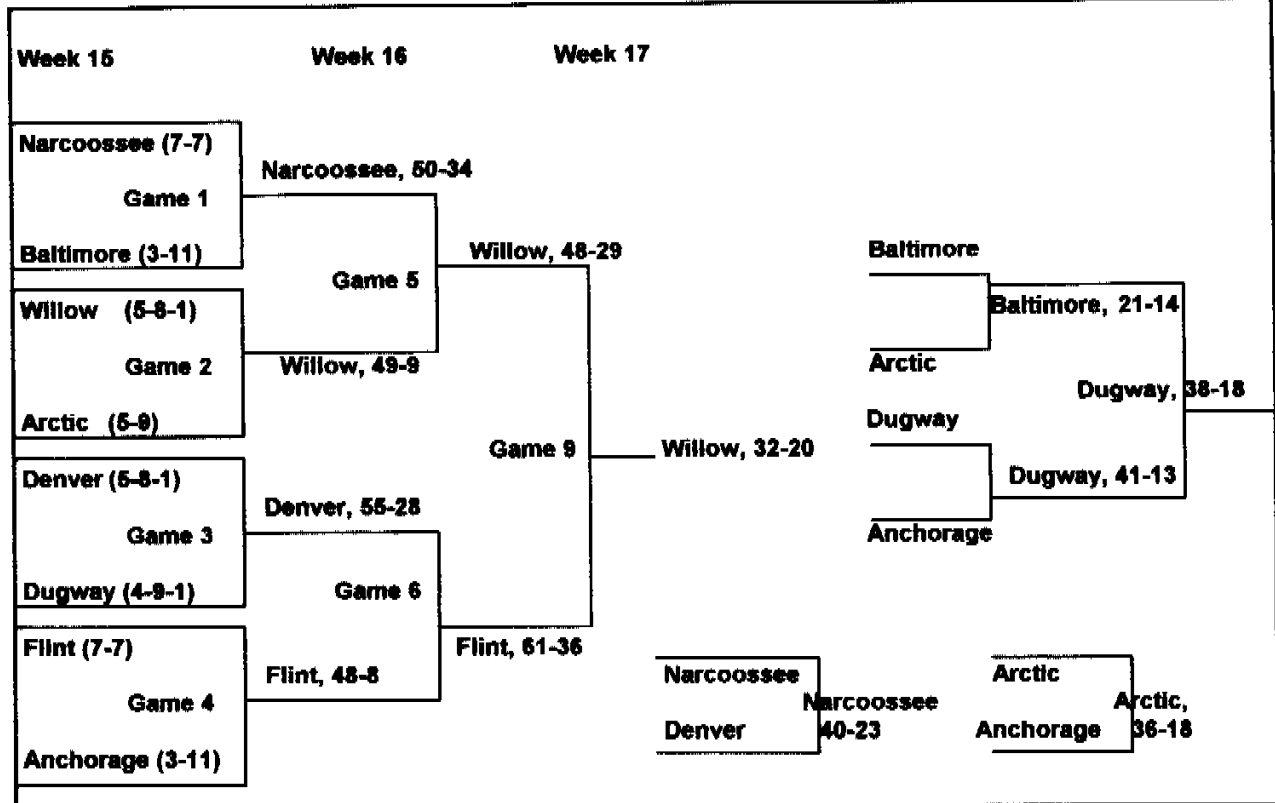
Check the website for whatever news there is to be reported on or

made from now until June.

On behalf of our two commissioner *emeriti* and myself, thank you all, old owners and new, for one of the best seasons, if not *the* best, the league has ever had. Have a happy, safe and prosperous New Year, and to Donny and Tina, best of luck with the baby.

Steve Katz, Commissioner, TFL

Pee Wee Bowl III



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
Sweeney runnerup	265.50
Third place finisher	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

The pot shown at left may increase during the playoffs due to more fines having been possible. Please check website for final totals.

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

FINAL 1998 STANDINGS

Barbarino Division	Record			Points for				Points against			
	W	L	T	Tot.	Hi	Lw	Avg.	Tot.	Hi	Lw	Avg.
Alaska	10	3	1	675	83	14	48.2	482	74	7	33.0
Bagdad	10	4	0	632	84	7	45.1	550	98	19	39.3
Denver	5	8	1	560	75	9	40.0	605	84	15	43.2
Arctic	5	9	0	551	53	25	39.4	618	82	19	44.0
Dugway	4	9	1	372	53	8	26.6	578	76	27	41.3

Kotter Division	Record			Points for				Points against			
	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	28.6	619	69	22	44.2

Horshack Division	Record			Points for				Points against			
	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

TRANSACTIONS

Sunday, Dec. 27

East Hartford fined \$5 because Edgar Bennett played.

