

It's All Sports With Eric Voliva



Baseball's moment is now

It all boils down to this. All the last second walk off home runs, the heartbreaking losses and the emotional wringer that fans have been put through has quickly picked up the pace, anticipating an all-out race to the World Series.

The teams that have pulled themselves from the muck and grime to be heads above the rest are now realizing that it all starts over again; each team undefeated in the playoffs, but now, losing is not an option.

Eight teams out of thirty find themselves on the verge of greatness. A game-winning home run or a solid fastball placed just right on a 3-2 count could earn you a place in history.

Sometimes I wonder if Ralph Branca knew it was gone even before it left his hand. On the same note, did Bobby Thomson realize as the ball cleared the left-field fence 279 feet away, that this home run would be renowned as "the shot heard round the world?"

Probably not; nor did he realize that his team, the Giants, would lose the 1951 World Series to the Yankees in six games.

But it was all about the moment.

The only reason that sports are played is for the glory in the moment; the heart-pounding, gut-wrenching emotions that encompass your entire being, regardless of how your day was going prior.

That one single moment... it can make or break you.

Just ask Juan Marichal, he'll tell you about the time he swung a bat at John Roseboro's head, leaving a gash he wouldn't soon forget.

Marichal had a promising career as a pitcher for the San Francisco Giants, appearing in nine All-Star games, but never outlived the memory of his encounter with Roseboro.

Emotions are unpredictable as they are, but coupled with sports, they can be invigorating or devastating.

Perhaps Charlie Root can attest to this. Or maybe George Jr., along with thousands of dazed fans, will bear testament.

Amidst heckles from a hostile crowd in Chicago, George Jr., better known as "the babe," with the count 2-2, appeared to point just above the head of Root, signaling something right out of baseball history. The legendary "Called Shot," claimed by many to be the longest home run ever hit out of Wrigley Field.

Was it the pestering of the fans that got under his skin and moved him to the ranks of baseball lore, or was it something more — some indescribable pain that wouldn't

Continued on Page B2

West Craven claws Washington

Homecoming activities canceled

BY ERIC VOLIVA
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

VANCEBORO — On a field drenched with rain, sweat and tears, the West Craven Eagles found the right formula to put away the Washington Pam Pack.

Even without the passing game clicking all night, the Eagles' defense prevailed, holding the Pam Pack to only 7 points, which was all they needed in the 9-7 win Monday.

Washington got it going early as senior quarterback Mat Tanner hooked up with wide receiver Calvin Daniels for 7 points with 8:04 left in the first half.

But that was all that Washington would score for the rest of the game. West Craven's defense learned early that it was dangerous to leave Daniels in single coverage.

Eagles head football coach Clay Jordan had prepared his team for the duo of Tanner and Daniels, reminding his team to have at least two defenders around Daniels at all times.

"We really did [cover Daniels] the whole game. We were over and under him with a corner and a safety," Jordan said.

The coverage may not have been able to keep Daniels out of the end zone, but it did keep everyone else well out of sniffing distance.

Although the score was 7-0 at halftime, with West Craven trailing, you couldn't tell it as the team trotted back onto the

Continued on Page B2



The West Craven Eagles and head football coach Clay Jordan celebrate their 9-7 victory over Washington Monday night, on what was originally scheduled to be the previous Friday night's homecoming game.

Georgia tackles Tennessee

The Independent Register recalls the most exciting game of the week

BY ERIC VOLIVA
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

The nationally ranked Tennessee Volunteers found themselves facing their third opponent in 13 days; the No. 5 Georgia Bulldogs, a team known for its solid defense.

In a 27-14 victory Oct 8, the undefeated Georgia Bulldogs moved to 5-0 on the season as they handed Tennessee its second loss this season, dropping the Vols to 3-2.

Georgia showed Tennessee no mercy as the Bulldogs kept it a close game, until finally scoring two touchdowns in the fourth quarter, bringing the score up to 27-7 in Georgia's favor.

Tennessee quarterback Rick Clausen and Co. didn't give up easily, though, driving 64 yards down the field and scoring on a 24-yard Robert Meachem touchdown reception to end the game.

In the first quarter, Georgia drove 84 yards down the field, and got on the board early with a 1-yard TD run by Brannan Southerland, making the score 7-0.

