

It's All Sports  
With Eric Voliva



## Defense becomes standard

Looking around the NFL, you see teams that are, for the most part, evenly matched. Each team has its stud running back, whether he's healthy or not, a tandem of serviceable wide receivers and a franchise quarterback, except in Arizona where Dennis Green fumbles around trying to decide if it's going to be aging Kurt Warner or young, underdeveloped stud Josh McCown.

But it's not on offense where teams are trying to make the difference, it's on defense.

Teams have taken notice of the Tampa Bay pre-John Gruden philosophy, "a dominant defense wins championships," but, it didn't begin in Tampa Bay.

Remember the 2000 Ravens who rose to the ranks of football immortality by winning the Super Bowl with a more-than-dominant defense. Everyone knows it wasn't the offense that brought them to the top.

Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis may be remembered as saying to his quarterback words spoken directly from the defensive bible, "you don't have to win it, just don't lose it."

But looking farther back, you have the Cowboys of the '90s, the '80s Bears, the '70s Steelers — all teams that have dominated their decades with defense, and that trend has slowly trickled into all other sports as well.

The Detroit Pistons and the San Antonio Spurs are prime examples of defense winning out over offense in basketball — a sport once dominated by high-scoring offenses that put up more than 100 points a game in the past.

What has happened to offenses? Have they become so stale and repetitive that each team has attempted to clone last year's best, or have they decided to branch off and explore alternative methods of scoring?

Both can be said to be true.

But the point remains that unless you have an unstoppable offense reminiscent of Montana and Rice, it's going to be the best defense that decides the winner.

In the past, teams have tinkered with high-flying spectacles, most recently the Indianapolis Colts, but each time, they have fallen short of the big game, mainly because a suffocating defense has shut them down in the playoffs.

Just last year, New England shut down Indianapolis 20-3 in the divisional playoffs, sending the Colts home broken and confused, wondering where their high-flying offense had fallen. But this year, the Colts have realized that their

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# Eagles push over Patriots 47-14

Wendell Boyd and Deandre Jones combine for 205 yards rushing

BY ERIC VOLIVA  
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

VANCEBORO — Beneath the Friday night lights, West Craven running backs Wendell Boyd and Deandre Jones tag-teamed against West Carteret to rush for a combined 205 yards in just over three quarters.

In the 47-14 rout of the Patriots, Eagles head coach Clay Jordan knew his running backs had enough speed to stretch the Patriots defenders to the outside, and he got them rolling early and often.

"We thought we could outrun them to the corner. Once they started widening out, I think we did pretty good," Jordan said.

In the first half of the game, it was all in favor of West Craven as five touchdowns were scored by four different Eagles players.

Charles Morgan began the scor-

ing assault for the Eagles with a 5-yard TD run with 5:25 left in the first quarter, which would be the first of his two TDs on the night.

Wendell Boyd then scored his first of two TDs on a 22-yard run with 1:45 left in the first, then scored his second on a 41-yard run with 7:25 left in the second quarter.

Boyd showcased his balance and speed as he rushed seven times for 105 yards and two TDs, averaging 15 yards per carry.

Jones, the other half of the tag team duo, then scored on a 6-yard run with 17 seconds left in the first quarter.

Unwilling to be outshined by Boyd, Jones unleashed his own assault on West Carteret, rushing six times for 100 yards and a TD, and averaging more than 16 yards per carry on the game.

Jones' TD run made the score

21-0 at the end of the first quarter.

Barely more than four minutes later, Eagles quarterback Jamar Turnage connected on a breathtaking 38-yard pass to Jones with 10:36 remaining in the second quarter.

After two consecutive scores by Jones, Boyd decided he wasn't going to let the half end without another score of his own.

With 7:25 left in the second quarter, Boyd turned the corner and in a footrace, outran Patriots defenders for 41 yards and a TD. But, a blocked extra point after the TD helped the score remain 34-0 right up to the end of the half.

