LEAGUE OF GREATNESS / THANKSGIVING EDITION

GOATVILLE TIMES

WEEK 12



1.26

THE TOASTEE SOCIAL.

Two catches. One impossible finish.
Goatville 138.26. Champ Returns 137.00.

PHOENIX ESCAPES ROME. TDMB CRASHES THE PARTY.

THREE WEEKS. FIVE OPEN PLAYOFF PLACES.

CAN'T STOP THE BAA.

A HOLIDAY WEEK WITH SOMETHING AT STAKE

Pass the gravy. Protect the lineup.

The Week 12 Thanksgiving edition: a rivalry classic behind us, a crowded race ahead, and nobody getting a quiet table.

The Toastee Social gave this league the kind of ending you spend the next week explaining to anyone unfortunate enough to ask how your weekend went. Lippa had 137. Adam had two plays left. The rest is now a very expensive therapy appointment in Binghamton.

Phoenix left Rome 11-0, carrying history and an enormous thank-you note to the tight-end contingency department. TDMB went to Long Island and won with defense and a kicker. Poolman made the top-two conversation official. The rookie made the Kennel very loud.

Now comes Thanksgiving week. Five teams share 5-6. Team USA is only one win behind that pack. The defending champion needs a serious closing run and help, but still has games that can move the race.

There is room at the table. The playoff chairs are another matter.

YOUR READING LIST

03 / Every Week 11 result
04-05 / The Toastee Social epic
07-08 / Phoenix and the Roman escape
10 / TDMB wins his way
12 / Poolman secures the top two
14-15 / Rookie rising, capital upset
17-24 / The complete playoff dossier
26-31 / All six Week 12 previews
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35 / Vincent and the edition record

Standings and results are through Week 11. Week 12 games are previews, not completed results. All time references use Goatville Standard Time: New York time, including daylight saving changes.

THE WEEK IN ONE FRAME

Six games.
A different league.

THE TOASTEE SOCIAL BECOMES AN INSTANT CLASSIC

GOATVILLE BAA 138.26

CHAMP RETURNS 137.00

WINNING MARGIN 1.26

ROME GETS THE CHANCE. PHOENIX GETS THE RECORD.

PHOENIX FLASH 87.44

ROMANATORS 84.36

WINNING MARGIN 3.08

OLD-SCHOOL FOOTBALL TRAVELS TO LONG ISLAND

TDMB 87.30

BAMBOOZLERS 63.06

WINNING MARGIN 24.24

THE TOP TWO HAVE A NEW PERMANENT GUEST

POOLMAN 127.50

GRUDEN GRINDERS 79.86

WINNING MARGIN 47.64

THE ROOKIE PUTS THE KENNEL ON THE MAP

STRAY BULLETS 121.22

UNTOUCHABLES 75.54

WINNING MARGIN 45.68

A SPOILER ARRIVES IN THE CAPITAL

YAAKABALLERS 77.38

TEAM USA 58.64

WINNING MARGIN 18.74

GOATVILLE 138.26 / CHAMP RETURNS 137.00

Two plays left. A rivalry forever.

The Toastee Social delivered the finish of the season: a 1.26-point road win that made five different playoff arguments louder.



The Champ Returns did almost everything required to win a rivalry game. Dak Prescott produced 44.90 fantasy points with four passing touchdowns and one rushing score. Chuba Hubbard ran for 120 yards and two touchdowns. CeeDee Lamb caught eleven passes for 132 yards and a touchdown. That is usually an excellent evening's work.

But Goatville refused to leave quietly. Patrick Mahomes supplied 31.96. Jonah Coleman added 31.90, with three rushing touchdowns. Emmett Johnson scored 21.30. Adam had brought a young, volatile lineup into Binghamton, and the rookies did not seem interested in observing visiting-team etiquette.

The Champ led 123-86 before the late swings began. Coleman dragged the Baa back into range. The final Monday-night sequence then turned an improbable comeback into the week's defining story.

After Evan McPherson's late field goal, Lippa led 137-131. Antonio Williams then caught passes of 22 and 42 yards on the final two plays. His finished line: nine catches, 122 yards, 13.20 fantasy points. The last chance became the winning chance.

The official league total is 138.26-137.00, not simply a one-point game. The winner moves to 5-6 and fifth place. The loser is also 5-6, but eighth. That is how small the distance is between celebration and an extended meeting with the tiebreakers.

Binghamton set the table. Goatville stole the last two bites.

GAME OF THE YEAR / THE COMEBACK

How the impossible found a way.

From a commanding Champ lead to the final two catches: the turning points in an unforgettable Toastee Social.

123-86

THE CHAMP HAS THE ROOM

Lippa holds a commanding advantage with late players still to go.

31.90

COLEMAN CHANGES THE CONVERSATION

Three rushing touchdowns, 111 rushing yards and 18 receiving yards bring the Baa back into the fight.

127-118

MONDAY NIGHT STILL HAS WORK TO DO

Recently signed Chig Okonkwo and Antonio Williams give the visitors a route into the closing minutes.

137-131

THE FIELD GOAL FEELS DECISIVE

McPherson extends the Champ's advantage. Two plays remain. Goatville needs one last answer.

22 + 42

WILLIAMS DOES NOT LEAVE

Two late catches change everything. Williams finishes with nine receptions and 122 receiving yards.

138.26-137.00

THE ROAD TEAM GETS THE LAST WORD

Goatville wins by 1.26. Both teams are 5-6. The rivalry has acquired a new permanent chapter.

