

TERPS' QUARTERBACK WOES CONTINUE WITH HILLS INJURED, C1

EXPANDED COVERAGE, R4: Big day ends badly for Moss
Adding injury to insult, Washington loses tight end Davis to torn Achilles



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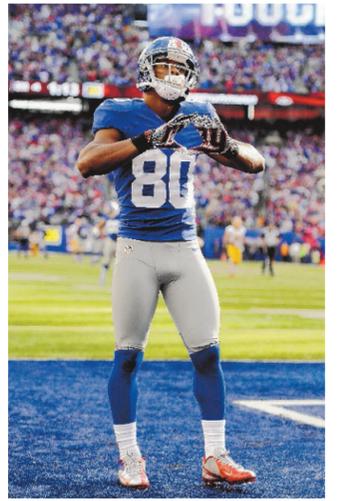
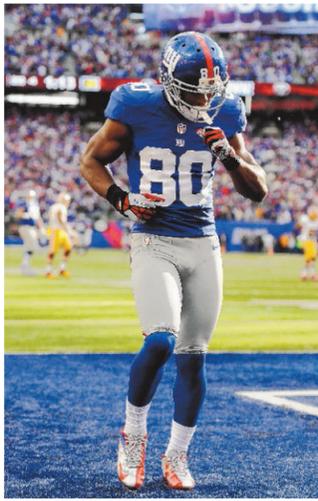
GAMEDAY

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The Washington Times

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PRESTON KERES/SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Giants wide receiver Victor Cruz performs his celebration salsa dance Sunday after scoring a 77-yard touchdown with 1:13 to play. Cruz finished with seven catches for 131 yards and the game-deciding TD.

THE LAST DANCE

Complete game still elusive to Redskins

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.

That was no ordinary team the Washington Redskins cuffed around Sunday to the tune of 480 yards — 248 rushing, 232 (net) passing. That was the New York Giants, the defending Super Bowl champs, a club with one of the most fearsome defensive fronts in football. And the Redskins ... well, I'll let Santana Moss say it:



DAN DALY

"Offensively, we can do anything we want with the ball in his hands and with that guy in the backfield."

Anything to anybody — even to Jason Pierre-Paul, Osi Umenyiora, Justin Tuck and the gang.

Moss was talking,

of course, about Robert Griffin III and Alfred Morris, the Redskins' twin rookie terrors. On a cloudless Sunday at MetLife Stadium, Griffin and Morris nearly yin-ed and yanged the Giants into submission. RG3 threw for 258 yards, completed more than 70 percent of his passes and lofted a 30-yard touchdown pass to Moss with 1:32 left that *should* have been The Dagger but wasn't. Morris, meanwhile, ran over and around the home team for 120 yards (and Robert, when he wasn't running the option, carrying out fakes and otherwise making a nuisance of himself, tacked on 89 more rushing yards).

It was beautiful to behold, this Redskins attack. It had the Giants' heads spinning — and their fans' stomachs churning. As Griffin put it: "I thought what we did kinda stalemated them for a long time. They didn't know what was coming. We created confusion."

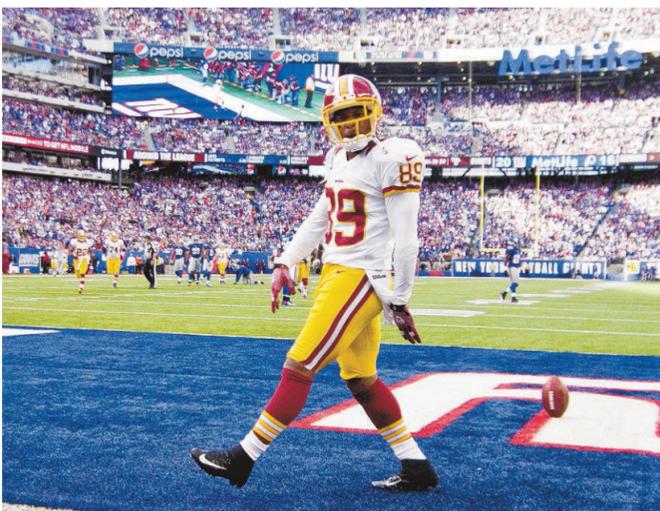
To which Barry Cofield, the erstwhile Giant, added, "I'm sure their defense isn't walking away feeling



PRESTON KERES/SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Washington defensive backs Josh Wilson (26), DeAngelo Hall (23) and Madieu Williams (41) could only watch as Cruz and the Giants negated the Redskins' rally, which included a 30-yard touchdown catch by Redskins wide receiver Santana Moss (below) just 19 seconds earlier.

Cruz strikes after Washington goes up with 1:32 left



CRAIG BISACRE/THE WASHINGTON TIMES

By RICH CAMPBELL
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. | Robert Griffin III trudged off the field alone late Sunday afternoon. All but one of his Washington Redskins teammates had disappeared into the locker room after the New York Giants ripped out their collective heart in the cruelest fashion. Griffin lagged behind, and as a handful of photographers captured his walk, he contemplated the latest painful lesson of his rookie season.

Leave it to Rex Grossman, that steadfast source of veteran-quarterbacking wisdom, to crystallize it for him. Life in the NFL, Grossman told him, includes wins when you should have lost and losses in games you believe you should have won.

"This," Griffin said, "is a game that we should have won."

What else could Griffin have thought after New York escaped with a 27-23 victory following a frenetic series of punches and counterpunches in the fourth quarter?

His brilliant 30-yard touchdown pass to Santana Moss put the Redskins ahead with 1:32 remaining. But only 19 seconds later, Giants quarterback Eli Manning, owner of two Super Bowl rings because of moments just like this, upstaged him with a 77-yard touchdown pass to Victor Cruz.

