



Red Raider blood runs through Jobe

Wide receiver believes family will cheer for UVa despite Texas Tech ties

Staton Jobe (left) chose UVa over Texas Tech when deciding on which college to attend.

Media General News Service photo



By Andy Bitter
abitter@newsadvance.com
(434) 385-5535

CHARLOTTESVILLE — Two years ago, Staton Jobe made the decision to walk-on as a wide receiver at Virginia, opting not to follow the family legacy and try the same at Texas Tech.

Turns out he'd be at the Gator Bowl next week either way.

Jobe, a starting wide receiver for the Cavaliers, grew up a Texas Tech fan and with good reason. Nearly everyone in his family

went there.

Both his father and brother played football for the Red Raiders, UVa's Gator Bowl opponent on Jan. 1 at 1 p.m.

His father, Dr. Jeff Jobe, now a vascular surgeon in Austin, Texas, started at wide receiver for Texas Tech from 1972-74 and, coincidentally, played in the team's last appearance in the Gator Bowl, a 1973 victory against Tennessee.

His brother, Taylor, was a walk-on receiver from 1999-2003.

His mother, Connie, now an attorney, was

Virginia vs. Texas Tech



Jan. 1, 2008
1 p.m., WDBJ

NFL | Afterthought in 2007



AP file photo

Quarterback Peyton Manning (18) and the Indianapolis Colts are considered underdogs to repeat as Super Bowl champions this season.

Don't forget us

Defending champs are looming in the Patriots' shadow

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts embrace their new role as the NFL's forgotten team.

With everybody else debating whether New England is the greatest team in league history, the Colts have remained virtually silent. When the "experts" discuss



perfection and records and seemingly hand New England this year's Super Bowl crown, the Colts simply smile. They prefer it this way.

Instead of thriving on controversy and pressure, as the Patriots do, the record shows Indy performs better when branded a second-class contender.

Its record-chasing quest in 2004 and

pursuit of perfection in 2005 ended the same way: with mid-January trips home. Last year, when the glare shifted away from the Colts, they finally won their elusive Super Bowl title.

So from the moment Indianapolis (13-2) officially became overshadowed, on that April day New England traded for Randy Moss, the Colts accepted their position as underdog.

Please see **COLTS**, Page D4



AP photo

Steelers head coach Mike Tomlin is leading his team to the playoffs in his first season, much like former head coach Bill Cowher did in his first season.

Pittsburgh Steelers

Cowher and Tomlin draw similarities

Rookie head coach is starting same path as Pittsburgh predecessor

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh Steelers coach Mike Tomlin never publicly mentions Bill Cowher's name unless he is asked specifically about him, though it is certainly not for a lack of respect.



Tomlin is trying to put his stamp on the NFL as a head coach, rather than attempting to imitate the very successful coach before him. That's almost exactly the same path Cowher followed after succeeding Chuck Noll in 1992.

What's curious is, with Tomlin's first regular season as Steelers coach ending with Sunday's game at Baltimore, how similar his first season and Cowher's first in 1992 are becoming.

A coincidence? Maybe. A sign Tomlin is developing into the coach Cowher was while taking the Steelers to the postseason 10 times in 15 years, appearing in five AFC championships games and winning one Super Bowl. Maybe that, too. "I live week to week," Tomlin said. "That's the world I live in."

A world that, considering the similarities between Cowher's rookie season in 1992 and Tomlin's in 2007, has been much like the one in which the Steelers lived 15 years ago:

Cowher inherited a team that didn't finish with a winning record (7-9) the prior season under a long-successful coach and immediately got them into the playoffs with an 11-5 record. Tomlin's Steelers, coming off an 8-8 season under Cowher, will finish 11-5 if they beat the Ravens (4-11) on Sunday.

Please see **TOMLIN**, Page D4

WHAT'S IN THIS SECTION



Kobe Bryant and the Lakers win another Christmas Day game
Page D3

Golf



Tiger Woods once again plays a major role this year in golf
Page D2

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



Motor City Bowl
7:30 p.m., ESPN
NBA: Wizards @ Bobcats
7 p.m., Comcast SportsNet