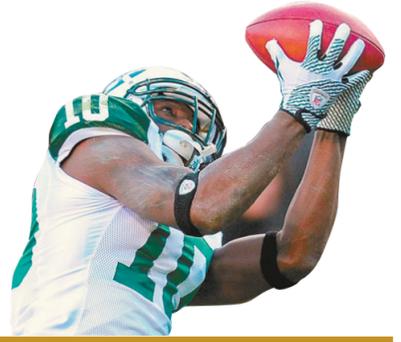


Week 12



- Snyder: Pair fail a responsibility test. R2
- Secondary breaks down late in loss. R3

# Jets 34, Redskins 19



MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2011 ☆☆☆

The Washington Times

washingtontimes.com/sports/football

SECTION R

## DOWN FOR THE COUNT



PRESTON KERES/SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Opening-drive's luster doesn't last as team can't find end zone again

By RICH CAMPBELL

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Washington Redskins reported to work Sunday clinging to a flicker of hope. It wasn't necessarily about qualifying for the playoffs, mind you. They hoped that what they accomplished offensively the past two weeks was hard evidence that they had distanced themselves from the embarrassments of earlier this season.

That flicker became a bright flame after a dominant opening touchdown drive against the New York Jets.

And then the fire went out.

A combination of individual breakdowns, quality defense and quarterback Rex Grossman's inaccuracy powered the offense's reversion to a familiar ineptitude in a 34-19 loss.

"The first half was all right," Grossman said. "The second half, it was always something. Whether it was a sack on first down that put you behind the chains or — you know, it's just frustrating."

Washington's offense the past two weeks scored at least 23 points in consecutive games for the first time under coach Mike Shanahan. Against New York, however, the problems that doomed this season in October returned.

The Redskins (4-8) committed three turnovers. They had possession inside the Jets' 20-yard line on only three series and scored a touchdown only once. They were 5-of-16 on third downs.

That added up to their seventh loss in the past eight games.

"I just thought we were very average collectively on offense," Shanahan said.

Not at first, though. The Redskins picked up where they left off in the previous week's 23-17 victory over Seattle. Roy Helu took the ball on the first play from scrimmage and rushed 15 yards through a gaping hole on a stretch play to the right.

Then another run. Then a screen. And then tight end Fred Davis was wide open for a 42-yard gain on a deep throw toward the left sideline. Helu plunged into the end zone four plays later to put Washington ahead, 7-0.

They had marched 82 yards in only

» see REDSKINS | R3

Jets defensive end Aaron Maybin stands over a prone quarterback Rex Grossman after an incomplete pass during the fourth quarter of Sunday's game at FedEx Field. Grossman started out hot, but he cooled off as the game wore on. He completed just 17 of 43 passes after leading the Redskins to a touchdown on the opening drive of the game.

## It looks like Redskins' troubled season can only get worse



DAN DALY

There was a sense of the season ending Sunday at FedEx Field, even though we still have a month to go. Just as the Washington Redskins were getting under way against the New York Jets, SI.com reported that Trent Williams and Fred Davis stood to miss the last four games because of drug violations that had previously been whispered about.

The Redskins have had a hard enough time scoring points this year, given their injuries on that side of the ball and the

limitations of their quarterbacks. Without Williams, their promising left tackle, and Davis, their big-play tight end, Sav Rocca may punt himself to the point of exhaustion between now and New Year's.

If this was, indeed, The End for the 2011 Redskins — and again, it sure felt like it — it wasn't pretty. They lost 34-19 to the desperate Jets, giving up 21 points in the final 4:49 after taking their last lead (16-14) a few minutes earlier on a Graham Gano field goal. Those three Jets touchdowns, by the way, went like this:

A 30-yard pass from Mark Sanchez to Antonio Holmes on a pump-and-go (that victimized Josh Wilson).

A 9-yard stroll-in by Shonn Greene out of the wildcat formation.

And finally, another standing-up score by Greene, this one from 25 yards.

After Holmes' TD, which was soon followed by a Rex Grossman sack-fumble at the Washington 9, it was as if all the air went out of Jim Haslett's defense. London Fletcher and Co. have been propping up the team all season, but in the final min-

utes against the Jets they seemed to lose the will to resist. Once again, a game that could have been won with a bit more offense had gotten away, dropping the Redskins to 4-8 with the New England Patriots on the horizon.

Of course, that's not all that's on the horizon. If SI.com's report is accurate — and no one associated with the club, from coach Mike Shanahan on down, is saying it isn't — the loss of Williams and Davis is

» see DALY | R2

EXPANDED REDSKINS COVERAGE: WASHINGTONTIMES.COM/SPORTS/FOOTBALL

## THINGS AREN'T LOOKING UP



ANDREW HARNIK/THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Redskins' 34-19 loss to the New York Jets at FedEx Field on Sunday dropped the team to 4-8 as fans of all ages shared in the dejection, knowing the team cannot finish with a winning record again.