TOASTEE SOCIAL / LAST CALL RESERVE



Some finishes deserve a toast.

The Binghamton rivalry collection.
Two glasses. Two plays. Absolutely no early goodbyes.

Original fictional campaign within the Van Baa universe.

PHOENIX FLASH / 11-0

History survived. Rome blinked.

Phoenix 87.44, Romanators 84.36. The Flash's lowest score of the season still produces the first 11-0 start in league history.



For once, the Phoenix offense did not arrive with a desert-sized points total. Its 87.44 was 40.63 below its previous ten-game average. The unbeaten season had finally presented a reachable target. Rome had an opportunity to turn the whole league's headline upside down.

Jahmyr Gibbs supplied 23.80 points for Phoenix. Trevor Lawrence managed 13.74. Parker Washington added 11.30, while the defense and kicker combined for 20. This was a survival job, not another performance designed for a record-book display case.

The Romanators had 25.36 from Jared Goff and 17.90 from Mike Evans. Those were substantial contributions. The issue was the empty tight-end position and the missing contingency plan.

Brock Bowers' late unavailability, around 3:30 PM GST, became the turning point in the lineup story. Rome had potential roster moves before later players locked, but did not get a replacement into the spot. The box score shows no scoring tight-end starter.

No hypothetical replacement should be awarded points after the fact. What can be said is that a 3.08-point loss leaves almost no room to dismiss an unfilled position. Phoenix took the result that was offered and walked out with history.

The Flash sent Rome a thank-you card. The tight-end line was left blank.

AN UNBEATEN RECORD. A SMALLER SCORING CUSHION.

11-0.
Still unfinished.

Surviving Rome kept perfection intact. It also brought the scoring-record chase much closer to the old benchmark.

124.38
PHOENIX POINTS PER WEEK

123.16
2022 GRINDERS BENCHMARK

+1.22
CURRENT WEEKLY PACE ADVANTAGE

2026 FLASH / THROUGH 11 GAMES



2022 GRINDERS / COMPLETED 14 GAMES



THE RECORD IS STILL WITHIN REACH

Phoenix has 1,368.16 points. The 2022 Grinders' 14-game total was 1,724.24. To finish above it, the Flash need 356.09 more over three games: 118.70 per week.

At the current average, Phoenix would finish at 1,741.29, about 17.05 above the benchmark. The gap was much wider before Rome. This is still a record pace, but the final three weeks have real work to do.

THE NO. 1 SEED IS THE NEXT TARGET

A Week 12 win clinches the top seed and first-round bye. Phoenix would reach 12 wins, and Poolman could only tie that total by winning out; the Flash already won their direct meeting.

TDMB, Goatville and the Untouchables are the final opponents. All three have reasons to turn a perfect season into somebody else's holiday story. Perfection is not a spectator sport.

ROMAN CONTINGENCY / THE SUNDAY ALARM



Luxury is having a backup plan.

The Sunday Alarm. Set to Goatville Standard Time.
A beautifully timed reminder to fill every position.

Original fictional campaign within the Van Baa universe.

TDMB 87.30 / BAMBOOZLERS 63.06

Defense. Kicking. Very Michael Brown.

TDMB takes a 24.24-point road win at the Boozler Center and climbs inside the playoff field.

35.00
TDMB DEFENSE + KICKER

40.1%
SHARE OF TDMB TOTAL

7TH
CURRENT PLAYOFF POSITION

There are many ways to win a fantasy game. Michael Brown keeps finding the one that looks like it was printed on the back of a 1970s coaching manual: play defense, kick the ball, make the other team uncomfortable.

Chicago's defense scored 18. Tyler Bass added 17. Those two positions supplied 35 of TDMB's 87.30 points, or 40.1 percent. James Cook III contributed 15.20 and Justice Hill 13.60. The conventional glamour positions were welcome to watch.

The result was especially valuable because it happened away from the Historic Brown Bowl, against a team that still sits third. TDMB moves to 5-6, tied with four other clubs but currently seventh under the league's tiebreaker rules.

The Bamboozlers were navigating bye-week absences, but 63.06 still leaves a difficult film session. Houston's defense led them with 17, ahead of Josh Allen's 13.16. The lineup needed more support than it found.

At 6-5, Josh Drum still owns a one-win advantage over the five-team pack. That is a useful cushion. It simply no longer feels like a sofa. A trip to Kinney offers a direct chance to settle the nerves.

TDMB brought a kicker to a points fight. Somehow, everyone else needed the lecture.

BROWN BOWL HERITAGE COLLECTION



A little old-fashioned. Still winning.

Defense. Field position. A properly struck kick.
The Brown Bowl Heritage Collection. Built to travel.

Original fictional campaign within the Van Baa universe.

POOLMAN / 9-2

The deep end has home advantage.

Poolman 127.50, Gruden Grinders 79.86. A 47.64-point statement secures a top-two seed.



Keith Krech has moved beyond the wonderful novelty of making the playoffs. His breakthrough season now has a premium address in the bracket: the top two. The Aquatic Center is not merely hosting celebrations; it is positioning itself for postseason business.

Joe Burrow scored 24.90. Javonte Williams added 21.10 and Travis Kelce 19.40. Four more starters reached double figures. This was the sort of distributed production that makes a manager look calm even when his group chat remains unbearable.

