

COLLEGE BASKETBALL: TRANSITION HAS TEAMS ON THE MOVE, C1

EXPANDED COVERAGE: Penalties continue to pile up, R2
Snyder: Struggling secondary seems immune to stopping big plays, R4



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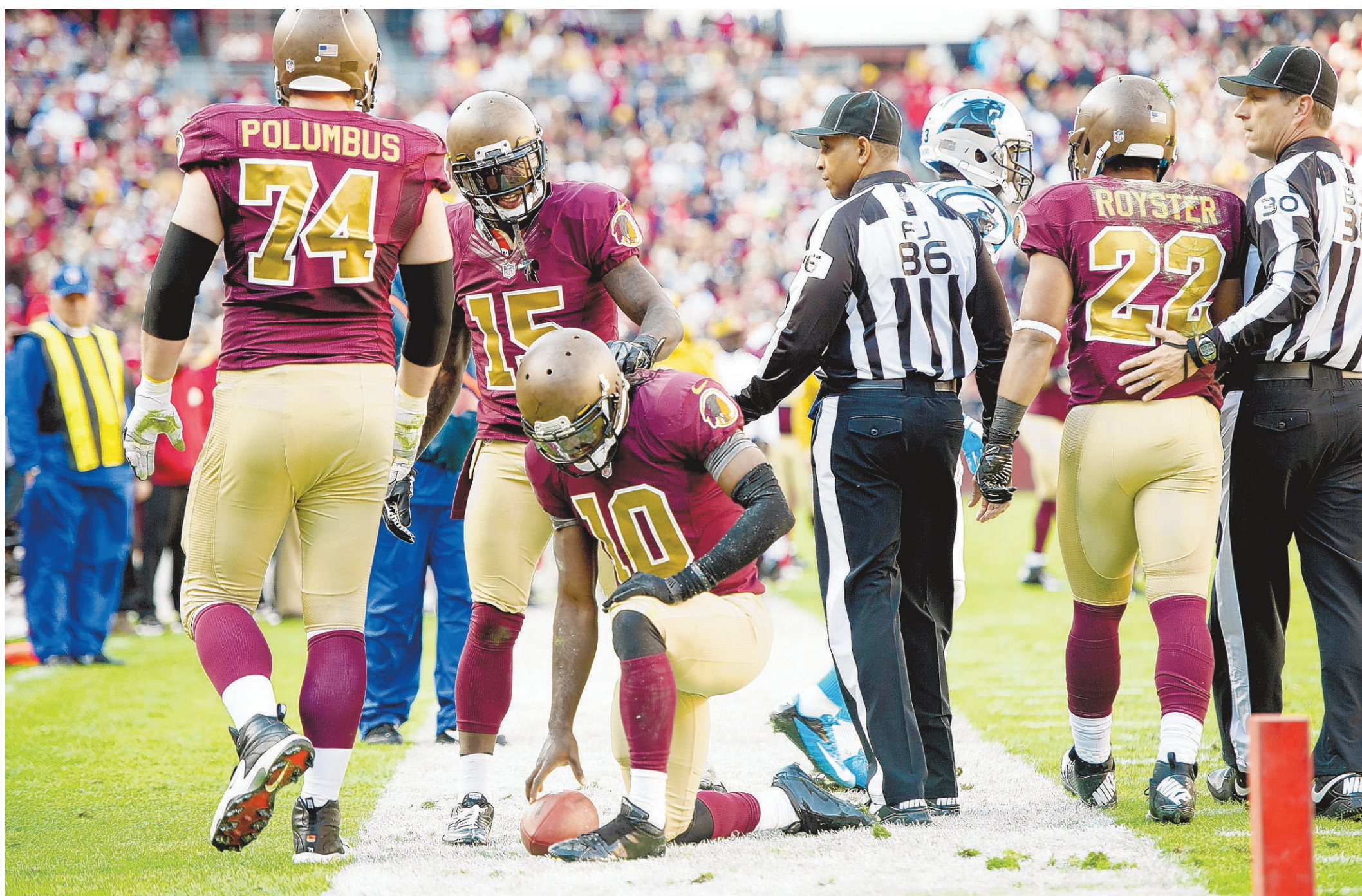
GAMEDAY

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The Washington Times

washingtontimes.com/sports/football



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREW HARNIK/THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III collects his thoughts after he was stopped on the 2-yard line on fourth-and-goal during the second quarter. The Panthers drove 98 yards on the ensuing possession to take a 14-3 lead. Griffin passed for 215 yards and rushed for 53 yards on 11 carries. Washington lost 21-13 to drop to 3-6 entering its bye week.

Out of character

‘Great Awakening’ is putting us to sleep



DAN DALY

Since Mike Shanahan rolled into town in his chariot in 2010, he’s been trying to turn the Washington Redskins into the best team in the NFC East, if not the best in the whole NFL. He’s certainly being paid like a

coach who’s capable of performing that task — because he pulled it off, of course, once before in Denver.

But the Redskins reminded us Sunday that, in Year 3 of their “Great Awakening” under Shanahan, they’re a lot closer to being No. 32 than they are to being No. 1. The Carolina team, after all, that came to FedEx Field was in total disarray. It was 1-6, its general manager had been fired and just

» see DALY | R2



Panthers cornerback Josh Norman points to the scoreboard as he and fellow cornerback Captain Munneryn taunt Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III late in the fourth quarter at FedEx Field. Griffin has struggled the past two weeks, and Washington has lost four of five games.

A surprisingly open Shanahan questions his team’s makeup

By RICH CAMPBELL
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Mike Shanahan shook hands with the opposing coach Sunday afternoon, gracious in defeat. He put his left hand in his front pocket and began a lonely walk to the locker room. A 60-year stretch of solitude was an opportunity to contemplate the bleak state of the Washington Redskins. Shanahan stared up into the stands with a steadfast scowl. He spoke no words.

His team, his program, continues to lose. On Sunday, the Redskins lost 21-13 to a Carolina Panthers team that came to town with one victory and a five-game losing streak. Shanahan called this a “must-win” six days earlier. Now the Redskins enter the bye week at 3-6 and freefalling.