## Davis, Williams have to take responsibility



DERON SNYDER

If tight end Fred Davis and left tackle Trent Williams were suspended solely for marijuana use during the lockout — when, technically, they weren't NFL employees — outrage would be an appropriate reaction. How dare the league try to impose discipline on individuals it locked them out, telling them “thanks but no

thanks” when they showed up for work?

However, the NFL players union cut a deal with the league that made actions during the lockout fair game. That doesn't make sense, and Davis and Williams can blame union leadership for agreeing.

But they can blame themselves for a lack of discipline, commitment and self-control — even though they were locked out.

Davis and Williams reportedly failed two drug tests since the lockout ended, putting them in line for four-game suspensions that effectively will end their seasons. Reports indicate that each player has failed at least three tests since entering the league, Davis in 2008 and Williams last year.

Knowing they had prior offenses on their record, they should have refrained. The lockout wasn't going to last forever, and the Redskins would be counting on them. They never should have risked a suspension — justified or not — which costs them money in the short-term (four game checks) and probably in the long run (their next contracts).

“Guys have to got to be accountable,” linebacker Lorenzo Alexander said. “We know the rules and whatever comes out,

**Presumably, Davis and Williams are also eligible for one-year suspensions with the next failed drug test, a factor that will surely affect their negotiating power. With Davis entering free agency after the season, he couldn't have picked a worse time to pick up the “druggie” label.**

comes out. It's a shame. These are two significant players on our team.”

On the other sideline Sunday at FedEx Field was New York Jets receiver Santonio Holmes, who can tell Davis and Williams the steep price he paid for a four-game drug suspension. He was traded from the Pittsburgh Steelers before the 2010 season.

Holmes, who caught the go-ahead touchdown in New York's 34-19 victory, missed the first four games of that season and will face a yearlong suspension if he tests positive again.

Presumably, Davis and Williams are also eligible for one-year suspensions with the next failed drug test, a factor that will surely affect their negotiating power. With Davis entering free agency after the season, he couldn't have picked a worse time to pick up the “druggie” label.

Tight ends have become increasingly potent weapons around the league, as three entered Week 13 among the NFL's top 10 in receptions — New Orleans' Jimmy Graham, New England's Rob Gronkowski and Atlanta's Tony Gonzalez. Graham and Gronkowski ranked among the league's top 10 in receiving yardage as well.

In his contract year, Davis was trying to establish himself as an elite tight end. The

results were encouraging, too, as evidenced by Sunday's six receptions for 99 yards. His combination of size and speed makes him a difficult cover for defensive backs and linebackers alike. He leads the Redskins in receptions and receiving yardage and is among the league's top 10 at his position.

Williams won't have to worry about his contract for another four years, but neither the Redskins nor potential suitors will forget about the drug suspension. He is slowly evolving into the type of left tackle stalwart the Redskins hope for when they drafted him with the No. 4 pick in 2010. But he's added an unwanted asterisk to his resume that eventually could stunt his growth for an entire season.

Deciding to light up and risk damage to their careers would be one thing if Davis and Williams played an individual sport. But 51 teammates count on them each Sunday. Letting down those men might not hurt as much as missed paychecks, but it should hurt as much as not being on the field.

Even if Davis and Williams thought they had the perfect masking agent, indulging was a selfish act.

I don't blame them for thinking it's unfair to count usage during the lockout. I don't blame them for wishing the union had fought against league discipline for acts that occurred in that span. I don't even blame them for thinking much too much is made of marijuana use.

I just blame Davis and Williams for not thinking about the players and coaches who counted on them. That should have been enough to make them resist for four-and-a-half months while the labor agreement was hammered out.

Now the prospect of yearlong suspension is the hammer.

Hope the buzz was worth it.



PRATIK SHAH/THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Quarterback Rex Grossman will have his hands full trying to lead the 4-8 Redskins to another win this season.

## DALY

From page R1

also on the horizon. And that means . . . well, it means lots of things. It means Grossman will have to get by without his best receiver, a guy who was taking advantage of Chris Cooley's absence to have a breakout season (59 catches, 796 yards, 3 TDs). It also means Rex will no longer have his blind side protected by the fourth pick in the 2010 draft. (Nor, for that matter, will blossoming running back Roy Helu have Trent to open holes for him.)

As much as the Redskins struggled Sunday against master-of-disguise Rex Ryan's myriad defenses — Grossman's 27 incompletions were a career high — imagine how much harder it's going to be to generate points without Nos. 71 and 83. Shanahan lamented having to “settle for some field goals instead of touchdowns once we got in the red zone” against the Jets. Heck, a week from now, Shanny will probably be cracking open champagne if his offense moves the ball enough to boot four field goals. In fact, Papa John's might start offering free toppings for every 3-pointer.