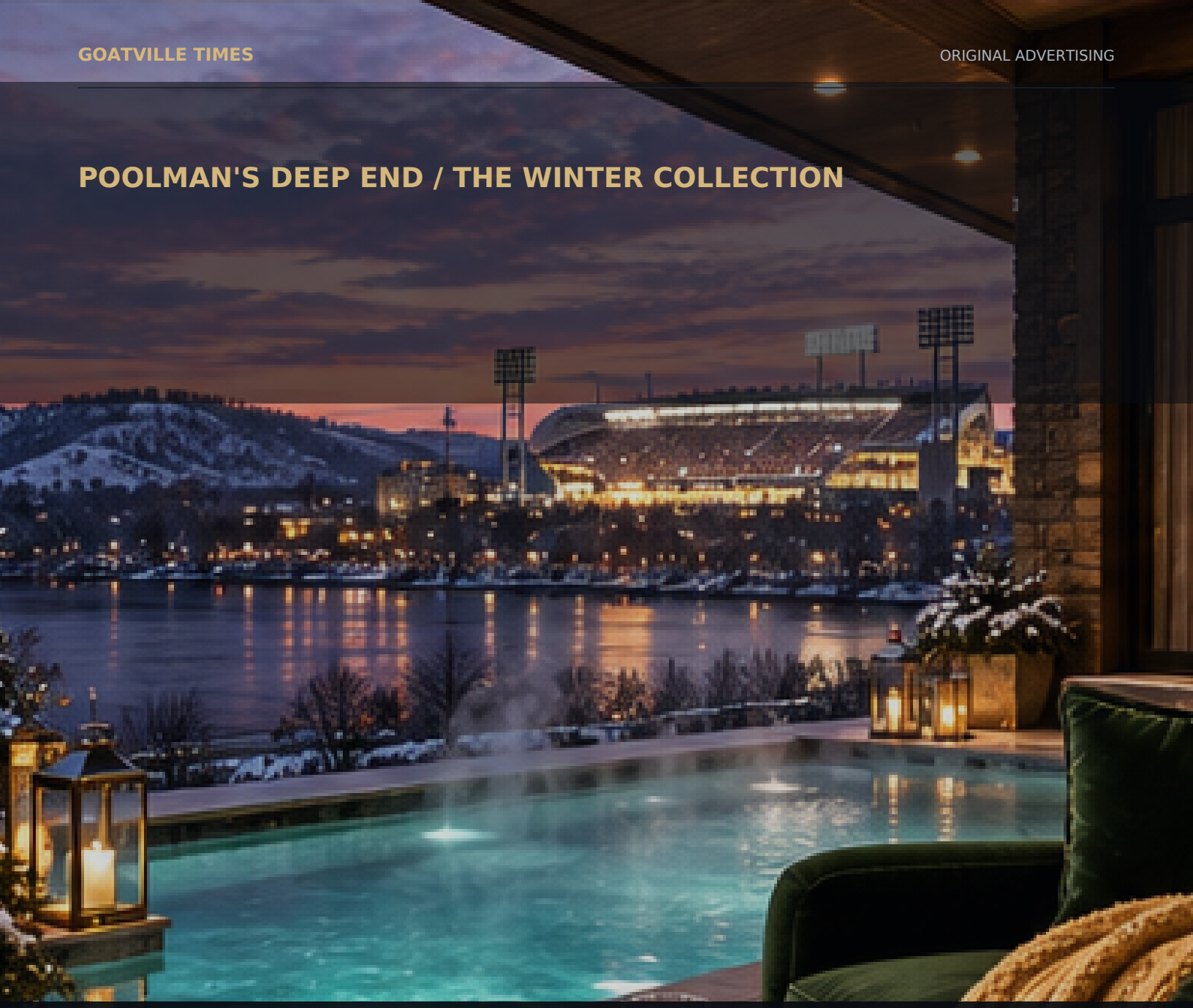
Poolman has won five straight and eight of nine. The 9-2 record is supported by a 106.71 scoring average against only 90.90 allowed, a plus-15.81 weekly differential. This is a season with substance behind the confetti.

For the Grinders, the loss is a reminder of how quickly a good position can become a crowded one. Ryan is 6-5, still fourth, but has lost three of four. His offense's season average of 107.59 remains strong; this week's 79.86 did not represent that ceiling.

Neither club needs to invent its next objective. Poolman protects the home-field prize and keeps a distant eye on Phoenix. Ryan tries to turn the next three matchups into wins, rather than another statistical argument about how dangerous his team could be.

The water is heated. The postseason invitation is not getting returned.

POOLMAN'S DEEP END / THE WINTER COLLECTION



Winter outside. Postseason inside.

The Aquatic Center winter collection.
Nine wins. A top-two seed. The temperature is entirely Keith's decision.

Original fictional campaign within the Van Baa universe.

STRAY BULLETS / 5-6

The Kennel is taking reservations.

Stray Bullets 121.22, Untouchables 75.54. Justin Mullen's rookie club turns a big home win into sixth place.

121.22
STRAYS SEASON-HIGH SCORE

2
CONSECUTIVE WINS

6TH
CURRENT PLAYOFF POSITION

The Stray Bullets did not simply follow their road win with another useful result. They produced their highest score of the season, a 45.68-point victory that announced the rookie's place in the serious part of the playoff conversation.

Cam Ward supplied 27.22 points. Breece Hall scored 16, George Kittle 15.40 with two receiving touchdowns, Derrick Henry 15.10 and Tetairoa McMillan 13.10. Cam Little added 13. There was production throughout the lineup, not one star apologizing for everyone else.