With 50 seconds left in the first half, Tennessee's defensive keystone Jason Allen was carted off the field with a left hip injury, and the loss was felt on the field as Georgia walked all over the vaunted Tennessee defense in the second half of the game.

But just before halftime, Georgia, with no timeouts left, scrambled to get its field goal unit on the field and kick a last-second field goal with two seconds on the clock, bringing the score to 10-0.

For the first time this season, Tennessee

allowed an opposing team to rush for more than 100 yards in a game.

Georgia running back Thomas Brown rushed 20 times for 95 yards, his lone TD came on an 18-yard run in the fourth quarter, helping to make the score 27-7.

Undefeated Georgia quarterback D.J. Shockley had, statistically, a poor outing, completing 16-27 passes for 207 yards and an interception, but it was good enough to pull out the win.

On the other side of the ball, Clausen, statistically, had a somewhat better game than his counterpart, completing 21-of-36 for 311 yards, while tossing a TD and an interception. He appeared out of rhythm with his receivers all game long, often overthrowing a wide-open receiver.

Although a banged-up Clausen started the game, over a relatively healthy Eric Ainge, he believed that he could lead his team to victory while overcoming a horde of injuries. Prior to the game, his injuries were listed as tendonitis in his left Achilles tendon, bruised left shoulder and elbow and two dislocated fingers on his non-throwing hand.

Gerald Riggs led the Volunteers in rushing yards, gaining 54 yards on 19 carries.

Georgia's 6-foot 7-inch wide receiver Justin Pope led the team in receiving yards, with four receptions for 70 yards.

Georgia travels to take on Vanderbilt next Saturday, while Tennessee has this week off before heading to Alabama to take on the Crimson Tide on Oct. 22.



Braves fall to the Astros in four games

Astros lead the best-of-five series by 2-1

BY ERIC VOLIVA
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

The Atlanta Braves came into Game Four against the Houston Astros down by one game and were unable to rally to stay alive in the best-of-five series.

Braves ace pitcher John Smoltz was the only one out of four starters to get a victory against the dominant Astros. He gave up seven hits in as many innings, with an ERA of only 1.29.

Braves hitters racked up 11 hits in the 7-1 victory over the Astros.

In the longest game in postseason history, Tim Hudson was somewhat successful against the Astros' potent offense, giving up six hits in seven innings, and three earned runs for an ERA of 5.27, but it just wasn't enough in the 7-6 Game Four loss.

The Astros could be one

of the more dangerous teams in Major League Baseball, having arguably the best starting trio of pitchers in the game today — Roger Clemens, Andy Pettitte and Roy Oswalt.

And their offense is no laughing matter either, with Craig Biggio, Willy Taveras and Lance Berkman playing as steady as any offensive players in the league right now.

In all four games against the Braves, the Astros' offense posted a team batting average of .265 at the plate, while Berkman and Taveras both paced the team with a batting average of .357.

A total of 25 runs were scored in those four games, with an average of just over six runs per game.

Astros pitchers held fast against a potent Braves offense, led by Andruw Jones,

Continued on Page B2

Bears trounce S. Central

BY COREY FRIEDMAN
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

WINTERVILLE — Slow down the steamroller.

That's how South Central head coach Kemp Ewing told his team to handle the potent New Bern offense before Monday night's match-up.

Kelvin Hardesty racked up 172 rushing yards on 14 carries, leading a quick-strike Bears offensive effort that flattened South Central 35-7 and bolstered New Bern's standing atop the Coastal 8 Conference.

"One of the strategies we had was to get run over slowly," Ewing said. "We're that small bunch, we're that new kid on the block. When you play a team like New Bern, you just want to hang on and get run over slowly."

Twenty seconds into the first quarter, Edward Armstrong hauled in a 68-yard touchdown pass from Bears quarterback David

Towarnicky, putting New Bern ahead 7-0. After a stalled Falcons possession, New Bern (5-1, 3-0 Coastal 8 Conference) found its way back to paydirt on a 2-yard rush from Kevin Reddick.

South Central (2-4, 0-3) cut the deficit in half on its next possession, scoring on a 61-yard Tyrell Worthington end zone dash.

Towarnicky heaved a 38-yard pass to Darryl Reynolds to ring in the second quarter, giving the Bears a 21-7 advantage that would stand as the teams left the field for half-time.

