

INSIDE:

Bears advance past Wolverines to play in championship,
Fantasy player updates for NFL Week 14
and...
Quotes from this week about sports in "Make The Call."



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It's All Sports



With Eric Voliva

Vick's streak is broken

Some said Carolina would only beat Atlanta when hell froze over, others said it couldn't be done, and then there were even fewer who had faith in the fact that no man is invincible, and for those of great faith, it all paid off last Sunday.

The proverbial monkey has been battled, defeated and destroyed, and never has such destruction felt so good to so many.

Fans were euphoric as they sat in their la-z-boys witnessing history unfurl before their eyes, and when the last remnants of the monkey had been scraped away, and when the game clock had ticked its last tock, there was a great uplifting of joyous voices to God thanking him for his blessing of such sweet vengeance.

The Panthers had never found victory over the Falcons when Michael Vick was under center; they were 0-5 when facing his demoralizing speed and superhuman resiliency, until now.

Vick had been known to gouge the Panthers for huge chunks of yards on the ground, even levitating nearly ten yards for a touchdown before Panthers' linebacker Dan Morgan could tackle him. But the Panthers limited Vick to 36 yards on three carries last Sunday, and sacking him five times.

To those who do not understand, this accomplishment may sound overemphasized and somewhat embellished, but to those who know and have endured, this was not

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INDEPENDENT REGISTER/ WILLIAM R. TOLER

Bears fullback / defensive lineman Cruz Smith celebrates the team's 28-7 victory over the Wolverines, along with Rod Sawyer. This will be the third year out of five that New Bern will be facing Independence in the state championship game. New Bern is yet to defeat Independence in the big game.

'Third time's the charm'

New Bern moves past Wakefield to play in state championship game

BY ERIC VOLIVA
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

RALEIGH — One more win and the Bears would once again find themselves in familiar territory — facing Independence in the state championship.

And the only thing standing between the Bears and their destiny was Wakefield.

After thoroughly stomping Jack Britt 23-0, the Bears felt confident that they had the talent to match up against the Wolverines Dec. 2.

"We just found ways to get guys open and make big plays."

— David Towarnicky

New Bern quickly went up 14-0 on Wakefield less than nine minutes into the game. Bears quarterback David Towarnicky threw a 15-yard touchdown pass to Rodrick Pugh, then just under four minutes later, Towarnicky scored again on

a quarterback sneak, making the score 14-0.

But with more than nine minutes left in the first half, the Wolverines decided to make it a contest by marching down the field and scoring on a 9-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Kyle Mahle to Adison Daniels, bringing the score up to 14-7.

New Bern would go on to score two more touchdowns in the game, the first one on an 18-yard TD pass from

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Bears display vigor in playoff win

BY ERIC VOLIVA
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

Nothing can be sweeter than dominating a team in the playoffs, and then having the opposing head coach openly admit it.

But that's just what happened when New Bern faced Jack Britt at Caruso-Coates Stadium on Nov. 25, and demonstrated their remarkable level of play.

"[New Bern] was just a better football team bottom line. We had a good idea that they were very good, especially when they beat Hoggard. They were better than we anticipated," Jack Britt head coach Richard Bailey said.

The Bears defense shut out the Buccaneers 23-0, limiting Britt's offense to 122 yards while racking up seven sacks on the night.

"It didn't matter what we were doing; when we tried to run the ball, they stopped



INDEPENDENT REGISTER/ JESSICA SIMPSON

New Bern quarterback David Towarnicky gets forced out of bounds by Jack Britt defensive lineman Nick Boyd.

"The bottom line is they were just whipping us"

— Richard Bailey

that, and when we tried to pass it, they did a great job rushing our passer," Bailey said. "The bottom line is they were just whipping us." The

Bears first scored on a 26-yard Shawn Vary field goal with 10:05 in the second quarter, then just over three minutes later, with 6:28 re-

maining in the first half, J.R. Whitfield scored on a 54-yard rushing touchdown, making the score 10-0 just before halftime.

Since becoming more than just an afterthought, J.R. Whitfield has exploded onto the scene, replacing an injured Kelvin Hardesty, and rushing for a combined 228 yards in the previous two games, then rushing for 95 yards against Britt.

