

Week 6



- Slow start dooms defense in ugly game. R2
- Lichtensteiger injury throws line into disarray. R3



Eagles 20, Redskins 13

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREW HARNIK/THE WASHINGTON TIMES

ABOVE: Redskins quarterback Rex Grossman is slow to get up after being sacked for an 8-yard loss during the second quarter. Grossman completed just 9 of 22 passes for 143 yards. BELOW: Eagles safety Kurt Coleman pockets one of Grossman's four interceptions on a pass intended for tight end Fred Davis.

IN WITH THE NEW

Beck takes over at QB after Grossman is benched for tossing four interceptions

BY RICH CAMPBELL
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

John Beck personified hope for the Washington Redskins at the beginning of the summer. He was an unknown quantity, an intriguing prospect on an overhauled roster.

His arm strength and athleticism drew praise from coach Mike Shanahan, assistant coaches and teammates. Throw in his willingness to make time for anyone with a camera or microphone, and there was so much to like.

Rex Grossman? Pfft. Everyone knew his reputation for turning the ball over. Beck had to be better than that alternative, right? Right?! But without a start since 2007, he remained a mystery.

Seven weeks into the season, we might finally learn the answer. Shanahan this week will decide whether to start Beck after Grossman threw four interceptions and was benched in the fourth

quarter of the Redskins' 20-13 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles Sunday at FedEx Field.

"We needed a spark," Shanahan said. "John has been practicing very well the last couple weeks, and with four turnovers there, we thought it was time to make a change and give John an opportunity to show what he could do."

Shanahan wouldn't immediately commit to a starter following his team's second straight loss to an NFC East opponent. "Make a decision Wednesday," he said.

Instead of burying the consensus preseason favorite, Philadelphia (2-4) resuscitated its season at Washington's expense.

The stats portray a Redskins team with a significant chasm between it and true playoff contenders. They were outgained by 135 yards. They converted only 1 of 10 third downs. They committed nine penalties for 75 yards.

» see REDSKINS | R3



Too many turnovers came at too crucial a position



ROD LAMKEY JR./THE WASHINGTON TIMES

After coming into the game for an ineffective Rex Grossman, quarterback John Beck capped the Redskins' only touchdown drive with a 2-yard run.

We knew this day was coming, didn't we, Washington Redskins fans? Sooner or later, Mike Shanahan was going to get sick and tired of Rex Grossman being Rex Grossman — just as, last December, he got sick and tired of Donovan McNabb being Donovan McNabb.

As it turns out, it happened sooner — in Game 5, coming off a bye week. After Grossman threw his fourth interception Sunday (and third to Philadelphia Eagles strong safety Kurt Coleman), Shanahan could take it no longer. In went John Beck, the 30-year-old mystery man; out went Rex, about whom Redskins Nation knows far too much.

And with that, the Washington quarterback carousel began spinning again — like a Six Flags ride, if you'll pardon the expression. It's the most important position on the field, the QB spot, but the Redskins haven't much stability



DAN DALY

there for ... has it really been two decades? Naming their umpteenth starting quarterbacks since their last Super Bowl has become a parlor game, and doing it in chronological order (Mark Rypien, Cary Conklin, Rich Gannon ...) should earn you a Jack Kent Cooke scholarship, or at least a free topping on your next Papa John's pizza.

In the wake of an ugly 20-13 loss to the Eagles at FedEx Field, it looks to be Beck's turn at the offensive wheel. Or rather, it had *better* be Beck's turn. Grossman is, after all, what we thought he was: a serviceable backup quarterback. Hand him the starting job, though, and you get passer ratings of 74.1, 75.6, 48.5 and now 23.7 in consecutive games.

It's hard to win with that kind of quarterbacking, with Rex (nine INTs, two fumbles) turning the ball over a couple of times a week.

» see DALY | R2

A TOUGH ONE TO WATCH AT FEDEX FIELD



ANDREW HARNIK/THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Redskins fans react to a 20-13 loss to the NFC East rival Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday in Landover. Washington fell behind by 20 points, then saw its rally come up short after John Beck took over for Rex Grossman.

Defense doomed by slow start



DERON SNYDER

Coming off the bye week, facing a desperate team with a dangerous offense, Washington's defense opened Sunday's game in the worst possible fashion — flat and lax.

Actually, that's not true. The Redskins held Philadelphia to a three-and-out on the game's first possession.