A bested and outscored West Carteret team went into halftime down, but not willing to give in to defeat just yet.

Coming onto the field with re-

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INDEPENDENT REGISTER/ERIC VOLIVA  
Patriots defensive back Kyle Maer stares down Eagles reserve quarterback Lee Nobles prior to the snap of the ball.

## 49ers quickly drop to 'Skins

Redskins blow out Niners 52-17

BY ERIC VOLIVA  
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER



The nation's capital was not prepared for the level of decimation it witnessed when the Washington Redskins routed the San Francisco 49ers 52-17 at Fed Ex Field last Sunday.

Washington running back Clinton Portis was the story of the day. According to a news release from the Washington Redskins organization, Portis rushed 19 times for 101 yards and three touchdowns.

Portis had previously gone 11 games, dating back to week 13 of the 2004 season, without scoring a rushing touchdown, the longest drought of his career.

San Francisco rookie running back Frank Gore, drafted out of Miami, Fla., led the 49ers in rushing with 89 yards on nine carries, averaging just under 10 yards per carry.

The Redskins defense shut down 49ers featured running back Kevan Barlow, allowing him to gain only 54 yards on 14 carries. He came into the game with only 211 yards on 50 carries, averaging 4.2 yards per carry throughout the first five games of the season.

The Redskins were equally impressive through the air.

Quarterback Mark Brunell completed 65 percent of his passes, going 13-of-20 with three passing touchdowns and no interceptions, boasting a near perfect quarterback rating.

Brunell connected with unheralded running back Mike Sellers for two of his three passing touchdowns. His first touchdown reception was a 2-yarder to put the Redskins on the board first, 7-0. His second touchdown catch was a 19-yard reception with just under a minute remaining in the first half, making the score 35-7 in the Redskins' favor.

49ers rookie quarterback Alex Smith had a noticeably more difficult outing than his Washington counterpart. Smith completed right at 50 percent of his passes, completing 8-of-16 for 92 yards and an interception.

The Redskins travel to the Meadowlands next Sunday to take on the New York Giants.



INDEPENDENT REGISTER/PHOTOS BY WILLIAM R. TOLER  
Above: Bears players Bruce Love, Chris Stanley, Cruz Smith and Solomon Davis look on as Julian Carter tackles Pam Pack running back Travis Daniels. Below: Washington's Shawn Credle tackles New Bern's Kelvin Hardesty.

## Washington falls to New Bern

Towarnicky tosses for 127 yards and three TDs

BY COREY FRIEDMAN  
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

WASHINGTON, N.C. — Travis Daniels had five yards to go and four downs to get there, but the Bears wouldn't budge.

Washington's running back barreled ahead for short gains, but came up empty on fourth-and-goal, stalling a 14-play drive in the third quarter as New Bern held on for a 21-7 win Friday evening at Wagner Stadium.

New Bern (7-1, 5-0 Coastal 8 Conference) jumped ahead 14-0 in the first quarter and added another score moments later, but struggled in the second half as Washington (5-4, 2-3) found its footing defensively.

"I don't think we played very well," said Bears head coach Chip Williams. "Then again, we might have played as well as we could and Washington is just a really good football team. It's all going to come out

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## GRIDIRON GRUDGE

In the most anticipated rivalry Craven County hosts each year, the West Craven Eagles gave the New Bern Bears two quarters that they'll not soon forget.

At halftime, the score was 7-6 in favor of the Bears, but coming back onto the field after halftime, the Bears unleashed the beast and ravaged the Eagles for two more TDs to make the final score 20-6.

Bears running back Kelvin Hardesty ran for a career-high 195 yards on 28 carries in the game.

Right: Todd McMillen has a few words with tight end/linebacker Jeremy Brown during the game.