Whitfield is proving to be a consistent offensive threat for the Bears, and even though Hardesty may return from an ankle injury to play against Wakefield, he should still receive the bulk of the carries.

After a scoreless third quarter, the Bears scored on a 7-yard touchdown run by Rodrick Pugh, the extra point was no good, making the score 16-0 with 7:52 left in the game.

Backup quarterback Brett Williams then came in and scored on an 18-yard run, making the final score 23-0.



INDEPENDENT REGISTER/ WILLIAM R. TOLER

Bears make a splash

Jessica Brinkley helps lead the New Bern girls swim team to a first place finish in the 200 medley relay Nov. 30 at the "bubble pool" of the Twin Rivers Y.M.C.A. Fellow swimmers Haley Smith, Michelle Gay and Gentry Lasater all brought home first place honors in two individual events each. The team came in first overall with 175 points. The Bears boys also placed first overall at the meet with a total of 131 points. Top swimmers were John Albrecht, Michael Stephens and Brantley Barrow.

Havelock falls to Hoggard



INDEPENDENT REGISTER/ WILLIAM R. TOLER

Havelock's Griffin Levok fights to score between Hoggard's Julian Kelly and Brandon Miley.

BY COREY FRIEDMAN
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

HAVELOCK — Exploiting a sluggish Rams start, Hoggard **HAVELOCK 56** racked up **17** unanswered points in the first quarter to open its boys varsity basketball season with an 81-56 thrashing of Havelock on Nov. 29.

The Rams never recovered from their early game swoon despite a second quarter turnaround that brought Havelock (0-1) to within a dozen points of the Vikings (1-0).

"In the second quarter, we started playing basketball," said Havelock head coach Bill Fryczynski. "We didn't do anything strategically different, we just got out there more aggressively. I wish we could have put four quarters like the second quarter together, then we would have won."

Andrew Taylor paced the Rams with 15 points, while teammate Mario Lucas — who moved to Havelock from Arizona over the summer — came off the bench to score 13.

Trailing 35-10 in the second quarter, the Rams began

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6 Pack	New Orleans @ Atlanta NFL (Dec. 12, MNF)	Charlotte @ Philadelphia NBA (Dec. 10)	Boston @ San Antonio NBA (Dec. 10)	Texas @ Duke NCAA Basketball (Dec. 10)	San Jose @ Carolina NHL (Dec. 10)	Tampa Bay @ Carolina NFL (Nov. 27)
Eric Voliva Record: 20-10	Falcons	Bobcats	Spurs	Blue Devils	Hurricanes	Panthers
William Toler Record: 15-15	Falcons	Bobcats	Spurs	Blue Devils	Sharks	Panthers
Corey Friedman Record: 20-10	Falcons	76'ers	Celtics	Blue Devils	Hurricanes	Buccaneers

Sports Scores

All scores and standings are current as of Monday, Dec. 5

NFL Scores

WL Record	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Final Score	
Atlanta	(7-5)	3	3	0	0	6
Carolina	(9-3)	7	7	0	10	24
Tennessee	(3-9)	0	3	0	0	3
Indianapolis	(12-0)	7	7	14	7	35
Green Bay	(2-10)	0	7	0	0	7
Chicago	(9-3)	0	9	0	10	19
Cincinnati	(9-3)	7	14	10	7	38
Pittsburgh	(7-5)	14	3	7	7	31
Tampa Bay	(8-4)	0	7	0	3	10
New Orleans	(3-9)	0	3	0	0	3
Arizona	(4-8)	3	0	6	8	17
San Francisco	(2-10)	0	7	3	0	10
N.Y. Jets	(2-10)	0	3	0	0	3
New England	(7-5)	0	6	7	3	16
Oakland	(4-8)	3	7	0	0	10
San Diego	(8-4)	3	14	7	10	34
Denver	(9-3)	7	14	3	3	27
Kansas City	(8-4)	7	14	3	7	31
Minnesota	(7-5)	7	7	7	0	21
Detroit	(4-8)	3	3	3	7	16
Jacksonville	(9-3)	3	0	17	0	20
Cleveland	(4-8)	0	14	0	0	14
Houston	(1-11)	3	3	0	9	15
Baltimore	(4-8)	0	7	0	9	16
Dallas	(7-5)	0	0	10	0	10
N.Y. Giants	(8-4)	0	10	7	0	17
Buffalo	(4-8)	21	0	2	0	23
Miami	(5-7)	0	3	0	21	24
Washington	(6-6)	7	3	0	14	24
St. Louis	(5-7)	0	7	0	2	9
Seattle	(10-2)	14	21	7	0	42
Philadelphia	(5-7)	0	0	0	0	0