Victory for the Redskins became defeat. First place in the NFC East became last place. And they headed home wondering, again, how breakdowns in the secondary continue to outweigh how Griffin has galvanized their offense.

"Right now," Griffin said, "it's kind of hard to know what to think."

EXPANDED REDSKINS COVERAGE THROUGHOUT THE SEASON: WASHINGTONTIMES.COM/SPORTS/FOOTBALL

NOTEBOOK

Morris runs for 120 yards, but fumble sticks out

By STEPHEN WHYNO AND NATHAN FENNO

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. | The New York Giants had few answers for Washington's rushing game Sunday. Sprinkle in some variety with Robert Griffin III and add a heavy dose of Alfred Morris, and the Redskins racked up 248 yards.

"Having a dual-threat quarterback back in the backfield definitely helps me. They can't just key on me alone," Morris said. "So it's definitely a perfect marriage between both of us. We continue to perform good from the backfield ... it can make it tough on defenses to stop us."

But after the 27-23 loss, that rushing performance was secondary to a couple of fumbles lost by the rookies. And even though Morris' first of his NFL career didn't lead to New York points, it stuck out as what the rookie will take from this game.

"I fumbled," Morris said. "If I have anything to do about it, I'd never fumble again."

Morris, who ran for a career-best 120 yards on 22 carries, lost his first fumble on his 132nd carry. Soon after he lost control, the lesson from fullback Darrel Young was simple.

"I came to him on the sideline and I said, 'It's got to happen sometime. You're still doing great,'" Young said. "No one says anything when Chris Johnson ran for 2,000 yards when he fumbled. It's the game we live."

Morris explained that, when he coughed the ball up in Giants territory in the third quarter, he failed to secure it before trying to make a move. It's not a mistake he wants to repeat.

"It definitely does sting. I hate fumbling," he said. "That's like my biggest pet peeve as a running



Redskins running back Alfred Morris' first fumble came on his 132nd carry. Still, the rookie rushed for a career-best 120 yards on 22 carries in the New York Giants' 27-23 win Sunday.

back: fumbling and [getting] my quarterback hit. I definitely was upset about that, but I'm going to do everything in my power not to have it happen again."

Fumbles from Morris and Griffin aside, they found numerous holes in the defense and opened up space for the passing attack.

"The way Alfred runs, the way RG3 makes plays, I'm not surprised at all about the running game," Young said. "We got some talent on this team. We've got a lot of guys that can run."

Fletcher hurts hamstring

London Fletcher was forced out of the game in the third quarter when he felt something pull in his right hamstring.

The middle linebacker and defensive captain did not return.

"I wanted to go out there in two-minute [defense], but I couldn't go out there and be me and play the way I was capable of playing or risk further injuring it or also put our team at a disadvantage because I couldn't go," Fletcher said.

Coach Mike Shanahan described Fletcher's injury as a "slight hamstring strain," but Fletcher was far from upbeat about it after the game. He has played in 231 consecutive games, the longest active streak in the NFL.

"We'll see how things go; we'll see how I feel tomorrow and the rest of the week," Fletcher said. "It's a long way to Sunday. I'll get treatment, do everything I can to get back on the field."

Williams decries 'B.S.' penalty

A third-quarter penalty on right tackle Tyler Polumbus for a leg whip left one of his teammates upset with the referees. The penalty sliced Morris' 15-yard run into a 2-yard gain, and Morris fumbled on the next play.

"It was total B.S., but that's what we've got to play with," left tackle Trent Williams said. "The refs aren't perfect. We kind of beat ourselves, in a sense."

Williams hesitated before delivering the last three words, as if he didn't really believe them.

Mike Pereira, the Fox analyst and former NFL

vice president of officiating, tweeted his belief the call was correct.

Forbath confident

Kai Forbath insisted he wanted to stick around a long time even given the Redskins' recent revolving door of kickers.

Despite being short on a couple of kickoffs, Forbath went 3 for 3 on field goal attempts Sunday, making from 20, 43 and 45 yards. He looked confident on every one.

"That's the only way to make them. When you start thinking about misses, that's when you're going to miss," Forbath said. "I tell myself before every kick, 'I've made this kick a thousand times. There's no difference in doing them out there than it is in practice.'"

Fan injured in escalator fall

New Jersey State Police say a man has been critically hurt after falling more than 20 feet from an escalator as he exited MetLife Stadium after the game.

Sgt. Adam Grossman says the 42-year-old man was leaving the stadium in East Rutherford on Sunday at around 4 p.m. when he fell over the side of the escalator. It's not clear what caused him to fall.

Grossman says the man fell about 21 feet and landed on a metal stage.

The man was airlifted to Hackensack University Hospital and was in critical condition Sunday night.

Grossman said the investigation is ongoing. • *The Associated Press contributed to this report*



Redskins defenders Madiou Williams and DeAngelo Hall trail Victor Cruz into the end zone after the Giants receiver scored the game-winning touchdown.

REDSKINS

From page R1

This would have been an incredible win. The Redskins were one blown coverage away from beating the defending Super Bowl champs in their stadium, from overcoming Griffin's two second-half turnovers, a lost fumble by running back Alfred Morris and the season-ending left Achilles tendon tear tight end Fred Davis suffered in the first quarter.

Instead, they're 3-4 and in last place. What transpired in the final moments was a microcosm of their season. Griffin and the offense made enough plays to win, and the defense couldn't hold the lead.

"That was a tough one," coach Mike Shanahan said.

