

A SERIOUS SPORTS PAGE

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NEWS FROM A SERIOUS
FOOTBALL LEAGUE

ISSUE 29

ASFL PLAYOFF RACE HEATS UP

SUNNYDAY
CHUCKDOWNFIELD

With only three games remaining in the regular season, this is the time of year where ASFL fans and managers alike start looking pretty closely at the playoff picture. For some teams, that picture is crisp and clear, like one of those TVs for sale at Best Buy. For others, the playoff picture is fuzzy and has stripes going across it, like a caterpillar. Coren's Wet Supermen, managed by Coren Hucke, became the first team to clinch a playoff berth this week with a league-leading record of 8-3. Two teams (Gundy Night Football and Jasmine's Fav) are a single game behind, while another two teams (Disc Golf Lazarus and Malpal's

Boytoys) are another game behind that. The standings start to get interesting at the 5-6 record point, where five teams are currently competing for sixth place and thus the last remaining playoff spot. The home stretch of the season will be critical for ASFL teams hoping to reach the promised land of post-season action.

SO YOU'RE SAYING THERE'S A CHANCE

Every sports league has a lovable but terrible last place team at the bottom of the pile. It's easy to root for Dawn's Early Lightnings, especially after seeing a TikTok sizzle reel of manager Dawn Burney giggling in interviews like she's the

dead wife in a movie character's flashbacks. But sadly, the ride may be coming to an end for the Lightnings- our playoff prediction simulator gives them only a 1% chance of making an appearance in the post-season. "All I can do is just what I've always done," said Burney this week, "trust in God and Arthur Juan Brown to take me down the right path."



You know the trope- picture this in slow motion, maybe POV home video, and she shows up to remind you of the jaded main character's tragic backstory!

Featured Rematch: Malpal's Boytoys @ All Hope Is Lost

Week 12 in the ASFL calendar marks the first week where teams face an opponent they already played once earlier in the season. A lot has changed since Sam Shayer's team (called "Transient, Shifting Like Water" at the time) lost to Malpal's Boytoys in Week 5. Now called "All Hope Is Lost," Sam's team finds

themselves only one game behind Mallory's position in the standings. When asked what they learned from the Week 5 loss and how they'll approach this game differently, Shayer replied, "Fun bird fact- the mating display of the scissor-tailed flycatcher involves aerial acrobatics that show off its long tail."

Noteworthies



Baller of the Week: QB Josh Allen (GPOP), 42.68 pts

Josh Allen made his second Baller appearance this week with a 42-point performance for The Girly Pops. Allen had three rushing TDs and three passing TDs, totaling six combined. When asked what caused the sudden improvement, Allen said, "I remembered I'm married to Hailee Steinfeld. I mean, did you see *Sinners*? Total smokeshow, got me all worked up."



Walloping of the Week: All Hope Is Lost defeats Max the Manx

For a guy who claimed his season was over after Week 1, Sam Shayer sure keeps doing just enough to hang on to a reasonable path to the playoffs. Does he do it on purpose, because he enjoys the pain? Or is some trickster god playing a 14-week-long prank on him, giving him just a little string of luck before crushing his dreams again? It's unclear in the lore.



Nailbiter of the Week: The Girly Pops defeat Dawn's Early Lightnings

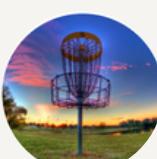
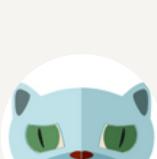
Dawn's Early Lightnings have suffered a lot of unfortunately close losses this season, but this one came down to quality of quarterback play. Lightnings quarterback Justin Herbert ended the game with a measly 3.34 points while opposing quarterback Josh Allen had 42.68. Herbert offered one excuse for his poor game: "I remembered I am not married to Hailee Steinfeld."



Injury News of the Week: WR Ja'Marr Chase (JF) contracts rare disease

Viruses like Influenza A and Influenza B are well known, but this week Jasmine's Fav's star receiver Ja'Marr Chase suddenly got a case of Influenza P (for "Ptooey"). This variant is characterized by hyperactivity of the salivary glands, causing victims to spit excessively. Chase has been booked for a short hospital stay but is expected to fully recover in one week.

League Standings

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Next Week</u>	<u>Outlook</u>
1.	 Coren's Wet Supermen	8-3	@ DEB	RIP Drake London :(
2.	 Gundy Night Football	7-4	vs. SMEL	The slump is over I guess
3.	 Jasmine's Fav	7-4	vs. GPOP	Google “mean regression”
4.	 Disc Golf Lazarus	6-5	@ BAKE	Cheating at board games
5.	 Malpal's Boytoys	6-5	@ AHL	Two more losses 'til 6-7
6.	 The Burney Bakery	5-6	vs. DGL	Quietly won two in a row
7.	 The Longest Road	5-6	vs. M	I got the horses in the back
8.	 Smelly Team That Smells Smelly	5-6	@ 4D	Repeat champ run in doubt
9.	 The Girly Pops	5-6	@ JF	Week saved by Joshy-Poo
10.	 All Hope Is Lost	5-6	MPBT	Def better than tenth
11.	 Max the Manx	4-7	@ ROAD	Team Not Last, at least yet!
12.	 Dawn's Early Lightnings	3-8	vs. WET	Giggling in slo-mo flashbacks