But for the rest of half, the Eagles drove the field like it was their personal HOV lane. And that was enough to secure a 20-13 victory in a must-win game for them, as opposed to a woulda-been-nice win for Washington.

Picking on the defense is difficult when it yields a mere 20 points, none after intermission. But it's responsible for the heavy lifting if Washington is to be successful. No one really expected Rex Grossman to carry the load, a weight he dropped with a thud Sunday. The Redskins aren't built to come from behind, and a bad start on defense immediately puts victory in peril.

Such was the case against the Eagles. We should be celebrating the defense's resiliency, the way it rebounded and pitched a second-half shutout. Instead, the focus shifts to the first 30 minutes that virtually decided the game.

"We responded well in the second half, but realistically 20 points is 20 points," nose tackle Barry Cofield said. "Whether they score 20 points in the first quarter doesn't matter. That's too much. It's not the goal we set for ourselves, and we came up short

today. But it could've been a lot worse. It could've gotten even uglier in the first half."

It was plenty ugly as it was, with the Eagles producing four consecutive scoring drives, each at least eight plays. There were three lengthy marches (82, 72 and 69 yards) and a short-fielder (41 yards). Washington's saving grace was tightening up in the red zone and holding Philly to field goals on the last two.

The Redskins were keeping Philly from its customary explosive, big plays, but the effect was maddening. It was like a new version of "Old McDonald," a dink, dink here and a dink, dink there. Essentially that was Washington's game plan, but not to that extent.

"The short to medium stuff kept adding up," linebacker Brian Orakpo said. "It was getting a little frustrating because they have such big-time receivers and on film they usually throw it down the field."

Well, it's hard to throw downfield when the cornerbacks give more cushion than a Serta Perfect Sleeper. If they played back any farther they would've been in the third row. Vick completed 12 of 20 passes for 141 yards in the first half, as four of his receivers averaged at least 10 yards per reception.

Contrast that to the second half, when Vick was held to 96 yards passing, with 59 coming on a completion to Jeremy Maclin.

Those were the types of plays Washington feared most, but it was the short stuff that made a difference in the end. The defense did a great job overall in the final 30 minutes, once it realized that the bye week ended at 1 p.m.

"We didn't make adjustments on many assignments," safety Oshiomogho Atogwe

said. "It was more of an attitude and emotional adjustment. Coming in off the bye week, we may have come into the game flat. We didn't start as intense as the defense normally does. That can hurt you against this team, which is very powerful offensively."

Especially when your own offense can't match that firepower. With Grossman struggling to complete more passes to teammates instead of defenders, and a running game that failed to produce behind a banged-up line, the defense was on the field for all but 8 minutes, 22 seconds before intermission.

Unfortunately, the lethargic effort on one side appeared to affect the other.

"It seemed like a chain effect," Cofield said. "The defense was struggling and the offense was struggling, and it shouldn't be like that. We should be two separate entities no matter what's happening on the other side of the ball. We have to feel like one big play can change the whole momentum."

They nearly pulled it off. A third-quarter interception by Atogwe at the 1-yard line kept the deficit at 20-6, but the Redskins failed to capitalize. On the next defensive series, cornerback DeAngelo Hall picked off Vince Young — replacing a dazed Vick — to set up Washington at the Eagles' 18-yard line.

Alas, that opportunity was lost when Grossman threw his third interception of the afternoon.

"Those [takeaways] are things when you win, you look back and say that's why you won the game," Cofield said. "But when you lose, you focus on the negatives."

Ultimately, there were 30 negatives for the Redskins' defense: one for every minute of the first half.

DALY

From page R1

The Redskins are fortunate to be 3-2 and still in the NFC East hunt. The time has come to give the Other Guy a shot.

Besides, the Other Guy has mobility that Grossman lacks, and that could come in handy considering the state of the offensive line. Kory Lichtensteiger blew out his right knee against Philly, and Trent Williams suffered a high right ankle sprain. So, assuming Williams is out a while, the quarterback's blind side figures to be protected — for the short term, anyway — by Erik Cooke and Sean Locklear. In that situation, it's better to have Beck (and his wheels) at QB than a sitting-duck type like Grossman.

Shanahan wouldn't commit to anything, of course. "I would never announce [a quarterback change] right after a game," he said. But if common sense holds any sway at Redskins Park, Beck will be the starter Sunday at Carolina. He just has to be.