The final 17 minutes of play were an up-and-down thrill ride with Griffin at the controls. The Giants broke a 13-13 tie early in the fourth quarter on Ahmad Bradshaw's 1-yard touchdown plunge.

They needed seven plays to score after Griffin threw an interception on a pass intended for tight end Logan Paulsen over the middle. Quarterback and receiver said it was a miscommunication, perhaps a consequence of Davis' injury.

Griffin then lost a fumble on the next possession. He didn't secure the ball after faking an inside handoff, and Giants defensive end Jason Pierre-Paul jarred it loose. The Redskins' Superman apparently was stuck somewhere in a phone booth.

But, oh, did he arrive just in time.

The Redskins were down to their last breath, trailing 20-16 with 2:07 to play. On fourth-and-10 from their 23, Griffin extended the play by rolling left. Pierre-Paul chased him, but Griffin juiced free. And as he stood dangerously close to crossing the line of scrimmage, he zipped a 19-yard completion to Paulsen.

As soon as the play was over, you knew it was one of those iconic RG3 moments, a special display of his poise and athleticism.

"I'm pretty mad at the football gods for putting him in the NFC East," Giants defensive end Justin Tuck said. "To face that guy twice a year is going to be a headache. He takes away from your enthusiasm for the game a little bit."

The Redskins had new life. Three plays later, Griffin lobbed a touchdown to Moss to put Washington ahead, 23-20. Moss ran past rookie cornerback Jayron Hosley down the seam. "Perfect throw," Moss said. "Perfect touch. Put it in the air where I could run to it."

"I saw one high safety, the safety rolled the other way, and I've got Santana Moss one-on-one against a rookie," Griffin said.

He grinned, aware of the irony in him exploiting a rookie.

"I'm a rookie myself," he said, "but you have to take advantage of that."

It was an epic comeback. And it was gone in 19 seconds.

Manning redeemed himself from two earlier interceptions. Cruz, from the right slot, ran past cornerback Josh Wilson and free safety Madiou

Williams. It was double coverage, Shanahan said.

Given the situation, the Redskins could not afford to be beaten deep, yet that's exactly what happened. Neither Wilson nor Williams offered insight after the game.

"They made a play," Williams said, echoing Wilson's quote.

Griffin had one last chance. He believed the Redskins would prevail, but the magic ran out.

Moss fumbled at the Redskins' 43-yard line. He initially protected the ball with two hands, but he lost it when he braced himself to hit the ground after linebacker Chase Blackburn hit him.

When the ride finally stopped, and the Redskins ended in a valley, Griffin expressed pride that he put the team in position to win despite his two turnovers.

He finished speaking to reporters, slipped a backpack over his shoulders and pulled a suitcase behind him. He walked out of MetLife Stadium a little smarter and no less determined.

DALY

From page R1

like they played their best game. They were fortunate. We let it slip away."

Oh, yeah, *that*. Despite doing so many things worth getting excited about, the Redskins managed to lose the game, 27-23, when their secondary went to sleep on a 77-yard TD pass to Victor Cruz with 1:13 to go. It's not easy to lose when you put together scoring drives of 93, 80 and 77 yards and punt just once. It's not easy to lose when you gain as many yards on the ground as the Redskins did. In fact, they hadn't rushed for more than 225 yards in a losing effort since 1959 (when they racked up 255 against the Cleveland Browns but were beaten by two touchdowns).

A loss like this makes you think. It makes you think of all the havoc Griffin figures to wreak on the Giants in years ahead. (You'd better believe they're thinking about *that* in the New York locker room.) But it also serves as a reminder that RG3 needs more help if he and the Redskins are going to be all they can be. And how long will it take that help to arrive?

This is a team, let's not forget, with no first-round pick the next two years — thanks to the megatrade to acquire the Griffin selection. It's also a team with increasingly obvious holes, holes that won't be easily filled. The defense, minus Brian Orakpo (and secondarily, Adam Carriker), is an accident waiting to happen, and the secondary is a total mess. It was burned for three long TD passes by Cincinnati (73, 48, 59),

and Sunday it gave up the bomb to Cruz even though he was supposed to be double-covered.

Almost as telling as that breakdown, though, was the unit's inability to stop the Giants late in the game when they had a third-and-15 at the New York 12. Eli Manning, not looking to take any risks with a 20-16 lead, flipped a screen to Andre Brown, and he picked up 17 yards to enable the Giants to retain possession ... and force the Redskins to burn two timeouts before they got the ball back. Awful, just awful.

Such is Griffin's lot in life. He playing about as well as a rookie quarterback has ever played, as well as most veteran quarterbacks can play. Indeed, he's been in so many end-of-game situations these first seven weeks that it's hard to look at

him as a rookie anymore.

RG3 feels the same way. "I'm trying not to approach the game like I'm a rookie," he said. "I'm not giving myself excuses. ... The team doesn't look at me like I'm a rookie. I try to hold myself accountable for everything."

So naturally he beat himself up for throwing an interception in New York territory late in the third quarter. He was trying to hit Logan Paulsen over the middle, but Paulsen got held up in traffic. (The pass went instead to strong safety Stevie Brown, who ran 41 yards to the Washington 35 to set up a go-ahead touchdown.)

But here's the thing: Griffin was having to rely on Paulsen because Fred Davis, his top tight end, had blown out his Achilles in the first

GIANTS 27, REDSKINS 23

Washington	3	10	0	10-23
N.Y. Giants	0	13	0	14-27

First Quarter

Was — FG Forbath 20, 2:13.

Second Quarter

NYG — A. Brown 1 run (Tynes kick), 12:41.
Was — Moss 26 pass from Griffin III (Forbath kick), 8:45.
NYG — FG Tynes 27, 3:53.
Was — FG Forbath 43, 1:49.
NYG — FG Tynes 39, :02.

