



INSIDE:
The Miami Heat's Pat Riley earns his 1,200th career coaching victory
Page C2

Patriots 34, Steelers 13



AP photos

New England's Rodney Harrison (37) and Asante Samuel (22) celebrate in the fourth quarter after Harrison stopped Pittsburgh on a fourth down.

SKY'S THE LIMIT

New England routs Pittsburgh to keep unbeaten streak alive

The Washington Post

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The New England Patriots steadied themselves after a couple of wobbly performances and took a significant stride toward securing an unbeaten season. Quarterback Tom Brady threw four touchdown passes, two of them to wide receiver Randy Moss, and the Patriots pulled away in the second half to beat the Pittsburgh Steelers, 34-13, Sunday at Gillette Stadium.

Please see **PATRIOTS**, Page C3

Remaining Schedule

Dec. 16 Home vs. NY Jets
Dec. 23 Home vs. Miami
Dec. 29 Road at NY Giants



Head coach **Bill Belichick**

No. 13 easier than 11 and 12 for Patriots in Foxborough

*By Dave Goldberg
The Associated Press*

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — When Bill Belichick finds a weakness in an opponent, he exploits it, exploits it, exploits it ...

Analysis Which is as good a way as any to explain why his New England Patriots are 13-0, three victories away from a perfect regular season and back in the form they showed before they stumbled a bit in their past two games.

Please see **EASY**, Page C3



Tech Men's Basketball

Hokies buying defensive scheme

Tech holds Colonials to lowest score allowed under Seth Greenberg

*By Nathan Warters
twarters@newsadvance.com
(434) 385-5540*

BLACKSBURG — It didn't seem possible, but Virginia Tech's men's basketball team topped Tuesday's defensive masterpiece.

Five days after limiting UNC Greensboro to 39 points and 26.5 percent shooting, the Hokies held George Washington to 25.9 percent from the field in a 68-36 win Sunday night at Cassell Coliseum.

Tech's defensive success the last couple of games is something that might be expected of a veteran team, but the Hokies started two freshmen against the Colonials (3-4), and five first-year players logged 10 or more minutes.

It seems the precocious Hokies (5-3) are buying into coach Seth Greenberg's defensive philosophy.

Freshman point guard Hank Thorns attributes his own success to Greenberg's practice punishments. If players let a man by, miss a box-out or commit similar defensive miscues during practice, they have to run afterward.

"I'm tired of running after practice," said Thorns, who had six points, four assists, three rebounds and two steals.



Thorns

"I just try to keep my man in front of me like coach asks and to limit buckets as much as possible."

The 36 points were the fewest allowed for a Tech defense under Greenberg, who became the head coach in 2003, and it was the lowest total for a Hokies' opponent since Feb. 8, 1997 (50-32 win at Fordham).

It was the lowest point total for GW since a 54-34 loss to Temple in the 1994 Atlantic 10 Tournament.

It's been more than 60 years since Tech last held back-to-back opponents to fewer than 40 points. The Hokies beat Lynchburg College 67-25 on Jan. 4, 1947, and followed that with a 42-35 win over House of David on Jan. 7.

History aside, Greenberg still expects improvement from his young bunch.

"Every game is a separate entity," he said. "If we think this is as good as it gets, we're not very good. If we continue to build on this, we have a chance to be good."



Greenberg

Greenberg spoke of his team's maturing defensive attitude after Tuesday's 67-39 home win over UNCG. There was more to like about Sunday's performance.

GW, which returned only two starters from last year's A-10 championship team, shot only

Please see **TECH**, Page C6

WHAT'S IN THIS SECTION

NFL



Peyton Manning joins the 300-touchdown club in a win over the Ravens
Page C3

ACC Basketball



Boston College earns the first conference victory of the season with a win over Maryland
Page C6

THE NEWS & ADVANCE SPORTS BLOG



► To read blog entries by The News & Advance sportswriters and leave comments, go to www.newsadvance.com and click on **Sports**.

Today's TOP TV games



Hockey: Bruins @ Sabres
7 p.m., VS
NFL: Saints @ Falcons
8:30 p.m., ESPN