

Week 17



- Defense lets game get out of hand in fourth. R2
- Kicking woes plague Washington to the end. R3



Eagles 34, Redskins 10

MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2012

The Washington Times

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NO GOOD



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

Eagles cornerback Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie scoops up the ball after Redskins kicker Graham Gano's field goal attempt was blocked during the first half. Gano saw five kicks blocked this season.

Washington stumbles for three quarters, unravels late as campaign ends with a dud

By Rich Campbell
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

PHILADELPHIA | Mike Shanahan furrowed his brow Sunday afternoon while explaining the latest batch of mistakes made by his Washington Redskins. There was the botched field goal attempt as time expired in the first half, the unsportsmanlike conduct penalty by one of the team captains and the 190 yards allowed by his defense in the fourth quarter, to name a few. They all showed on his face.

"You can't go on the road and win games like that," he lamented.

Shanahan now has a 5-11 record to prove it.

The Redskins stumbled their way through the first three quarters against the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday before falling apart in the fourth quarter en route to a 34-10 loss. Their largest defeat of a dreadful campaign gave Shanahan the worst record of his 18-season NFL head coaching career.

Not that the outcome of this one mattered much. Both teams were out of



Redskins quarterback Rex Grossman finished with 20 interceptions this season. He was picked off once in Sunday's loss to Philadelphia.

postseason contention at the start of the day, the Redskins long ago eliminated. This contest was about pride and building for the future, and for the visitors there wasn't much to celebrate.

"Penalties, turnovers, red zone — I

mean, we've got to play better," center Will Montgomery said. "It's just a recipe for a losing team and losing games."

The Redskins know that well. But in

» see REDSKINS | R3



DAN DALY

In a lot of ways, it was like so many Redskins games in recent seasons. The club did a few good things ... but did even more things that make [fans] go screaming into the night.

PHILADELPHIA

Final chapter written on latest season of despair

The Washington Redskins put the 2011 season out of its misery Sunday. Before (just guessing here) 40,000 occasionally interested fans at Lincoln Financial Field, they were pounded 34-10 by the Philadelphia Eagles — who also had nothing to play for, but had better players to do it with.

The game was replete with a blocked field goal attempt (Graham Gano's fifth of the season), a breakdown in the secondary that resulted in a long touchdown pass, a pair of senseless 15-yard penalties by two veteran receivers who should know better (Santana Moss, Donte Stallworth), a shanked punt — all the special touches you'd look for from a 5-11 team that's shutting it down for the year.

In a lot of ways, it was like so many Redskins games in recent seasons. The club did a few good things — such as Evan Royster, in his NFL second start, rushing for 100 yards again and showing signs of being a serviceable back — but did even more things that make Redskins Nation go screaming into the night.

Regardless of what happened to the team this year —

» see DALY | R2

EXPANDED REDSKINS COVERAGE: WASHINGTONTIMES.COM/SPORTS/FOOTBALL

KIND OF A BLUR



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quarterback Rex Grossman and the Redskins wrapped up a 5-11 season, falling to 11-21 in two seasons under coach Mike Shanahan. The five wins marked the worst total in Shanahan's coaching career.

EAGLES 34, REDSKINS 10

Lack of consistency recurring theme throughout year

By STEPHEN WHYNO

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

PHILADELPHIA | Even as the Washington Redskins' offense sputtered, holding a potent Philadelphia Eagles team down for three quarters was an encouraging sign. But the fourth quarter was a discouraging end to a season that could be described using the same vocabulary.

After limiting the third-ranked offensive team in the NFL to just 13 points and 200 yards through three quarters, the Redskins collapsed in the final 15 minutes. The Eagles rolled up 190 yards and 21 points, turning a tight game into a 34-10 rout.

"Things just got out of hand," linebacker Ryan Kerrigan said.

It speaks to a season's worth of defensive breakdowns, as this was the fifth time the Redskins allowed 33 or more points.