Listening to Grossman explain his four picks against the Eagles was like one watching of those "Law and Order" scenes where they hand the accused a pad of paper and say, "Here, write down a confession. You'll feel better." Grossman didn't sound too disturbed about the first one, which came on third-and-16 at the Philadelphia 38, because it functioned essentially as a punt. (The Eagles would have started at their 3-yard line if Williams hadn't been drawn a personal-foul penalty after the play.) And interception No. 3, he suggested, might have been the result of some ragged route running by Fred Davis.

But that still leaves picks No. 2 ("I just didn't throw it far enough to the sideline") and No. 4 ("I thought Jabar [Gaffney] was coming back for the ball, and the defender was"). Even two are too many.

Not everything can be blamed on Grossman. The Redskins, after a week off, were out of sync on both sides of the ball and fell behind 20-0 before rallying. On one play, the normally nimble Santana Moss simply tripped and fell while running downfield. All their penalties, moreover — nine total — indicated a certain rustiness, too. It looked more like the first day of minicamp than the first day of the serious part (that is, the post-bye-week part) of the NFL season.

Whether Beck can get the offense functioning smoothly is an open question. He's pretty much a blank slate, a five-year "veteran" who, until Grossman ran aground, hadn't played in a regular-season game since 2007, when he was a rookie in Miami. His arm doesn't wow you, and his play against the Eagles (8 of 15 for 117 yards) didn't dazzle; it was merely adequate. (It was nothing, for instance, like the off-the-bench debuts of Trent Green and Patrick Ramsey in years past.)

At one point, Beck actually knocked the ball out of his own hand while attempting to pass. (Fortunately for the Redskins, he recovered the fumble.) But he also directed two nice drives in his quarter of action — the first of which reached the Philadelphia 26 before it was undone by a holding penalty, the second of which, an 80-yard garbage-time special, produced the only Washington touchdown (one that came on his own quarterback draw).

With so little to go on, you can't jump to too many conclusions. What you can say is that Beck moved well in the pocket and seemed to get a good view of the field. The latter appeared to be a problem with Grossman, who always was throwing over linemen (and getting balls batted down) or failing to notice lurking defensive backs and linebackers.

Still, Beck would be a roll of the dice for Shanahan, just as Grossman was. And that's not the greatest position for a coach to be in, not in the second year of a rebuilding project. But this is where the Redskins are — on the verge, quite possibly, of replacing one backup-quality starting quarterback with what could be another. Not that they haven't been here before, too many times to count.



ROD LAMKEY JR./THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Eagles running back LeSean McCoy finds a hole in the Redskins' defense and scores on a 1-yard run. McCoy finished with 126 yards rushing.

EAGLES 20, REDSKINS 13

Lichtensteiger likely sidelined for the season

Offensive lineman suffers extensive damage to knee on team's first series

By NATHAN FENNO
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Perched awkwardly on a folding chair, Kory Lichtensteiger tugged a black sock onto his right foot.

His face was red. A pair of crutches leaned on his locker at FedEx Field. His right leg, bent at the knee, was frozen in place. The simple act of pulling on a sock looked agonizing for the Washington Redskins left guard.

A hit away from the football on the Redskins' fourth offensive play against the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday likely ended Lichtensteiger's season, infuriated teammates and pushed the team's offensive line into disarray. That the Eagles won only accentuated the discomfort.

"This is definitely the worst moment in my football career to date," Lichtensteiger said, his voice thick with pain and emotion. "I felt the whole thing go. ... It was instantaneous."

Fellow lineman Will Montgomery confirmed Lichtensteiger tore the anterior cruciate and medial collateral ligaments in his right knee. Lichtensteiger will miss the remainder of the season, a source said.

Nearby, second-year left tackle Trent Williams hobbled with a high right ankle sprain that knocked him out of the

game. The injuries pushed Erik Cook and Sean Locklear into action, moved Montgomery from center to left guard and used up what little offensive line depth the Redskins owned.