I don't mean to get all gloom-and-doom on you, but honestly: How can this unit function effectively minus the players in question? We all saw the running game spin its wheels when Williams was out of the lineup earlier in the season — never mind the protection breakdowns. (Or had you forgotten the 10 sacks in Buffalo?) And Logan Paulsen, who undoubtedly will step in for Davis, isn't a backup tight end; he's a No. 3 tight end elevated to No. 2 because Cooley is on injured reserve.

So . . . good luck, Rex Grossman, in your future endeavors.

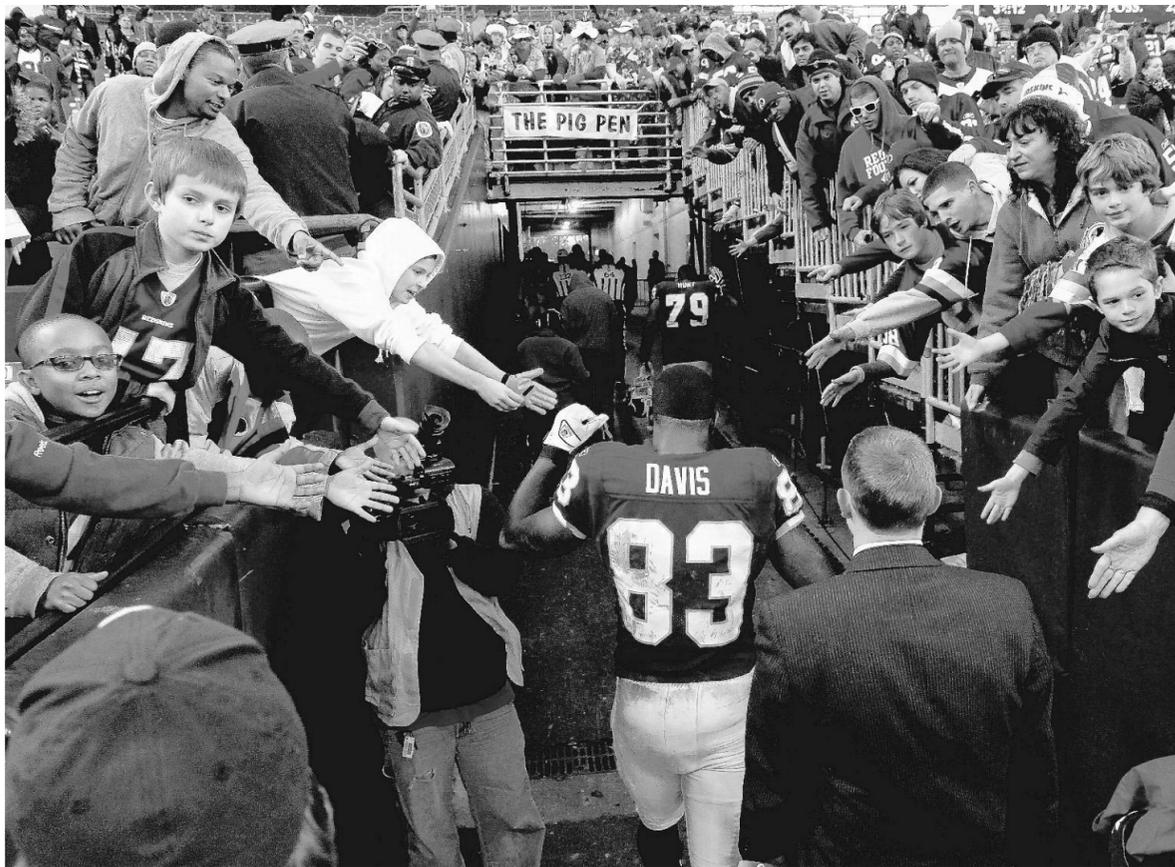
“It's frustrating,” he said of the offense's inability to take advantage of the opportunities the Jets provided, “but I don't know what else to say about it. . . . In the second half, it was always something” getting in the way.

It only figures to get more frustrating — if not dangerous — for Grossman in the weeks ahead. With Rex playing more sanely and Helu emerging as an every-down back, the offense had begun to show a pulse in the loss to Dallas and the come-from-behind win at Seattle. But now you have to wonder whether the Redskins have seen their last Victory Monday this season, whether they're on a Streetcar Named 4-12. Even 2-10 Minnesota and nose-diving Philadelphia might be too much for them in their depleted state.

Barry Cofield tried to be philosophical about it. “Whoever's here is here,” he said. “Whoever isn't, isn't. We've gotta move on.”

Yes, but where? Oh, that's right — up the NFL draft ladder. A 4-12 record would bring the Redskins a pretty choice selection, possibly even the quarterback of their dreams (whoever that might be). Look at the Jets. They maneuvered their way into the fifth pick two years ago and snapped up Mark Sanchez, who for the better part of Sunday didn't look any better than Grossman.

