

SPORTS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2006

E

M2

INSIDE



Monday Night Diary

The Saints return to New Orleans, New Orleans returns to the Superdome and Kornheiser returns to whatever he does. **E2**

'Win It for Nick'

As Nick Johnson recovers from surgery on a broken femur, hoping to be ready for spring training, the Nats top the Mets, 5-1. **E5**



NFL WEEK 3
Redskins 31, Texans 15

Darn Near Perfect



BY JOEL RICHARDSON — THE WASHINGTON POST

David Patten goes up high and comes down hard to make his first catch of the year — one of 22 straight completions for quarterback Mark Brunell — as the Redskins amassed 495 yards on offense.

Also Today

PRO FOOTBALL

Ravens Cut It Close

Matt Stover makes a 52-yard field goal with 20 seconds left in a 15-14 victory over the Browns. **E11**

Bengals Beat Steelers

In a back-and-forth game dominated by turnovers, Cincinnati makes two end-zone interceptions and beats Pittsburgh. **E11**

Yesterday's Scores

Redskins	31	Ravens	15
Texans	15	Browns	14
Bears	19	Panthers	26
Vikings	16	Buccaneers	24
Packers	31	Giants	30
Lions	24	Seahawks	42
Titans	10	Rams	16
Dolphins	13	Cardinals	14
Jets	28	Eagles	38
Bills	20	49ers	24
Bengals	28	Broncos	17
Steelers	20	Patriots	7
Jaguars	14		
Colts	21		

AUTO RACING

Burton Wins in Dover

Jeff Burton passes Matt Kenseth with six laps to go, moves into the lead in NASCAR title chase. **E4**

BASEBALL

O's Attendance Low

Baltimore finishes home schedule with attendance of 2,153,139, lowest in Camden Yards history, including a strike-shortened year. **E5**

National League

Nationals	5	Braves	8
Mets	1	Rockies	9
Cubs	2	Pirates	1
Reds	3	Padres	2
Marlins	7	D-backs	1
Phillies	10	Dodgers	5
Giants	3	Cardinals	3
Brewers	5	Astros	7

American League

Twins	6	Mariners	7
Orioles	3	White Sox	12
Yankees	4	Tigers	11
Devil Rays	11	Royals	4
Red Sox	4	Angels	7
Blue Jays	13	Athletics	1
Indians	11		
Rangers	6		

GOLF

Webb Holds On

Karrie Webb survives a late charge by Annika Sorenstam to win the Longs Drugs Challenge by a stroke. **E16**

HOCKEY

Ready for More Work

Last season, Brian Pothier was the fifth defenseman for Ottawa. Now, he expects to be the No. 1 defenseman for the Capitals. **E4**

Index

NORMAN CHADE2
COLLEGE FOOTBALLE3
SPORTS IN BRIEFE4
BASEBALLE5-7
PRO FOOTBALLE8-14
SCOREBOARDE15
GOLFE16-18

SALLY JENKINS

For This Week, A Complete Effort

HOUSTON
We can hop off Mark Brunell's back, for the time being. No doubt we'll climb back on it soon enough, but in the meantime, give him his due. There are a lot of things you could wish for in a Redskins quarterback — a bigger arm, livelier legs, a younger man. But you can't ask for more sheer cussedness than Brunell showed with his NFL-record outing against the Houston Texans.

There was a "shut-up, shut-up, shut-up," quality to Brunell's single-game mark of 22 straight completions, something emphatic in the performance that was clearly a retort to his critics, and which suggested why Coach

See JENKINS, E9, Col. 1



BY JOHN MCDONNELL — THE WASHINGTON POST

Two Much

The Redskins' offense had something yesterday that had been lacking in the first two games — a 1-2 punch supplied by Mark Brunell, above, and Clinton Portis.