It wasn’t supposed to be like this. In the third year of Shanahan’s tenure, he thought he had assembled a strong supporting cast around a budding star quarterback. After two straight last-place finishes, expectations included respectability and relevance. Instead, the postgame conversation — with seven games remaining, mind you — centered on evaluating for next season.

“Obviously very disappointing,” Shanahan said. “When you lose a game like that, now you’re playing to

“Now you’re playing to see who, obviously, is going to be on your football team for years to come. Now we get a chance to evaluate players and see where we’re at.”

» see REDSKINS | R2

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

PANTHERS 21, REDSKINS 13

Prolific penalties cause for concern

Washington leads league in flags

By NATHAN FENNO
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

There is one thing the Washington Redskins do better than any other team in the NFL.

Not running the football. Not starting Robert Griffin III-inspired memes. Not surrendering stadium-emptying pass plays.

The Redskins attract yellow flags. Enough to put officiating crews at risk of carpal tunnel syndrome. Thirteen more penalties in Sunday's 21-13 loss to the Carolina Panthers at FedEx Field upped the Redskins' league-leading total to 75.

The mistakes came from offense and defense, youngsters and veterans, in moments of pressure and irrelevance and, of course, carried no explanation from the home locker room that emptied quicker than the boo-infested stadium.

"It's just personal pride and professional pride," defensive tackle Barry Cofield said. "As a professional, you've got to do those things. You've got to think about the ramifications. How it hurts the team. How it hurts the whole momentum of the game. Guys have just got to look in the mirror and do better."

What constitutes better? One flag-draped 14-second sequence late in the fourth quarter demonstrated just how low the bar is.

Griffin used 10 plays to move the Redskins to the Panthers' 3-yard line. Then he scampered 3 yards into the end zone for a touchdown. Out came a flag for holding on center Will Montgomery.

Touchdown nullified. Back up 10 yards.

After Panthers linebacker Thomas Davis belted Griffin as he headed out of bounds, the ball moved back to the 3-yard line. Another chance, as the clock sank to 1:49 remaining. Griffin zipped a pass to Leonard Hankerson in the end zone. The drop-prone Hankerson hung on. Out came a flag for illegal formation on the Redskins.

Touchdown nullified. Back up 5 yards.

Later on in the locker room, the only yellow on the ground came from wads of discarded training tape. The team's oft-touted discipline seemed a relic. To believe the players who stuck around, the Panthers didn't actually win Sunday's game.

Instead, the Redskins beat the, well, Redskins, handing over the victory like the maroon sport coats issued to the sideline-clogging group of Redskins alumni on hand for the game. Fullback Darrel Young, for one, insisted the Redskins were more physical, played and executed better than the Panthers.

The final score was a different matter.



Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III argues an illegal formation penalty — one of 13 Washington flags Sunday — that nullified a touchdown in the fourth quarter.

"I call it focus," tackle Trent Williams said. "It's not the discipline. We're a disciplined team. Some of the calls were real touchy. But we can't do nothing about that. We definitely could focus better."

Added coach Mike Shanahan: "That's what gnaws at you: when you stop yourselves."

The referees, however, didn't escape responsibility in the eyes of some Redskins. In the first quarter, Panthers running back DeAngelo Williams took a handoff, blew past safety Reed Doughty and 30 yards down the Redskins' sideline for a touchdown.

Linebacker Perry Riley had the angle to knock Williams out of bounds, but pulled up because of an inadvertent whistle: "I could've pushed him out of

bounds if I hadn't heard the whistle." Replays confirmed the whistle from the line judge, as did referee Carl Cheffers in a postgame pool report.

"We just felt when the whistle blew that the player would have already scored a touchdown," Cheffers said. "By rule, we would have to put him down when the whistle blew and we tried to decide where that spot would be and we felt that spot would be in the end zone."

But penalties remained a problem the Redskins couldn't escape.

"They didn't outplay us, so it puts you in a situation where you know you did it to yourselves," Young said. "We've got to eliminate those things, to stop putting ourselves in a bind. It's everyone. It's not just one person that stands out. We've all got to get better."

REDSKINS

From page R1

see who, obviously, is going to be on your football team for years to come. Now we get a chance to evaluate players and see where we're at. Obviously, we're not out of it statistically, but now we find out what type of character we got and how guys keep on fighting through the rest of the season."

Shanahan's candor was a bit surprising for a man who characteristically concedes nothing. His words, however, rang true. Several key players are injured on both sides of the ball, and to this point the team has found no solution to overcoming those losses.

The Redskins repeated their typical mistakes in Sunday's game. They failed to score a touchdown on their first two drives inside Carolina's 20-yard line. Their offense converted only 3 of 15 third downs. They committed 13 penalties for 97 yards. And the defense surrendered an 82-yard pass that set up the decisive touchdown in the fourth quarter.

In other words, things aren't improving. And considering the once-prolific offense failed to score at least two touchdowns for the second straight game, the bottom might not be in sight.

In spite of the concrete reasons for

despair, though, several players seemed surprised to hear Shanahan's thoughts about looking ahead to next season. They vowed to dig in.

"When you get down, you need to find out who's willing to fight and who's just in it for the paycheck," guard Kory Lichtensteiger said. "I think that's probably more what he's talking about. I'm not sitting here saying our season is over and we're just going to treat this like an evaluation for next year. I think we still have a lot to fight for."

The threads that held together Washington's defeat Sunday were familiar. The details were painful, too.

The Panthers went ahead 7-3 on their second possession and never relinquished the lead. They gave the Redskins a taste of their own medicine, amassing 50 of 69 yards on the drive on three zone-read runs. DeAngelo Williams' 30-yard touchdown run was one of them.

Linebacker Perry Riley believed he could have pushed Williams out of bounds at the 12-yard line, but he pulled up because he heard the whistle blow. Referee Carl Cheffers conceded after the game that there was an inadvertent whistle, but the referees gathered and ruled Williams was in the end zone when the whistle blew. The television replay proved Williams wasn't even close.

The Redskins drove to Carolina's

2-yard line on the ensuing possession. They went for it on fourth-and-goal, but the Panthers tackled quarterback Robert Griffin III for no gain.