"It's definitely not what we hang our hat on defensively," Kerrigan said. "We've got to do better than that."

When star linebacker Brian Orakpo left at half-time with a pectoral muscle injury, things started to go wrong. But the Redskins made it a one-score game going into the fourth quarter.

"I thought we were still in this game," Orakpo said. "But obviously it went downhill from there."

A 27-yard field goal early in the fourth made it 13-10, but it only took one strike to deflate the Redskins.

Michael Vick connected with DeSean Jackson on a 62-yard touchdown with 12:12 left and spelled

the start of the collapse. Soon after, Vick engineered a six-play, 65-yard drive to break the game open.

Middle linebacker London Fletcher pointed to Philadelphia's max protecting and Vick's ability to get the ball out quickly. Not having Orakpo in the game with his pass-rushing threat also hurt, but it was still hard to explain what went wrong.

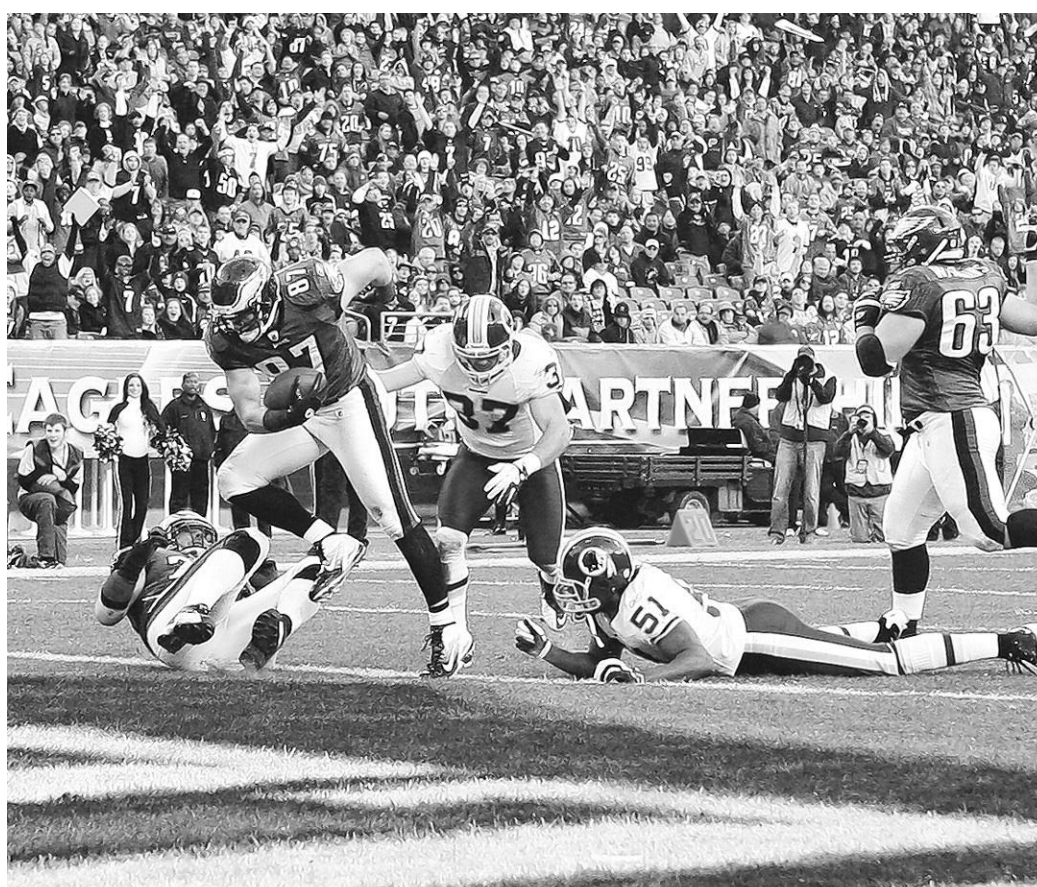
"I don't know. That's tough. That's a tough Eagles offense," Orakpo said. "Even though we were getting off the field, they just kept putting wrinkles here and big plays. Big plays was one thing that kind of killed us."