Fourth Quarter

NYG — Bradshaw 1 run (Tynes kick), 12:55.
Was — FG Forbath 45, 5:21.
Was — Moss 30 pass from Griffin III (Forbath kick), 1:32.
NYG — Cruz 77 pass from Manning (Tynes kick), 1:13.

A — 81,352.

	Was	NYFG
First downs	24	22
Total Net Yards	480	393
Rushes-yards	38-248	19-64
Passing	232	329
Punt Returns	2-13	0-0
Kickoff Returns	1-17	4-106
Interceptions Ret.	2-7	1-41
Comp-Att-Int	20-28-1	26-40-2
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-26	1-8
Punts	1-33.0	3-40.0
Fumbles-Lost	5-3	0-0
Penalties-Yards	7-55	3-30
Time of Possession	32:43	27:17

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — Washington, Morris 22-120, Griffin III 9-89, Young 5-26, A. Robinson 1-14, Paul 1 (minus 1). N.Y. Giants, Bradshaw 12-43, A. Brown 5-17, Manning 2-4.

PASSING — Washington, Griffin III 20-28-1-258. N.Y. Giants, Manning 26-40-2-337.

RECEIVING — Washington, Hankerson 6-70, Paulsen 4-76, Moss 3-67, Morgan 2-16, Morris 2-10, F. Davis 1-13, Young 1-6, Royster 1-0. N.Y. Giants, Cruz 7-131, Bennett 5-79, Nicks 5-53, Bradshaw 4-22, Hixon 3-32, A. Brown 1-17, Hynoski 1-3.

MISSED FIELD GOALS — None

quarter and is done for the season. Achilles injuries, as we all know, are nothing to kid about. Will Fred Davis ever be Fred Davis again? Heck, will Fred Davis ever play for the Redskins again? (He's on a one-year, franchise-player contract, remember.) And if he *doesn't* play for the Redskins again, who exactly is RG3's tight end of the future? Certainly not Paulsen.

Yup, it was a swell day at the Meadowlands for Mike Shanahan's club. They had the Super Bowl champs on the ropes and could have gone home tied for first in the NFC East (and left the Giants in an 0-3 division bind); but events, as they say, intervened. In the end, it was difficult not to wonder: When will the Redskins be good enough to turn defeats like this into victories? Sooner? Or later?

NFL WEEK 7

Top performers

Saints QB Drew Brees: 377 yards, 4 TDs
Bucs QB Josh Freeman: 420 yards, 3 TDs
Titans RB Chris Johnson: 195 yards, 2 TDs

RAVENS

Houston blows away depleted Baltimore



By KRISTIE RIEKEN
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON | Terrell Suggs was back, but the Baltimore Ravens were no match for the Houston Texans without Ray Lewis and Lardarius Webb.

Matt Schaub threw for two touchdowns, Arian Foster ran for two more and the defense had a score and added a safety to lead the Houston Texans to a 43-13 win over the Ravens on Sunday.

Suggs, an outside linebacker who was selected last season's Defensive Player of the Year, played for the first time since surgery in May to repair a torn right Achilles tendon. But the defense wasn't the same without star middle linebacker Lewis and top cornerback Webb, who were both placed on the injured reserve during the week.

The Ravens gave up their most points since a 44-20 loss to Indianapolis in 2007, and Houston's 43 points were the most in franchise history.

"We can't come here and make mistakes like we made and expect to be in the game," safety Ed Reed said.

But the problems weren't limited to the defense as the Ravens (5-2) lost to Houston (6-1) for the first time in seven meetings. Joe Flacco was 21 of 43 for 147 yards with two interceptions, and Ray Rice was held to a season-low 42 yards rushing.

"I'm not sure what to say about that other than they got after us and they beat us," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said. "They played excellent, we did not."

The Ravens led 3-0 in the first quarter after a 51-yard field goal by rookie Justin Tucker. It was his third of more than 50 yards this season, which is the most in a season in team history. He made it four with a 54-yard field goal in the fourth quarter.

Houston's offense couldn't do anything early. It was OK though as the defense got the Texans on the board. Connor Barwin took down Flacco in the end zone for his first sack of the season and a safety to make it 3-2.

The Texans started clicking on offense on the next drive, but not without a small hiccup. Schaub badly overthrew a wide-open Kevin Walter before finding Walter four plays later for a 25-yard touchdown reception to give Houston a 9-3 lead late in the first quarter.

J.J. Watt tipped a pass on the first play of the second quarter which Johnathan Joseph returned 52 yards for a touchdown to extend Houston's lead to 16-3.

Tipped balls were a problem all day for Flacco.

"That's what they do," Harbaugh said. "They do a great job with that. We worked on it all week, trying to get their hands down and we were unable to do it. It was a little disappointing."

The Ravens were discouraged by the play of Suggs, who had four tackles and a sack Sunday.

"It looked to me like he played really well," Harbaugh said. "He was in probably surprisingly good football shape for as little football as he's played. It's going to be a plus for us and he's only going to get better."

Suggs was disappointed that his first game back was such a lopsided defeat, but thinks the Ravens should be encouraged with their 5-2 record entering their bye week considering all the injuries they've had.

"We know we've got some work to do," he said. "This is a very emotional time for us. Losing probably one of the greatest middle linebackers in the game and losing your starting corner, that's going to hurt."

ROUNDUP

Johnson comes alive; Titans outlast Bills

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. | Chris Johnson finally hit the gas. And Matt Hasselbeck delivered in the clutch for a second straight week.