Towarnicky completed 7-of-15 throws for 136 yards and two touchdowns.

"I thought we opened up offensively like we should have," said New Bern head coach Chip Williams. "We got a little stagnant in the third quarter."

With perennially high expectations for the playoffs and

beyond, Williams said his team resists the urge to focus on anything besides the next opponent.

"We try and play each game and get better each week," he said.

After backup quarterback Brett Williams completed a 7-yard toss to Woody Wilson to put the Bears on South Central's doorstep, Hardesty punched in a score from 2 yards out with 10 minutes remaining in the fourth quarter.

The Bears padded their lead on a 2-yard J.R. Whitfield touchdown 4 minutes into the fourth quarter after Wilson pulled down a 36-yard Williams pass to get into scoring territory.

New Bern will host county rival West Craven next Friday at Caruso-Coates Stadium. Kick-off is set for 7:30 p.m.

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

Panthers slide past Cardinals in thriller

BY ERIC VOLIVA
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

Just like 24 hours in the desert, teams can go from lukewarm to burning up the turf in just a matter of moments.

That's what Carolina did in its 24-20 comeback behind win Sunday.

The Arizona Cardinals came into the game looking more like the Indianapolis Colts than the bumbling Cardinals we've come to know and love.

Just in the first half, Anquan Boldin and Larry Fitzgerald made the Carolina secondary look like something straight out of the arena league.

Boldin had 89 yards receiving and one touchdown, while Fitzgerald edged him with 106 receiving yards and

one touchdown, combining for 195 yards and two scores.

Cardinals quarterback Josh McCown was on pace to pass for just under 500 yards in the game based on his first-half performance.

McCown had 244 passing yards and two TDs in the first half, completing six passes of 20 yards or more.

Carolina was held to 10 first-half points, scoring on a 46-yard John Kasay field goal and a 65-yard Steve Smith touchdown reception.

Carolina came close to making it 13 points just seconds before halftime on a 62-yard attempted field goal by Kasay, but even though he had the distance, the ball sailed left of the uprights.

Continued on Page B2

| 6 Pack | St. Louis @ Indianapolis NFL (Oct. 17, MNF) | Washington @ Carolina NHL (Oct. 12) | St. Louis @ Houston MLB (Game 3, Oct. 15) | Chicago @ Los Angeles MLB (Game 3, Oct. 14) | San Jose @ Detroit NHL (Oct. 12) | Carolina @ Detroit NFL (Oct. 16) |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Eric Voliva Record: 3-3 | Colts | Hurricanes | Cardinals | White Sox | Red Wings | Panthers |
| William Toler Record: 4-2 | Rams | Hurricanes | Cardinals | Angels | Red Wings | Panthers |
| Corey Friedman Record: 3-3 | Colts | Hurricanes | Astros | White Sox | Red Wings | Panthers |

Sports Scores

NFL Scores

As of Monday, Oct. 10

| | First Quarter | Second Quarter | Third Quarter | Fourth Quarter | Final Score | |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|----|
| Carolina | (3-2) | 3 | 7 | 0 | 14 | 24 |
| Arizona | (1-4) | 0 | 17 | 3 | 0 | 20 |
| Chicago | (1-3) | 0 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 10 |
| Cleveland | (2-2) | 3 | 3 | 0 | 14 | 20 |
| New England | (3-2) | 14 | 0 | 14 | 3 | 31 |
| Atlanta | (3-2) | 0 | 13 | 0 | 15 | 28 |
| Tampa Bay | (4-1) | 3 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 12 |
| N.Y. Jets | (2-3) | 0 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 14 |
| New Orleans | (2-3) | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Green Bay | (1-4) | 14 | 21 | 10 | 7 | 52 |
| Washington | (3-1) | 7 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 19 |
| Denver | (4-1) | 7 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 21 |
| Baltimore | (1-3) | 0 | 10 | 0 | 7 | 17 |
| Detroit | (2-2) | 14 | 0 | 7 | 14 | 35 |
| Miami | (2-2) | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 14 |
| Buffalo | (2-3) | 10 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 20 |
| Seattle | (3-2) | 14 | 10 | 10 | 3 | 37 |
| St. Louis | (2-3) | 7 | 14 | 7 | 3 | 31 |
| Tennessee | (2-3) | 7 | 3 | 14 | 10 | 34 |
| Houston | (0-4) | 0 | 6 | 3 | 11 | 20 |
| Indianapolis | (5-0) | 7 | 7 | 0 | 14 | 28 |
| San Francisco | (1-4) | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Philadelphia | (3-2) | 0 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 10 |
| Dallas | (3-2) | 17 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 33 |
| Pittsburgh | (3-1) | 0 | 14 | 0 | 10 | 24 |
| San Diego | (2-3) | 0 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 22 |