**6 Pack**

Eric Voliva  
Record: 8-4

William Toler  
Record: 7-5

Corey Friedman  
Record: 9-3

Washington @ N.Y. Giants NFL (Oct. 30)	Carolina @ Pittsburgh NHL (Oct. 29)	Chicago @ Houston MLB (Game 4, Oct. 26)	Boston College @ Virginia Tech NCAA (Oct. 27)	Denver @ San Antonio NBA (Nov. 1)	Minnesota @ Carolina NFL (Oct. 30)
Redskins	Hurricanes	Astros	Hokies	Spurs	Panthers
Redskins	Hurricanes	Astros	Hokies	Spurs	Panthers
Giants	Hurricanes	White Sox	Hokies	Spurs	Vikings

# Sports Scores

## NFL Scores

(As of Monday, Oct. 24)

	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	Final Score
<b>Kansas City</b>	(4-2) 7	7	10	6	30
<b>Miami</b>	(2-4) 0	6	7	7	20
<b>Green Bay</b>	(1-5) 0	17	0	3	20
<b>Minnesota</b>	(2-4) 0	0	10	13	23
<b>Detroit</b>	(3-3) 0	7	3	3	13
<b>Cleveland</b>	(2-4) 3	7	0	0	10
<b>New Orleans</b>	(2-5) 14	0	0	3	17
<b>St. Louis</b>	(3-4) 0	7	0	21	28
<b>San Diego</b>	(3-4) 0	0	7	10	17
<b>Philadelphia</b>	(4-2) 0	7	3	10	20
<b>Baltimore</b>	(2-4) 0	6	0	0	6
<b>Chicago</b>	(3-3) 7	0	3	0	10
<b>Buffalo</b>	(3-4) 7	3	0	7	17
<b>Oakland</b>	(2-4) 0	17	7	14	38
<b>Indianapolis</b>	(7-0) 7	7	10	14	38
<b>Houston</b>	(0-6) 0	14	0	6	20
<b>Pittsburgh</b>	(4-2) 0	7	17	3	27
<b>Cincinnati</b>	(5-2) 3	3	0	7	13
<b>San Francisco</b>	(1-5) 7	0	0	10	17
<b>Washington</b>	(4-2) 14	21	10	7	52
<b>Dallas</b>	(4-3) 7	0	0	3	10
<b>Seattle</b>	(5-2) 0	3	0	10	13
<b>Tennessee</b>	(2-5) 10	0	0	0	10
<b>Arizona</b>	(2-4) 0	10	3	7	20
<b>Denver</b>	(5-2) 6	7	7	3	23
<b>N.Y. Giants</b>	(4-2) 7	3	0	14	24

## NHL Standings

Regular season standings (as of Oct. 24, 7 p.m.)

Central	Atlantic
<b>Detroit</b> (8-1-0)	<b>N.Y. Rangers</b> (4-3-3)
<b>Nashville</b> (7-0-0)	<b>Philadelphia</b> (4-2-0)
<b>Chicago</b> (3-5-0)	<b>New Jersey</b> (4-4-0)
<b>St. Louis</b> (2-5-1)	<b>N.Y. Islanders</b> (4-4-0)
<b>Columbus</b> (2-6-0)	<b>Pittsburgh</b> (0-4-4)
Northwest	Northeast
<b>Vancouver</b> (7-1-1)	<b>Ottawa</b> (6-0-0)
<b>Minnesota</b> (5-3-1)	<b>Montreal</b> (6-2-0)
<b>Calgary</b> (4-5-1)	<b>Buffalo</b> (6-2-0)
<b>Colorado</b> (3-4-1)	<b>Toronto</b> (4-2-2)
<b>Edmonton</b> (3-5-1)	<b>Boston</b> (4-5-0)
Pacific	Southeast
<b>Los Angeles</b> (6-3-0)	<b>Florida</b> (5-4-0)
<b>Dallas</b> (5-3-0)	<b>Tampa Bay</b> (4-3-2)
<b>Anaheim</b> (3-4-1)	<b>Carolina</b> (4-2-1)
<b>San Jose</b> (3-5-1)	<b>Atlanta</b> (3-5-0)
<b>Phoenix</b> (3-6-1)	<b>Washington</b> (3-6-0)

## New Bern beats Washington

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in the wash before the season is over."