Wait, that didn't come out right. I meant to be more optimistic. But then, little has worked out as planned in this increasingly maddening Redskins season.



PRESTON KERES/SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Tight end Fred Davis walks off the field Sunday for likely the last time this season, as he is facing a four-game suspension.

JETS 34, REDSKINS 19

# Davis, Williams face season-ending suspensions

## Players reportedly failed drug tests

By NATHAN FENNO  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The seasons of two offensive stalwarts for the Washington Redskins likely came to an unceremonious end Sunday after multiple reports said tight end Fred Davis and left tackle Trent Williams would be suspended for the season's final four games because of failed tests for recreational drugs.

The players dressed in the coaches' locker room and security whisked them from FedEx Field.

"Everybody knows it's illegal," linebacker Lorenzo Alexander said. "It's been like that since I've been in the league, so everybody has to be held accountable under the rules."

Two attendants wearing blue plastic gloves emptied Davis' and Williams' lockers. One fished a gray beanie from next to Williams' open playbook and jogged out of the locker room.

Neither player was available for comment.

SI.com first reported the suspensions in a tweet at 1:04 p.m. Sunday. According to the report, Davis and Williams were able to play against the New York Jets on Sunday because the NFL had not notified them of the suspensions in writing.

SI.com reported Davis and Williams tested positive for marijuana during the season — their third failed test — but their suspensions were cut down as part of a post-lockout deal between the NFL and NFL Players Association.

"I've received no information about it," coach Mike Shanahan said. "But I will comment on it in the next day or two depending on what has happened."



PRESTON KERES/SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Redskins tight end Fred Davis made a number of big plays during Sunday's loss to the Jets, but his six-catch, 99-yard performance is going to be his last this season because Davis must serve a four-game suspension for violating the NFL's substance-abuse policy.

In the second season of a six-year, \$60 million contract, Williams will lose almost \$1.9 million because of the suspension. Davis makes \$555,000 this year, but the long-term cost could be higher because he is a free agent after the season.

Amid chunks of turf, wet towels and discarded gear littering the locker room's carpet, teammates insisted they had no idea the suspensions loomed.

"Trent was cool. I wouldn't have thought anything [was going on],"

backup tackle Sean Locklear said.

"Everybody's saying it," tackle Jammal Brown said, "so I guess it's true."

Both players leave significant holes in an offense still searching for rhythm three quarters of the way through the season.

Williams, the second-year player and captain, missed two games earlier this season because of a high ankle sprain. Locklear, who normally plays right tackle, expects to slide over and replace Williams.

While the offensive line has shuf-

fled and reshuffled this season because of injuries and ineffectiveness, Davis has been the team's most consistent offensive threat.

The fourth-year player caught 53 passes for 697 yards, including 99 yards Sunday. With tight end Chris Cooley already on injured reserve, Logan Paulsen, in his second season, likely moves into the starting lineup.

Near the empty lockers of Davis and Williams, few questions concerned the 34-19 loss to the Jets. The burden fell on teammates to respond

to questions they didn't have answers to.

All that remained of Williams was a small mound of towels in front of his locker and, inside Davis', a lonely bottle of blue Gatorade.

"It's a team. We all know the rules. Whatever comes out, comes out. It's a shame," Alexander said. "These are two significant players on our team that are big-play guys. . . . It's definitely going to hurt us if those guys are not able to play the last four games."

JETS 34, REDSKINS 19

# Wilson fooled on decisive score

## Cornerback bought pump fake on Holmes' late TD

By ELLIOTT SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Lulled into a false sense of security by an ineffective Jets passing game, Redskins cornerback Josh Wilson let his focus waver for one instant.

With just less than five minutes left in the fourth quarter and the Redskins holding a 16-13 lead, New York quarterback Mark Sanchez dropped back to pass and pumped the ball toward his receiver, Antonio Holmes, on a slant-and-go route.

Wilson bit hard on the fake, safety Oshiomogho Atogwe got sucked in too far to provide help, and just like that, New York had connected on a 30-yard touchdown pass that would prove to be decisive in a 34-19 Redskins loss.

"They just called a great play," Wilson said. "They got me with the double move, but I think it was more Sanchez's making me believe it was a slant. Once Antonio breaks, I can't get my eyes on the inside. I have to keep them on him. That's one for the bad guys."

Holmes' touchdown was a bitter cap to a contest in which the secondary performed admirably for large stretches, only to falter late.

"I was really excited — 16-13, I thought we were going to win this game, or even if we went to overtime, we would have a chance," safety Reed Doughty said. "But to give up that many points in that quick of time . . . it's not good."

Washington held the stagnant Jets passing game to 165 yards, and even though Sanchez found 10 different receivers, Holmes' catch was the longest pass play of the day for New York.