The play, basically a quarterback sweep to the right, was doomed from the start because Carolina overloaded the front side. The Redskins, who had one timeout left with 5:21 left in the first half, ideally would have gotten out of that play, tight end Logan Paulsen said.

"They had numbers ... but based on our formation and our personnel I think we were kind of stuck with it," Paulsen said.

Shanahan explained his thinking in going for it. If the defense held, the Redskins would regain possession with great field position. "I really believe it's a mindset of your team that you're not afraid to go for it," he said.

The problem is that the Redskins defense has broken down way more often than it has stood up. And when Carolina drove 98 yards for a touchdown before halftime, it was clear the Redskins ship is taking on water.

Now they have a week off to suffer this stench and to ponder their direction. "Very disappointed right now, very emotional right now, just as everybody would be," Shanahan said. "You go back and look at who made mistakes and what we need to do as a staff to improve."

DALY

From page R1

about everybody in the organization was Officially on Notice. Only one club in the league, the 1-7 Chiefs, had a worse record than it did.

But that didn't keep the Panthers from beating the Redskins 21-13 in a game Shanahan had designated a "must-win" for his team. If this is how his players play when they've dropped two in a row — and are trying to avoid a three-game death spiral heading into the bye week — you have to wonder if anyone's listening to him anymore.

It's not like this is an isolated incident, either. Far from it. Last December, you may recall, the Redskins lost to the 2-12 Minnesota Vikings at FedEx — yet another indication that Shanny's work-in-progress was much closer to the bottom than the top.

Let's be honest: Defeats like these suck the hope out of a fan base. I mean, this is the Any Given Sunday League, sure, but when the Redskins can't separate themselves from the dregs of the NFL, it just chips away at any trust their followers might have in the club's management, any confidence they might have in the direction of the franchise.

So when Shanahan said the team had reached the point, at 3-6, where "you're playing to see who's going to be on your football team," where you "evaluate players" to "see who can fight through" bad times, it was hard not to think: That's all well and good,

but who's evaluating the evaluators? They're the ones — from Bruce Allen on down — who assembled this roster, who presided over this latest Lowlight in Redskins History.

In a game that, in the coach's estimation, they *had to have* to keep their shrinking playoff chances alive, the Redskins gave up touchdown drives of 98 and 91 yards (the first after being stuffed at the Carolina goal line), were burned for another long completion (82 yards, to set up the clinching score), converted only 3 of 15 third downs, committed 13 penalties and couldn't capitalize on a 14-yard Panthers punt.

Or as Trent Williams put it: "We helped them beat us."

Does that sound like a club that was, to borrow a phrase, fired up and ready to go? Or does that sound like a club that, after a killer loss to the New York Giants and a hammering by the Pittsburgh Steelers, has pretty much shot its wad?

"I'm tired of being subpar in this league," Lorenzo Alexander said. "A lot of guys are. We haven't put two wins together since early last season [and they've done it only twice in the Shanny Era]." Still, he added, "I'd like to finish the season on a good note."

Too bad the Redskins didn't begin that process Sunday afternoon. It would have been a great time for it.

Some people want to make a big deal of the fact that the Redskins came up small on a day they inducted 10 more legends into their Hall of Fame. Puh-leeze. If the Redskins need the memory of Sean Taylor to inspire

them, if they aren't inspired enough by their last-place lot in life, then they're beyond help.

And in light of recent events, that's definitely a question worth considering: Can these Redskins be saved, by Robert Griffin III or anybody else? They have seven games left, five against division foes they've struggled against and another against a Baltimore Ravens team that lives to beat them. There also are signs the league is starting to adjust to the Three-Card Monte game Griffin is running. Familiarity breeds ... better containment, at the very least. And the Panthers probably had a better handle on the Washington offense than most because they see a quarterback like RG3 — the multi-talented Cam Newton — every day in practice. Not only did they sack Robert four times, one less than his career high, they limited him 53 rushing yards in 11 carries (with a long of 9).

Worst of all for the Redskins, they don't even benefit from losses like this by securing a higher draft pick. Next year's No. 1 already belongs to the St. Louis Rams — as partial payment for Griffin.

RG3 is counting on his mates to "stay tough between the ears" these next two weeks, while the criticism flies and job insecurity mounts. "After the bye," he said, "I think you'll see a different team."

A different team? Much of Redskins Nation likely would approve of that. How about the '91 Redskins? Or the '87 Redskins? Or the '82 Redskins?

NOTEBOOK

Williams happy he could help spoil party

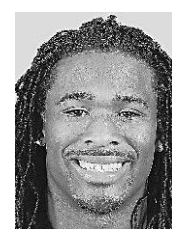
By STEPHEN WHYNO
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Washington Redskins ruined DeAngelo Williams' Sunday morning, so the Carolina Panthers running back was determined to ruin their afternoon.

Feeling pretty good before arriving at FedEx Field, Williams said his realization that this was the Redskins' "Homecoming" game provided all the motivation he needed.

"I'm looking at the Gameday [program] and I look on there and it says 'Homecoming.'" Williams said after the Panthers beat the Redskins 21-13. "And I'm thinking to myself like, 'This is the National Football League. Are you serious? Homecoming? Homecoming? It's not like you tried to hide it. You blatantly put it on the front of the Gameday! You're talking about somebody fired up today. I was [ticked].'"

Williams was referring to Washington honoring 10 new players into its "80 Greatest Redskins" group, which included calling this Homecoming weekend. LaVar Arrington, Clinton Portis, Jon



Williams

Jansen, Joe Bugel, Richie Petitbon and Terry Hermeling were in attendance. The late Sean Taylor was represented by members of his family; Chris Samuels did not make it. About 160 alumni took part.

"It's a tremendous honor. As offensive linemen you don't get a lot of honors and notice for a lot of things," Jansen said. "But to have the fans and some that are on the [70 greatest Redskins] team vote for you and to be among those guys and have your name mentioned among those guys, it's one of the greatest honors I've ever had."

Being on the opposite sideline for these festivities was not anything of an honor to Williams.

"You don't say you're going to have a Homecoming in the National Football League," Williams said. "You do it in college; it's one of those teams that's just terrible. You don't look like a good team for Homecoming."