Things got ugly quick, as the Redskins couldn't muster much offense and finished the season with a thud. And while Orakpo believes in a bright future built on young players such as Kerrigan and linebacker Perry Riley, he took responsibility on behalf of his teammates for needing to execute better.

"It's not on the coaches at all," he said. "They're calling the greatest game, and we just have to make sure everybody trusts each other and everybody plays their assignment and get off the field."

That did not happen Sunday, which provided a final example of the Redskins' season-long inconsistency.

"We've got to learn from it and continue to play for four quarters. That's something that we struggled with sometimes as a team — we don't know how to finish," Orakpo said. "As good teams do, you have to know how to finish for four quarters. And be consistent week in and week out."



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eagles tight end Brent Celek leaves Redskins defenders Reed Doughty (37) and Keyaron Fox (51) in his wake while scoring on a 4-yard pass in Philadelphia's 34-10 win.

For the Redskins, 2012 began the way last 2011 ended, with with an unsightly loss and a laundry list of questions that Shanahan may or may not find answers for between now and September. It promises to be an interesting offseason, that's for darn sure. But then, isn't it always?

DALY

From page R1

the injuries (especially on offense), the Lost Weekends when John Beck was the quarterback, the suspensions of Trent Williams and Fred Davis, and all the rest — the Redskins didn't end in a very good place. After a surprise road win over the New York Giants in Week 15, they closed out the season by losing to the previously 2-12 Minnesota Vikings and then the Eagles. Worse, they saw their respectably middle-of-the-road defense give up 67 points in those final two games.

The latter made Brian Orakpo's postgame remarks ring a little hollow. Orakpo missed the second half with a left-shoulder injury that will require an MRI, but he offered the opinion that the unit has "the core guys we can build off of." The fact that one of

those "core guys" is a going-on-37 inside linebacker (London Fletcher) tells you all you need to know about where the defense — and the Redskins in general — are right now.

That is, a long way from where they need to be to be taken seriously in this league.

Indeed, you spent much of the fourth quarter — when the Redskins gave up 21 points and had it "kinda get away from us," according to Fletcher — wondering how many players you were seeing in a Washington uniform for the last time. Will Fletcher, a free agent, be back? Heck, after 33 losses the past three seasons, will he want to be back? Will O.J. Atogwe, who was at the scene of one of the crimes Sunday (the 62-yard heave from Michael Vick to DeSean Jackson that made it 20-10), return for a second year after a disappointing (and injury-filled) debut?

What about Moss? He just followed one of his best years with the Redskins with arguably his worst. Does he have a future with this team at 33 (which he'll be in June), or will Mike Shanahan feel the need to replace him with a younger playmaker? Think about it: When you go 6-10 and 5-11 in your first two seasons with a club, as Shanny has, how many guys are really untouchable?

The coach, who has seen his past five teams miss the playoffs (three in Denver, two here), envisioned "adding a few pieces on offense ... [and] a few people on defense." One of those pieces, obviously, is a quarterback. Better quarterbacking could make plenty of problems go away, first and foremost the offense's continual difficulties in the red zone. The Redskins came up short in that area again Sunday, managing just one field goal the three times they were inside

the Philadelphia 20.

But for the QB to make the impact he needs to make, the offensive line has to be a good deal more protective of him than it was of Rex Grossman this year. Grossman never will win any accuracy contests; but when you go 22-for-45, as he did against the Eagles, it's more than just him. It's his blockers, too.