The Strays are 5-6, but their round-robin record against the current five-team tie is 3-1. Once Goatville is placed fifth, the rookie is unbeaten against the other three tied clubs left in the next comparison. That is why sixth is more than a favorable adjective.

For Bill Kinney, the loss makes the title defense steeper. The Untouchables are 3-8 with Bamboozlers, TDMB and Phoenix remaining. Winning out would get them to 6-8; they need results elsewhere to cooperate as well.

There is still something constructive to defend: competitive credibility, a chance to beat a direct rival, and a finish that forces contenders to earn their places. The rookie won this round. The defending champion can still affect how the bracket ends.

The rookie has stopped asking where to sit. He is moving the chairs.

YAAKABALLERS 77.38 / TEAM USA 58.64

A spoiler arrives. The capital resets.

The Yaakaballers earn their second win, both on the road. Team USA remains one win behind the current cut-line record.

2-9
YAAKABALLERS

4-7
TEAM USA

1
WIN FROM USA TO CUT-LINE RECORD

A difficult season still has room for a satisfying Sunday. Fernando Mendoza delivered 28.88 points, Saquon Barkley 13.50 and Nico Collins 12.80 as the Yaakaballers took an 18.74-point win in Washington.

The club is 2-9 and eliminated from playoff contention, but the competitive assignment has not disappeared. Champ Returns, Romanators and Goatville remain on the schedule. Every one of those opponents has a live playoff case. The Yaakaballers can write a difficult ending for somebody else.

Both wins have come away from Jerusalem. The next challenge is changing the 0-5 home record, beginning with a Champ Returns team coming off the week's most painful finish.

Team USA falls to 4-7 after a third straight defeat and a fifth loss in six games. George Pickens scored 17.80 and Jacoby Brissett 15.74; the remaining lineup did not provide enough help. The 58.64 total is a problem to solve immediately.

The positive is specific, not sentimental: USA is one win behind the five 5-6 clubs. A three-win finish still reaches 7-7. Poolman away is a demanding first step, but the subsequent meetings with Strays and Bamboozlers offer direct chances to move a rival backward.

Washington has requested a reboot. Please do not veto the power button.



GST / GOATVILLE STANDARD TIME

Same time.
Bigger moment.

New York time. An entirely different universe.
GST. For moments you will still be talking about next Sunday.

Original fictional campaign within the Van Baa universe.

2 SPOTS SECURED. 5 STILL OPEN.

The race has five identical records.

Phoenix and Poolman lead the field. Behind them, the seven-team cut runs straight through a five-way 5-6 tie.

SEED	TEAM	W-L	PF/WK	PA/WK	GAP*
01	Phoenix Flash	11-0	124.38	94.73	IN
02	Poolman	9-2	106.71	90.90	IN
03	Bamboozlers	6-5	98.85	96.56	IN
04	Gruden Grinders	6-5	107.59	106.40	IN
05	Goatville Baa	5-6	104.96	104.74	IN
06	Stray Bullets	5-6	98.65	100.60	IN
07	TDMB	5-6	91.57	100.64	IN
08	Champ Returns	5-6	109.68	98.09	0 W
09	Romanators	5-6	102.73	104.39	0 W
10	Team USA	4-7	86.24	91.03	1 W
11	Untouchables	3-8	89.58	112.13	2 W
12	Yaakaballers	2-9	78.11	98.84	3 W

THE POSITION IS NOT THE DISTANCE

Goatville, Strays, TDMB, Champ Returns and Rome all have five wins. The two clubs below the line are behind on the tiebreak sequence, not on victories. Team USA is one win behind that group.

THE LAST MONTH IS STILL LIVE

*Gap compares wins with the current seventh-place record. Untouchables are two wins back, with three games left. They need a sweep and help; that is a narrow route, but not a reason to stop competing.

THE MINI-LEAGUE EXPLAINS THE ORDER

Five-way tie. One place at a time.

The league's tiebreaker places a team, removes it from the tied group, then repeats the comparison.

TEAM	BAA	STRAY	TDMB	CHAMP	ROME	W-L
Goatville Baa	-	W	W	W	L	3-1
Stray Bullets	L	-	W	W	W	3-1
TDMB	L	L	-	W	W	2-2
Champ Returns	L	L	L	-	W	1-3
Romanators	W	L	L	L	-	1-3

05 / GOATVILLE

Baa and Strays are both 3-1 in the five-way comparison. Goatville won their direct meeting, 128.64-107.26, to take fifth.

06 / STRAY BULLETS

Remove Goatville. The Strays are 3-0 against TDMB, Champ Returns and Rome. Sixth belongs to the rookie.

07 / TDMB

Remove the Strays. TDMB is 2-0 against Champ Returns and Romanators. That puts Michael Brown inside the cut.

08-09 / CHAMP, THEN ROME

The last direct comparison favors Lippa: his Week 10 win in Rome was 152.66-84.32. The Romanators are ninth.

These are the current tied-group results. Different final records or a different set of tied teams require the comparison to be rebuilt.

THREE GAMES. MULTIPLE WAYS FORWARD.

What a closing run can buy.

These are finish-record targets, not automatic clinch promises. Other results and the final tied group still matter.

