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Kobe Bryant becomes the youngest player in NBA history to score 20,000 points in a career
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Hokies surrender late lead against Wake

Tech falls after being up by 8 points with 1:22 remaining

Media General News Service

ACC Men's Hoops Wake Forest 77 Virginia Tech 75

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Dribbling the ball near the top of the key, Wake Forest point guard Ishmael Smith waited, and waited, and waited. Then he cut right, crossover-dribbled and flicked a 15-foot jump shot, falling away.

Plenty of improbable things already had happened yesterday at Lawrence Joel Coliseum. Wake Forest, down eight points with 1:22 left in the game, came back to tie the Virginia Tech with 48.5 seconds left. More impressive, the Demon Deacons did this without their top two scorers, forward James

Johnson and L.D. Williams, who had fouled out.

Smith, a sophomore who came in averaging 7.9 points, scored five points from the 2:34 mark to the point Wake Forest took over for its final possession, with 21.3 seconds remaining. So why not one more unlikely shot? Why not one more dramatic act in a game

that felt more like late February than the ACC opener for both teams?

Smith's shot fell with 0.6 seconds remaining. Then Tech forward Deron Washington's last-milliseconds, full-court pass landed harmlessly in the arms of Wake's David Weaver, giving the Deacons a 77-75 win. They mobbed each other on the court as the Hokies stood near their bench, stunned and blank-faced.

Both teams were aware of this game's importance. Wake was picked by the media to finish 11th in the 12-team ACC. The Hokies were projected



Tech's A.D. Vassallo (left) scores as Wake's Jeff Teague defends. AP photo

Please see **HOKIES**, Page D6

NFL | Redskins roll in Minnesota



AP photo

Redskins comeback Fred Smoot returns an interception against the Vikings. If Washington wins next week, they punch their ticket to the playoffs.

In the driver's seat

Washington takes control of own playoff destiny

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Sean sure would be proud.

Playing the kind of hard-nosed, harder-hitting defense that fallen teammate Sean Taylor was famous for, the Washington Redskins shut down Adrian Peterson and set up two early touchdowns with interceptions



to take control of their playoff fate with a 32-21 victory over the sloppy Minnesota Vikings on Sunday night.

Todd Collins was 22-for-29 for 254 yards and two touchdowns and Clinton Portis had 124 total yards, threw a TD pass and ran for another score for the Redskins (8-7), who can clinch the final NFC playoff spot with a win over Dallas next week.

Peterson had nowhere to go all night, gaining

just 27 yards on nine carries. Tarvaris Jackson's rebound from a disastrous start came too little, too late for the Vikings (8-7), who could have clinched a playoff berth with a win.

With homefield advantage already locked up, the Cowboys could rest many of their key players, and a Redskins playoff berth would give Webster a new definition for resilience.

Taylor, the prototype free safety for the new millennium and a revered figure in the Washington locker room, died on Nov. 27 after being shot by burglars at his Florida home.

His death rocked the organization from top to bottom, and the Skins suffered a crushing last-second loss to Buffalo days later — their fourth in a row — to fall to 5-7.

Washington also lost a laundry list of starters to injury this season.

Yet, here they are, winners of three straight thanks to an unrelenting defense and the steady

play of Collins, who started his second consecutive game after spending most of the previous 10 years on the bench.

In his first full season as a starter, Tarvaris Jackson has been much more erratic for the Vikings. He was injured and ineffective in the first half of the season as Minnesota got off to a 3-6 start, but poised and efficient in four straight wins following a 34-0 loss at Green Bay.

He took a step back last week, throwing three interceptions and fumbling a handoff with Peterson in a 20-13 win over the Bears. That regression continued this week.

Jackson threw two early interceptions and failed to move the offense as the Vikings fell behind 25-0. He threw a 2-yard touchdown pass to Jim Kleinsasser in the third quarter and scored on a 6-yard run with just over 10 minutes to go in the game that cut the lead to 25-14.

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AFC

Everett makes return to Buffalo

Bills tight end makes first visit to site where he suffered a severe spinal cord injury

The Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Trent Edwards never cried before a pregame meal — until Sunday, when he saw Kevin Everett walking his way.

"I was speechless, on the verge of tears. It was hard to say something to him," the rookie quarterback of the Buffalo Bills said. "He got out of his wheelchair and had a smile on his face. I remember the last time I saw him he was out here on the field with his head down getting in an ambulance, and we were all gathering around saying a prayer for him."

Consider those prayers answered.

Less than four months after sustaining a severe spinal cord injury on the turf at Ralph Wilson Stadium, Everett made a triumphant return Sunday to the scene of that awful September day when the 25-year-old tight end's career ended in the blink of an eye.

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AP photo

Kevin Everett sat in a wheelchair while watching the game Sunday. Please see **REDSKINS**, Page D2

NFL Week 16



AP photo

Cleveland's **Derek Anderson** threw consecutive interceptions to set up a pair of rapid-fire Cincinnati touchdowns late in the first half, and he threw four in all in a loss that left the Browns scrambling for a playoff spot. **Story and Week 16 Roundup, Page D3**



CIN 19
CLE 14



DET 25
KC 20



CHI 35
GB 7



IND 38
HOU 15



NYG 38
BUF 21



PHI 38
NO 23



JAX 49
OAK 11



ARI 30
ATL 27



SF 21
TB 19



TEN 10
NYJ 6



SEA 27
BAL 6



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Today's TOP TV game



NFL: Broncos @ Chargers
8 p.m., ESPN