What's disconcerting is that there are still times — too many times — when the Redskins don't seem like a very smart club ... or a well-coached one. The penalties Moss and Stallworth (combined age: 63) picked up against the Eagles for (a) disputing a noncall on the Philly goal line with 23 seconds left in the first half, and (b) celebrating a touchdown too vociferously are simply dumbfounding. No team that's as offensively challenged as the Redskins can afford brain freezes like that. It not a matter of

whether the player is right and the official is wrong. It's a matter of being a professional. It's a matter of having a clue.

The fire drill in the final few ticks of the first half, though, reflects poorly on everybody, from Shanahan on down. You can't be at the opponent's 15-yard line with 16 seconds to go and not at least get a field goal in the air. Yes, the Redskins' radio communications were on the blink. Yes, they were out of timeouts. Yes, there was a certain amount of confusion on the part of some players. Even so ... this is the NFL, isn't it?

For the Redskins, 2012 began the way 2011 ended, with an unsightly loss and a laundry list of questions that Shanahan may or may not find answers for between now and September. It promises to be an interesting offseason, that's for darn sure. But then, isn't it always?

EAGLES 34, REDSKINS 10

Washington plagued by erratic kicking to the end

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

PHILADELPHIA | The Washington Redskins practice rushed field goals every week, and on a normal occasion they have no problem setting up and snapping the ball with room to spare.

Then there was Sunday, when a series of problems cost them dearly. First it was a headset malfunction, and then a series of unfortunate events, and the result was the clock hitting zeros instead of the Redskins cashing in on a valuable opportunity at the end of the first half.

"I don't know," quarterback Rex Grossman said. "I don't need to drill that point home: It was obviously mismanagement by the headset, myself and we couldn't get the field goal."

It was a fitting moment of incompetence for the Redskins in their season-ending 34-10 loss and a glaring

The clock showed roughly 11 seconds, which should have been plenty of time to set up for a 24-yard Graham Gano chip shot. Long snapper Nick Sundberg tried to get into position, but center Will Montgomery was out there, too. Sundberg started sprinting off, and the opportunity to get a quick snap and three points was gone.

episode in a season's worth of field goal follies that included five blocked attempts.

This blunder was the final one and proved costly. Set up with excellent field position by a Brian Orakpo sack, the Redskins were in the red zone trailing 10-0 with no timeouts left and had a chance to finally get on the board.

Coach Mike Shanahan said the team's headset devices malfunctioned, and Grossman hooked up with Jabar Gaffney on a completion to the Philadelphia 7 to face fourth-and-goal with the clock melting away. That wasn't supposed to happen.

"The only thing I heard was the play and ran it like we would run the play," Grossman said. "But there was a tag to throw it to someone we're not really looking at in the back of the end zone or throw it away."

The clock showed roughly 11 seconds, which should have been plenty of time to set up for a 24-yard Graham Gano chip shot. Long snapper Nick Sundberg tried to get into position, but center Will Montgomery was out there, too. Sundberg started sprinting off, and the opportunity to get a quick snap and three points was gone.

"When I got on the field, Monty

was standing over the ball with his hand on the ball and I heard people yelling, 'Spike.' I knew it was fourth down, but it just created a bunch of confusion," Sundberg said. "I turned around to run off thinking I made a mistake instead of just trusting myself. And it cost us."

Shanahan called it "a little mix-up there relative to communication," and Montgomery said it was "just kind of a cluster."

"I wasn't sure," a stumbling Montgomery said. "We had a fast field goal with, like, 6 seconds to go, so I wasn't sure exactly what we were going to do

there." A familiar problem came up earlier in the second as Derek Landri blocked a field goal attempt, making the Redskins the first team since 1997 to have five blocked in a season.

"I don't think I've ever seen three [in a season]," Shanahan said. "That really hurt us this year."

Again, this one was not on Gano, who was told by Sundberg and holder Sav Rocca that his kick was high enough. Lineman Tyler Polumbus was bowled over on the play.

"I've just got to stay low and make sure that guy doesn't get through," Polumbus said.

Gano generally was positive about his season, but then there was the issue of the blocked kicks.