Williams brought it up to teammates before the game and ignored a reporter's question to sound off about the situation. He finished with six carries for 37 yards, including a 30-yard touchdown run. That touchdown included some question as whether an official blew the whistle. Asked on Twitter who blew the whistle, Williams responded: "the homecoming king and queen lol."

Said Williams: "I just know that you don't give a team extra motivation by putting that on your program or even just blatantly coming out saying you're our Homecoming game," he said.

Griffin has ribs X-rayed

Robert Griffin III had X-rays on his ribs following the game, and they came back showing no breaks. Coach Mike Shanahan said there never was a concern about finding broken ribs.

"That one shot, I think, when he was dropping back in the first quarter, he took a pretty good shot to the ribs," Shanahan said. "Anyway, hopefully it's not too bad. But he's sore right now."

With two weeks until the Redskins' next game, Griffin brushed off concern.

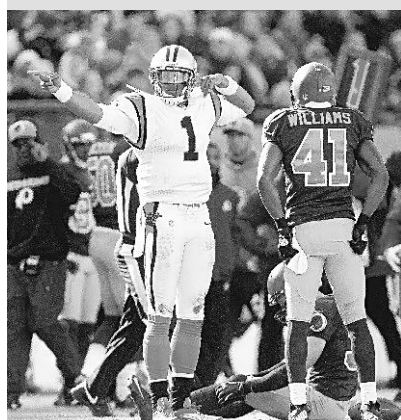
"I'm fine. I'll be ready to go," Griffin said. "No one's ever going to question the fight that I have inside of myself to be the greatest and to help lead this team to victory."

Robinson phased out

It looked like Aldrick Robinson would be a big piece of the Redskins' offense, given his speed in the absence of Pierre Garcon. But Robinson dropped the ball on the first offensive play from scrimmage and wasn't targeted again until late in the fourth quarter when Santana Moss was out with a concussion.

Robinson took responsibility for the drop but didn't think his almost non-existent role the rest of the afternoon was based on that.

"It was just the flow of the game. The flow of the game didn't go the way that my plays were going," he said. "It wasn't because I dropped the ball."



CRAIG ISACRE/THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Panthers quarterback Cam Newton celebrates a first down during the first quarter. Newton threw for 201 yards and ran for 37.

NFL WEEK 9

Top performers

- Bucs RB Doug Martin:** 251 yards, 4 TDs
- Colts QB Andrew Luck:** 433 yards, 2 TDs
- Bears WR Brandon Marshall:** 122 yards, 3 TDs

RAVENS

Baltimore upends Cleveland on Smith's TD

Flacco improves to 10-0 vs. Browns

By Tom Withers
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEVELAND | There seems to be something about those plain orange helmets that fires up Joe Flacco, Ray Rice and the Ravens.

When they see them, they beat them — every time.

Flacco threw a 19-yard touchdown pass to Torrey Smith with 4:26 left as Baltimore won its 10th straight game over Cleveland and 11th in a row inside the AFC North with a 25-15 comeback win over the Browns on Sunday.

That's nothing new for Flacco, Rice and Ravens coach John Harbaugh.

"We're 10-0 against them," said Rice, who entered the league in 2008. "You didn't see Joe blink."

Smith caught Flacco's strike and spun away from cornerback Joe Haden as the Ravens (6-2) once again found a way to defeat the young Browns (2-7). It also was Baltimore's 15th straight win following a loss, and it helped the Ravens shake off a disastrous 30-point loss to Houston two weeks ago.

Baltimore improved to 5-0 after a bye week under Harbaugh, who was relieved following another rugged division game that included hard shoves, kicks, taunting and the usual amount animosity.

"Whew," Harbaugh said. "That was a fight. That's a really good football team. They are well coached, tough and physical. They are building something here. They are an up-and-coming AFC North-style team. That was an AFC North battle."

Phil Dawson kicked five field goals for the Browns, who were again competitive but failed to score a touchdown on five trips inside Baltimore's 20-yard line. The only time Cleveland got into

the end zone, quarterback Brandon Weeden's 18-yard TD pass to rookie Josh Gordon was nullified by an illegal formation penalty.

"It's frustrating," said running back Trent Richardson, who gained 105 yards. "But we can't point fingers. We all have to be accountable for what we do. I've got to run harder. We gotta make better calls. We have to make sure we pick up blocks and catch the ball, and we have to do the right things."

"Once you're in the red zone, you gotta score some kind of way."

After Dawson's 41-yard field goal put the Browns ahead 15-14 with 8:48 left, Flacco moved Baltimore again.

The Ravens, who led 14-0 with touchdowns the first two times they had the ball, went six straight possessions without a first down when Flacco completed a 21-yard pass to Anquan Boldin. Two plays later, Flacco threw an incompletion on second down, but Browns safety T.J. Ward was called for roughing.

"You need a play to get yourself going," Flacco said of his throw to Boldin. "That was a good one."