MLB Standings

Regular Season Final Standings

| NL East | | AL East | |
|---------------|--------|--------------|--------|
| Atlanta | 90-72 | N.Y. Yankees | 95-67 |
| Philadelphia | 88-74 | Boston | 95-67 |
| Florida | 83-79 | Toronto | 80-82 |
| N.Y. Mets | 83-79 | Baltimore | 74-88 |
| Washington | 81-81 | Tampa Bay | 67-95 |
| NL Central | | AL Central | |
| St. Louis | 100-62 | Chicago | 99-63 |
| Houston | 89-73 | Cleveland | 93-69 |
| Milwaukee | 81-81 | Minnesota | 83-79 |
| Chicago | 79-83 | Detroit | 71-91 |
| Cincinnati | 73-89 | Kansas City | 56-106 |
| Pittsburgh | 67-95 | | |
| NL West | | AL West | |
| San Diego | 82-80 | Los Angeles | 95-67 |
| Arizona | 77-85 | Oakland | 88-74 |
| San Francisco | 75-87 | Texas | 79-83 |
| Los Angeles | 71-91 | Seattle | 69-93 |
| Colorado | 67-95 | | |

Carolina fires up the desert

Continued from Page B1

The second half was like night and day. Carolina made adjustments to its defensive schemes, and on the offensive side of the ball, scored two fourth quarter TDs to seal the game.

Stephen Davis capitalized on a Ken Lucas fumble recovery, returned 20 yards to the 5-yard line, by punching it in on a 1-yard score.

Then, with 6:58 left in the game, Carolina quarterback Jake Delhomme connected with Smith on a 4-yard touchdown pass to make the score 24-20, with the Panthers in the lead.

The Cardinals were a mere shadow in the desert of what they were in the first half; scoring only on a 49-yard field goal by Neil Rackers in the third quarter.

Carolina travels to Detroit to take on the Lions next Sunday, Oct. 16, at 1 p.m.

Astros move on past Braves in NL

Continued from Page B1

who batted .471 in the series.

Oswalt paved the way for the Astros at the mound, pitching just over seven innings, while giving up only three runs, with an ERA of 3.68. Pettitte followed in Oswalt's footsteps, pitching exactly seven innings, and giving up three runs for an ERA of 3.86.

Roger Clemens, the more vaunted of the trio, wasn't on his A-game, like his peers.

Clemens, who was tagged with the only Astros loss, gave up five earned runs in eight innings, for an ERA of 5.63.

Astros relief pitcher Brad Lidge put up great numbers as he helped pull his team into the National League Finals, just four wins away from a World Series appearance. He pitched four innings, giving up two hits, but no earned runs, with an ERA of 0.

The Astros travel to St. Louis Wednesday, Oct. 12, to begin the series with the MLB-leading St. Louis Cardinals.

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NFL Standings

As of Monday, Oct. 10

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

Players live for moment of glory

Continued from Page B1

be sated until history was finally shaped by the hands of a legend? Whatever it was, it was one of many peaks in a magnificent, venerated career.

This year, it could be Pujols cranking out a clutch Game Seven-winning home run, Clemens getting another chance at World Series magic, or Mark Buehrle showing he's no one-hit wonder.

Whoever it is, no matter what sport is played, they know that it doesn't last for

ever. The limelight is quick to fade, and the red carpet is rolled up as fast as it was unfurled. So they thrive in the moment.

They feed off the emotion, learning to devour whatever is placed before them; sitting on the pinnacle of perfection, hoping that the moment will never end.

That which separates the man from the hero is as long as the road traveled, and as short as the trip home.

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West Craven hands Washington one more tough loss

Continued from Page B1

field, heads high, ready to take on the challenge of coming from behind.

And that's exactly what they did. After a scoreless third quarter, the Eagles scored their first touchdown on a 13-yard run by DeAndre Jones, with 9:36 remaining in the game.