"I think we actually had seven blocked, but two of them went in," Gano said. "It's frustrating, but there's not much you can do about it."



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

Redskins receiver Jabar Gaffney (above) is taken to the turf by Philadelphia's Nate Allen after a first-quarter reception. Eagles quarterback Michael Vick (below) is among the players who joined for prayer after the game. It was the Redskins' 11th loss of the season, and 21st since Mike Shanahan took over as head coach.

EAGLES 34, REDSKINS 10

Washington	0	0	7	3	10
Philadelphia	3	7	3	21	34

First Quarter

Phi—FG Henery 35, 10:29.

Second Quarter

Phi—Hall 7 pass from Vick (Henery kick), 1:44.

Third Quarter

Was—Helu 47 pass from Grossman (Gano kick), 10:29.

Phi—FG Henery 20, 4:05.

Fourth Quarter

Was—FG Gano 27, 13:24.

Phi—D.Jackson 62 pass from Vick (Henery kick), 12:01.

Phi—Celek 4 pass from Vick (Henery kick), 5:56.

Phi—Lewis 9 run (Henery kick), 1:56.

A—69,144.

	Was	Phi
First downs	21	24
Total Net Yards	377	390
Rushes-yards	25-130	19-75
Passing	247	315
Punt Returns	2(-1)	2-32
Kickoff Returns	2-53	2-43
Interceptions Ret.	1-28	1-31
Comp-Att-Int	22-45-1	24-39-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-9	2-20
Punts	5-36.6	4-50.3
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	6-71	8-75
Time of Possession	30:41	29:19

LEADERS

RUSHING— Washington, Royster 20-113, Young 1-12, Helu 4-5. Philadelphia, Lewis 12-58, Brown 6-14, Vick 1-3.

PASSING— Washington, Grossman 22-45-1-256. Philadelphia, Vick 24-39-1-335.

RECEIVING— Washington, Royster 5-52, Gaffney 4-28, Moss 3-45, Young 3-32, Helu 2-48, Paulsen 2-29, Banks 1-10, Stallworth 1-8, Austin 1-4. Philadelphia, Maclin 8-105, Celek 6-86, D.Jackson 4-86, Avant 4-42, Harbor 1-9, Hall 1-7.

MISSED FIELD GOALS— Washington, Gano 36 (BK).

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

REDSKINS

From page R1

the spirit of New Year's optimism, though, we'll start with the positive.

Rookie running back Evan Royster had 113 yards on 20 carries. He persevered through debilitating cramps for his second 100-yard game in as many starts.

"He's running hard," right tackle Tyler Polumbus said. "He's making guys miss. He's hitting the holes he's supposed to hit."

Royster, a sixth-round pick, proved over the last two weeks that he can diagnose cutback lanes and get upfield, although he lacks the top speed to be an explosive, big-play threat.

Add rookie running back Roy Helu's 47-yard catch-and-run for a touchdown, and the Redskins found solace in establishing some depth at one of the offensive skill positions.

"I think we've got a lot of promise," Royster said. "I think we can come out next year and have one of the top running games in the NFL."