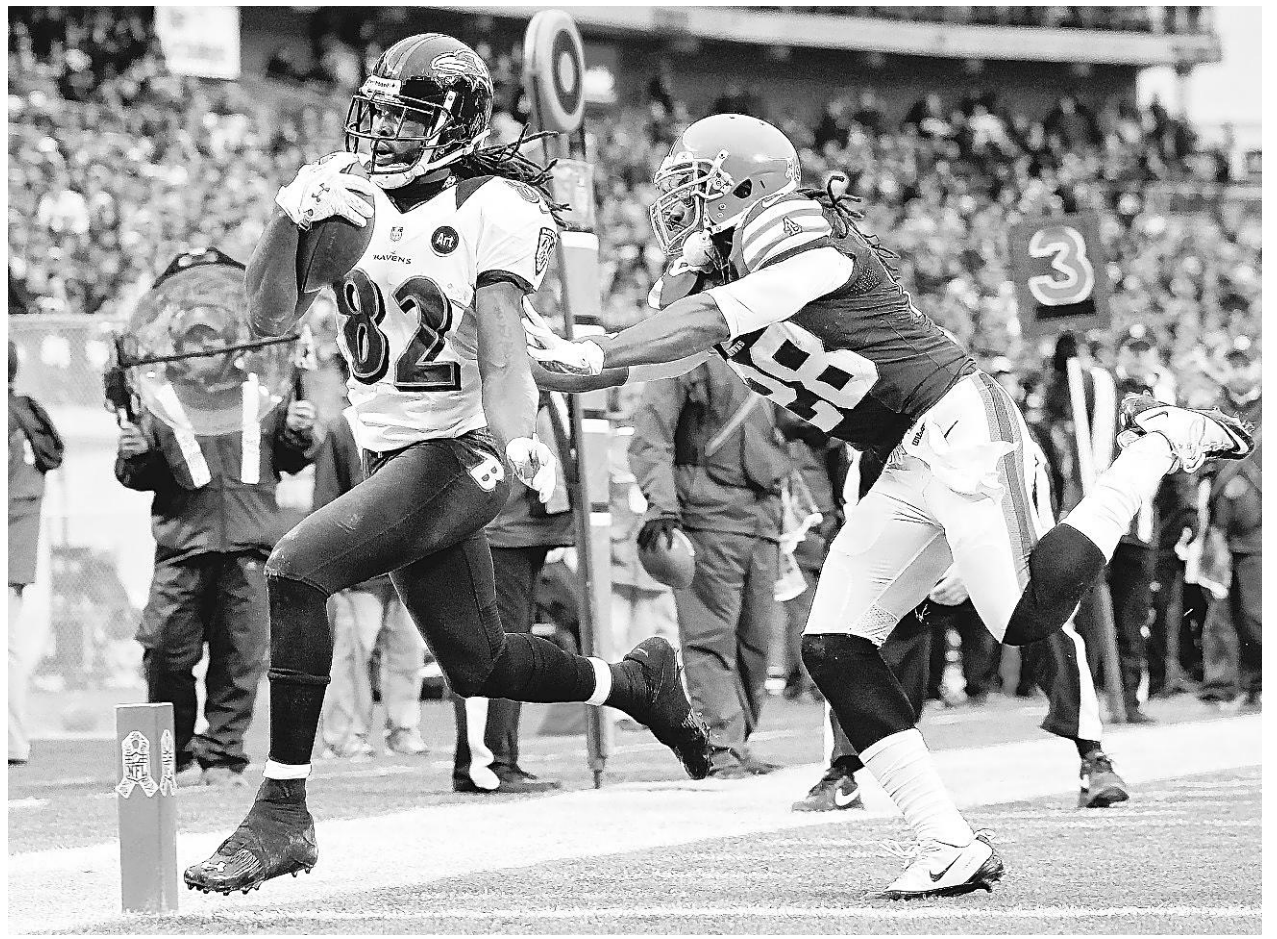
On third-and-10, Flacco then fired a slant pass to Smith, who wheeled away from a flat-footed Haden and sprinted into the end zone to make it 20-15.

Haden offered no excuses.

"When he broke inside, I was coming down to make sure he didn't get the first down," Haden said. "He spun out on me. I took a bad angle, and he made a really good move."

The Ravens then converted the two-point try with Flacco hitting a wide-open Boldin to extend the lead to seven.

Cleveland had plenty of time left and two timeouts. But facing a 4th-and-2 at his 28, Browns coach Pat



Baltimore receiver Torrey Smith beats Cleveland safety Usama Young to the goal line on a 19-yard touchdown catch during the fourth quarter. The Ravens won 25-15, holding the Browns without a touchdown on five trips inside Baltimore's 20.

Shurmur, who chose to punt two weeks ago at Indianapolis in similar circumstances, decided to go for it with 3:53 remaining. However, Weeden's pass for Greg Little was incomplete, and the Ravens took over.

"I felt like we had a play that we liked, and we didn't execute it," Shurmur said.

Baltimore's Justin Tucker kicked a 43-yard field goal to put the Ravens up by 10.

The Browns' last chance ended when safety Ed Reed intercepted Weeden, who went 20 of 37 for 176 yards and two interceptions.

"We had a chance," Weeden said. "We just couldn't finish it."

Flacco finished 15 of 24 for 153 yards. He completed his first 10 passes, but Cleveland's defense shut him and the Ravens down for most of the second half until the final TD drive.

"We started fast and finished

strong," Harbaugh said. "In the middle? Eh, it was iffy. But we came together at the end to win. I was thinking (when the Ravens were struggling, "This is not good. It would be nice to get a first down. They didn't do anything different. They just did it better. The play to Anquan got us going."

Rice had 98 yards and an 8-yard TD run and Bernard Pierce scored from 12 yards as the Ravens jumped to a quick 14-0 lead.

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
New England	5	3	0	.625	262	170
Miami	4	4	0	.500	170	149
N.Y. Jets	3	5	0	.375	168	200
Buffalo	3	5	0	.375	180	248

SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Houston	7	1	0	.875	237	137
Indianapolis	5	3	0	.625	159	191
Tennessee	3	6	0	.333	182	308
Jacksonville	1	7	0	.125	117	219

NORTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Baltimore	6	2	0	.750	199	176
Pittsburgh	5	3	0	.625	191	164
Cincinnati	3	5	0	.375	189	218
Cleveland	2	7	0	.222	169	211

WEST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Denver	5	3	0	.625	235	175
San Diego	4	4	0	.500	185	157
Oakland	3	5	0	.375	171	229
Kansas City	1	7	0	.125	133	240

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	6	3	0	.667	254	185
Philadelphia	3	4	0	.429	120	155
Dallas	3	4	0	.429	137	162
Washington	3	6	0	.333	226	248

SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Atlanta	7	0	0	1.000	201	130
Tampa Bay	4	4	0	.500	226	185
New Orleans	2	5	0	.286	190	216
Carolina	2	6	0	.250	149	180

NORTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Chicago	7	1	0	.875	236	120
Green Bay	6	3	0	.667	239	187
Minnesota	5	4	0	.556	204	197
Detroit	4	4	0	.500	192	188

WEST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
San Francisco	6	2	0	.750	189	103
Seattle	5	4	0	.556	170	154
Arizona	4	5	0	.444	144	173
St. Louis	3	5	0	.375	137	186

THURSDAY'S GAME

San Diego 31, Kansas City 13

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Green Bay 31, Arizona 17
Chicago 51, Tennessee 20
Houston 21, Buffalo 9
Carolina 21, Washington 13
Detroit 31, Jacksonville 14
Denver 31, Cincinnati 23
Baltimore 25, Cleveland 15
Indianapolis 23, Miami 20
Seattle 30, Minnesota 20
Tampa Bay 42, Oakland 32
Pittsburgh 24, N.Y. Giants 20
Dallas at Atlanta, late
Open: N.Y. Jets, New England, San Francisco, St. Louis

MONDAY'S GAMES

Philadelphia at New Orleans, 8:30 p.m.