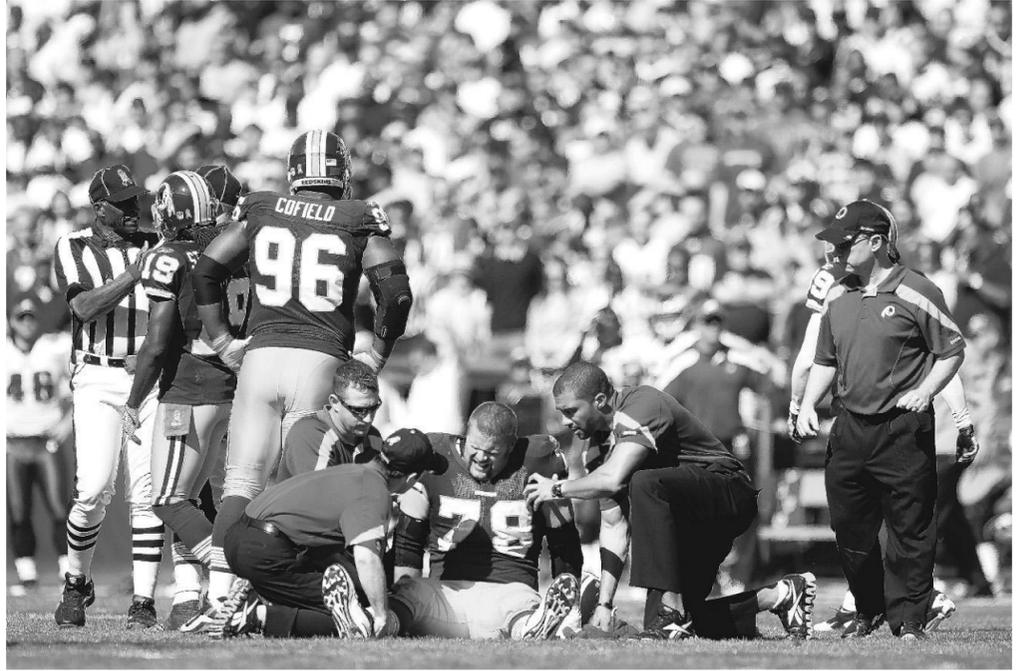
Williams — who mumbled off his own injury with a half-hearted "I'm fine" — blamed Eagles' defensive end Daryl Tapp for Lichtensteiger's damaged knee. After the play, Williams drew a personal foul for his involvement in an altercation. Two plays earlier he was called for holding, too.

"[Tapp] just kind of grabbed him and threw him down," Williams said. "The ref looked right at it. He failed to make the call. It was a dirty play to begin with. It was like 30 yards away."

Montgomery and Cook didn't see the play. Lichtensteiger, in obvious discomfort, spoke briefly before a member of the Redskins public relations staff helped him out of the locker room.

"He's doing as good as you can after something like this," said Montgomery, who regularly golfed and worked out with Lichtensteiger during the offseason. "But he's pretty bummed."

Even Cook wasn't healthy, after he strained his calf during pregame warm-ups and wasn't supposed to play. But the seventh-round pick by the Redskins in 2010 took pulled in a deep breath, then



Redskins offensive lineman Kory Lichtensteiger is tended to after suffering a knee injury during the first quarter against Philadelphia. Teammate Will Montgomery said Lichtensteiger tore his ACL and MCL.

ANDREW HARNIK/THE WASHINGTON TIMES

jogged into his first regular-season game.

When John Beck replaced Rex Grossman at quarterback, Cook had the familiarity of working with him on the scout team.

Aside from one false start, Cook appeared calm.

"I was excited, nervous, every emotion possible," Cook said.

Locklear, the tackle who started 15 of

16 games last season for the Seattle Seahawks, completed the patchwork line. And there was no alternative to Cook gutting out the game, no matter the condition of his calf. The only other offensive lineman on the 53-man roster is Willie Smith, a rookie from East Carolina who was inactive on Sunday.

The line's sudden turnover could have been blamed, in part, for a running game that managed 42 yards on 14 car-

ries. "It seemed like we just couldn't get into that rhythm for one reason or another. I don't know why," Montgomery said. "It's a little bit off. Guys are dropping like flies. I'm not going to use that as an excuse. It sucks today, right now."

Lichtensteiger understands. Face still red, the lineman heaved himself up from the chair, wedged crutches under his arms and scooted away.



Redskins linebackers Rocky McIntosh (52) and Brian Orakpo react in the end zone after McIntosh was flagged for roughing the passer during the first quarter.