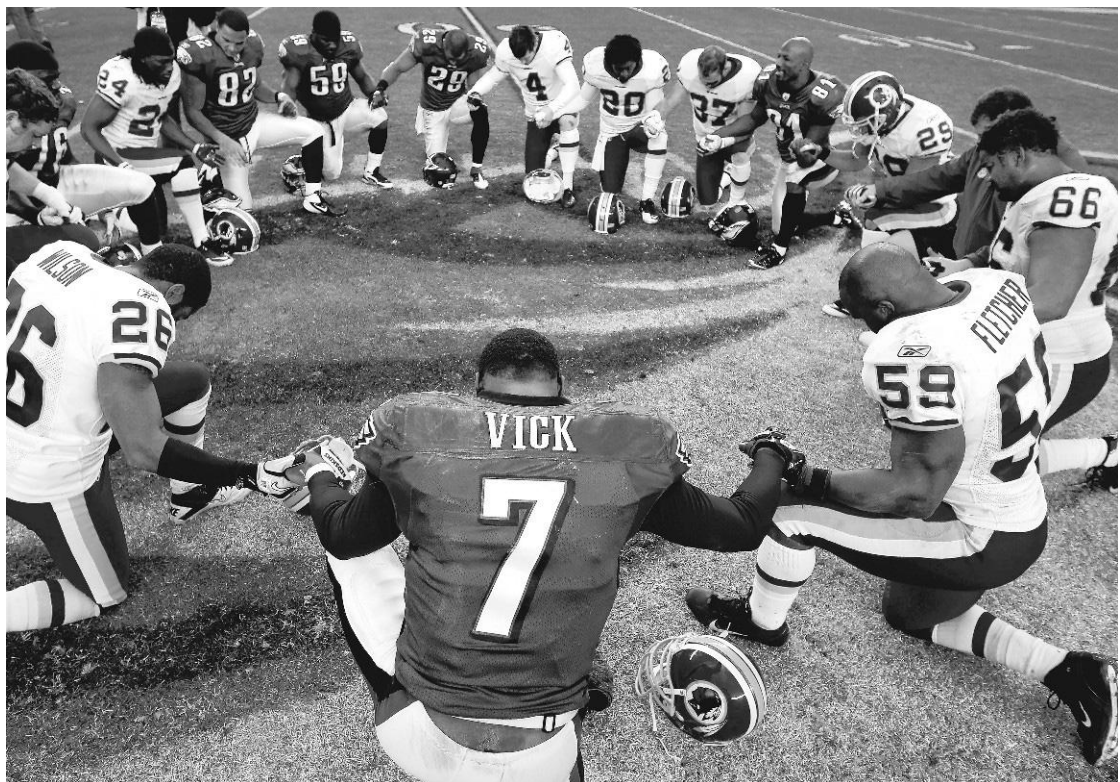
Perhaps, but it will take a lot more than that to fix the Redskins' problems.

Take Santana Moss' game Sunday. Washington's No. 1 receiver entering the season dropped a potential touchdown pass after he got behind the defense in the first quarter. And then he cost the Redskins points just before halftime by losing his composure.

He believed he was held coming out of his break in the end zone on a sprint-out pass to the right on first-and-goal from the Philadelphia 4-yard line. He took off his helmet to argue the call and was flagged 15 yards for unsportsmanlike conduct.

"I just have to learn how to deal with it and put it behind me," Moss said. "I'm going to put it behind me and won't ever think about it again. If something doesn't go our way, it just ain't meant."

Bad turned to worse three plays later. With no time out and about 10 seconds left in the half, Jabar Gaffney



caught a pass in the middle of the field.

The Redskins' field goal team scrambled onto the field, but there was confusion among players. It was fourth down, so they couldn't spike the ball to stop the clock.

"What did we have, like, 5 or 6 seconds left, trying to get the field goal team on?" Montgomery said. "It was just kind of a cluster."

Despite the gaffes — which included Rex Grossman's 20th interception — the Redskins trailed only 13-10 early in the fourth quarter. That's when the Eagles' playmakers highlighted the disparity between these teams.

Receiver DeSean Jackson beat double coverage on a post for a 62-yard touchdown.

"He did a better job than me of adjusting to the throw," safety Oshiomogho Atogwe said. "I read it and I saw it, and he was just able to get to it before I did. I make plays like that, so I'm a little disappointed about it. I'll learn from it and play it better next time."

Next time, however, is nine months away. Many names and faces will be different when the Redskins reassemble. That's how it works after another last-place finish.

"I don't want this feeling again," nose tackle Barry Cofield said.