TEAM	NOW	1-2	2-1	3-0
Phoenix Flash	11-0	**12-2**	**13-1**	**14-0**
Poolman	9-2	**10-4**	**11-3**	**12-2**
Bamboozlers	6-5	**7-7**	**8-6**	**9-5**
Gruden Grinders	6-5	**7-7**	**8-6**	**9-5**
Goatville Baa	5-6	**6-8**	**7-7**	**8-6**
Stray Bullets	5-6	**6-8**	**7-7**	**8-6**
TDMB	5-6	**6-8**	**7-7**	**8-6**
Champ Returns	5-6	**6-8**	**7-7**	**8-6**
Romanators	5-6	**6-8**	**7-7**	**8-6**
Team USA	4-7	**5-9**	**6-8**	**7-7**
Untouchables	3-8	**4-10**	**5-9**	**6-8**
Yaakaballers	2-9	**3-11**	**4-10**	**5-9**

THE 5-6 GROUP

A 2-1 finish produces 7-7. That is the practical target for this group. A sweep gets to 8-6 and creates a much stronger case. One win leaves 6-8 and substantially more dependence on help.

THE CHASERS

Team USA can still reach 7-7 by sweeping. Untouchables can reach 6-8 and need a favorable chain elsewhere. Neither should approach the next game as a formality. A direct-rival win can change two teams' outlooks.

THE TOP FOUR / POSITION AND PRESSURE

The tickets are real. The seating is not set.

Phoenix and Poolman own top-two announcements. Bamboozlers and Grinders still have business to finish.

PHOENIX / 11-0 / THE NO. 1 MISSION

A Week 12 win clinches the top seed. The Flash then have Goatville away and Kinney at home. Rome demonstrated why an undefeated record still needs weekly attention. The bye is worth chasing as seriously as the perfect record.

POOLMAN / 9-2 / PROTECT THE PLATFORM

Keith's top-two finish is secured. Phoenix has the head-to-head edge, so Poolman needs the leader to stumble repeatedly to reopen the top-seed question. USA, Champ and Rome will all be trying to make the Aquatic Center's month uncomfortable.

BAMBOOZLERS / 6-5 / A USEFUL CUSHION

Josh remains one win above the five-team pack. Untouchables, Grinders and Team USA are the final opponents. Their combined current record is 13-20, the joint-softest remaining slate by opponent wins. That is an opportunity to stabilize, not permission to coast.

GRINDERS / 6-5 / TURN POINTS INTO POSITION

Ryan is still third in scoring at 107.59 per week. Strays, Bamboozlers and TDMB are three direct competitive tests. Two wins reach 8-6. Week 13 is also a chance to answer the early defeat at Long Island and revisit the third/fourth ordering.

A cushion is useful. Putting your feet up on it is a separate decision.

FIVE CLUBS / FIVE WINS EACH

The middle is a moving argument.

The 5-6 group contains an ascending comeback, a rookie surge, an old-school upset, an elite scoring team and a wounded rival.

GOATVILLE / CURRENTLY FIFTH

Five wins in seven games since 0-4 gives Adam a real comeback story. Rome, Phoenix and Yaakaballers remain. This week is a direct chance to change the head-to-head position against a club tied on wins. A 2-1 close reaches 7-7.

STRAY BULLETS / CURRENTLY SIXTH

The remaining opponents are Grinders, Team USA and Champ Returns. Every game can move a relevant rival backward. The Strays already own wins over TDMB, Lippa and Rome. That current mini-league strength is worth protecting.

TDMB / CURRENTLY SEVENTH

Phoenix away, Kinney home, Grinders away is a difficult route: the opponents are 20-13 combined. Two wins reach 7-7. The Long Island result is proof that an uncomfortable assignment is still an assignment Michael can win.

CHAMP RETURNS / CURRENTLY EIGHTH

Lippa is second in scoring at 109.68 per week, yet below the line. That is a reason to believe in the roster, not a claim that the standings owe it anything. Jerusalem, Poolman and the Strays offer three chances to convert that ceiling into results.

ROMANATORS / CURRENTLY NINTH

The schedule is Goatville away, Yaakaballers home and Poolman away. The Baa matchup is the most immediate lever. Rome already won their first meeting and has a 9-0 all-time edge over Adam. A rebound changes the entire mood.

Eighth and ninth are tiebreaker positions. They are not a different win total.

THE CHASE STILL HAS A VOICE

Nobody gets to phone it in.

Team USA is one win behind the five-team group. Kinney needs a sweep and help. The Yaakaballers still face three contenders.

TEAM USA / 4-7 / A DIRECT ROUTE

Winning out produces 7-7. The first game is at 9-2 Poolman; the next two are at the Strays and home to the Bamboozlers. It is difficult, but it gives USA direct contact with teams relevant to the race. A win this week would change the discussion immediately.

The priority is a usable floor. At 86.24 points per week, the offense has not matched its occasional high weeks. Strong players remain in the mix; the manager needs the supporting slots to stop turning good individual performances into wasted evenings.

UNTOUCHABLES / 3-8 / MAKE IT MATTER

A sweep reaches 6-8, and the champion needs help. Bamboozlers and TDMB are the next two opponents, so Kinney can take wins directly from clubs above him. Phoenix is the finale: a demanding assignment that could also become the season's signature upset.

YAAKABALLERS / 2-9 / SPOILER SEASON

The club is eliminated from playoff contention. Its remaining opponents are Lippa, Rome and Adam, all 5-6. That is three invitations to influence which contender reaches December. Winning in Washington showed that the lineup can still make a real opponent pay.

The scoreboard does not ask whether you were supposed to be relevant.

EVERY VENUE. EVERY OPPONENT.

The road to December.

@ means away. Remaining opponent strength uses exact combined current records, not projected lineup strength.