ROUNDUP

Inspired by Pagano, Colts follow Luck

ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS | Chuck Pagano provided the inspiration, then Andrew Luck delivered a record-setting performance in yet another win for the surprising Indianapolis Colts.

After a 23-20 victory over Miami, the ailing coach offered even more encouragement.

Picked by many to be among the NFL's weakest team, the rebuilding Colts are now in the playoff conversation at 5-3.

"I mentioned before the game that you guys were living in a vision, and you weren't living in circumstances," Pagano said Sunday, surrounded by his players and with interim Bruce Arians at his side after the Colts' third straight win.

"You know where they had us in the beginning, every last one of them. But you refused to live in circumstances and you decided consciously as a team and as a family to live in a vision, and that's why you bring things home like what you bring home today. That's why you're already champions and well on your way."

Luck wasn't too concerned that he had just broken Cam Newton's year-old record for yards passing in a game by a rookie or even that his team had another victory.

He just wanted to live up to the message from his coach, who has been receiving treatment for leukemia since being diagnosed on Sept. 26.

Bucs 42, Raiders 32

OAKLAND, CALIF. | Rookie Doug Martin rushed for a franchise-record 251 yards and four touchdowns and Ahmad Black intercepted a Carson Palmer pass after Oakland had cut an 18-point deficit to three late in the fourth quarter.

Martin, who was born in Oakland, had a memorable homecoming for the Bucs by scoring on runs of 1, 45, 67 and 70 yards in the second half.

Martin, the 31st pick in April out of Boise State, became the first back since at least 1940 to score on three TD runs of at least 45 yards in one game, according to STATS LLC.

Steelers 24, Giants 20

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. | Isaac Redman ran for 147 yards and the winning touchdown with 4:02 remaining.

The Steelers snapped New York's four-game winning streak by overcoming some uncharacteristic sloppiness and dominating the second half.

Temporary relief from the destruction of Superstorm Sandy was what New York's fans sought, and the Giants provided it for a while. But they couldn't stop Redman or touchdowns of 51 yards for Mike Wallace and 4 yards for Emmanuel Sanders on passes from Ben Roethlisberger.



Colts quarterback Andrew Luck acknowledges the crowd as he leaves the field Sunday in Indianapolis. Luck set a rookie record with 433 yards passing.

Broncos 31, Bengals 23

CINCINNATI | Another fourth-quarter comeback kept Peyton Manning perfect against Cincinnati.

Manning overcame his two interceptions by throwing for three touchdown passes on Sunday, leading Denver over a Bengals team that can't find a way to top him.

Trindon Holliday returned a kickoff 105 yards for a Broncos record to start the second half, and Manning got Denver the victory by leading his 48th game-winning drive, moving ahead of Dan Marino for the NFL record since the 1970 merger.

Manning improved to 8-0 career against Cincinnati, which has lost four in a row for the first time in two years. This one didn't come quite so easily.

Packers 31, Cardinals 17

GREEN BAY, WIS. | Tom Crabtree had a 72-yard touchdown that was Green Bay's longest of the season, Randall Cobb added two scoring catches and Green Bay handed Arizona its fifth straight loss.

The Packers finished with a season-high 176 yards rushing on 39 carries, the first time in a month they've cracked the century mark.

James Jones also had a touchdown reception, his

career-high eighth of the season, and Green Bay goes into its bye week with a four-game winning streak.

Bears 51, Titans 20

NASHVILLE, TENN. | Brian Urlacher became the latest Chicago defender to return an interception for a touchdown and Jay Cutler threw three TD passes to Brandon Marshall.

Cornerback Charles Tillman forced four fumbles and Chicago created five turnovers while winning its sixth in a row.

The Bears scored a franchise-record 28 points in the first quarter. They took control by forcing three turnovers in the first 13 minutes and turning them into 14 points. Urlacher went 46 yards for his score.

Texans 21, Bills 9

HOUSTON | Matt Schaub threw two touchdown passes, Arian Foster ran for 111 yards against Buffalo's NFL-worst rushing defense and Houston beat former top pick Mario Williams and the Bills.

Andre Johnson caught eight passes for 118 yards and Foster scored for the fifth straight game for Houston.

Williams had a sack and five tackles in his return to Reliant Stadium after he signed with the Bills in the offseason. The Texans made Williams the No. 1 pick in the 2006 draft and he's still Houston's career sacks leader (53).

Lions 31, Jaguars 14

JACKSONVILLE, FLA. | Mikel Leshoure ran for three touchdowns, Calvin Johnson got involved early and Detroit turned in its most complete victory of the season.

Detroit dominated from start to finish, building a three-score lead before halftime and coasting after the break. It was a much different feeling for the Lions, who trailed in the second half in each of their other wins.

Leshoure finished with 70 yards rushing and scored on runs of 7, 1 and 8 yards, becoming the first in franchise history to run for three touchdowns in the first half. Not even Hall of Famer Barry Sanders accomplished that feat.

Seahawks 30, Vikings 20

SEATTLE | Marshawn Lynch ran for 124 yards and a touchdown, rookie QB Russell Wilson threw three first-half touchdowns, and Seattle overcame 182 yards rushing by Adrian Peterson.

The matchup between the top two rushers in the NFL — Peterson and Lynch — didn't disappoint with Peterson having his best game since 2008. Lynch ran for a 3-yard TD in the third quarter.