"It's frustrating — we played them good for about 50 minutes, but in the last 10 we let it get away from us," cornerback Kevin Barnes said.

Barnes was involved in another critical play by the secondary, drawing a roughing-the-passer penalty for a helmet-to-helmet hit on Sanchez that superseded a Jets false start on third-and-7, giving New York a first down.

Despite seeming evidence to the contrary, Barnes was adamant that he should not have drawn a penalty.

"It wasn't helmet-to-helmet. They said I hit him after the whistle, which



ANDREW HARNIK/THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Jets wide receiver Antonio Holmes scores on a 30-yard pass with 4:49 left in the fourth quarter Sunday to give New York the lead for good. The Redskins secondary was burned late after limiting the Jets passing game for much of the game.

**"A loss is a loss. You take them all equally. I just think we're better than what we showed at the end of the game."**

— Safety Oshiomogho Atogwe

no one could hear," Barnes said. "I hit him dead in the chest."

Without safety LaRon Landry, the secondary still kept New York's big targets — Holmes, Plaxico Burress and tight end Dustin Keller — under control, with Sanchez averaging just

5.2 yards per pass.

The Redskins had a golden opportunity to pick off Sanchez late in the third quarter when DeAngelo Hall undercut a pass intended for Burress, but the ball bounced off his chest.

"Dropped it," an exasperated Hall said. "I don't know if he got his hands on it or what, but I just dropped it. That would have changed the complexion of the game."

In the end, it turned out to be another ugly loss for the Redskins, who weren't in the mood to appreciate a game effort.

"A loss is a loss," Atogwe said. "You take them all equally. I just think we're better than what we showed at the end of the game."

# REDSKINS

From page D1

eight plays.

"Usually you script your first 15 [plays], and I stayed on schedule and had some great plays and some great runs," Grossman said. "We were able to score, get a touchdown, which obviously feels good on the first drive."

He paused.

"But that was the only touchdown of the game — pretty much the reason why we lost."

For as in-sync as the Redskins seemed on the first drive, they were out of whack after that.

They went three-and-out on their first two drives of the second half. Their third ended on Helu's fumble. And their fourth was another three-and-out.

"They played us a little bit more man-to-man coverage," Shanahan said. "We didn't quite make the plays. They played a little bit more zone there in the first quarter. Collectively, it just takes one guy here and there. A combination of just losing your poise a little bit and not being able to finish. It's hard to put it just on one person."

Grossman completed three of his five first-quarter passes for 71 yards but got worse as the game progressed.

By halftime he was 9 of 20. He missed all four of his passes in the third quarter.

They were crucial misses, too, because the Redskins had a 13-10 lead at the break.

On the first two drives of the third quarter, Grossman threw incomplete on third-and-9 and third-and-13. Miscues early in those series set up Grossman to fail.

On the first drive, the team lost 4 yards on a second-down run after tight end Logan Paulsen missed a block. On the second drive, Paulsen gave up a sack on first down.

"We started kind of in the hole," Paulsen lamented. "It kills you, kills your momentum."

But the Redskins couldn't even convert third-and-1 — a relatively high-percentage down-and-distance — in the third quarter.

Grossman faked a handoff to Helu and then looked for Paulsen releasing off a block.

But the defender stayed with Paulsen, and Grossman awkwardly threw back across the field toward Jabar Gaffney. Linebacker Bart Scott tipped the ball away.

By game's end, the Redskins paid for all their failed execution. The Jets

### JETS 34, REDSKINS 19

New York	7	3	3	21 - 34
Washington	7	6	0	6 - 19

#### First Quarter

Was—Helu 2 run (Gano kick), 10:21.  
NYJ—Greene 1 run (Folk kick), 1:15.

#### Second Quarter

Was—FG Gano 33, 11:32.  
NYJ—FG Folk 45, 3:06.  
Was—FG Gano 23, :19.

#### Third Quarter

NYJ—FG Folk 51, 6:36.

#### Fourth Quarter

Was—FG Gano 46, 7:52.  
NYJ—Holmes 30 pass from Sanchez (Folk kick), 4:49.  
NYJ—Greene 9 run (Folk kick), 3:42.  
Was—FG Gano 43, 1:59.  
NYJ—Greene 25 run (Folk kick), 1:47.

A-74,121.

	NYJ	Was
First downs	16	17
Total Net Yards	266	304
Rushes-yards	30-101	23-100
Passing	165	204
Punt Returns	2-14	2-14
Kickoff Returns	6-84	7-164
Interceptions Ret.	1-3	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	19-32-0	19-46-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	0-0	2-17
Punts	5-44.6	6-37.3
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	3-2
Penalties-Yards	6-40	6-50
Time of Possession	32:12	27:48

#### Leaders

**RUSHING**—N.Y. Jets, Greene 22-88, Kerley 1-6, Tomlinson 1-5, Conner 2-2, Sanchez 3-1, McKnight 1-(minus 1). Washington, Helu 23-100.