NHL Standings

Atlantic		Central	
N.Y. Rangers	(17-8-3)	Detroit	(18-8-2)
Philadelphia	(15-6-4)	Nashville	(17-4-3)
New Jersey	(13-10-2)	Chicago	(10-14-2)
N.Y. Islanders	(13-12-1)	Columbus	(7-19-0)
Pittsburgh	(7-14-6)	St. Louis	(5-15-3)
Northeast		Northwest	
Ottawa	(20-4-0)	Vancouver	(17-9-2)
Montreal	(15-7-5)	Calgary	(16-9-3)
Buffalo	(17-10-1)	Edmonton	(15-11-2)
Toronto	(15-10-3)	Colorado	(14-10-3)
Boston	(10-14-5)	Minnesota	(10-11-4)
Southeast		Pacific	
Carolina	(16-8-2)	Dallas	(17-7-1)
Tampa Bay	(15-10-3)	Los Angeles	(16-11-1)
Atlanta	(10-14-3)	Phoenix	(14-12-2)
Florida	(9-14-4)	Anaheim	(12-11-4)
Washington	(9-15-2)	San Jose	(10-12-4)

NFL Standings

NFC North		AFC North	
Chicago	(9-3)	Cincinnati	(9-3)
Minnesota	(7-5)	Pittsburgh	(7-5)
Detroit	(4-8)	Baltimore	(4-8)
Green Bay	(2-8)	Cleveland	(4-8)
NFC South		AFC South	
Carolina	(9-3)	Indianapolis	(12-0)
Tampa Bay	(8-4)	Jacksonville	(9-3)
Atlanta	(7-5)	Tennessee	(3-9)
New Orleans	(3-9)	Houston	(1-11)
NFC East		AFC East	
N.Y. Giants	(8-4)	New England	(7-5)
Dallas	(7-5)	Miami	(5-7)
Washington	(6-6)	Buffalo	(4-8)
Philadelphia	(5-7)	N.Y. Jets	(2-10)
NFC West		AFC West	
Seattle	(10-2)	Denver	(9-3)
St. Louis	(5-7)	San Diego	(8-4)
Arizona	(4-8)	Kansas City	(8-4)
San Francisco	(2-10)	Oakland	(4-8)

NBA Standings

Atlantic	
Philadelphia	(8-10)
Boston	(7-9)
New Jersey	(7-9)
New York	(5-11)
Toronto	(3-15)
Central	
Detroit	(13-2)
Indiana	(10-6)
Cleveland	(10-6)
Milwaukee	(9-6)
Chicago	(8-8)
Southeast	
Miami	(10-7)
Washington	(7-8)
Orlando	(7-10)
Charlotte	(5-13)
Atlanta	(2-14)
Pacific	
L.A. Clippers	(11-5)
Phoenix	(10-5)
Golden State	(12-6)
L.A. Lakers	(7-9)
Sacramento	(7-10)
Southwest	
San Antonio	(14-3)
Memphis	(12-5)
Dallas	(12-5)
New Orleans	(8-8)
Houston	(4-12)
Northwest	
Minnesota	(10-6)
Denver	(9-9)
Seattle	(8-8)
Utah	(7-11)
Portland	(5-11)

Hoggard rolls past Havelock

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their gradual ascent with a lay-up from Lucas with 6:05 left before the halftime buzzer.

Nikkio White drilled a short jumper and drew a foul, going 2-for-2 from the charity stripe. White, who finished with 10 points, followed a Taylor lay-up with one of his own to cut Hoggard's advantage to 13 points.

The Rams' momentum waned in the second half, as Hoggard strung together a 12-point scoring spree that began and ended with baskets from leading scorer William Wright, who finished with 24 points for the Vikings.

Adrian Bascom added 16 points for Hoggard, while Sean Greck contributed 14.

"We're very pleased with the game," said Vikings coach Brett Queen. "It was our first game of the season, and you never know what to expect in the first game. We were stretching our lead out because we were going inside."