ANDREW HARNIK/THE WASHINGTON TIMES

EAGLES 20, REDSKINS 13

Roughing the passer a tough call

Field position, opportunity lost after penalty for hit on Vick

By STEPHEN WHYNO
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Michael Vick knew he was in trouble. The snap flew over his head and he was scrambling back into the end zone. This was just Philadelphia's second drive, and Washington Redskins linebackers Brian Orakpo and Rocky McIntosh already were converging on him.

"It started out as a disaster," the Eagles' quarterback said. "When you have Orakpo coming down your barrel, you know you're about to take one."

Vick took one after he sent the ball soaring out of bounds. The problem for the Redskins is that a flag came in — not for intentional grounding but for roughing the passer. The penalty called on McIntosh for a late hit (that also could have been on Orakpo for hitting Vick in the helmet) gave the Eagles a first down at their 31-yard line.

"I didn't think it would turn out to be a 15-yard penalty on them," Vick admitted. "I think the ref made the call because he knew I was trying to get the ball out of my hands and out of bounds."

The Redskins weren't big fans of the call, and nose tackle Barry Cofield said that it was the turning point of the game.

"I think it was. It was tough," Cofield said. "We had a lot of other opportunities later on in the game. But when you

lose that type of field position on that kind of penalty, it hurts."

Orakpo said it didn't matter whether the call was on him or McIntosh but insisted it didn't change the way he played the rest of the game.

"You just got to stay aggressive," he said. "You know they're going to protect the quarterbacks."

In this case, protecting Vick proved costly for the Redskins, who forced Philadelphia into a three-and-out on the first drive of the game.

But after the Redskins couldn't take advantage of a frazzled Vick and took the penalty, he, LeSean McCoy and the Eagles marched down the field to take a 7-0 lead.

"He just kept dinking and dunking down the field. That's what kind of negated us trying to get to him and make big plays," Orakpo said. "He just stepped out, kept throwing quick plays, quick plays. We had to settle down. We had to settle down, and we had to rally to wherever he was throwing the ball."

That certainly didn't happen on that drive, or the Eagles' next one, which made it 14-0 very early in the second quarter. Meanwhile, Rex Grossman was in the process of throwing four interceptions, and the offense managed just six points until a late effort by John Beck.

The Redskins' defense did settle

down in the second half, something Cofield attributed to halftime adjustments by defensive coordinator Jim Haslett.

"We just made less mistakes. We were opportunistic. And that's what you have to do against this offense," he said. "They've got big-play capabilities. But then they've got to line up and snap it again, and hopefully they'll make a mistake. And if you don't capitalize, it's going to be a long day for you."

It was a long day, however, that started getting long with the roughing the passer call. Orakpo didn't want to comment on the validity of the penalty, and McIntosh simply walked away from reporters in the locker room.

This was an especially difficult situation with Vick, as Cofield likened hitting the quarterback's small frame to a pitcher getting squeezed by a small strike zone. And as much as the veteran nose tackle wasn't a fan of the call, he recognizes that if referees are going to provide quarterbacks with that kind of protection, he and his teammates must adjust.

"I think they're watching his back now, because of all the hits he's taken all season," Cofield said. "The only thing we can do is correct it. If they're going to make that call, we've got to come low, we've got to hit him low or we've got to pull off."

REDSKINS

From page R1

The Redskins (3-2) averaged 3.0 yards on 14 rushes against a defense that entered the game giving up 5.0 yards per carry. Philadelphia held the ball for 16 minutes longer than Washington did.

Instead of defending home turf against a reeling rival and establishing some clout in first place, the Redskins finished the day in second after New York won.

"It's very tough, very disappointing," defensive end Adam Carriker said.

All the positive vibes from the Redskins' hot start vanished in a sobering reality check. Their good luck regarding injuries turned. Left guard Kory Lichtensteiger was lost for the season with ligament tears in his right knee. Left tackle Trent Williams left the game with a high right ankle sprain. And tight end Chris Cooley suffered a left hand fracture that will require surgery.

Adding insult to those injuries is a fresh round of uncertainty at quarterback.

Beck's uneven play in the preseason cost him the competition against Grossman for the starting job. Over Labor Day weekend, he went from being a central focus to an anonymous backup.

Grossman, however, brought the cycle full-circle with four interceptions.

"We didn't take advantage of the opportunities that were given to us as an offense," Grossman said. "We didn't execute. I didn't execute."

