



INSIDE:
The Pittsburgh Steelers win another rain-filled game at home, this time to the Bengals
NFL Roundup, D4

Redskins suffer another heartbreaker

Redskins RB Clinton Portis (26) begins to lift up his jersey to reveal a T-shirt in honor of slain teammate Sean Taylor after his touchdown



AP photo

Gibbs makes critical mistake on emotional day

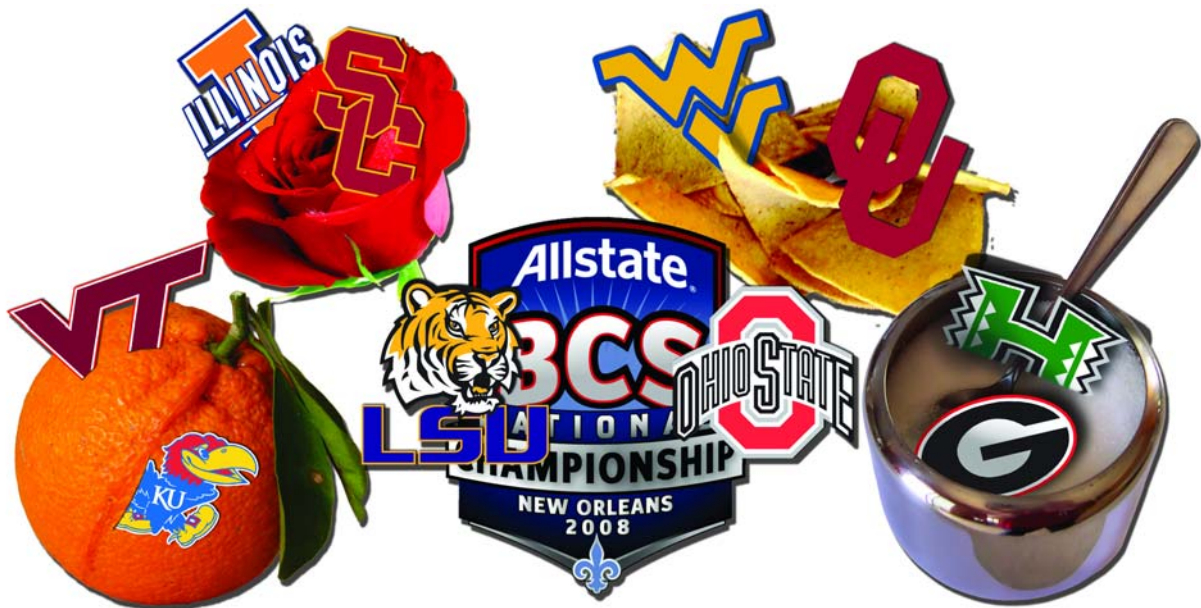
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — In the final frantic moments of another close game after the most difficult week the Washington Redskins could remember, Coach Joe Gibbs sought help before making a key decision Sunday against the Buffalo Bills. It was Gibbs' decisive leadership that had helped the Redskins move forward in the wake of safety Sean Taylor's death from a gunshot wound last week, but Gibbs needed someone to guide him while the Bills lined up for the



second time to attempt a potential game-winning field goal. Unsure about the rules regarding the use of timeouts in an attempt to "freeze" a place kicker, Gibbs said he consulted an official along the sideline, asking whether he could call another timeout after the one he had used a moment earlier, before Buffalo's Rian Lindell sent

the ball through the uprights from 51 yards away. Regardless of what the official told Gibbs, his decision to call consecutive timeouts in that situation led to a 15-yard penalty. "To be quite truthful, I made a decision there at the end that very likely cost us the game," Gibbs said. "That's on me." Put in position to make a shorter kick in the rain because of Gibbs' gaffe, Lindell connected again, this time on a 36-yard field goal with only four seconds remaining on the clock. The Bills Please see **REDSKINS**, Page D4



BOWL MANIA

Virginia Tech Kansas

Hokies fall short of BCS title game, will take on Kansas ...