**PASSING**—N.Y. Jets, Sanchez 19-32-0-165. Washington, Grossman 19-46-1-221.

**RECEIVING**—N.Y. Jets, Holmes 4-58, Burress 3-33, Greene 3-26, Keller 3-12, Tomlinson 1-16, Kerley 1-7, PTurner 1-6, Mulligan 1-5, McKnight 1-2, Conner 1-0. Washington, Davis 6-99, Moss 5-42, Helu 4-42, Anderson 2-21, Stallworth 1-14, Royster 1-3.

**MISSED FIELD GOALS**—N.Y. Jets, Folk 40 (WR).

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

took a 20-16 lead with 4:49 remaining on a 30-yard touchdown from Mark Sanchez to Antonio Holmes. They broke it open soon after that by recovering Grossman's fumble on a sack.

"They did a good job of mixing up all their stuff," Grossman said. "They never give you the same look twice. They never played the same type of scheme twice in a row. They do a lot of unique blitzes, and you can't get a beat on them. They're a pretty damn good football team."

Which, as we already knew, the Redskins are not.

**REDSKINS SCHEDULE**

**WEEK 1**



vs. Giants  
W, 28-14

**WEEK 2**



vs. Cardinals  
W, 22-21

**WEEK 3**



at Cowboys  
L, 18-16

**WEEK 4**



at Rams  
W, 17-10

**WEEK 6**



vs. Eagles  
L, 20-13

**WEEK 7**



at Panthers  
L, 33-20

**WEEK 8**



at Bills (Toronto)  
L, 23-0

**WEEK 9**



vs. 49ers  
L, 19-11

**WEEK 10**



at Dolphins  
L, 20-9

**WEEK 11**



vs. Cowboys  
L, 27-24 (OT)

**WEEK 12**



at Seahawks  
W, 23-17

**WEEK 13**



vs. Jets  
L, 34-19

**WEEK 14**



vs. Patriots  
Sun., Dec. 11

**WEEK 15**



at Giants  
Sun., Dec. 18

**WEEK 16**



vs. Vikings  
Sat., Dec. 24

**WEEK 17**



at Eagles  
Sun., Jan. 1

**JETS 34, REDSKINS 19: QUARTER-BY-QUARTER**



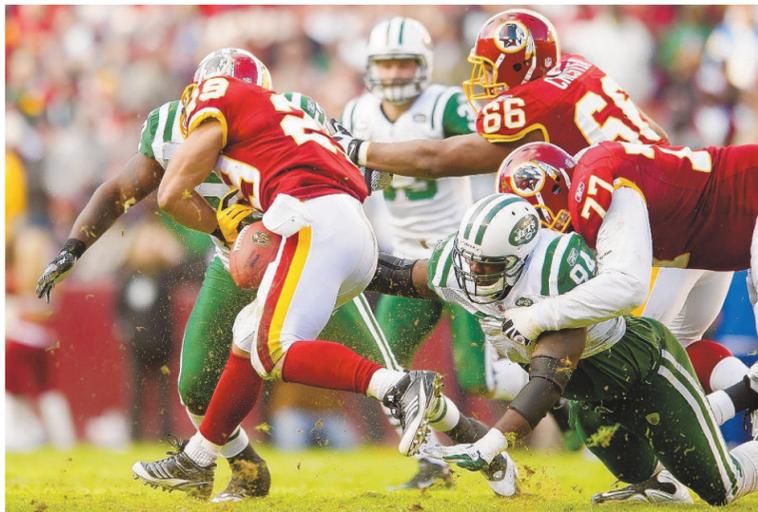
PRATIK SHAH/THE WASHINGTON TIMES

**FIRST QUARTER:** Running back Roy Helu caps off the Redskins' opening drive of the game with a 2-yard touchdown to give Washington an early lead.



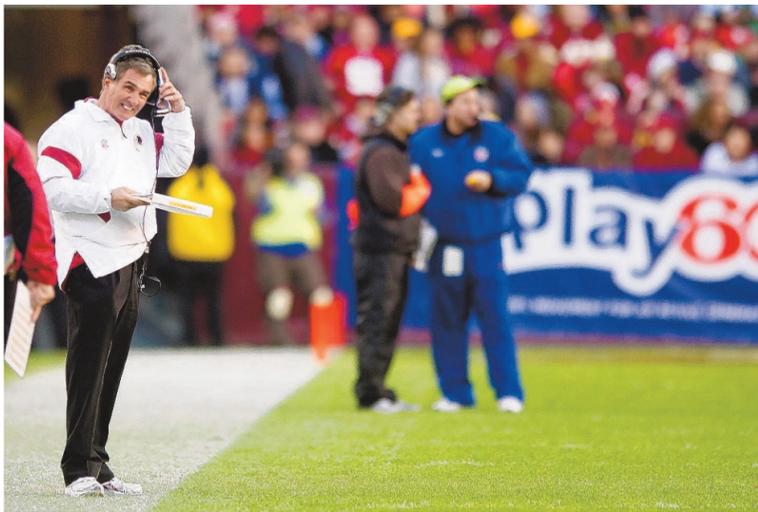
ANDREW HARNIK/THE WASHINGTON TIMES

**SECOND QUARTER:** After getting off to a fast start, Rex Grossman cooled off in the second quarter. He finished the half 9 of 20 for 120 yards, but he did not turn the ball over.