The most damaging was pick No. 3. The Redskins trailed 20-6 with 6 minutes, 38 seconds remaining in the third quarter. Despite being dominated, they still had a chance. DeAngelo Hall's interception had just given Washington possession at the Eagles' 18-yard line.

After an unsuccessful running play, Grossman tried to find tight end Fred Davis near the goal line.

"I trusted that [Davis] was going to be able to cross the safety's face on his route," Grossman said. "I'm not sure what happened, but he wasn't able to. The safety stepped up in front."

Shanahan gave Grossman another chance. The outcome was the same. Interception — Grossman's ninth of the season.

Beck came in and managed one touchdown drive, running it in himself from 2 yards. He finished 8 of 15 passing for 117 yards and a passer rating of 79.0. He completed several passes by maintaining quality mechanics under pressure.

Those snaps were his first with the first-team offense since the preseason. He practiced exclusively with the scout

EAGLES 20, REDSKINS 13				
Philadelphia	7	13	0	0 - 20
Washington	0	3	3	7 - 13
First Quarter				
Phi-Celek 7 pass from Vick (Henery kick), 6:50.				
Second Quarter				
Phi-McCoy 1 run (Henery kick), 14:15.				
Phi-FG Henery 28, 6:58.				
Phi-FG Henery 24, 2:27.				
Was-FG Gano 50, :30.				
Third Quarter				
Was-FG Gano 26, 12:40.				
Fourth Quarter				
Was-Beck 2 run (Gano kick), 2:44.				
A-80,447.				
	Phi	Was		
First downs	22	17		
Total Net Yards	422	287		
Rushes-yards	38-192	14-42		
Passing	230	245		
Punt Returns	0-0	2-4		
Kickoff Returns	0-0	5-149		
Interceptions Ret.	4-38	2-5		
Comp-Att-Int	18-32-2	17-37-4		
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-7	2-15		
Punts	3-43.7	4-42.5		
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-0		
Penalties-Yards	8-60	9-75		
Time of Possession	38:08	21:52		
Leaders				
RUSHING —Philadelphia, McCoy 28-126, Vick 7-54, Lewis 2-10, Young 1-2. Washington, Torain 10-22, Beck 2-14, Helu 2-6.				
PASSING —Philadelphia, Vick 18-31-1-237, Young 0-1-1-0. Washington, Grossman 9-22-4-143, Beck 8-15-0-117.				
RECEIVING —Philadelphia, Maclin 5-101, Celek 4-42, D.Jackson 3-46, Avant 3-28, McCoy 2-13, Smith 1-7. Washington, Davis 6-95, Stallworth 3-30, Gaffney 2-55, Moss 2-38, Helu 2-11, Austin 1-32, Cooley 1- (minus 1).				
MISSED FIELD GOALS —None.				

team since then.

"A handful of weeks of being in on meetings, being out at practice, I tried to visually get as much as I could from practice, standing in a position where my eyes could get reps, just trying to do what I could if this did happen," Beck said.

"To be honest, I don't know if I felt a great rhythm because of the way the game had gone, and we were trying to claw for what we could."

Beck impressed some of his teammates with how he played after coming in cold.

"For John to be in mentally, you have to give him kudos because he was able to come in and give us spark and keep his composure without him being in for the last six weeks," receiver Donte Stallworth said.

Now it's up to Shanahan to decide whether Beck is ready to take over permanently. Since languishing in the preseason finale, Beck has had another six weeks to learn. Will that produce a significant improvement?

The Redskins can only hope.

"We didn't take advantage of the opportunities that were given to us as an offense. We didn't execute. I didn't execute."

— Rex Grossman

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
Sun., Oct. 23

WEEK 8



at Bills (Toronto)
Sun., Oct. 30

WEEK 9



vs. 49ers
Sun., Nov. 6

WEEK 10



at Dolphins
Sun., Nov. 13

WEEK 11



vs. Cowboys
Sun., Nov. 20

WEEK 12



at Seahawks
Sun., Nov. 27

WEEK 13



vs. Jets
Sun., Dec. 4

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

EAGLES 20, REDSKINS 13: QUARTER-BY-QUARTER



ANDREW HARNIK/THE WASHINGTON TIMES

FIRST QUARTER: Redskins Brian Orakpo (98) and Rocky McIntosh react with dismay after McIntosh was flagged for roughing the passer.