Earlier in the evening, Hoggard's Shana Franks scored 17 points to lead the way as Hoggard's girls varsity basketball team crushed the Lady Rams 58-36.

"They were switching up defense all night," said Franks. "We just had to read it and switch up our offenses. I'm always satisfied with how we perform."

Havelock (1-2) kept the score close in the first half, never trailing by more than nine points. The Lady Vikings (2-0) began their charge in the third quarter, drilling eight consecutive points to establish control.

"They played 12 to 14 players, we went seven deep until we came off the court in the last 4 1/2 minutes," said Havelock girls head coach Anna Spear. "Our turnover ratio was atrocious tonight, we had 30 turnovers to their 13."

Carrie Lynch led the team with 12 points. Jesselyn LaValley posted the majority of the Lady Rams' rebounds, with 10 boards and four points.

Hoggard girls head coach Columbus Pridgen said his team's defensive strategy played out well, forcing Havelock to take quick shots under pressure.

"We wanted to pressure the ball just a little bit more," Pridgen said. "Every time we come up here, we feel like if we don't pressure the ball, they would hurt us with their outside shooting."

Havelock will travel to Hoggard Dec. 6, and then will play at New Bern Dec. 9.

Contact Corey Friedman at 633-2757 or at corey@indieregister.com

ACC Corner

Women's Basketball

North Carolina	(8-0)	Miami	(5-1)
Duke	(6-0)	Virginia	(4-1)
Virginia Tech	(6-0)	Boston College	(6-2)
Florida State	(6-1)	N.C. State	(5-2)
Maryland	(6-1)	Wake Forest	(3-2)
Georgia Tech	(5-1)	Clemson	(2-6)

Men's Basketball

Duke	(7-0)	N.C. State	(5-1)
Georgia Tech	(3-2)	Florida State	(4-1)
Boston College	(6-0)	North Carolina	(4-1)
Clemson	(6-0)	Miami	(5-3)
Wake Forest	(7-1)	Virginia Tech	(5-3)
Maryland	(5-1)	Virginia	(3-2)

New Bern powers out Wakefield for spot in championship

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Towarnicky to Darryl Reynolds with 6:25 left in the third quarter, and also connecting with Woody Wilson on a 4-yard TD pass with 10:46 left in the fourth quarter. That would be the last score of the game, making the final score 28-7, leading to New Bern winning the 4-AA East Region Championship..

Even after battling an ankle injury all week in practice, Towarnicky managed a top-notch performance, throwing

for 217 yards and three touchdowns, while adding a rushing TD in the game.

"He rolled an ankle on Monday and it looked like he was doubtful for tonight, but he worked and didn't miss a practice all week," David's father Mike Towarnicky said. "Coming off the injury and doing that tonight, I'm just real proud of him."

Looking ahead to competing in the championship game against Independence, Towarnicky was optimistic

about the Bears chances..

"I know the coaches will come in with a great game plan Monday and I'll sit down with them and we'll go over it, and we'll figure out a way to beat them," he said.

Bears assistant coach Tabari Wallace believes in his teams chances as well.

"We actually know how they beat us the last two times, with screens and draws, and we're going to stop that this time," Wallace said. "Third time's the charm."

Panthers finally reverse Vick curse

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just one more win, it was a culmination of purpose and determination; a symbol of never admitting defeat, even to a saga that has plagued a franchise for so many years. The victor has conquered the unconquerable and redeemed his place in history, not as a failure, but as champion of myth.

Now that this peak has been triumphed, Carolina will be as focused as ever on ob-

taining the ultimate prize at the end of the season, the Super Bowl. And believe me, this is as talented and dedicated a team as I have witnessed in recent memory.

To those who believe that good things come to those who persevere, you will be rewarded for your dedication; to those who stare defeat in the eyes and never surrender, this one is for you, for there is a beginning and an end to all things, you just have to be patient.