TEAM	WEEK 12	WEEK 13	WEEK 14	OPP%
Phoenix Flash	TDMB	@BAA	KINNEY	39.4
Poolman	USA	@CHAMP	ROME	42.4
Bamboozlers	@KINNEY	GRIND	@USA	39.4
Gruden Grinders	STRAY	@BOOZ	TDMB	48.5
Goatville Baa	ROME	FLASH	@YAAK	54.5
Stray Bullets	@GRIND	USA	CHAMP	45.5
TDMB	@FLASH	KINNEY	@GRIND	60.6
Champ Returns	@YAAK	POOL	@STRAY	48.5
Romanators	@BAA	YAAK	@POOL	48.5
Team USA	@POOL	@STRAY	BOOZ	60.6
Untouchables	BOOZ	@TDMB	@FLASH	66.7
Yaakaballers	CHAMP	@ROME	BAA	45.5

THE HEAVY LIFT

Untouchables face a .667 opponent win rate. TDMB and Team USA each face .606. These are demanding roads. They also make an upset especially valuable, because a difficult win is a result the table may not be expecting.

THE DIRECT COLLISIONS

Week 12: Rome at Baa and Strays at Grinders. Week 13: Grinders at Bamboozlers, USA at Strays, Kinney at TDMB. Week 14: Champ at Strays. There is still plenty the contenders can settle themselves.

SIX GAMES. TWELVE IMMEDIATE OUTCOMES.

What this week would change.

Conditional records after Week 12. These are scenarios, not predictions or automatic clinch declarations.

ROME AT GOATVILLE

Baa win: Baa 6-6; Rome 5-7.
Rome win: Rome 6-6; Baa 5-7.
A direct separation between two clubs now tied on wins.

STRAYS AT GRINDERS

Strays win: both clubs 6-6.
Grinders win: Ryan 7-5; Strays 5-7.
A home win creates a two-game buffer; an upset removes it.

TDMB AT PHOENIX

TDMB win: Michael 6-6; Flash 11-1.
Flash win: Phoenix 12-0; TDMB 5-7.
A Phoenix win clinches the No. 1 seed.

CHAMP AT YAAKABALLERS

Champ win: Lippa 6-6; Yaa 2-10.
Yaa win: Lippa 5-7; Yaa 3-9.
The scoring runner-up can restore .500 or face fresh pressure.

USA AT POOLMAN

USA win: USA 5-7; Poolman 9-3.
Poolman win: Keith 10-2; USA 4-8.
The chaser can bank a major upset; the host can stay rolling.

BOOZLERS AT UNTOUCHABLES

Boozlers win: Josh 7-5; Kinney 3-9.
Kinney win: Bill 4-8; Josh 6-6.
One protects a cushion; the other keeps a difficult route alive.

THE GOATVILLE THANKSGIVING TABLE



Pass the gravy.
Keep the receipts.

A seat for every rival. A story for every franchise.
Happy Thanksgiving from Van Baa Sports & Entertainment.

Original fictional campaign within the Van Baa universe.

ROMANATORS AT GOATVILLE BAA

Nine to nothing. Until it is not.

Rome (5-6) visits Goatville (5-6). Goatville Stadium, Goatville, USA. An old imbalance meets a new surge.



Rome owns a 9-0 all-time advantage over Adam. That is not a rivalry statistic. That is a recurring invoice. The Baa now get another chance to stop paying it, at home, with a season that has recovered from 0-4 to 5-6.

Both clubs need this one for the same practical reason: a win produces 6-6 and pushes a direct rival to 5-7. Goatville holds fifth today, Rome ninth, but they have identical records. The order can change faster than the Thanksgiving table can clear.

The first meeting went to Rome, 145.74-109.30. Goatville has since become a different weekly proposition. Mahomes, Coleman and Emmett Johnson helped produce 138.26 in the Toastee Social; the roster's youthful ceiling is very much alive.

THE ROUTE FOR ROME

Fill every slot and finish the preparation. The Romanators were within 3.08 of beating Phoenix despite the empty tight-end position. Their competitive case is stronger than the last two results feel; their execution now has to meet it.

THE ROUTE FOR GOATVILLE

Bring the road confidence home without treating last week's ending as a repeatable plan. Winning before the final two plays is also permitted. The stadium's 108,000 capacity should not need much persuasion to find its voice.

Nine straight is history. This week still starts with a new lineup.

STRAY BULLETS AT GRUDEN GRINDERS

The rookie is back in the room.

Strays (5-6) at Grinders (6-5). Hooters Stadium, Clearwater. Momentum meets a team trying to restore order.

106.06-85.70
GRINDERS WON WEEK 1

2
STRAYS CONSECUTIVE WINS

1
WIN SEPARATES THE TEAMS

Ryan welcomed the Strays to the league with a 106.06-85.70 win in Week 1. Eleven weeks later, Justin Mullen arrives as a sixth-place contender with two straight wins and a fresh season-high 121.22.

The season averages favor the home side, 107.59 to 98.65. The recent mood favors the visitor. Neither is a substitute for Sunday's production, which is why this is one of the week's most meaningful competitive pairings.

A Grinders win produces 7-5 and sends the Strays to 5-7. A rookie win makes both 6-6. One result strengthens the home club's position; the other removes its one-game cushion entirely.

THE GRINDERS ROUTE

Get the supporting slots involved again. Jayden Daniels and Jameson Williams led Week 11, but the overall 79.86 was not enough to survive Poolman. This roster has already shown a far higher ceiling; the next step is accessing it consistently.

