



**Top 5**

1. Jimmie Johnson

2. Greg Biffle

3. Matt Kenseth

4. Tony Stewart

5. Ryan Newman

For complete results of the Checker Auto Parts 500, please see page D3

*Those guys have flat-out killed everybody. And you've got to give credit where credit is due.*

Jeff Gordon, second in Nextel Cup points



NASCAR photo

Jimmie Johnson takes the checkered flag to win the Checker Auto Parts 500 at Phoenix International Raceway on Sunday, his fourth win in a row.

# GORDON: 'IT'S OVER'

## Johnson wins unbelievable fourth-straight race



**Jimmie Johnson becomes the eighth driver in the modern era to win four consecutive races, joining:**

- ▶ Cale Yarborough - 1976
- ▶ Darrell Waltrip - 1981
- ▶ Dale Earnhardt - 1987
- ▶ Harry Gant - 1991
- ▶ Bill Elliott - 1992
- ▶ Mark Martin - 1993
- ▶ Jeff Gordon - 1998

The Associated Press

**A**VONDALE, Ariz. — Nobody could touch Jeff Gordon in his prime, a three-year stretch when he won 33 races and consecutive championships. That was almost 10 years ago, and few thought they'd ever see a driver capable of dominating the way Gordon once did. Until Jimmie Johnson came along. Johnson took command of the Nextel Cup championship Sunday, winning at Phoenix International Raceway to open a daunting lead over his teammate in the race to the title. It was his 10th win of the season — most since Gordon won 13 in 1998 — and barring a collapse in next week's finale, Johnson will become the first driver to win consecutive championships since Gordon did it in 1997 and 1998.

But Johnson doesn't want to be compared

to his mentor, the four-time series champion.

"I certainly don't want to be called the next Jeff Gordon. I am Jimmie Johnson. I've always done it my way," he said. "If you look at our driving styles, our setups, look at everything we do, we are on opposite ends. We do have some common interests, we are close friends.

"But I am not Jeff Gordon, so let's just get that out of the way."

No, he's not Gordon. But his work on the track makes it impossible not to draw the comparisons.

"They're just unbelievably good," said Matt Kenseth, the 2003 champion. "They're as good as any group I've seen, including Jeff in his heyday when he was winning 10 races a year and the championship by over a hundred points."

Johnson can realistically do the same.

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	Points
1. Jimmie Johnson	6,572
2. Jeff Gordon	-86
3. Clint Bowyer	-241
4. Kyle Busch	-387
+1 5. Tony Stewart	-403
+4 6. Matt Kenseth	-469
+1 7. Kevin Harvick	-479
-1 8. Jeff Burton	-483
-9 9. Carl Edwards	-505
-1 10. Kurt Busch	-516
-1 11. Martin Truex Jr.	-563
-1 12. Denny Hamlin	-599

## Men's College Basketball

# Baker shows strength

William & Mary transfer gets first UVa playing time

By Andy Bitter  
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CHARLOTTESVILLE — Was Virginia transfer Calvin Baker frustrated at times last year? Of course.

**Virginia 90** A l l those hours in the gym, dripping sweat trying to keep up with Sean Singletary and J.R. Reynolds, produced little pay-off. He got to sit at the end of the bench in street clothes during home games as a spectator. Even worse, per NCAA rules, he couldn't travel with the team for road games, having to find the Cavaliers on television just like everyone else.

Through it all, he reminded himself of his mother's advice when he took a chance and transferred from William & Mary last year: Never look back.

Baker finally got to enjoy the fruits of his labor in the Cavaliers' season-opening 90-72 win over Vermont at the John Paul Jones Arena on Sunday. Coming off the bench, Baker scored 11 points and had a steal in 14 minutes.

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Baker



AP photo

Virginia's Jamil Tucker (12) fights for a rebound with Vermont's Marqus Blakely.



Brian Westbrook (36) scores during the fourth quarter Sunday.

# McNabb answers critics against Redskins

Washington has trouble stopping Westbrook while suffering second loss at home this season

By Jason La Canfora  
The Washington Post

**WASHINGTON** — Brian Westbrook's 57-yard prance to the end zone late in the fourth quarter did not decide this football game — the plot was far too convoluted — but it was a rare virtuoso performance on an afternoon of blunders. Westbrook, like a cross between a ballet dancer and a sprinter, turned a simple screen pass into a backbreaking excursion, stunning players on both sidelines and put-



Philadelphia at Washington  
**33 25**

ting the Philadelphia Eagles ahead for good.

Without it, perhaps Washington Redskins Coach Joe Gibbs would not have been asked about coaching decisions, wasted timeouts, penalties and another blown lead after a 33-25 defeat at FedEx Field. The outcome rejuvenated an important rival

— at 4-5 the Eagles are alive in the NFC — and stunted the Redskins (5-4) ahead of road tests at Dallas and Tampa. The Redskins committed 11 penalties — the defense extended drives with third-down infractions; the offense succumbed to procedural mistakes near the goal line — and for the 13th time since 2004 they lost a game in which they led at the half, most in the NFL.

"We've got to learn how to put the dog away, point blank," cornerback Fred Smoot said. "I felt like we

were the better team, but they played better, and guess what happened? They won the game off our mistakes."

Gibbs said he remains baffled by the second-half let-downs — "I don't think anyone has the answer to that," he said — and fretful over mounting injuries. Wide receiver James Thrash's superb effort was ended by a high ankle sprain and the Eagles posted 158 yards and four touchdowns after Sean Taylor, the anchor of a deep zone defense,

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The Washington Wizards finally break into the win column  
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NFL

Brett Favre breaks the 60,000 yard passing plateau  
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Today's **TOP** TV games



NFL: 49ers @ Seahawks  
8:30 p.m., ESPN  
CBB: N. Mex. State @ Duke  
7 p.m., ESPN2



Check out where the Hokies and the 'Hoos rank in the latest BCS poll  
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