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

QUARTERS

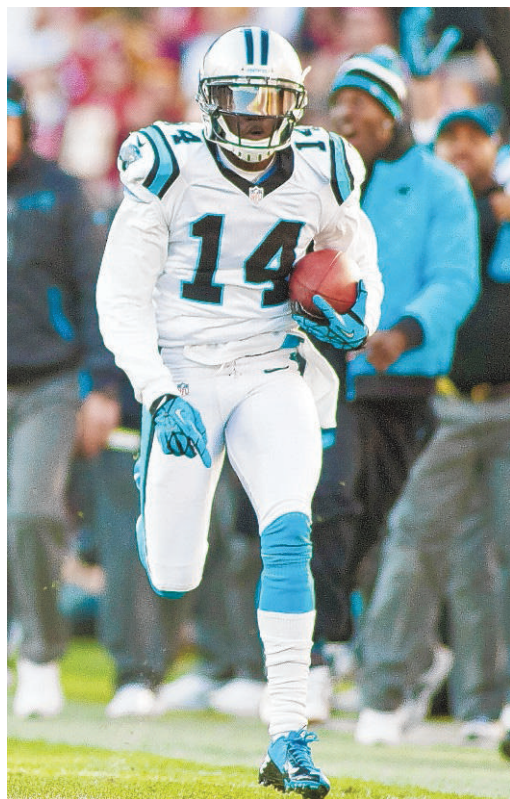
1 After weathering the Panthers' opening drive, the Redskins started their first possession at their own 3 but caught a break and managed to march to a field goal. As a third consecutive pass from his own end zone fell incomplete, Robert Griffin III got popped in the head by Greg Hardy for a 15-yard penalty, igniting a drive that ended in a field goal. That held up until the Panthers' running game got cranked up late in the quarter, leading to a 30-yard DeAngelo Williams TD marred by a premature whistle as the back stepped near — but not on — the sideline.

2 One Redskins drive consumed nearly two-thirds of the quarter, but Washington had nothing to show for those 10 minutes of possession after the Panthers stuffed a Griffin run on fourth-and-goal. Cam Newton made his drive count, rolling downfield with help from a couple dubious penalties before finding Steve Smith for a 19-yard score shortly before halftime that made it 14-3 Carolina.

PLAY OF THE GAME: Leading 14-6 in the opening minute of the fourth quarter, Cam Newton dropped back to pass on first-and-10 from his own 9. With his foot on the goal line, he unleashed a pass down the left sideline for Armanti Edwards, who could not have been more wide open. With help from a great hustle block by Steve Smith, Edwards raced to the Washington 9 for a gain of 82 yards, setting up a Newton touchdown run.

3 The Redskins managed only a field goal in the quarter, but their generally porous defense did manage to hold its own and keep Washington in the game. The big play was a third-and-1 stop of Mike Tolbert spearheaded by Rob Jackson, which halted a promising Carolina drive just short of midfield.

4 Ugly as it was in the end, the Redskins had their chances to come back and pull this one out. But the bizarre sequence on their second-to-last drive that saw two touchdowns wiped out by penalties — a hold on Will Montgomery, then an illegal formation — basically left the Redskins with no time. And that aside kick! A forgettable afternoon for the home team.



CIRIAG BISACRE/THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Panthers wide receiver Armanti Edwards runs down the sideline for an 82-yard gain that set up a Panthers touchdown early in the fourth quarter.

NUMBERS

5-15: Home record under Mike Shanahan
13: Penalties for Washington, which cost the Redskins 97 yards. They entered the game with an NFL-high 62 penalties this year.

172: Completions for Robert Griffin III this season, matching Norm Snead's team record for a rookie from 1961.

53: Rushing yards for Griffin, increasing his season total to 529, which leads all QBs.

NEXT

PHILADELPHIA AT REDSKINS
1 P.M. NOV. 18, FOX



● The hope that surrounded the Redskins early in the season seems in danger of turning into despair as Sunday's loss was Washington's third straight and fourth in five games. And even with RG3 struggling now (he was 23 for 39 for 215 yards with no TDs and was sacked four times against the Panthers), it could be said that when the Redskins resume their schedule in two weeks their opponent will look downright stable. The Eagles, also losers of three straight heading into Monday night's matchup against New Orleans, have a chance to right the ship against the NFL's worst defense. Assuming they can stop one of the NFL's best offenses. Regardless, neither team will be above .500 for the NFC East matchup, and the loser will be in danger of the season slipping away for good.



ANDREW HARNIK/THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Redskins cornerback Josh Wilson had a difficult day against Panthers receiver Steve Smith, who scored on this 19-yard catch during the second quarter. It was Smith's first touchdown reception of the season. Wilson also drew two pass-interference penalties, one of which he contested with an official (below) during the fourth quarter.

PANTHERS 21, REDSKINS 13

Life is draining out of season pass by pass



DERON SNYDER

The early-season excitement, the euphoria surrounding Robert Griffin III is gone. The Washington Redskins' fast start and unexpected promise has evaporated. Hope that a change was at hand in Mike Shanahan's third season at the helm has disappeared.

Slowly but slowly, it has dissipated, like air escaping from a tire's slow leak.

Or like a wideout working free against Washington's leaky

secondary.

There actually was good news Sunday in the Redskins' latest defeat, 21-13 against the visiting Carolina Panthers. Quarterback Cam Newton passed for just 201 yards, the lowest total that Washington has relinquished all season. It also marked the second consecutive week — and just the second week, period — in which the opponents gained fewer than 290 yards through the air.

However, the Redskins continued their trend of being gouged for long pass plays, this time early in the fourth quarter (as opposed to late in the fourth quarter, like the 77-yarder a couple of weeks ago against the New York Giants).

On first-and-10 from his 9-yard line, Newton connected for 82 yards to Armanti Edwards, who was wide open down the left sideline. Two plays later, Newton scored on a 1-yard run, giving Carolina a 21-6 lead.

"It looks like a busted coverage," said Shanahan. "Basically, at the end of the day, it is. It was a pretty good design. It's something we work on but, unfortunately, they out-executed us on that play."