The Associated Press

A week later than it wanted, Kansas beat Missouri. An Orange Bowl bid is the surprising reward. The eighth-ranked Jayhawks (11-1) got their first Bowl Championship Series berth Sunday and will meet No. 5 Virginia Tech (11-2) in Miami on Jan. 3. The Hokies got their Orange Bowl

spot by beating Boston College for the Atlantic Coast Conference title. Kansas, which set a school record for wins, was an at-large pick and benefited greatly from Missouri's 38-17 loss to Oklahoma in the Big 12 Championship. "A two-loss team compared to a one-loss team was probably the most pressing thing that we looked at," Orange

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Virginia Texas Tech

... as the Wahoos will take on high-powered Red Raiders

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For the first time in 14 years, Virginia's football team will be busy on New Year's Day. The Cavaliers accepted an invitation to play Texas Tech in the Gator Bowl on Jan. 1 in Jacksonville. It's the

first time Uva will play in a New Year's Day bowl game since losing to Boston College in the 1994 Carquest Bowl. Virginia (9-3), which moved up to 21st in the latest Associated Press poll, has qualified for five bowls in coach Al Groh's seven years, but none with as high a profile as this one. The 1 p.m. game at Municipal Stadium will Please see **UVA**, Page D6

Final BCS Standings

	Harris			USA Today			Computer		BCS	
	Rk	Pts	Pct	Rk	Pts	Pct	Rk	Pct	Avg	Pv
1. Ohio State	1	2813	0.9870	1	1469	0.9793	3	0.910	0.9588	3
2. LSU	2	2630	0.9228	2	1418	0.9453	2	0.950	0.9394	7
3. Virginia Tech	6	2345	0.8228	5	1242	0.8280	1	0.960	0.8703	6
4. Oklahoma	3	2520	0.8842	3	1331	0.8873	16	0.800	0.8572	9
5. Georgia	4	2469	0.8663	4	1277	0.8513	16	0.800	0.8392	4
6. Missouri	7	2117	0.7428	7	1104	0.7360	4	0.850	0.7763	1
7. USC	5	2346	0.8232	6	1227	0.8180	9	0.650	0.7637	8
8. Kansas	8	2092	0.7340	8	1099	0.7327	5	0.810	0.7589	5
9. West Virginia	9	1924	0.6751	9	1010	0.6733	10	0.640	0.6628	2
10. Hawaii	10	1903	0.6677	10	994	0.6627	12	0.610	0.6468	12
13. Illinois	13	1400	0.4912	13	747	0.4980	16	0.390	0.4597	15

BCS comes to Ohio State, LSU for title

The Associated Press

LSU has a ticket to the title game. Everyone else has a pretty good gripe. The latest chapter in this crazy, unpredictable college football season was written Sunday when LSU won the sport's version of the lottery, being picked to play Ohio State for the championship and leaving about a half-dozen other candidates with plenty to complain about. The Tigers (11-2), ranked second in the latest Associated Press poll, will be the first team to play in the BCS title game with two losses.

"It is something a lot of guys never thought we would have the opportunity to have after we lost to Arkansas, but the guys just kept on fighting and controlled the things they could control and now we are going on to play in the championship," LSU safety Craig Steltz said. No. 1 Ohio State goes into the game, Jan. 7 at the Superdome in New Orleans, at 11-1. "We always talk to our guys about the fact you better win all your games," Ohio State coach Jim Tressel said. "We didn't do that but we still have an opportunity Please see **BCS**, Page D6

WHAT'S IN THIS SECTION

Basketball

VCU upsets Maryland at the BB&T Classic
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NBA

Kevin Garnett and the Boston Celtics have a rough start before beating Cleveland
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NFL

The New England Patriots put their unbeaten record on the line tonight against Baltimore
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Today's **TOP TV games**

NFL: Patriots @ Ravens
8:30 p.m., ESPN
MBB: Wofford @ Wisconsin
9 p.m., ESPN2