ROD LAMKEY JR./THE WASHINGTON TIMES

SECOND QUARTER: Eagles safety Nate Allen gathers in a deep pass intended for Redskins receiver Jabar Gaffney, one of four interceptions thrown by Rex Grossman.



ROD LAMKEY JR./THE WASHINGTON TIMES

THIRD QUARTER: Redskins safety Oshiomogho Atogwe intercepts a pass intended for Eagles receiver Jason Avant on the 1-yard line.



ANDREW HARNIK/THE WASHINGTON TIMES

FOURTH QUARTER: Redskins quarterback John Beck, making his first regular-season appearance since 2007, scored on a 2-yard touchdown run.

1 Washington's first possession ended in an interception. The second was three-and-out. The Redskins ran all of seven plays in the period and were outgained 143-23. No surprise they fell behind 14-0 just two plays into the second quarter. And one play was huge in all of that.

Early in the quarter, the Eagles made a bad snap out of the shotgun on second-and-12 from their own 16. Michael Vick picked up the ball and hurriedly got rid of it from the end zone. A flag flew? Grounding? Nope. The Redskins' Rocky McIntosh was flagged for roughing the passer and the Eagles' bad situation became a first down at the 31. They moved it all the way down the field, scoring on a 7-yard pass from Vick to tight end Brent Celek.

LeSean McCoy scored the Eagles' second touchdown, which is officially a second-quarter score but ought to count against the Redskins' awful first quarter.

2 Perhaps the most amazing thing at halftime is that the Redskins weren't behind by a lot more than 20-3. They had the ball for only 8:22 in the first half. In the first 12 1/2 minutes of the second quarter, they were outgained 106-9. Grossman threw another interception. The Eagles were on their way to a 250-yard half.

But after that early second-quarter touchdown, the Eagles couldn't get into the end zone. They had to settle for two field goals. And the Redskins, despite giving up a huge sack on third down very late in the half, found some magic dust in kicker Graham Gano, who hit a 50-yard field goal with 30 seconds left to get Washington on the board and keep the Eagles at least within sight.

Grossman completed six passes in the half. Four went to Fred Davis. Santana Moss was held without a catch. The Redskins' total on the ground for the half? Nineteen yards.

KEY PLAY

The game wasn't four minutes old when Philadelphia faced a second-and-12 from its own 16. The shotgun snap went awry. Michael Vick scrambled to recover it and tossed it away while in the end zone. Grounding? Nope. There was a flag, but it was for roughing the passer on Rocky McIntosh. Instead of third-and-12 (or worse with grounding), the Eagles had a first down on the 31. They went down and scored. Who knows what might have happened without the penalty, but the flag likely salvaged the drive that set the tone for the game.

3 It was a much better quarter for the Redskins in many respects, but that's all relative because it really wasn't all that good. Sure, the Redskins moved the ball some. Sure, they kept the Eagles from scoring—and intercepted two passes. But they only cut the deficit by three, thanks to a Gano field goal early in the quarter.

A big reason why they didn't score more? Grossman threw two more interceptions, both to Kurt Coleman. Yeah, the same Coleman who also had a "pick" in the first half. Grossman's four interceptions through the first three quarters were only one fewer than he had in the previous four games.

Coleman, meanwhile, saw his career interception total rise from one to four thanks to his handwork with Grossman's passes.

The really good news for Redskins fans is Grossman's pick total couldn't grow, as John Beck came in for the final quarter.

4 The last was the best quarter of the day for the Redskins, and certainly one that will create some conversation because it created a quarterback question.

Washington replaced Grossman with Beck and, for starters, Beck didn't complete any passes to the Eagles. He did complete 8 of 15 overall and was 5 of 8 during an 80-yard drive that produced the Redskins' only touchdown of the day. Who scored? It was Beck, running it in from 2 yards out to get the Redskins within seven points after Gano's conversion kick.

Alas, the defense couldn't get the ball back. The unit didn't allow the Eagles a point in the second half but couldn't make a stop on the final drive to give Beck a shot at being an end-game hero. As it is, Redskins coach Mike Shanahan will have to face many questions in the coming week about who is now the Skins' quarterback. Stay tuned, it promises to be interesting.

