



**INSIDE:**  
The Pittsburgh Steelers break out the throwback uniforms in a soggy beatdown of the Ravens  
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# Peerman out for season

William Campbell product likely to undergo surgery

From staff reports

Virginia tailback Cedric Peerman will miss the rest of the season and probably undergo surgery on his injured right foot, according to an ESPN.com report Monday night citing UVA coach Al Groh.



Peerman

Peerman, a former William Campbell star, has not played since Oct. 6, when he was injured near the end of the first quarter in Virginia's 23-21 win at Middle Tennessee. He has been on crutches since with what Groh said was a

ligament injury.

The junior led the ACC in rushing when he got hurt, with 585 yards and five touchdowns.

# Prep Volleyball Red Devils take care of business

Ashley Heath records 21 kills for Rustburg

By Ted Allen  
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**RUSTBURG** — A sense of urgency and a killer instinct are two essentials to a volleyball team's success, especially in the postseason.

In Monday's opening round of the Region III tournament, Rustburg (16-8) demonstrated both from the outset of its 25-7, 25-19, 25-18 sweep of Robert E. Lee.

"We knew we had to come out strong," said junior middle hitter Ashley Heath, who sparked the Red Devils with 21 kills, including 10 in the second game. "From here on out, we should be playing pretty good teams so we'll have to bring everything we have to the court. We can't hold anything back because at this point, it's do or die."

Rustburg (16-8), the Seminole District runner-up to Brookville, advances to tonight's quarterfinal against Blue Ridge District champion Northside at 7, in a rematch in Roanoke, where it won last season's Region III opener.

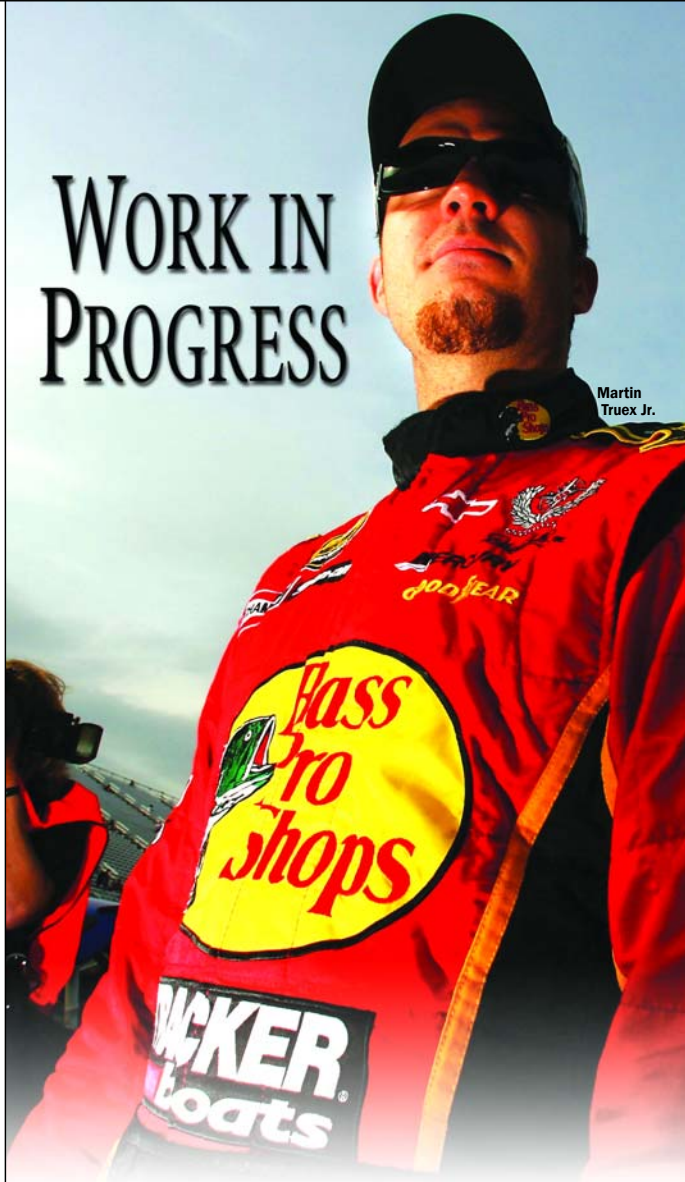
Heath almost made it look too easy against Lee (15-7), using her quick vertical leap to put short sets from fellow junior Frances Booth (31 assists) straight down to the floor at times or deep inside the baseline at others.

"Ashley had an unbelievable night," Rustburg coach Kristen Hardie said of Heath, who committed no errors and spiked 21 kills on 26 attempts (81 percent). "She played really well. The passes were there, the sets were there and she was able to hit around their blocks."