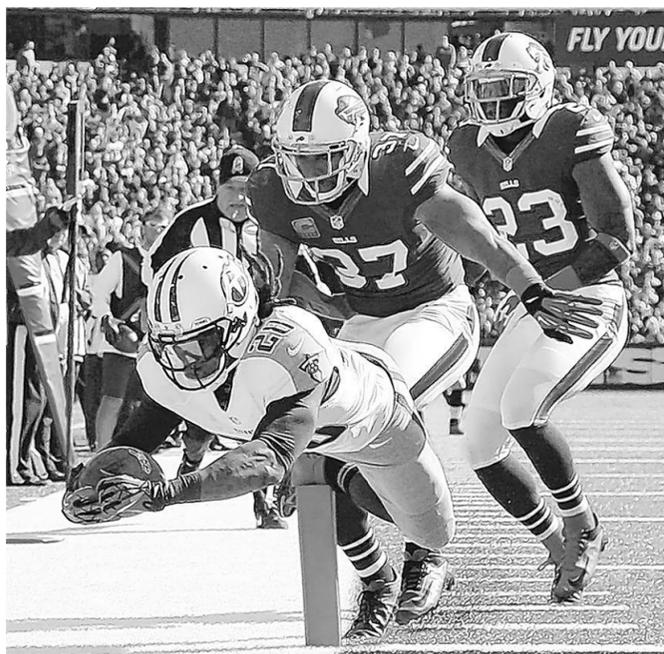
And together, they appear to have the sputtering Tennessee Titans turned in the right direction after capping a wild and wacky game with a thrilling finish in a 35-34 win over the Buffalo Bills on Sunday.

Johnson got the Titans' offense up and running with 195 yards rushing and two touchdowns. Those scores came during a wild first quarter, in which Tennessee and Buffalo scored three TDs in a span of 30 seconds.

It was then up to Hasselbeck to secure the victory by hitting Nate Washington with a 15-yard touchdown pass on fourth down with 1:03 remaining.

"It's a great feeling," Hasselbeck said. "To pull through once again in a close game for our third win in a game that came down basically to the last play was a great feeling."

Facing fourth-and-9, Hasselbeck dropped a pass just over the shoulder of Washington, who had a step on Justin Rogers in the end zone.



Titans running back Chris Johnson dives in for the first of his two touchdowns Sunday during the first half of Tennessee's win over the Bills in Orchard Park, N.Y. Johnson, who has struggled for much of the season, rushed for 195 yards on the day.

Patriots 29, Jets 26 (OT)

FOXBOROUGH, MASS. | Rob Ninkovich recovered a fumble by Mark Sanchez after Stephen Gostkowski kicked a 48-yard field goal in overtime as New England held on.

The Patriots moved into sole possession of first place in the AFC East. The day started with all four teams tied at 3-3, but the Jets and the Buffalo Bills lost, while the Miami Dolphins were idle.

Gostkowski tied the game with a 43-yard field goal on the last play of regulation.

In overtime, each team gets the ball unless the first team with it scores a touchdown. So the Jets had a chance after the Patriots managed just a field goal. New York moved from its 15 to its 40 before Sanchez lost the ball as he was being sacked and Ninkovich recovered, ending the game.

Cowboys 19, Panthers 14

CHARLOTTE, N.C. | Dan Bailey made a go-ahead 28-yard field goal with

3:25 remaining to help Dallas defeat Carolina.

Trailing by one, Tony Romo led the Cowboys into field goal range with a 10-play, 44-yard drive to send Dallas to its ninth consecutive regular-season victory over the Panthers.

On a fourth-and-1 at their 39, the Panthers caught Dallas' defense changing personnel and Cam Newton quickly completed a pass for an apparent first down. But officials ruled the Cowboys called timeout before the snap.

On the ensuing play, Morris Claiborne collided with receiver Louis Murphy before the ball arrived, but no flag was thrown.

Bailey added his fourth field goal of the game with 53 seconds left.

Saints 35, Bucs 28

TAMPA, FLA. | Jonathan Vilma played for the first time while appealing a season-long suspension for his role in

the Saints bounty program and Drew Brees threw for 377 yards and four touchdowns to pace a come-from-behind victory.

While it's debatable how much Vilma's return impacted the Saints defense, the unit turned back two drives near the end zone in the second half, including the final three plays of the game to preserve New Orleans' second straight win.

Brees extended his NFL record for consecutive games with at least one TD pass to 49, while leading long scoring drives on four straight possessions to turn a 14-point deficit into a 28-21 halftime lead.

Packers 30, Rams 20

ST. LOUIS | Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers made themselves right at home in St. Louis.

Backed by a huge contingent of cheeseheads who were every bit as loud as the real home fans, Rodgers

passed for three touchdowns and Green Bay's depleted defense clamped down on the Rams.

Randall Cobb caught two touchdowns and Jordy Nelson had eight receptions for a season-best 122 yards for the Packers.

Vikings 21, Cardinals 14

MINNEAPOLIS | Adrian Peterson ran for 153 yards and a first-quarter touchdown, and Minnesota survived an ugly second half to hand the Cardinals their third straight loss.

Percy Harvin caught Christian Ponder's only touchdown pass, but Ponder threw an interception that led to a second-quarter touchdown run by LaRod Stephens-Hawling.

Ponder has seven turnovers in the last three games; two of them were turned into touchdowns last week at Washington.

Arizona's John Skelton went 25 for 36 for 262 yards and two turnovers.

Raiders 26, Jaguars 23 (OT)

OAKLAND, CALIF. | Sebastian Janikowski kicked a 40-yard field goal after Cecil Shorts III fumbled on the opening possession of overtime and the Oakland Raiders rallied from 14 points down in the second half.

