



**INSIDE:**  
Chicago Bulls head coach Scott Skiles is let go after a 9-16 start  
Page D3

**WASHINGTON REDSKINS** | Staying alive



Washington's Reche Caldwell (left) celebrates a 13-yard touchdown run by Clinton Portis in their 32-21 win in Minnesota on Sunday.

**New England Patriots**  
**Pursuit of perfection comes to final week**

Question still remains if Belichick will sit his starters for finale

By Jim Litke  
The Associated Press

After leaving his starters on the field late in meaningless games all year long to punish dissenters and the disbelieving, there's no way New England coach Bill Belichick would sit them down for the regular-season finale at the New York Giants.

**Analysis** Not with his history of playing regulars from first whistle until last. Not with a shot at a perfect record on the line, something that hasn't been done in the NFL in 35 years. Not with the chance to squash any debate about whether these Patriots are the best team ever to set foot on turf. Not even if the Giants, as expected, rest a half-dozen of their own front-line guys to get ready for the playoffs.

Right, Bill? ... Bill? ... Mr. Belichick? "I'm not worried about anybody else," he said after New England beat Miami 28-7 to push their marker to 15-0. It's worth noting that was the third time Belichick essentially was asked the same question about starters and that each answer boiled down to a version of, "We'll do what's best for our football team."

(Translation: Tune in next Saturday night to find out.) Belichick may not give good quote, as reporters like to say, but nobody gives better misdirection.

Just for kicks, go back and read the statement Belichick crafted after getting caught by the NFL spying on New York Jets coaches with a sideline video camera during the season opener.

Please see **PATRIOTS**, Page D4

**RIDING HIGH**

Washington's unimaginable run is one game from the postseason

By Paul Woody  
Media General News Service

**M**INNEAPOLIS — As it has so many times for the Washington Redskins, it now comes down to Dallas. If Washington beats the Cowboys Sunday at FedEx Field, the Redskins move into the playoffs. The Redskins made that possible with their impressive victory over the Minnesota Vikings.

Three weeks ago, the Redskins looked as if they were done for the season. They suf-

**Analysis**

fered a last-second loss to the Buffalo Bills, at FedEx Field, five days after the death of starting free safety Sean Taylor. That was the Redskins seventh loss of the season, and it left them no margin for error.

Apparently, the Redskins (8-7) like it that way. They have won three games in a row, and ended the Vikings five-game winning streak in one of the league's more challenging venues.

The Redskins did that with their backup

quarterback, Todd Collins, as the starter, and by running on a team that supposedly was impossible to run against. The Redskins became the first team to gain 100 yards on the Vikings in the Metrodome this season.

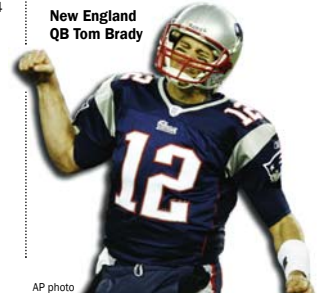
In other words, the Redskins did it in typical Joe Gibbs fashion.

Gibbs wasn't looking so good three weeks ago either. He made a critical mistake at the end of the Buffalo game, calling consecutive timeouts to freeze Bills kicker Rian Lindell.

Please see **REDSKINS**, Page D4

**NFL playoff scenarios for Week 17**

Earns final spot with a...		Earns final spot with...	
<b>IN</b>	<b>Washington</b>	<b>IN</b>	<b>Cleveland</b>
Dallas, East	1) Win over Dallas OR 2) Loss, Minnesota loss & N. Orleans loss	New England, East Indianapolis, South Pittsburgh, North San Diego, West J'ville, Wild Card	A loss by Tennessee
Green Bay, North Seattle, West Tampa Bay, South Giants, Wild Card	Win and a Washington loss	<b>Tennessee</b>	
	A win and a Washington loss and a Minnesota loss	A win against Indianapolis	



AP photo

**College Basketball**

**Chaminade shocked No. 1 Virginia 25 years ago**

Upset still high point for tiny Catholic school from Hawaii

The Associated Press

**HONOLULU** — It's called the "biggest upset in college basketball history." Merv Lopes believes his team's shocking victory 25 years ago is more than that. "It's more of a miracle than an upset," the former Chaminade coach said. "Can it happen? No way."

But it did. Chaminade 77, No. 1 Virginia 72. On Dec. 23, 1982, an 800-student NIAA school that didn't even have its own gymnasium defeated the nation's No. 1 team led by 7-foot-4 center

Ralph Sampson, who was en route to his third straight national player of the year award.

"How can you stop a guy who was 7-foot-whatever?" Lopes asked. "At that time, 25 years ago, that was a monster."

The game was supposed to be a pit stop in paradise for Virginia, which was returning home from playing two games in Japan. At 8-0, the Cavaliers seemed on their way to a return trip to the Final Four.

Even without an ill Sampson in Tokyo, Virginia beat Utah and an

explosive Houston squad led by Akeem Olajuwon and Clyde Drexler.

Before traveling to Asia, Virginia won by 13 points at Duke and beat Georgetown and Patrick Ewing in a matchup of superstar centers billed "The Game of the Decade."

The Silverswords, meanwhile, were coming off a loss to Wayland Baptist.

Nobody believed Chaminade had a chance. The tiny Catholic school, which was founded in Honolulu in 1955 at a site that served as a military hospital during World War II, still uses a gym it rents from a high school.

Please see **SHOCK**, Page D2



No. 1-ranked Virginia's Ralph Sampson (right) makes an unsuccessful effort to reach in and knock the ball away from Ernest Pettway of Chaminade in their Dec. 23, 1982 game.  
AP file photo

**WHAT'S IN THIS SECTION**

**College Basketball**



North Carolina remains the No. 1 team in the land  
**Page D3**

**NFL**



Former Virginia Tech and current Detroit Lions running back Kevin Jones will miss the final week of the season  
**Page D4**

**THE NEWS & ADVANCE SPORTS BLOG**

To read blog entries by The News & Advance sportswriters and leave comments, go to [www.newsadvance.com](http://www.newsadvance.com) and click on **Sports**.

**Today's TOP TV games**

**NBA: Heat @ Cavaliers**  
2:30 p.m., WSET  
**NBA: Suns @ Lakers**  
5 p.m., WSET