ANDREW HARNIK/THE WASHINGTON TIMES

**THIRD QUARTER:** Roy Helu fumbles after a short gain during the third quarter. Luckily for the Redskins, however, the defense held and the Jets missed a field-goal attempt.



ANDREW HARNIK/THE WASHINGTON TIMES

**FOURTH QUARTER:** Redskins coach Mike Shanahan grimaces on the sidelines during the fourth quarter, during which his team lost the lead with less than five minutes left.

**1** Talk about a quick and productive quarter, this was it. Each team had only had one full possession, and each made the most of it in different ways. The Redskins, who had more first-quarter points this season than only Cleveland and Indianapolis, needed only eight plays to cover 82 yards after taking the opening kickoff. It was the Roy Helu show. The rookie running back had a touch on six of the eight plays, including a 2-yard run for the touchdown. He went for 15 yards on the game's first play and also had a pass reception on the drive. A highlight of the drive was a 42-yard reception by tight end Fred Davis. But the Jets answered with their longest drive, in number of plays, this season. They needed 17 plays to find the end zone. Included was a fourth-down conversion. The touchdown came on a 1-yard run by Shonn Greene. It was quite a quarter. Was it foreshadowing of a shootout in the making?

**2** Hold the phone on that shootout thing. The Jets and Redskins used the second quarter to be the Jets and Redskins again. From the Redskins' end of it, halftime would be one of those point-of-view things. The positive view? Well, the Redskins had a 13-10 lead at the break, thanks to a pair of Graham Gano field goals — from 33 and 23 yards. The Jets got a second-quarter field goal from Nick Folk from 45 yards to keep it close. The negative view? Well, it probably should have been a bigger lead. Washington got a huge break when Jeremy Kerley muffed a punt late in the quarter and Perry Riley recovered at the Jets' 18. But Rex Grossman, who spent the quarter looking so-so rather than super, couldn't get the team into the end zone. Washington settled for Gano's second field goal and a slim lead. After a quick start, Grossman finished the half 9 of 20 for 120 yards, but he did make it to the second half without a turnover.

**KEY PLAY**

**W**ith less than five minutes to play, Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez hit Santonio Holmes with a 30-yard scoring pass to put New York on top for good. But that is *not* the key play. Two plays before that, on third-and-6 with the Jets out of field-goal range, cornerback Kevin Barnes had Sanchez in his sights. But he hesitated just long enough on a pump fake and Sanchez found Shonn Greene for 10 yards and a first down. Who knows how things would have turned out if Barnes had made the sack?

**3** The Redskins went into the final quarter tied at 13 and very much alive in their bid for their second straight victory. But the progression of quarterback Rex Grossman hasn't given Skins fans any cause for hope. Grossman started out as Super Rex and then he became So-So Rex and then he became, well, no words that start with "s" are really appropriate here. Grossman completed five of his first seven passes in the game. Through the end of the third, he completed only four of his next 17. Washington had five first downs on its first drive, but it had only five more from there through the end of the third. New York tied the score with 6:36 left in the quarter on a 51-yard field goal by Nick Folk. Washington then got a huge break. After Roy Helu fumbled it away to give the Jets the ball on the 29, Folk ended up missing a 40-yarder to leave the score tied. Helu's fumble meant the Redskins had a turnover in 26 straight games.

**4** As the clock ticked under five minutes, the Redskins had the lead thanks to a 46-yard field goal from Graham Gano that broke a tie at 13. Those final five minutes were a microcosm of the season for the Skins, who allowed the Jets to score three touchdowns to make the game look very one-sided. The Redskins barely missed a sack from cornerback Kevin Barnes that would have forced a punt. Two plays later, Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez put New York ahead for good with a 30-yard pass to Santonio Holmes. Rex Grossman lost a fumble on a sack on Washington's next possession, and two plays later, New York scored again on a touchdown off a direct snap to Shonn Greene. Another Gano field goal closed Washington to within eight, but Greene went 25 yards for another touchdown on the Jets' first play after a failed outside kick. Grossman was then intercepted and Washington's winning streak ended at one.

**REDSKINS NOTES**

**Short kickoff leaves Gano subject to scrutiny**

By **NATHAN FENNO**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**26:** Consecutive games with a turnover for the Redskins, the longest such streak in the NFL.