Carson Palmer threw one TD pass and ran for another to force overtime for the Raiders before they won it after Lamar Houston forced a fumble that Joselio Hanson recovered at the Jacksonville 21.

After one play to center the ball, Janikowski came on to kick the winning field goal.

Colts 17, Browns 13

INDIANAPOLIS | Andrew Luck became the first Colts quarterback to run for two touchdowns in a game since 1988, and Indianapolis (3-3) has already won one more game than it did in 2011.

Brandon Weeden threw for 247 yards and two touchdowns, but Trent Richardson, who tried to play through a rib cartilage injury, sat out the second half after running eight times for 8 yards in the first half.

The Browns have lost 11 straight road games.

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
New England	4	3	0	.571	217	163
Miami	3	3	0	.500	120	117
N.Y. Jets	3	4	0	.429	159	170
Buffalo	3	4	0	.429	171	227

SOUTH

W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	
Houston	5	0	0	1.000	149	73
Indianapolis	2	3	0	.400	100	145
Tennessee	2	4	0	.333	114	204
Jacksonville	1	4	0	.200	65	138

NORTH

W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	
Baltimore	5	2	0	.714	174	161
Cincinnati	3	3	0	.500	149	163
Pittsburgh	2	3	0	.400	116	115
Cleveland	1	6	0	.143	147	180

WEST

W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	
Denver	3	3	0	.500	170	138
San Diego	3	3	0	.500	148	137
Oakland	2	4	0	.333	113	171
Kansas City	1	5	0	.167	104	183

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	5	2	0	.714	205	137
Philadelphia	3	3	0	.500	103	125
Dallas	3	3	0	.500	113	133
Washington	3	4	0	.429	201	200

SOUTH

W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	
Atlanta	6	0	0	1.000	171	113
New Orleans	2	4	0	.333	176	182
Tampa Bay	2	4	0	.333	148	136
Carolina	1	5	0	.167	106	144

NORTH

W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	
Chicago	4	1	0	.800	149	71
Minnesota	5	2	0	.714	167	131
Green Bay	4	3	0	.571	184	155
Detroit	2	3	0	.400	126	137

WEST

W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	
San Francisco	5	2	0	.714	165	100
Arizona	4	3	0	.571	124	118
Seattle	4	3	0	.571	116	106
St. Louis	3	4	0	.429	130	141

THURSDAY'S GAME

San Francisco 13, Seattle 6

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Minnesota 21, Arizona 14
 Green Bay 30, St. Louis 20
 Houston 43, Baltimore 13
 N.Y. Giants 27, Washington 23
 Dallas 19, Carolina 14
 New Orleans 35, Tampa Bay 28
 Indianapolis 17, Cleveland 13
 Tennessee 35, Buffalo 34
 Oakland 26, Jacksonville 23, OT
 New England 29, N.Y. Jets 26, OT
 Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, late
 Philadelphia, Denver, Kansas City, Miami, Philadelphia, San Diego

MONDAY'S GAMES

Detroit at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.

EXPANDED REDSKINS COVERAGE THROUGHOUT THE SEASON: WASHINGTONTIMES.COM/SPORTS/FOOTBALL

QUARTERS

1 The Redskins' strategy from the beginning Sunday should have been to keep the ball out of Eli Manning's hands, and they started off strong on that front. After a fourth-and-1 false start by ex-Redskins lineman Sean Locklear derailed the Giants' first drive, Washington started at its own 5 and chewed up nearly the rest of the quarter on the way to a field goal. Alfred Morris nearly topped his entire rushing total from a week ago on the drive, carrying 10 times for 46 yards. It sputtered at the end after a dubious illegal shift call on Fred Davis wiped out a TD and Davis was lost to an injury, but the ball control was impressive.

2 A crisply played game continued into the half, with both teams moving the ball down the field effectively for the most part. Of course, both teams squandered opportunities in the red zone as well. The biggest of those may have been Manning missing a wide-open Victor Cruz in the end zone on third down, leading the Giants to settle for a Lawrence Tynes field goal with 3:53 to go in the half. The Redskins followed that with two big runs — 28 yards by Robert Griffin III followed by 30 from Morris — but had to take a field goal when Justin Tuck sacked RG3 on third down.

PLAY OF THE GAME: Only one choice here, right? Eli Manning erased what had been a shaky afternoon by unleashing a 77-yard touchdown to Victor Cruz, who blew past Josh Wilson and Madieu Williams for the game-clinching score with 1:13 left.

3 So much for that offensive efficiency. Both teams sputtered out of halftime, going punt-punt-fumble-interception-interception on full possessions in the quarter. The most costly sequence for the Redskins came midway through the period, when a Morris run to the Giants' 13 was negated by a leg-whip personal foul on Tyler Polumbus. That backed Washington up into a first-and-23, and Morris coughed up his first career fumble on the next play.

4 The Redskins converted three fourth-down conversion attempts, most notably Griffin's scramble-and-heave 19-yarder to Logan Paulsen that set up what Washington hoped would be the winning touchdown with 1:32 to go. Of course, that beautiful 30-yard RG3 toss to Santana Moss became a footnote after Manning's stunning bomb.



Quarterback Robert Griffin III scrambles before passing in the fourth quarter. Griffin completed 20 of 28 passes for 258 yards.