The Pam Pack then got the ball back at their own 4-yard line. After converting only one third down, they were forced to punt the ball back to West Craven, but on 4th-and-18, Washington nets a 1-yard punt, giving the Eagles the ball on their own 7-yard line, mak-



ing it 1st-and-goal.

After a 5-yard penalty by West Craven pushed themselves back to the 12-yard line, the Eagles were able to gain a handful of yards on the straight rushes, but were unable to punch it in for another 7 points, settling instead for a 4-yard field goal.

The Eagles are young up front on the offensive line and have been having limited success in goal line situations.

Jordan had gone as far as to implement new plays in the game against Washington, but the attempts were met with little success.

"We put in a new set tonight, but that didn't seem to work," Jordan said, while also adding, "We're trying to get our passing game established. We worked on it all last week."

Independent Register

NFL Top Performers

NFL Week 5

| | Quarterback | Pts. | Running back #1 | Pts. | Running back #2 | Pts. | Wide receiver | Pts. | Defense | Pts. | Total (49 pts) |
|--------------------------|-------------|------|-----------------|------|-----------------|------|---------------|------|------------|------|----------------|
| Voliva (49 pts) | D. McNabb | 6 | L. Tomlinson | 18 | S. Davis | 10 | T. Owens | 5 | Carolina | 10 | 49 |
| Friedman (65 pts) | T. Brady | 32 | C. Portis | 12 | W. Dunn | 10 | K. McCardell | 0 | Tampa Bay | 11 | 65 |
| Toler (81 pts) | P. Manning | 15 | W. Parker | 3 | S. Alexander | 27 | S. Smith | 26 | Pittsburgh | 10 | 81 |
| Consensus | D. McNabb | 6 | E. James | 16 | S. Alexander | 27 | S. Smith | 26 | Tampa Bay | 11 | 86 |

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.

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

"The Panthers need to stop playing to the level of their competition, and play their style of football by pounding the rock and going deep off the play-action pass."

"I thought playing [J.H.] Rose last week made us [West Craven] better — made us tougher."

"They're [Chicago White Sox] like a cannonball. They go into opponents' home [stadiums] and blow them up."

"I'm glad the NHL finally got their s--- together and came to an agreement. The only people hurting from the strike was the fans."

"I was surprised when [Mike] Vick didn't play against the Patriots, and the Falcons still almost beat them. [Matt] Schaub really showed me something today."

"It was a great defensive game [West Craven versus Washington]. There were a lot of really good hits."

"It's sad the way the media portrayed Rafael Palmeiro as such a criminal. He's had an outstanding career and I'm upset that he thought he

Make The Call

had to use them [steroids] to keep up his high level of play. It's not a bad thing to retire when you can't play anymore; that's what 90 percent of athletes do."

"Everyone thought [Roger] Clemens was washed up after last year, but I bet they're thinking twice about his return next year. I'd say he has two more [years] left in his arm, and then maybe another year as a closer somewhere."

"Dale Earnhardt Jr. is such a punk. He's only in racing because his dad was such a big-shot. [Ryan] Newman is a

way better driver than him."

"New Bern is a beast. Nobody wants to play them right now, they are just too good. They have a better chance to win the state championship than any time in recent memory."

"I think the Patriots are falling apart. They lost [Romeo] Crennell and Charlie Weis, and their defense has given up more points than Tennessee's defense; that's bad."

"The Panthers are so over-hyped. *Sports Illustrated*

picked them to go to the Super Bowl; why? The Miami Dolphins beat them. Come on, they're the Dolphins."

"How much longer before basketball season starts? All there is on TV is college football games and baseball; I'm getting tired of waiting."

"You have to pick St. Louis as the favorite to win the World Series. They're coming from a better conference and they are a solid team with Mark Mulder and Chris Carpenter and Albert Pujols. They're going to be tough to beat."

"When are the Tampa Bay Buccaneers going to solve their quarterback problem?"

They went through it with Trent Dilfer; they went through it with Shaun King; they went through it with Brad Johnson. And, lo and behold, they still can't find a quarterback worthy of the team's defense."

Quote Of The Week

"They're [Chicago White Sox] like a cannonball. They go into opponents' home [stadiums] and blow them up."

(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.)