Quarterback David Towarnicky completed 12 passes for 127 yards, connecting with Kevin Reddick, Darryl Reynolds and Edward Armstrong for three touchdowns. Kelvin Hardesty led the Bears on the ground, rushing for 119 yards on 13 carries.

New Bern's formerly invincible defense showed signs of fatigue in the second half, as the Pam Pack pummeled the Bears for 175 second-half yards and one touchdown.

"Defensively, we couldn't stop them," Williams said. "They were rushing the tackle. Anyone who has a pretty good rushing game could have succeeded against us."

The Bears' first strike came with 9 minutes remaining in the first quarter, when Armstrong pulled down a 17-yard Towarnicky end zone pass. Washington blocked the extra point, giving New Bern a 6-0 lead.

Later in the quarter, Towarnicky made a 1-yard toss to Reynolds for another score. Generra Taylor broke through for a 2-point conversion, bringing the score to 14-0.

After a 16-yard rush from Hardesty got New Bern on the Pam Pack's doorstep, Armstrong hauled in a 4-yard pass to put the Bears ahead by three touchdowns.

"We were just trying to see offensively if we can get going," said Washington head coach Sport Sawyer. "We were just trying to get down the field, but once we did, we weren't able to capitalize."

Sawyer said he made some adjustments in the defensive line at halftime that seemed to pay off as the Pam Pack made second half strides.

"They were able to get a little bit more comfortable and they knew what they were doing, so we did get a little better in pass coverage."

With five minutes remaining in the game, Washington launched a nine-play, 77-yard drive for the Pam Pack's lone touchdown, scoring on a 13-yard Mat Tanner pass to Travis Daniels.

Next Friday, New Bern hosts West Carteret at Caruso-Coates Stadium.

### Independent Register

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## Eagles fly past Patriots at home

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newed enthusiasm, the Patriots slowed the hemorrhaging by scoring on a Brandon Johnson completion to wide receiver Tristan Mounce, and then after a fumble by West Craven put the Patriots in Eagles territory, Phillip Thackston pounded his way 20 yards into the end zone.

But in the end, the Patriots' resilience just wasn't enough to overcome the Eagles' stiff lead built in the first half.

Even though the Patriots didn't come through with the

win, they earned the respect of their opponents in the end.

Jordan commented on the fortitude of West Carteret after the game, "It's tough on those kids down there, but they kept on playing. Their coaching staff is very sound in what they do."

The Eagles record improved to 5-4, 3-2 Coastal 8, while the Patriots add another loss to their record (0-9, 0-5 Coastal 8), remaining winless on the season.

West Craven will host D.H. Conley next Friday at Eagles Stadium.

## Strong defenses have become a theme in sports

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defense was a weakness, and they have drastically improved it. Maybe it'll be enough to get them to the big game, but I don't think so — Pittsburgh is in the same division and as long as its version of the Steel Curtain is intact, the Colts will find themselves on the outside looking in.

This year's version of last year's Colts offense is the Bengals, except that the Bengals defense is much improved over last year's. I expect to see them go deep into

the playoffs, barring a key injury.

Tampa Bay has seen a resurgence in its defense this season, and along with a great running game generated by rookie running back Carnell Williams, the Buccaneers are going to be tough to stop short of the big game.

The Eagles defense has done something no other defense has been able to do this season, and that is hold Chargers running back LaDainian Tomlinson to negative rushing yards for most of the game, and a single-digit

rushing total for the entire game — an unbelievable feat by any standard.

Look for some down-and-out defenses around the league to finally hit their stride now that they've had time to gel and get comfortable in their schemes.

I expect New England, Carolina, Tennessee and San Diego to raise their level of play for the second half of the season, and show fans that they haven't lost a step to the new successful defenses that are suddenly springing up all over the NFL.