NUMBERS

8: Consecutive games in which the Redskins have intercepted a pass — their longest streak since a nine-game run at the end of 1995 and beginning of 1996 seasons

132: Carries this season for rookie running back Alfred Morris before his first fumble, which came in the third quarter Sunday

6 for 6: Redskins fourth-down conversions this season

248: Rushing yards for the Redskins, their ninth consecutive game of at least 125 yards and their longest streak since doing so in 10 straight over the 1990-91 seasons

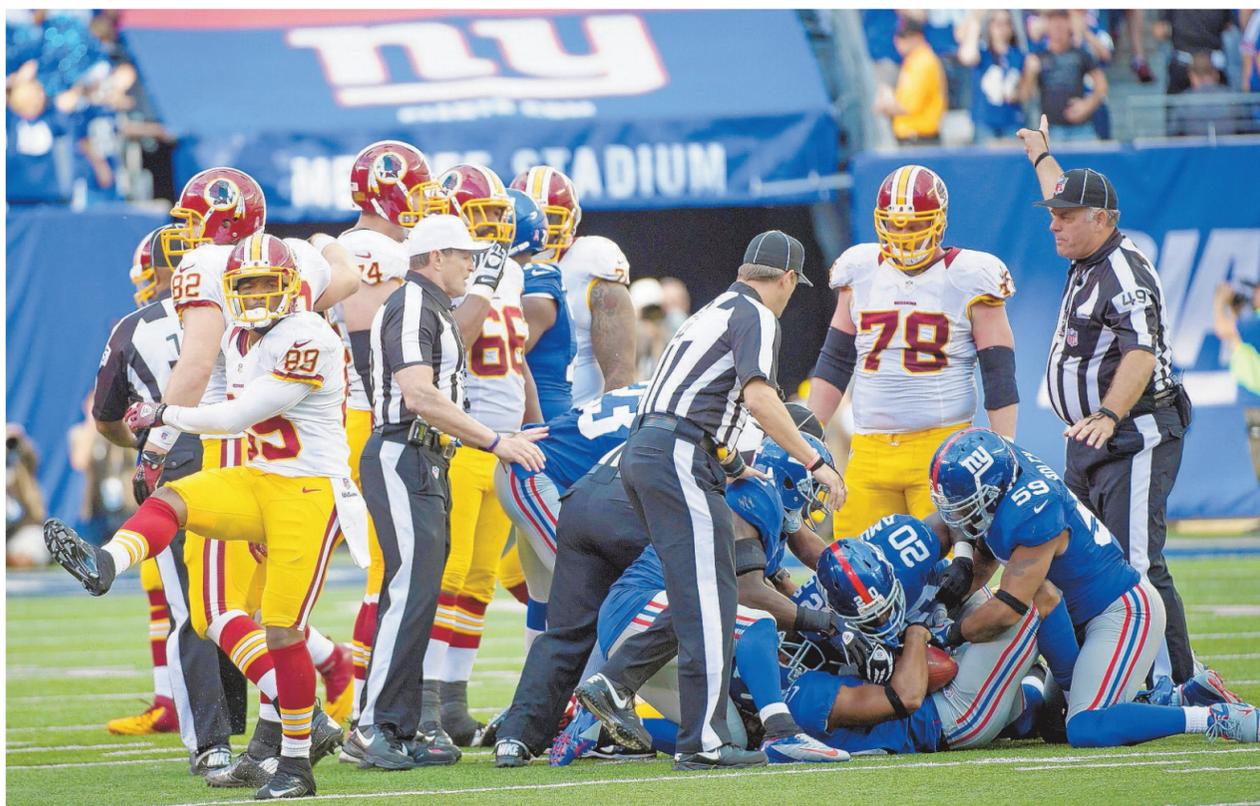
9: Consecutive Redskins 100-yard rushing games by rookies after Morris hit 120 Sunday. It was his third of the season, along with Robert Griffin III once this year and Roy Helu Jr. (three times) and Evan Royster (twice) last season.

NEXT

REDSKINS AT STEELERS
1 P.M. SUNDAY, FOX



• These aren't your father's Steelers. Or your uncle's. Or even your older brother's. The Steel Curtain has gone a bit soft this year with age and injuries catching up to Pittsburgh's once-dominant defense. The biggest hit has come from the loss of safety Troy Polamalu, who missed his second straight game Sunday night against the Bengals with a nagging calf injury. On the other side of the ball, running backs Rashard Mendenhall and Isaac Redman also missed Sunday night's game. The Steelers do still have Ben Roethlisberger at quarterback and a dynamic receiving corps led by Mike Wallace and Antonio Brown. Given that the Redskins' biggest weakness is secondary play, the pressure is again likely to fall on RG3 and the Washington offense to keep pace.



Redskins wide receiver Santana Moss (89) reacts with disgust after his fumble is recovered by New York, sealing the Giants' 27-23 win at MetLife Stadium. Moss scored two touchdowns on the day, the first (below) coming from 26 yards out in the second quarter.

GIANTS 27, REDSKINS 23

For Moss, ecstasy then agony

Fumble on last drive comes after TD catch

By NATHAN FENNO
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. | In a slightly different world, Santana Moss would face the bright TV lights and microphones thrust inches from his face and relive the happy instant when the game-winning touchdown found his hands.

Instead, Moss thrust the hands deep into his pockets. The detritus of defeat surrounded him: crumpled blue towels, empty water bottles, discarded game programs, shards of training tape and the urgency to leave MetLife Stadium.

In the span of a few jarring minutes Sunday, Moss went from hauling in a 30-yard touchdown pass to losing a fumble on the last-ditch drive as the New York Giants survived the Washington Redskins, 27-23.

"It's something," the receiver said, "you don't want to be a part of."

In the midst of his 12th NFL season, Moss understands Sunday's extremes better than most. He tries not to get too high or low. Cliches beat back the waves of cameras. He spoke in an even, gathered voice about a turn of events as appealing to him as a dip in the nearby Hackensack River.