THE STRAYS ROUTE

Carry the balance from the Kinney win onto the road. Ward, Hall, Henry, Kittle and McMillan all supplied useful scoring. A complete lineup gives the rookie a stronger chance than waiting for one heroic total.

Clearwater has sunshine. This matchup has considerably less shade to hide in.

TDMB AT PHOENIX FLASH

The old school visits perfection.

TDMB (5-6) at Phoenix (11-0). Flash Field at the Oasis. A heavy assignment with a very large prize.

11-0
PHOENIX FLASH

35.00
TDMB K + D/ST LAST WEEK

3
REGULAR-SEASON GAMES REMAIN

Michael Brown has just won on Long Island with defense, kicking and enough running-game support. Now comes the unbeaten Flash. The first meeting was 143.66-77.72 to Phoenix, and the season scoring averages are separated by 32.81 points.

That makes Phoenix the evidence-based favorite. It does not make this a scheduled loss. Rome just held the leader to 87.44. TDMB's 87.30 last week was almost the same number. Different weeks do not decide a matchup, but they do remind a chaser that the favorite has a floor.

The stakes are clear: a Flash win reaches 12-0 and clinches the No. 1 seed and bye. A TDMB win produces 6-6, ends perfection and becomes one of the season's defining upsets.

THE PHOENIX ROUTE

Reset the offense after the Rome escape. Gibbs kept the run alive, but the wider lineup needs to return closer to its season standard. The unbeaten record is an achievement; it is not a replacement for points.

THE TDMB ROUTE

Create another complete contribution from the unglamorous positions and ask the running game to carry its share. An upset would transform the closing route. A defeat would leave Kinney home and Grinders away as the final recovery opportunities.

Phoenix brought a perfect record. TDMB brought a kicking tee and a terrible attitude toward expectations.

CHAMP RETURNS AT YAAKABALLERS

A short memory. A long flight.

Champ Returns (5-6) visits Yaakaballers (2-9) at the Synagogue in Jerusalem.

109.68
CHAMP POINTS PER WEEK

0–5
YAAKABALLERS HOME RECORD

6–6
CHAMP RECORD WITH A WIN

Lippa has a very good offense and a very inconvenient standings position. Second in scoring at 109.68 per week, the Champ would currently miss the seven-team field. That makes this week's assignment a recovery opportunity with real pressure attached.

The first meeting went to Lippa, 105.60-51.12. The Yaakaballers are still looking for a home win, but they have just won in Washington. That result should be enough to prevent anyone from confusing a favorable matchup with an automatic outcome.

A Champ win restores 6-6 before Poolman and the Strays. A loss leaves 5-7 and forces a more demanding closing argument. The most useful response to the Toastee Social is a clean lineup and a new result.

THE CHAMP ROUTE

Keep the offensive confidence. A 137-point performance did not become bad football because it lost by 1.26. Prescott, Hubbard and Lamb gave the roster substantial production. The task is finishing the next game, not replaying the last two snaps of the previous one.

THE YAAKABALLER ROUTE

Bring the road spoiler energy home. Mendoza led the last win, with Barkley and Collins contributing. Beating the league's second-best scoring team would give this difficult season another meaningful counterpoint.

The baggage allowance covers your equipment. Please leave last Monday at home.

TEAM USA AT POOLMAN

The water is warm. The assignment is not.

Team USA (4-7) visits Poolman (9-2) at the Aquatic Center on the Susquehanna.



Team USA needs a result that changes the tone of the season. Poolman would prefer his sixth straight win. One manager is trying to recover a live playoff chase; the other is trying to keep a top-two celebration from becoming an excuse to relax.

The first meeting finished 88.86-66.12 to Keith. The current averages are 106.71 for Poolman and 86.24 for USA. That is a substantial difference, and the host's recent balanced production gives it more weight than a reputation-only forecast.

Still, USA is one win behind the current 5-6 group. A road upset produces 5-7 and keeps the seven-win finish alive. The subsequent meetings with Strays and Bamboozlers then offer direct leverage in the race.

THE TEAM USA ROUTE

Recover the supporting offense. Pickens has produced useful weeks, but a single receiver cannot keep paying the entire bill. Every slot needs a credible chance to contribute against a team whose seven Week 11 double-digit scorers demonstrated real depth.

THE POOLMAN ROUTE

Keep the standard intact. Burrow, Williams and Kelce led the latest win, with the defense, kicker, Montgomery and Shakir all reaching double figures. The top-two seed is a reward for good habits, not a reason to abandon them.

The Deep End offers towels. It does not offer complimentary wins.

BAMBOOZLERS AT UNTOUCHABLES

Two proud clubs. One needed reset.

Bamboozlers (6-5) visits Untouchables (3-8) at Kinney Coliseum, Kinney, New York.

136.96-72.44
BAMBOOZLERS WON WEEK 1

7-5
BAMBOOZLERS WITH A WIN

4-8
UNTOUCHABLES WITH A WIN

The records describe different positions, but both teams could use the same thing: a Sunday that feels like them again. The Bamboozlers remain third after a 63.06-point home loss. The defending champion is trying to make a difficult route last another week.

Josh won the opener 136.96-72.44. A repeat result would produce 7-5 and restore some breathing room above the chase pack. A Kinney win would make him 4-8 while pulling the Bamboozlers down to 6-6, close enough for the middle to become very loud.

The season scoring averages are 98.85 for Josh and 89.58 for Bill. Neither club's latest game reached that level. A normal-looking performance would already be a useful start.