**14:** Consecutive games with a turnover for Redskins quarterback Rex Grossman.

**100:** Rushing yards for Redskins back Roy Helu, giving him two 100-yard games in a row. He's the first Redskins rookie to do that since Reggie Brooks in 1993.

**2:** The number of times the Jets have now beaten the Redskins in the 10 meetings between them. The previous time was 3-0 in 1993.

**99:** Receiving yards for Redskins tight end Fred Davis, on six catches, in what looks to be his final game of the season, as a suspension for violating the league's substance-abuse policy is looming.

The Redskins' kicking game delivered another hiccup Sunday, when Graham Gano's kickoff after the go-ahead field goal in the fourth quarter traveled just 45 yards.

Combined with a 29-yard return from Josh Baker of the Jets, the kick gave New York the ball at its 49-yard line to set up a touchdown and a lead it didn't relinquish.

"We just didn't execute on it," Gano said. "That's what it comes down to. There's no way that anybody in this league should be able to get that many return yards on us."

Coach Mike Shanahan made clear the short kick was not a designed play.

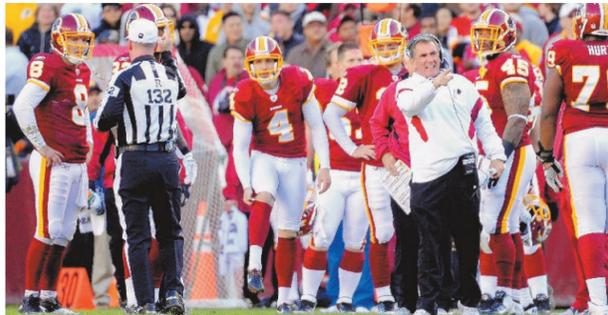
Seattle last week blocked field goal and extra point tries by Gano, and two weeks ago he missed two field goals against Dallas.

On the short kick, Shanahan believed the ball hit the ground first. Gano blamed field conditions.

"That field's a bit chopped up," Gano said. "I could have hit it better. I think all-around we could have performed better out there."

Gano did hit four field goals (46, 43, 33 and 23 yards).

"I felt good all season," Gano said. "Aside from Miami and Dallas, I feel like I've hit the ball real well. I just have to stay confident and focused and not change much because when you're a young guy and



PRESTON KERES/SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A short kickoff from Graham Gano (4) helped set up the Jets with good field position on what turned out to be the game's decisive drive Sunday.

start changing too much, that's when you start screwing up."

**Helu delivers again**

After last week's breakout game in Seattle, running back Roy Helu continued his hot streak.

Quickly becoming the Redskins' workhorse, the rookie touched the ball on six of the team's first eight plays, capping the drive with a 2-yard touchdown run.

"I thought Helu started out exceptionally," Shanahan said, "and at the end we were just pretty average."

Helu finished with 100 yards on 23 carries and caught four passes for 42 yards. He gained 162 all-purpose yards the previous week in Seattle.

**Rocca dinged up**

Punter Sav Rocca was injured in the second quarter after the Jets' Garrett McIntyre ran into him following a 37-yard punt.

Rocca stayed in the game but didn't have the same zip on his punts, finishing with six kicks for a 37.3-yard average. That's well below his season average of 45.4 yards.

After the game, Rocca limped out of the locker room with his left ankle taped.

"Sav's a beast," Gano said. "He's a tough guy. A lot of guys on the sideline were asking if he'd be all right. I told them he played Australian rules football."

● Correspondent Elliott Smith contributed to this report.

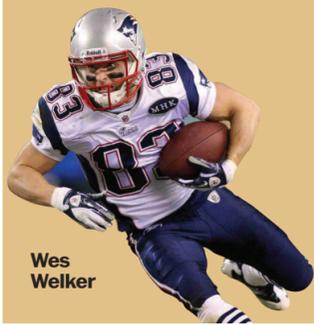
**WEEK 14  
REDSKINS VS. PATRIOTS**



**Kickoff:** 1:05 p.m. **TV:** CBS  
**Radio:** AM-980, FM-92.7, FM-94.3  
**What to watch:** Bill Belichick and Tom Brady lead the surging Patriots on a rare trip into Washington. The only other time that duo played a regular season game here was in 2003. And Steve Spurrier's team won, 20-17.

● New England has won four straight and is atop the AFC at 9-4. The Patriots' offense is clicking, as usual. Prior to a 31-24 win over the Colts, they averaged 6.39 yards per play, the third-best in the NFL. Wes Welker leads the league with 93 catches and 1,257 yards. Tight end Rob Gronkowski has 14 total touchdowns (13 receiving).

● On the other hand, the Patriots' defense ranked last in total yards entering Sunday's game and 29th in yards per play.



Wes Welker