### Independent Register

# NFL Top Performers

NFL Week 7

	Quarterback	Pts.	Running back #1	Pts.	Running back #2	Pts.	Wide receiver	Pts.	Defense	Pts.	Total Points
<b>Eric 107 pts</b>	C. Palmer	17	L. Tomlinson	2	W. McGahee	8	T. Owens	11	Indianapolis	20	58
<b>Corey 132 pts</b>	D. McNabb	17	J. Bettis	5	E. James	25	R. Moss	10	Chicago	10	67
<b>William 149 pts</b>	P. Manning	18	S.Alexander	6	P. Holmes	21	H. Ward	9	Pittsburgh	14	68
<b>Consensus</b>	P. Manning	18	S.Alexander	6	C. Portis	32	M. Harrison	12	Indianapolis	20	88

NFL Top Performers by the Independent Register is not intended to copy or emulate any other publication. Quarterbacks receive 1 pt for every 20 yds passing, 3 pts for every passing TD, 6 pts for every rushing TD, and 6 pts for achieving 300 yds passing. Running backs get 6 pts for every rushing TD, 1 pt for every 10 yds rushing, 1 pt for every 10 yds receiving, and 3 pts for achieving 100 yds rushing. Wide receivers get 6 pts for every receiving TD, 1 pt for every ten yds receiving, 1 pt for every 10 yds rushing, and 3 pts for achieving 100 yds receiving. Defenses get 3 pts for every interception, 1 pt for every sack, 6 pts for a defensive TD, 2 pts for a safety, 3 pts for holding opposing teams offensive rushing total under 100 yds, and 3 pts for holding opposing teams offensive passing total under 300 yds.

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

"Arrington seriously needs to get over his attitude problem so he can get off the bench and back in the game."

"Football is better than sex. I love going into overtime, but I hate sudden death. They need to change that s---, man. They should have a full quarter to play and not just whoever scores first. Field goals should be illegal in sudden death overtime."

"They do it [overtime] right in basketball. They give

them an extra quarter, giving both teams equal opportunity to score."

"I don't like Michigan's new helmets. They don't even look like claw marks. It looks like someone just took a paint brush to them and said 'There you go.'"

"WTF is up with Duke parking? They don't have any parking near the stadium whatsoever. You have to walk like three miles to step foot in the stadium."

"This World Series is going to be a little strange to watch. It's two teams that I didn't expect to see there this year. If it's not the Braves or the Yankees playing, it's just not

## Make The Call

the same."

"I miss the Bucket Heads. They were these three guys that had their own section, and they wore buckets on their heads and kept the crowd energized during the Knoxville Cherokee hockey games. Someone please take me there."

"Soccer's not football! It's soccer."

"Congress has no business intervening in Major League Baseball's steroid controversy. Baseball is a business, and it should be free

to operate without state oversight. After all, this is sports, not politics."

"Panthers running back Stephen Davis isn't looking like his old self. He's only averaging around three yards a carry. It may be time for him to think about retirement."

"A-Rod is only good when the Yankees have a big lead and they can coast to victory, but when they are behind, he chokes every time."

"How do they put the yellow line down on the football field so fast? And how do they

wash it away?"

"Jerome Bettis just keeps defying the football experts. First they said he was too big, then they said he was too slow, then they said he was too old. He just keeps proving them wrong."

"Wrestling is so fake. I mean hello, all their matches are rehearsed. Hmm, let's flip a coin and see who goes first tonight."

"By the way, how much do the field goal uprights cost New Bern after their final game?"

"I think West Craven held its own against New Bern last week, right up until the final

quarter of the game."

"Roger Clemens should get the Cy Young Award this year. Even though he only had a 13-8 record this year, his ERA was under 2; it was 1.87 in just over 211 innings pitched, and only gave up 11 home runs.

### Quote Of The Week

"Soccer's not football! It's soccer."

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](mailto: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.