THE BAMBOOZLER ROUTE

Get the offense back into a coherent rhythm after the bye-week disruption. Allen and the supporting lineup need to make the defensive contribution feel like help rather than the entire product.

THE UNTOUCHABLES ROUTE

Win the game that is here. A sweep is necessary to reach 6-8, and help is still required. That larger calculation starts with protecting home turf against a team currently above the line. Champions are allowed to become inconvenient.

Kinney has not canceled the title-defense dinner. The seating arrangement is simply under review.

THE CONTENDERS CLUB

YOUR RESERVATION IS STILL ACTIVE.

For the five-win crowd.
For the one-game-back believer.
For the champion who still shows up.

Three weeks remain. Arrive with a lineup.
Dress code: GOAT MODE ACTIVATED.

An original Van Baa campaign. Fictional club. Real league commitment.

NUMBERS WORTH KEEPING

The people who moved the weekend.

Week 11 starters, league scoring. Editorial honors are selections for this issue, not official season awards.

THE TOASTEE SOCIAL ENGINE

DAK PRESCOTT / 44.90

Four passing touchdowns and a rushing score. The highest individual starter total in Week 11.

THE COMEBACK FUEL

JONAH COLEMAN / 31.90

Three rushing touchdowns and 129 scrimmage yards. A central reason the Baa still had a closing chance.

THE LAST-WORD AWARD

ANTONIO WILLIAMS / 13.20

Nine catches, 122 yards. His final two catches supply the week's unforgettable finish.

THE VERY TDMB AWARD

BEARS D/ST + TYLER BASS / 35.00

Defense and kicking supplied 40.1 percent of the winning total at the Boozler Center.

THE BALANCE STANDARD

POOLMAN / SEVEN DOUBLE-DIGIT STARTERS

Quarterback, two running backs, tight end, flex, defense and kicker all scored at least ten.

THE ROOKIE STATEMENT

STRAY BULLETS / 121.22

A season high, a second straight victory, and a rise into sixth in the current tiebreaker order.

THERE IS STILL A REASON TO COMPETE

Reasons to believe. One for every club.

Good coverage can recognize the pressure without closing the door before the games do.

PHOENIX	11-0 is earned. The next win can settle the No. 1-seed argument.
POOLMAN	Five straight wins and a top-two seed: the breakthrough has become sustained quality.
BAMBOOZLERS	Third place remains a useful position. Three direct games can make it secure.
GRINDERS	A 107.59 scoring average is evidence of a roster that can produce a strong close.
GOATVILLE	Five wins in seven since 0-4. The comeback already has substance.
STRAY BULLETS	A rookie club with a season-high score and favorable current mini-league results.
TDMB	Long Island proved the old-school formula still wins difficult road games.
CHAMP RETURNS	Second in scoring. The next result can turn a heartbreaking week into a rebound.
ROMANATORS	Within 3.08 of the unbeaten leader. Better preparation can change a very small gap.
TEAM USA	Only one win behind the five-team pack, with two later direct-rival meetings.
UNTOUCHABLES	The route needs help, but the champion still gets to make rivals earn their place.
YAAKABALLERS	A road upset just mattered. Three remaining contenders must still face the lineup.

VINCENT VAN BAA / THE THANKSGIVING ADDRESS

Gratitude. Gravy. Questionable decisions.

Ladies and gentlemen of the League of Greatness: this Thanksgiving, I am grateful for rivalry games that outlive the snacks, rookies who have stopped being polite, and managers who still believe a kicker is a personality trait.

Adam, congratulations. Lippa, 137 points is an excellent performance and an absolutely infuriating way to spend a Monday. Please invoice the universe directly. Our office has already exceeded its sympathy budget.

Phoenix, eleven wins is historic. Rome, the holiday office is providing you with a complimentary alarm clock. Poolman, please stop heating the river. Some of us are trying to maintain a winter atmosphere.

To every contender: you have three weeks. Let the group chat talk. Let your lineup answer. To the Yaakaballers: spoilers still get a seat at the table. Just make everyone nervous when you reach for the gravy.

Eat well. Set the lineup. Call your people. Can't Stop The Baa.

VINCENT VAN BAA

Original fictional commissioner column.

THE THANKSGIVING FIELD

Two playoff spots are secured. Phoenix and Poolman have earned top-two seeds. Five places remain open, and three regular-season weeks will decide who joins them.

Phoenix is 11-0: the first team in league history to open with eleven straight wins. A Week 12 victory clinches the No. 1 seed and first-round bye. The scoring record remains within reach.

Poolman has turned a first-ever playoff berth into a top-two finish. Five straight wins and a 127.50-point Week 11 statement make Keith one of the strongest stories of the season.

Five clubs stand at 5-6. Goatville, Stray Bullets, TDMB, Champ Returns and Romanators share the same record, separated by the head-to-head tiebreaker. Every direct meeting carries extra weight.

Team USA is one win behind that pack. The Untouchables still have a route with help. The Yaakaballers are eliminated, but their final three opponents are contenders. There is meaningful football left for every franchise.

The 2022 Grinders set the regular-season scoring record with 1,724.24 points in 14 games. Phoenix has 1,368.16 through eleven games and needs 356.09 over the last three to move ahead.

Goatville Standard Time follows New York local time. Set the lineup, enjoy the holiday and leave room for one more comeback. Three weeks remain. Bring the Baa.

VAN BAA

SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT



THREE WEEKS. BRING THE BAA.

Happy Thanksgiving, League of Greatness.
Twelve franchises. Every story matters.