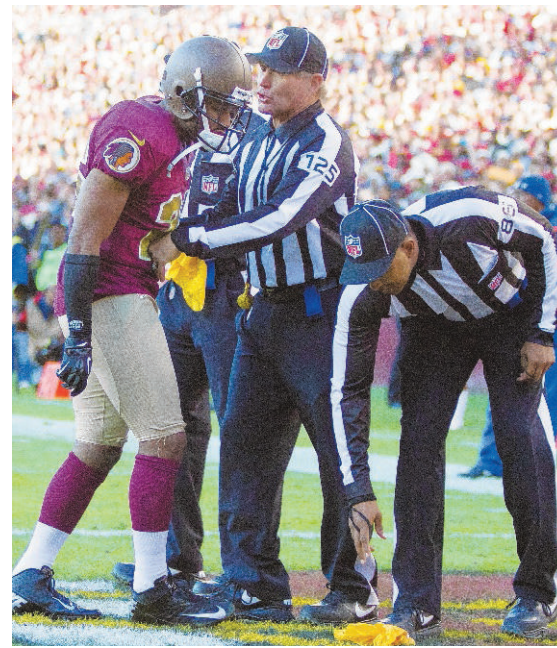
At this point in the season, with the Redskins yielding an NFL-worst average of 314 passing yards per game (entering Sunday), and a league-high 19 touchdown passes, maybe "execution" isn't the secondary's problem (and, no wisecracks about execution being the solution, either). It appears that the Redskins' beleaguered defensive backs are doing the best they can with the ability they have.

That doesn't bode well for the remainder of the year. Defensive coordinator Jim Haslett can make all the tweaks and adjustments imaginable, but if his players' skills, instincts and reactions are suspect, there isn't much room for improvement.

Washington was credited with just two passes defended against Carolina (compared to the Panthers' six). Receiver Steve Smith was targeted seven times and had only three receptions. But he caught his first touchdown of the season and drew a pair of pass interference penalties — all against cornerback Josh Wilson.

"We were man-up all day, mano a mano," Wilson said. "I felt like we held up out there."

Technically, he's correct. Giving up 21 points isn't



CIRIAG BISACRE/THE WASHINGTON TIMES

a terrible day's work. In fact, that's the lowest output against the Redskins this season. Washington had scored more than 21 points in six of its eight games, and had multiple chances to perhaps tie Carolina and force overtime.

But there's no escaping the sense of fear and dread when Wilson and fellow corner DeAngelo Hall line up in press, man-to-man coverage. They don't instill confidence when they're sitting back in zone, either. Neither do Reed Doughty and Madiou Williams, the safeties assigned to assist them.

Each opposing wideout probably reminds his quarterback as the huddle breaks: "I'm open."

"They're doing the best they can," linebacker Lorenzo Alexander said, "but it's not all on them. We need to get better pressure up front so quarterbacks don't have as much time to throw."

He has a point, as the Redskins managed no sacks and just two hits on Newton. Washington was tied for 20th in sacks entering the game, and the secondary simply isn't good enough to cover receivers very long.

But a lack of pressure doesn't explain all of the long passing plays that have plagued the Redskins this season. Defensive backs haven't been within shouting distance on many of them, including Sunday's bomb to Edwards.

"We can't have mental breakdowns like that," Alexander said. "Obviously, we're not a good enough defense. We can't give up those plays if we want to win."

Painful as it might be to admit, Washington likely will have to win despite giving up big plays. Because after nine games and weeks of analysis and so-called corrections, the secondary is porous as ever with no signs of improvement.

Legend weighs in on woes of secondary

Green says it's about teaching

BY STEPHEN WHYNO

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

By the numbers, Sunday's loss was the best performance by the Washington Redskins' pass defense this season. It gave up 201 yards to the Carolina Panthers, 82 on a completion from Cam Newton to Armanti Edwards in the fourth quarter.

But another 201 yards surrendered won't much help the Redskins, who are careening toward giving up almost 5,000 this season. And while answers for the beleaguered secondary are few and far between, Hall of Fame cornerback Darrell Green has his theory on what's going wrong.

"In my humble opinion, you're seeing a lack of skill development. We're not talking about 'Can they do it?' We're not saying, 'Can they play?' But I think that there's a lost art of people knowing how to teach you how to do what you're supposed to do," Green said before Sunday's game. "I think that the league lacks that, and in my opinion that's what they're lacking here. I know some of these kids, and I know that they can do it. But when I watch, I go, 'Wow, he doesn't even know.'"

Asked if that meant the problem fell on defensive coordinator Jim Haslett and defensive backs coach Raheem Morris, Green deflected.

"I don't know where it falls. I'm not going down that road," he said. "It falls wherever it falls. But it's still the truth."

Green played 20 seasons for the Redskins, making the Pro Bowl seven times. Now 52 and not interested in going into coaching, he said he accepted that his opinion might be passed off as an "old, retired" guy just talking. And he tried to make it clear that he wasn't attempting to blast anyone with his comments.

Green didn't criticize the Redskins' scheme against the pass but rather the lack of teaching going on.

"It's like when your mama cooks. Yeah, her mama taught her, but she practiced and she tried this and she

"It can be done. And I think it will. I'm not giving up on 'em. I think it will be done."

— Darrell Green

tried that," Green said. "It's between the coach and the player; you make a cake. You learn, 'Ooh, last time I tried this and I tried that' and you find, 'Whoa, grandma can make this cake.' She didn't always know how to make it that way, but through trial and error, through activity, through participation you learn it. That should have a combination of coach and player developing that kind of idea."

Veteran Redskins cornerback Cedric Griffin did not agree with Green's assessment.

"I believe coach Raheem Morris is a great coach in this league. That's why he's here. He's been teaching us great techniques, great schemes," Griffin said. "I'm not really worried about outside sources, to be honest with you, and no one else in this team's worried about outside sources. We're doing a great job right now. We're just giving up a couple plays."

The Redskins went into Sunday last in the league in pass defense.

Following the 21-13 loss to the Panthers, they're allowing 301.7 yards per game.

But Green said it should not take long to fix the secondary.

"It can be done in a day. Now it has to be perfected over time," he said. "It's like a doctor [diagnosing] it. That's in a day. He can tell you if your arm is out of place in a moment. Yeah, that can be done in a short period of time."

The Redskins the past two weeks allowed 201 and 215 yards, though that was likely the result of being behind as much as it was evidence of improvement. Still, Green believes the pass defense can turn it around.

"It can be done. And I think it will," Green said. "I'm not giving up on 'em. I think it will be done."