

GRIDIRON GOLD
ILLUSTRATED

BATTLE LINES DRAWN

From Dragon Lady's crack in the crown to The Wrecking Crew's midnight heroics. Week 7 turned the Gridiron Gold season into open warfare.



REDEMPTION ON THE STAGE

The Avengers
strike back

MONDAY NIGHT SURVIVAL

Wrecking Crew
outtasts the Fins

THE VILLAINS STAY WINNING

Bad Guys
buiid their empire

BATTLE LINES DRAWN



Inside Week 7's War for Identity — and the Moment Gridiron Gold Turned from Competition to Combat

By the time the Monday night lights dimmed, Week 7 of the Gridiron Gold Fantasy Football League had stopped pretending to be another week in a long season.

It was something else entirely — a pressure cooker disguised as a schedule. The kind of weekend that turns contenders into threats, exposes cracks in empires, and reshapes everything we thought we knew about the league's balance of power.

Because in Gridiron Gold, there's a rhythm to the chaos. Early weeks are for discovery. Midseason is for definition. And in Week 7, the definition was brutal.

The League in Flux

The scoreboard didn't just shift — it convulsed.

Teams that once looked untouchable stumbled. Quiet contenders found their voices. Every Sunday drive felt like a referendum on identity. By the time the dust settled, one thing was clear: the league wasn't divided by records anymore. It was divided by nerve.

For some, Week 7 was a rebirth. For others, it was the start of a slow unraveling.

Redemption on the Big Stage



Avengers Team (148.86) def. Dragon Lady (120.62)

There's no such thing as a small game when two heavyweights collide, but this one had its own mythology. The surging Dragon Lady — five straight wins, the talk of the Shula Division — against the only team to beat her this year: The Avengers.

It wasn't just a rematch. It was a reckoning.

From the first whistle, the Avengers played with a clarity that comes only from insult. Christian McCaffrey turned 32 points into a manifesto, cutting through defenses like a reminder that superstardom still matters. Dak Prescott, the league's most polarizing QB, turned 29 points into an argument for precision — drives that didn't just score, but strangled momentum.

For Dragon Lady, the script frayed. Jahmyr Gibbs flashed brilliance again with 22, Jake Ferguson kept hope alive with 18, but Jaylen Waddle's quiet five-point outing was a dagger. Lauren Beltran, the calm voice of the Avengers camp, said it best after the win:

"This wasn't panic. It was a response. Everyone counted us out after Wrecking Crew beat us. We remembered."

Rita Reo's Dragon Lady didn't crumble — she recalibrated.

"One game doesn't erase a season," she said. "We'll reload and make the next one hurt."

The crown didn't fall. But for the first time, it tilted. The Avengers didn't just win — they reminded the league what power looks like when it remembers its purpose.

Monday Night Survival



The Wrecking Crew (157.94) def. Fins In Low Places (149.24) If one matchup captured the tension of Week 7, it was this. Each team led by former teammates on the vaunted Palatka High football teams of the 80's. A primetime duel between two of the league's most finely tuned machines — a war of precision versus chaos, of composure versus combustion.

By Sunday night, Fins in Low Places had the lead. Jonathan Taylor's 27-point masterclass had them in control. Trey McBride added 24, cementing his case as the league's most reliable tight end. All they needed was Monday to cooperate.

It didn't. Jason Myers, the unsung kicker, turned into the Crew's secret weapon. Every field goal chipped away at the Fins' edge until the final whistle tipped the scale — a 157.94 to 149.24 thriller that left both sides gasping.

Ja'Marr Chase's 34-point eruption was vintage dominance, while rookie Quinshon Judkins added 26 with the kind of ferocity that defines breakout campaigns. It was equal parts guts and luck — the kind of win that cements a team's mythology.

Wrecking Crew spokesperson Deb Levi, unfazed, summed it up:

“Not a team we want to see again.”

Across the aisle, Fins’ media rep Lauren Nesmith’s tone was more steel than surrender.

“We fought the whole way. We’ll be fine. We’ll rebound in Week 8.”

They probably will. But Monday night belonged to the Crew — a team that seems to live for chaos and thrive in it.

Two Points, One Statement



The Travelers (109.74) def. DBarber (107.16)

There are statement wins, and then there are survival acts. This was the latter.

Patrick Mahomes delivered 28 steady points, but it was the Cleveland defense that became the story — 21 points of grit, pressure, and stubbornness that turned a sputtering offensive performance into victory.