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
L, 34-27

WEEK 15



at Giants
W, 23-10

WEEK 16



vs. Vikings
L, 33-26

WEEK 17



at Eagles
L, 34-10

EAGLES 34, REDSKINS 10: QUARTER-BY-QUARTER



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

FIRST QUARTER: The Redskins had one good chance to put points on the board in the opening 15 minutes, but Santana Moss dropped a pass in the end zone.



SECOND QUARTER: Philadelphia's Chad Hall scores the game's first touchdown on a drive set up by the Eagles blocking Graham Gano's 36-yard field goal attempt.



THIRD QUARTER: Roy Helu (29) celebrates with Donte Stallworth after turning a short pass into a 47-yard touchdown on the Redskins' first possession of the second half.



FOURTH QUARTER: Backup running back Dion Lewis celebrates as he crosses the goal line to score the last of the Eagles' three touchdowns in the final 15 minutes.

1 Sav Rocca has had a pretty good year as the Redskins' punter, but his 22-yarder after the first possession Sunday won't go into his memory book. Or maybe it will for the wrong reasons. On the first play after that punt, the Eagles' Michael Vick hit Brent Celek for a 30-yard gain. That set up a 35-yard field goal for the only points of the opening quarter. Otherwise, the opening stanza was about as dull as you'd expect in a game between two teams going nowhere and just playing out the string. The Redskins had one good chance to score, but Santana Moss couldn't hold on to what looked like a perfect pass from Rex Grossman on a third-and-9. It would have gone for a touchdown. The Eagles didn't fare much better early on. The pass to Celek was one of only two completions for Vick in his first eight passes. But he then completed four in a row as the Eagles were driving to end the quarter.

2 How many ways can a team hurt itself? The Redskins seemed intent on finding out in the second quarter. For starters, Rex Grossman threw an interception. That extended the team's streak of games with a turnover to 30 (tops in the NFL) and Grossman's streak of games with a pick to 12 (plus a lost fumble in his other start). Not to be outdone, Graham Gano's 36-yard field goal attempt was blocked, and the Eagles scored on the ensuing possession to make it 10-0. Then, after getting the gift of a late fumble thanks to a Brian Orakpo sack, the Redskins looked like they might finish the first half with some points. But it wasn't to be. After getting to the 4, the Redskins moved back to the 19 when Santana Moss was penalized for taking off his helmet to argue a call. Washington moved forward again, but with no timeouts couldn't get the clock stopped to even let Gano attempt to get blocked again.

KEY PLAY

With 6:18 to play before halftime, the Redskins lined up for a 36-yard field goal try by Graham Gano that, if good, would tie the score at three. It seemed likely. Gano had a streak of four games without a miss and he had four field goals of 50 or more yards this season. So this was a piece of cake. Except it got blocked by Derek Landri and the Eagles scored their first touchdown eight plays later. Washington never seemed to recover, although the Redskins did at least stay close until folding up the tent in the fourth quarter.

3 Keeping in mind that it was a very low bar to clear, the third quarter was easily much better than the first two for the Redskins. If they were in a funk over the way the second quarter ended, it didn't show as they scored a touchdown on the opening possession of the second half. Rex Grossman found a way to turn the play into a 47-yard touchdown. Philadelphia mounted a drive on its next possession, but the Redskins defense tightened up and limited the Eagles to a 20-yard field goal. Washington then went on a long drive of its own and was nearing the Eagles' end zone when the third quarter came to an end. As badly as they played in the first half, they were within reach of taking the lead. But the drive sputtered, leaving the Redskins to settle for a Gano field goal. Still, the team went into the final 14 minutes of the season down only three.

4 So that productive-by-comparison third quarter turned out to be a blip in an otherwise dismal day for the Redskins. In the last of 64 quarters they played this season, the Redskins pretty much disappeared. What had been a close game going in became a rout going out, as the Eagles tacked on three touchdowns to win going away and finish the season 8-8. The Redskins, on the other hand, finish 5-11. On the possession after the Redskins pulled to within three, the Eagles scored their first touchdown of the quarter. Michael Vick and DeSean Jackson hooked up for a 62-yard scoring pass, and it seemed to suck the life right out of the Redskins. Philadelphia later added a 4-yard pass to Brent Celek and a 9-yard run by rookie Dion Lewis. Washington did get 165 yards from rookie back Evan Royster (113 on the ground, 52 in the air). But it hardly seemed to matter on another disappointing afternoon for the Redskins.