» MARK BRUNELL

	GM 1-2	YEST.
Passing	35-61	24-27
Yards	360	261
TDs	0	1
Int.	1	0
Rating	67.7	119.3

» CLINTON PORTIS

	GM 1	YEST.
Carries	10	16
Yards	39	86
Avg.	3.9	5.4
TD	1	2
Long	15	30

Brunell Sets an NFL Passing Record; Healthy Portis, Betts Run Over Texans

By JASON LA CANFORA
Washington Post Staff Writer

HOUSTON, Sept. 24 — The ball rarely traveled even 10 yards through the air, but it almost always landed safely in the arms of a teammate and the yards and points kept piling up. The Washington Redskins' offense may have been a model of conservative efficiency Sunday, but the team overpowered the Houston Texans, 31-15, beneath the closed roof at Reliant Stadium for its first victory of the season.

They beat the Texans (0-3) with an array of screens, quick slants and horizontal passes, accumulating yards after the catch and shredding a poor-tackling defense. It began with a shovel pass from Mark Brunell — who set an NFL record with 22 straight completions — to tailback Clinton Portis for 74 yards, keying the game-tying

More Redskins Coverage

- **BLOOD & GUTS:** Mark Brunell's record performance while injured impresses team. **A1**
- **HERE & THERE:** Redskins spread the throws around, completing passes to eight players. **E9**
- **DOWN & DISTANCE:** Redskins' defense isn't great, but makes plays when it counts. **E10**

touchdown in the first quarter. When Portis, stalled by shoulder problems for six weeks, took a draw play 30 yards for a touchdown as the first half expired, the 21-7 lead was insurmountable.

The Redskins' defense was solid against an inferior opponent — despite yielding another huge play — and gained confidence with a game against Jacksonville

See REDSKINS, E10, Col. 1

Bucs' Simms Has Surgery To Remove Ruptured Spleen

By ROY CUMMINGS
and KATHERINE SMITH
Tampa Tribune

TAMPA, Sept. 24 — Chris Simms's season is probably over. His career as an NFL quarterback may be in jeopardy.

Simms, who was named the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' starting quarterback a few months before the season, had his spleen removed during an emergency operation following Sunday's 26-24 loss to the Carolina Panthers at Raymond James Stadium. He is expected to be hospitalized for several days.

Simms was hurt during the first half of the game, one in which he was hit hard on several occasions, including while running for a touch-

down in the third quarter. Carolina defensive tackle Kris Jenkins delivered a big hit in the first half.

"He underwent a splenectomy this evening and is in stable condition," team doctor Joe Diaco said in a statement. "Chris is doing well and we anticipate a full recovery."

Simms left the game briefly near the end of the third quarter with what the Bucs described as cramps, but it later was revealed he also had suffered from bruised ribs and dehydration during the game.

Simms was loaded into an ambulance immediately after the game and he was admitted to St. Joseph's Hospital. His condition was listed as stable following the operation, Bucs

See SIMMS, E14, Col. 2



BY EDDIE KEOGH — REUTERS

Darren Clarke, a captain's choice who won all three of his matches, caps off an emotional Ryder Cup tournament by savoring the fruits of his victory.

Repeat Rout: Europe Takes the Ryder Cup

By LEONARD SHAPIRO
Washington Post Staff Writer

STRAFFAN, Ireland, Sept. 24 — They stood on the balcony of the K Club at day's end, chugging pints of Guinness, spraying each other and their boisterous fans below with champagne and raucously celebrating yet another overwhelming victory against a clearly outclassed and over-matched American team. It was that sort of week for the triumphant European side, which turned the 36th Ryder Cup into a three-day passion play, with all the passion on their side, as usual.

Two years ago, Europe posted the most lopsided pasting of a U.S. squad in Ryder Cup history. Late Sunday afternoon, they matched the exact

See RYDER CUP, E17, Col. 1

» **Thomas Boswell** | In team play, America's best is second-rate. **E16**

Big Winners, Big Losers

Europe	Rec.
Sergio Garcia	4-1-0
Lee Westwood	3-0-2
Luke Donald	3-0-0
J.M. Olazabal	3-0-0
United States	Rec.
Phil Mickelson	0-4-1
Chris DiMarco	0-3-1
David Toms	0-3-1
Brett Wetterich	0-2-0