One of Rustburg's most effective means of attack was its "slide" set and

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# WORK IN PROGRESS



Martin Truex Jr.

NASCAR photo

# DEI aiming to change perception of a team in trouble

The Associated Press

**MOORESVILLE, N.C.** — When Martin Truex Jr. crossed the finish line in third place at Texas Motor Speedway, it capped his best weekend in almost two months and gave Dale Earnhardt Inc. results it could celebrate.

No, it wasn't a victory. Those are hard to come by these days at DEI.

Bad luck, broken parts and blown motors have gotten in the way of wins, and Truex's victory at Dover in June marked the only time in the last 17 months that DEI has been able to fly the celebratory checkered flag outside its race shop.

A team built from the bottom up by the late Dale Earnhardt to contend for Cup titles isn't really close, and his namesake son has two weeks left on his DEI career before he flees for powerhouse Hendrick Motorsports.

It's led many to predict DEI's days as a relevant race team are coming to a close, something the management group of the proud organization is fighting hard to prove wrong.

"Everything we hear, everything we read is all about how DEI is done. We're shutting down. It's just ridiculous," said Max Siegel, president of global operations. "Quite frankly, we're sick of hearing it. DEI is here to stay. We're not going anywhere."

The negative perception was created during a tumultuous five-month period when Dale Earnhardt Jr. and his stepmother publicly sparred over his contract negotiations.

Teresa Earnhardt fired the first shot in a December interview in The Wall Street Journal, when she questioned whether Earnhardt wants to be a celebrity more than he wants to be a championship-winning race car driver.

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**Martin Truex Jr.**

- ▶ 12th in points
- ▶ Top finish: 1st (Dover)
- ▶ DNFs: 4

**Dale Earnhardt Jr.**

- ▶ 13th in points
- ▶ Top finish: 2nd (Pocono)
- ▶ DNFs: 7

**Mark Martin & Aric Almirola**

- ▶ 17th in owner points
- ▶ Best finish: 2nd (Daytona)
- ▶ DNFs: 5 (2 Martin, 3 Almirola)

**Paul Menard**

- ▶ 29th in owner points
- ▶ Best finish: 12th (Mich.)
- ▶ DNFs: 3

## WHAT'S IN THIS SECTION



### Baseball

Joe Torre dons his new Dodgers gear  
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### College Football

Don't look now, but the Wolfpack are on a three-game winning streak  
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### IN TOMORROW'S NEWS & ADVANCE

The 2007-08 Men's college basketball season gets ready to tip off as we preview every local team.



### NFL



AP photo

Redskins RB Clinton Portis played a key role in Sunday's OT win.

# 'Skins run game picks up speed

Portis helps Washington rush for 296 yards in win over the Jets on Sunday

The Associated Press

**ASHBURN** — Joe Gibbs wanted physical, run-first football, and he got it.

The Washington Redskins ran the ball 48 times and passed it only 23. Clinton Portis' 36 carries were an NFL single-game high this season. The team's 296 yards rushing were the most by the franchise in 20 years.

Yet the effort was barely enough to beat the New York Jets, who have a bad run defense and have lost six in a row. The coach called Sunday's 23-20 overtime victory "more the look of what I envision Redskins football being," but it's a blueprint that will be hard to successfully duplicate in the games to come.

"If they're back, you've got to be able to run. If they're up, you've got to be able to throw," Gibbs said. "That's kind of where we are. That's why we talk about the balance we like to have. You've got to be able to run. You've got to be able to pass."

The Redskins picked the perfect opponent to re-establish the ground game and reset team morale following a 52-7 loss at New England the week before. Even when the Jets took a 17-3 first-half lead, the ball kept going to Portis and Ladell Betts because New York couldn't stop them. Portis, who had looked like a shadow of his old self in recent weeks, ended a career-high 12-game streak without a 100-yard performance by running for 196.

"I always believed I could do it," said Portis, who focused on keeping his balance and holding the ball in the correct hand after studying film of himself last week. "It's the outside world who always doubted. I think the coaches here believe in me. I think my teammates believe in me. To go out and have the opportunity, and to have the success when I have the opportunity, it feels good. At the same time, we know we've got to keep it going."

Keeping it going was the theme at Redskins Park on Monday. How that will be accomplished is yet to be determined.

At the midpoint of the season, the Redskins are a 5-3 team that's hard to figure out. Their three losses are to teams whose combined record is 22-3 — and they came close to beating two of those. They have a better record than two NFC division leaders (Tampa Bay and Seattle) and have already matched last year's win total.

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Today's **TOP TV games**

College Football:  
Cent. Mich. @ West. Mich.  
7:30 p.m., ESPN  
NHL: Rangers @ Islanders  
7 p.m., VS