REDSKINS NOTES

Cooley 'frustrated' by his latest injury

BY THE NUMBERS

3: Interceptions by the Eagles' Kurt Coleman, who had one career pick coming into the game. He's the first Eagle with three picks in a game since Joe Scapati against the New York Giants in 1966.

4: Interceptions thrown by Redskins quarterback Rex Grossman, who only threw five through the season's first four games. It tied a single-game high for Grossman.

4 (again!): Consecutive seasons the Redskins have lost coming out of their bye week, with the past two to the Eagles. Before that stretch, they'd won nine of their past 11 games after their in-season break.

18(th): Where Chris Cooley now stands alone on the all-time reception list for tight ends with 428 after his one catch (for -1 yard). He had been tied with Mike Ditka.

BY STEPHEN WHYNO
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Chris Cooley caught the ball on a short play in the open field in the first quarter. Unfortunately for him and the Redskins, it was his first and only catch of the day.

Eagles cornerback Nnamdi Asomugha crushed Cooley for a loss of a yard. What's worse is that the collision ended the tight end's day—and likely will keep him out for a while.

Cooley suffered a broken left index finger that will require surgery, coach Mike Shanahan said. There is no timetable for his return.

"I'm frustrated that I can't keep playing and that I can't stay out there for us," said Cooley, who was instructed not to talk about his injury. "It just wasn't an option."

When Cooley went out, the Redskins were down 7-0 and didn't manage any significant progress on offense until late, when John Beck engineered a scoring drive. And while fellow tight end Fred Davis was the team's leading receiver with six catches for 95 yards, Cooley lamented how the offense stagnated without him.

"I know our game plan changed quite a bit when I went out of the game," Cooley said. "We had a two-tight-end package that we practiced a lot and we felt very

confident in. And that's not to say anything bad about Logan [Paulsen]—he just didn't practice this week, as far as the tight end spot goes."

This is just the latest injury setback for Cooley, who missed the preseason after offseason knee surgery, suffered a concussion in 2008 and broke an ankle in 2009.

"Do I feel snake-bitten? No, I do not," Cooley said. "The NFL is a league of injuries. I've been a little bit unfortunate, I guess in the last couple seasons. But no, I don't feel snake-bitten."

Atogwe gets turnover

When the Redskins went out and got Oshiomogho Atogwe, they expected plenty of turnovers. In six seasons with the Rams, the safety had 22 interceptions.

But through four games, Atogwe had yet to pick off a pass. Defensive coordinator Jim Haslett explained that a hamstring injury was hampering Atogwe's game.

"So far this week, I think he's finally breaking through that and he's looking a lot better to me," Haslett said last week.

Despite a toe problem, Atogwe finally broke through Sunday by intercepting Eagles quarterback Michael Vick at the Washington 1 in the third quarter.

"I worked just as hard all week

as I did in the past, and I was just blessed and fortunate to be in a position to make the play," Atogwe said.

Like so many other times against Philadelphia, the Redskins were unable to make that turnover into points.

No work for Hightower

A few weeks ago, Tim Hightower was the center of attention as he rushed for 96 yards at FedEx Field in the Redskins' win over the Arizona Cardinals. Sunday, he was wearing a uniform and pads but was set to play only on an emergency basis.

Hightower, who was listed on the team's injury report as questionable with a shoulder injury, did not see any action against the Eagles.

"I've got to get healthy, man," he said.

Falling behind early, the Redskins abandoned the running game, as they only ran 14 times all game. Ryan Torain got the bulk of the carries—10 for 22 yards, while Roy Helu had the only other two by a running back.

Hightower, though, said not playing Sunday was precautionary and that he's feeling better.

"It was just a matter of resting up," he said. "I'll be good to go for the rest of the season."

WEEK 7 REDSKINS AT PANTHERS



Kickoff: 1 p.m. **TV:** Fox
Radio: AM-980, FM-92.7, FM-94.3

What to watch: Washington begins a stretch of three road games in four weeks against a Carolina team that has new life with No. 1 overall pick Cam Newton at quarterback.

- Newton entered Sunday's game against Atlanta on pace to throw for more than 5,000 yards. He also is averaging about 4 yards per carry, showing the athleticism that helped him win the Heisman Trophy last year at Auburn. But Newton came down to Earth on Sunday. He threw for 237 yards and ran for a score, but he was intercepted three times in a 31-17 loss.
- Carolina's defense, led by defensive end Charles Johnson, has struggled during a 1-5 start.