Friday, Dec. 25

Anchorage places RB Napoleon Kaufman on I.R., adds RB Tim Biakabutuka.
 East Hartford places RB Edgar Bennett on I.R., adds RB James Allen
 Alaska places WR Tyrone Davis on I.R., adds WR Lamar Thomas. Places QB Rich Gannon on I.R., adds QB Scott Zolak.

SWEENEY BOWL

E. Hartford 58	Alaska 44
Dan Marino 15	Chris Chandler 15
Ricky Watters 12	Garrison Hearst 1
Mike Alstott 19	Terrell Davis 12
L. Shepherd 8	Terrance Mathis 0
Ben Coates 0	Frank Sanders 6
Jason Elam 4	Mort. Andersen 8
Giants 0	Minnesota 2

THIRD PLACE

Dutch Harbor 71	Bagdad 52
Vinny T. 24	Randall C. 14
Priest Holmes 13	Bam Morris 14
Dorsey Levens 1	Karim 0
Tim Brown 13	Rod Smith 14
Rob Moore 2	Johnnie Morton 0
Richie C. 11	Gary Anderson 10
Kansas City 6	Tennessee 0

FIFTH PLACE

Limerick 59	Lackawanna 35
John Elway 28	Brett Favre 6
Emmitt Smith 13	Ant. Smith 8
Curtis Martin 6	H. Williams 0
W. Chrebet 0	Eric Moulds 11
Jimmy Smith 1	Herman Moore 6
Al Del Greco 11	Jason Hanson 4
NY Jets 0	Chicago 0

PEE WEE BOWL

Willow 32	Flint 20
McNair 1	Trent Green 6
Adrian Murrell 6	Robt Edwards 0
Marshall Faulk 1	LeRoy Hoard 0
Sh. Sharpe 7	Ed McCaffrey 0
Terrell Owens 8	Ant. Freeman 9
John Kasay 9	Olindo Mare 5
Seattle 0	Buffalo 0

Narcoossee 40	Denver 23
P. Manning 6	Doug Flutie 0
Terrell Fletcher 3	Gary Brown 3
J. Anderson 9	Barry 0
OJ McDuffie 8	Randy Moss 8
Tony Martin 9	Cris Carter 8
Stoyanovich 7	Vinatieri 4
Miami 0	Carolina 0

Dugway 38	Baltimore 18
Jon Kitna 12	Frank Reich 6
Jerome Bettis 4	Terry Kirby 1
June Henley 2	Eddie George 7
Sh. Jefferson 0	Joey Galloway 0
Jerry Rice 6	Derrick Mayes 0
Mike Vander. 14	Ryan Longwell 4
Tampa 6	New Orleans 0

Arctic 36	Anchorage 15
Jonathan Quinn 12	K. Stewart 1
Fred Taylor 13	T. Biakabutuka 9
Derrick Cullors 0	R. Smith 2
Jacquez Green 0	Carl Pickens 0
Keyshawn 8	JJ Stokes 0
Mike Hollis 3	Todd Peterson 3
New England 0	Pittsburgh 0

Lackawanna

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

Alaska

QB Chris Chandler
 QB **Scott Zolak**
 RB Terrell Davis
 RB Garrison Hearst
 RB John Avery
 WR Terrance Mathis
 WR **Lamar Thomas**
 WR **Frank Sanders**
 K Morten Andersen
 K Doug Pelfrey
 D Minnesota
 D San Diego

*I.R. Rich Gannon
 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 Jon Kitna
 RB **Tommy Vardell**
 RB Jerome Bettis
 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. Natrone Means
 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 **Tim Blakabutuka**
 RB **Robert Holcombe**
 WR **Carl Pickens**
 WR Keenan McCardell
 WR **J.J. Stokes**
 K Todd Peterson
 K Jeff Wilkins
 D Pittsburgh
 D Arizona

I.R. Napoleon Kaufman

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

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 **James Allen**
 RB **Mike Alstott**
 WR **Ben Coates**
 WR Charles Johnson
 WR **Leslie Shepherd**
 K Jason Elam
 K John Carney
 D NY Giants
 D Atlanta

I.R. Edger Bennett

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