Fantasy football by the Independent Register is not intended to copy or emulate any existing fantasy league. Quarterbacks receive 1 point for every 20 yards passing, 3 points for every passing TD, 6 points for every rushing TD, and 6 points for achieving 300 yards passing. Running backs get 6 points for every rushing TD, 1 point for every 10 yards rushing, 1 point for every 10 yards receiving, and 3 points for achieving 100 yards rushing. Wide receivers get 6 points for every receiving TD, 1 point for every 10 yards receiving, 1 point for every 10 yards rushing, and 3 points for achieving 100 yards receiving. Defenses get 3 points for every interception, 1 point for every sack, 6 points for a defensive TD, 2 points for a safety, 3 points for holding opposing teams' offensive rushing total under 100 yards, and 3 points for holding opposing teams' offensive passing total under 300 yards.

Independent Register

NFL Top Performers

NFL Week 13

	Quarterback	Pts.	Running back #1	Pts.	Running back #2	Pts.	Wide Receiver	Pts.	Defense	Pts.	Total Pts.
Voliva - 390 pts	C. Palmer	20	L. Tomlinson	10	M. Bennett	20	S. Smith	12	Bears	17	79
Friedman - 345 pts	T. Brady	14	C. Williams	9	J. Bettis	9	M. Harrison	12	Buccaneers	20	64
Toler - 389 pts	J. Delhomme	14	D. Foster	32	S. Alexander	16	P. Burress	4	Panthers	14	80
Consensus	C. Palmer	20	L. Tomlinson	10	S. Alexander	16	S. Smith	12	Buccaneers	20	78

A look ahead at some fantasy matchups, which may be irresistible for week 14 in the NFL.

Carson Palmer has passed for a career high 2922 yards and 23 touchdowns in 12 games. In Week 14 he will face a shaky Browns defense that has allowed 13 passing TDs this season.

Warrick Dunn has rushed for 1094 yards and is averaging 5.2 yards per carry. He will be facing a weak New Orleans defense that has given up an average of 137 yards a game, and almost 1 rushing TD per contest.

Clinton Portis has 5 touchdowns and 943 yards on the ground this season, and will go up against a mediocre Arizona defense that has given up 15 rushing TDs and allowed 10 rushing plays of 20 yds or more.

Larry Fitzgerald has 7 touchdowns and 999 yards receiving so far this season, and will face a horrendous 49er's defense that has allowed 21 passing touchdowns and only take the ball away 9 times this season.

The **Seahawks defense** is a very underrated unit that is ranked 13 overall against the run. They have given up only three rushing touchdowns this season and have allowed a grand total of six running plays of 20 yds or more.

These are random quotes that have been overheard or sent in by sports fans. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Independent Register.

"Sports are cool because they help people get their frustrations out. But sometimes in sports the coaches sometimes push their players too hard; there should be a certain limit that coaches should go by. But if the atmosphere is right, sports can be very healthy."

"The road to the Super

Bowl will go through Indianapolis. Right now they're the team to beat, not just in the AFC, but in the whole NFL. Their defense was the biggest surprise this season; we all knew they could put up lots of points, but I don't think anyone knew they could keep teams out of the end zone."

"This year could be the year that New Bern finally beats Independence in the state championship game. They've got a balanced offensive attack and a h— of a defense; why wouldn't this be

Make The Call

the year?"

"How about those Hurricanes? They're in first place in their division, and are looking good so far this season."

"Now Michael Vick knows how Chris Simms feels." [In reference to Sunday's Panthers vs. Falcons game]

"Hopefully the [New Bern] Bears can pull out a win over

Independence this year."

"Basketball's TV ratings are quietly slipping down the tubes again. Maybe the NBA should try to lure Michael Jordan out of his golden years and bring some excitement back to the game."

"The Carolina Panthers have always been a physically dominating team, but there's a difference between bruisers

and bullies. I think Carolina's all-star defense is losing some of that amidst the hype."

"Chris Simms has his good days and his bad days, and that's what makes this young quarterback so dangerous for Tampa Bay. He's inconsistent. He's unpredictable. He's wild. The Bucs would be better off with a solid quarterback — or even one who was reliably mediocre."

"If you've never heard of Gerald Wallace, then you

haven't been watching basketball lately. The Bobcats forward is playing like an all-star, but he's barely known outside of Charlotte."

Quote Of The Week

"The road to the Super Bowl will go through Indianapolis."

If you have an opinion that you want to share with the other readers, label it "Make The Call" and e-mail it to eric@indieregister.com or mail it to 1734 Elmwood St. New Bern NC, 28560. The Independent Register reserves the right to not print quotes deemed unsuitable for publication.