Yes, he felt badly about fumbling. Yes, he felt good about the touchdown.

That last touchdown — his second of the afternoon, with 1:32 remaining — stuck in his mind. Victory over the defending Super Bowl champions felt like beating Giants rookie cornerback Jayron Hosley by three steps on a seam route while Robert Griffin



CRAIG BISACRE/THE WASHINGTON TIMES

III's pass caught him in stride like something from a quarterback instructional video. The touchdown would do it. The touchdown had to.

"We had the game pretty much in our grasp," said Moss, who caught four passes for 67 yards. "Would I want it to happen a little different? Yeah, but when you're fighting, anything can happen. Sometimes you lose a fight. I just feel like a lost a fight."

A win came before the loss. Griffin noticed Moss one-on-one against a rookie. The opportunity was too enticing to pass up. Never mind that Moss' extensive playing time came thanks to big-ticket free-agent Pierre Garcon's lingering (and mysterious) foot injury. Never mind Moss' 33 years, an age when most players move into their post-football careers.

"I just want to give him a chance," Griffin said. "He told me he appreciates that because a lot of

people have said they don't think he still has it. I, for one, have seen it. I think he still has it and he showed it right there."

Of course, Eli Manning's 77-yard touchdown pass to Victor Cruz followed.

Moss, though, had another opportunity. Did the Giants score too quickly? The football rested on the Redskins' 32-yard line with 46 seconds left. Could Griffin conjure up another rally against a defense he shredded for 347 total yards? The quarterback zipped an 11-yard pass into Moss' arms. He wrapped the football with arms responsible for 655 catches.

Somehow, Giants linebacker Chase Blackburn clawed the ball free. Moss hadn't lost a fumble since 2010, when he handed over two fumbles.

All tackle Trent Williams saw was the football — and comeback — on the ground. Hosley, the rookie Moss beat a few minutes earlier, scooped up the ball. Williams hoped Moss' knee was down. So did running back Alfred Morris. That's all they had left. But Moss' knee wasn't down. The rally ended and sent Giants supporters whooping back to their tailgates and New Jersey Transit trains and tour buses.

After the cameras receded, Moss slipped through the locker room, arms covered by his blue-green sweater. The touchdown that gave the Redskins an oh-so-brief lead seemed far away. Across the piled duffel bags and stacks of jerseys and overflowing garbage cans stood Morris. Before the season started, the rookie asked Moss to autograph a No. 89 jersey. Moss had always been his favorite Redskin.

"Santana has been great in this league for a long time," Morris said. "That won't change. [Fumbles] happen every week. RG3, Cam Newton, Tom Brady. You have to learn from it. Everyone makes mistakes." Even the veteran.

Davis' season ends with torn Achilles

By STEPHEN WHYNO
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. | Fred Davis knew something was wrong. He thought it was just a cramp and tried to walk it off.

"I never had experienced that before," Davis said. "And then when I knew I couldn't walk for at least five, 10 minutes, then I knew it was something serious."

The injury was a torn left Achilles tendon, which will sideline the Washington Redskins tight end for the rest of the season. It's a significant blow to the Redskins and to Davis, who showed a commitment to rounding out his game beyond just being a pass-catching threat.

"This whole camp was focusing on that and just focusing on all that stuff I wanted to get better at. I knew that I could do it and be one of the top tight ends in the league," Davis said, wearing a walking boot and standing with the aid of crutches. "But when stuff like this happens, it [stinks]. You've just got to get better and get ready for next year."

Davis tore the tendon late in the first quarter of Sunday's 27-23 loss to the New York Giants. He was running a route in the end zone and felt something pop. He wasn't sure if it happened just from running on the turf at MetLife Stadium or if safety



Redskins tight end Fred Davis, being greeted by quarterback Robert Griffin III, will finish the season with 24 catches for 325 yards.

Antrel Rolle stepped on his foot.

The 26-year-old tried to hop off the field but eventually needed assistance to get to the sideline and was carted off down the tunnel. His season ended with 24 catches for 325 yards, and his injury leaves a gaping hole to fill.

"Losing Fred is huge. In my opinion, he's a gamer," quarterback Robert Griffin III said. "He shows up on game day. Not only does he catch the ball and is he great after the catch,

but he's also a great run blocker. Just a good guy to have out there on the field with you. ... He'll be missed."

On Sunday, Logan Paulsen and Niles Paul filled in. Paulsen came up with a career-high four catches for 76 yards, including a sideline grab on third and 17 that helped prolong a fourth-quarter drive.

"That's why I'm on the team is for this moment," Paulsen said. "You want to have Fred the entire time and for the entire year because of

the type of player that he is. It's my job to kind of know everything that he knows in case something like this happens."

The Redskins are expected to sign veteran Chris Cooley, according to multiple reports. Washington released Cooley, who holds the franchise record for most catches by a tight end, in August. The 30-year-old declined offers to sign with other teams because he wants to play only for the Redskins.

"It'd help a lot," Paul said. "If they do bring back Cooley, I think he can come in a be a big influence on this team and have a big impact."

Even with that possible option, not having Davis is a painful loss for the Redskins. He was Griffin's top target through the first seven games, and his work on route-running and blocking was paying off.

"We've just got to kind of unfortunately move forward and try to replace him, I guess," Paulsen said.

Easier said than done. But teammates espoused plenty of confidence in Paulsen and Paul.

"It's huge, but we still have other tight ends just as good with Niles and Logan, who played a great game today as well," running back Alfred Morris said. "[Paulsen] stepped up in time of injury. [It is] a big loss, but at the same time we do have other guys that are just as good that can get the job done."