For DBarber, heartbreak has become habit. A.J. Brown poured in 27, the Patriots defense matched the moment with 18, but the math never lined up. Two points. Just two. Delilah Sandoval, the Travelers’ media voice, leaned back after the dust settled:

“Sometimes it’s not who shines. It’s who survives. Tonight, we survived.”

Jose Vargas of DBarber didn’t try to hide the sting.

“A loss by two hurts more than a blowout. You remember these.”

One team breathed. The other bled. Both will feel it for weeks.

The Villains Stay Winning

The Bad Guys (123.38) def. Pud’s Playmakers (99.44)



Some teams play to win. The Bad Guys play to control.

Davante Adams rolled back time with 30 points, looking every bit the alpha he once was. Rookie QB Drake Maye — fearless, fast, and fiery — chipped in 27, proving the Bad Guys’ rebuild might already be over.

Pud’s Playmakers hung close early, led by Jalen Hurts’ 28 and Cameron Skattebo’s 20, but the depth faded. Denver’s defense and Jaleel McLaughlin combined for a forgettable 10 points, sealing their fate.

Arthur Robinson, the ever-slick voice of The Bad Guys, smirked through victory:

“We don’t chase wins. We dictate them. The league better adapt fast.”

Will Powers of Pud’s stayed grounded:

“The numbers aren’t kind, but our story’s not over. We’ve come back before.”

At 4-3, the Bad Guys are past proving themselves. Now, they’re rewriting the villain script — efficient, cold, inevitable.

Escape by Eight

1024 Bandits (110.80) def. Hobbton (102.74)



The Bandits don't blow teams out — they haunt them.

Justin Herbert's 29 and Amon-Ra St. Brown's 26 powered the machine, but it wasn't dominance. It was survival through attrition.

Hobbton's Trevor Lawrence (28) and Jaxon Smith-Njigba (22) nearly flipped the story, but a late injury scratch to David Njoku turned hope into heartbreak. His zero-point void became the defining silence of the week.

DeAndre Bell, never one for dramatics, put it plainly:

"You don't draw these ones up. You just exhale after."

Hobbton's Sam King was harsher.

"We beat ourselves. Can't let that happen again. Not in October."

For the Bandits, it's another narrow win. For Hobbton, it's another bruise in a season of near-misses.

No Mercy in the Mountains



Appalachian Mud Dogs (132.96) def. Dem Wallz (82.08)

The Mud Dogs didn't just win — they roared back to relevance.

Bo Nix dropped 30 points of confidence, CeeDee Lamb added 29, and the Appalachian attack looked every bit like its 2023 championship version.

Dem Wallz? Just battered. Bijan Robinson's 19 and Justin Jefferson's 16 were the only sparks in a lineup drowning in injury. Jameson Williams' goose egg was the exclamation mark on a rough week.

Joe Riddle, steady as always, didn't gloat.

"We just did our job. You win by execution, not emotion."

Greg Cantrell, exhausted, kept his eyes on what's left.

"We're running out of healthy bodies. The will's still there, but the luck isn't."

In the mountains, mercy is a luxury. And the Mud Dogs are fresh out.

Reflection: The March to November

Week 7 redrew the map of Gridiron Gold.

The Avengers silenced critics. The Wrecking Crew endured another thriller. The Bad Guys cemented their empire. The Bandits and Mud Dogs survived, if not thrived.

Dragon Lady's aura dimmed — slightly. Hobbton's window narrowed. DBarber and Dem Wallz found themselves staring down the realities of attrition.

Now comes the stretch that separates storytellers from survivors. Dragon Lady meets the Wrecking Crew in what could define the Shula Division. The Bad Guys meet the 1024 Bandits in a clash of control versus chaos. And Fins In Low Places? They're not going quietly.

The air is colder. The standings are tighter. The noise is louder.

Because in October, fantasy football stops being about points. It becomes about pressure.

And in Gridiron Gold, pressure always finds the truth.

Jennifer Rae is the **Senior Writer for Gridiron Gold Illustrated**, bringing sharp insight and a seasoned voice to every story. Before joining the magazine, she produced the nightly newscast at **Las Vegas One**, anchored sports at **KENS 5 in San Antonio** and **WMBB in Panama City**, and contributed her pen to the pages of **Sports Illustrated** and **ESPN The Magazine**.