REDSKINS NOTES

Linebacker Orakpo's frustrating season ends with injury

BY THE NUMBERS

- 2:** Rookie backs who had 100-yard rushing games for the Redskins this season (Roy Helu, Evan Royster), the first time that's happened.
- 5:** Kicks that Graham Gano has had blocked this season, the most for a kicker since 1997.
- 6:** Until this season, the fewest victories Mike Shanahan had in a year in 17 full seasons as a head coach.
- 15:** Redskin victories in the past three seasons — four in 2009, six in 2010 and five in 2011.
- 245:** Rushing yards by Evan Royster in the final two games.
- 256:** Passing yards for Rex Grossman. He only needed 24 to surpass 10,000 for his career.

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

PHILADELPHIA | Brian Orakpo was frustrated. Strength exercises at half-time and all, he and the Washington Redskins training staff couldn't figure out a way to get him back in the game.

He suffered a left pectoral muscle injury late in the first half of the Redskins' season-ending 34-10 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles, and he couldn't come to grips with his inability to return.

"I was just very disappointed I couldn't finish this game," Orakpo said. "Normally when I get banged-up or whatever, I'm always the guy that can shake it off and get back in there. But this time, it just wasn't able to happen."

Orakpo fell awkwardly on his left side when sacking Michael Vick and causing a fumble late in the second quarter. He wasn't sure of the extent of the injury and said an MRI was scheduled for Monday.

"[It was] serious enough that he couldn't play," coach Mike Shanahan said.

Earlier in the afternoon, Orakpo reached the eight-sack plateau for the season. It's the first time a Redskins player did that since Dexter Manley from 1983 to '89. But after watching his teammates allow 247 yards and 24 points in the second half, the record was merely a footnote.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Redskins linebacker Brian Orakpo suffered a pectoral muscle injury while sacking Eagles quarterback Michael Vick during the second quarter.

"I couldn't care less about the sacks, man," Orakpo said. "I'm all about Ws."

Orakpo did manage to continue some recent success against the NFC East. It took until his 17th division game, on Dec. 18, to register his first full sack in the NFC East, and he picked up two in this game.

"It's something good," Orakpo said. "I'm able to kind of get this little monkey off my back getting after these NFC East quarterbacks."

Eli Manning and Vick down,

"now I got [Tony] Romo left," Orakpo said.

That will have to wait for next season.

Banged-up backfield

Already without Tim Hightower because of a torn ACL and after releasing running back Ryan Torain last week, the Redskins turned the rushing duties over to Roy Helu and Evan Royster.

Royster enjoyed plenty of success

against Philadelphia, putting up 113 yards rushing and 52 receiving despite dealing with what Shanahan called "very sore" ribs and dehydration. The Penn State product needed to get an IV at one point but managed to get back into the game quickly.

"He was banged up most of the game," the coach said. "He was hurting."

Meanwhile, Helu, who was listed on the injury report with knee and toe ailments, was favoring his left leg for parts of the afternoon. He finished with just 5 yards on four carries, though he did turn a short pass into a 47-yard touchdown, limping all the way.

"He just never got back in the swing of things, and he was hampered throughout the game," Shanahan said.

McIntosh inactive

Linebacker Rocky McIntosh's role was reduced in the middle of the season. In the final game, he had none at all.

McIntosh was made inactive after picking up just four tackles in his past seven games. The 29-year-old impending free agent had started the first eight games but was replaced in the starting lineup by Perry Riley, considered the future at the position.

McIntosh signed a one-year deal with a \$1.25 million base salary for this season.