



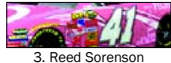
Top 5



1. Jimmie Johnson



2. Carl Edwards



3. Reed Sorenson



4. Matt Kenseth



5. Jeff Burton

Johnson's gamble pays off as Chase gap closes



Jimmie Johnson (48) took only two tires to win in Atlanta.

Will donate winnings to wildfire victims

The Associated Press

HAMPTON, Ga. — Jimmie Johnson and Jeff Gordon are quickly turning the Chase for the Nextel Cup championship into their own private duel.

A two-tire stop for Johnson paid off with a victory Sunday at Atlanta Motor Speedway, making the Chase a virtual dead heat at the top between the reigning champion and his Hendrick Motorsports teammate and friend.

Johnson and Gordon, who came

into the Pep Boys Auto 500 separated by 53 points, both struggled with the handling on their Chevrolets most of the day. But, thanks to a wild finish, they wound up first and seventh, leaving four-time champion Gordon with a nine-point lead with three of the 10 Chase races remaining.

"I just think it's going to be a fight to the end," Johnson said. "We took a good bite out of Jeff's points lead today and it's going to come down to a position or two in the next three. Please see ATLANTA, Page D3



Full results and notes from the Pep Boys 500
Page D3



- 1. Jeff Gordon	6,201
- 2. Jimmie Johnson	-9
- 3. Clint Bowyer	-111
+1 4. Carl Edwards	-261
-1 5. Tony Stewart	-322
- 6. Kyle Busch	-328
- 7. Kevin Harvick	-392
+1 8. Jeff Burton	-400
+1 9. Kurt Busch	-419
-2 10. Denny Hamlin	-424
+1 11. Matt Kenseth	-448
-1 12. Martin Truex Jr.	-513

Red Sox 4, Rockies 3



AP photo

CLEAN SWEEP

Boston wins second World Series in four years

The Associated Press

DENVER — Gone are those pleading, pathetic days when the Red Sox were practically begging to win a World Series. There's a new monster in baseball, and it's in Boston.

Overwhelming in every way, the Red Sox swept to their second title in four years Sunday night. Jon Lester, Mike Lowell & Co. left little room for drama with a 4-3 win

over the Colorado Rockies in Game 4. Then again, no NL team could have blocked Boston this October.

This was hardly a repeat from 2004, when the Red Sox ended their 86-year championship drought by beating St. Louis. Boston is a major league bully these days, playing in rarefied air before crowds who demand to win.

At this rate, New England fans might get spoiled. Manager Terry Francona's team has

become a perfect counterpart to coach Bill Belichick's bruisers on the Patriots.

After rallying from a 3-1 deficit against Cleveland in the AL championship series, the Red Sox won seven straight games and won their seventh World Series crown.

The Rockies, who won a remarkable 21 of 22 games to get this far, were a mere afterthought by the end. Brad Hawpe homered in the seventh inning and Garrett Atkins added a two-run shot that came too late.



ABOVE: The Boston Red Sox celebrate after winning Game 4 of the World Series in Denver on Sunday.

Prep Volleyball District tourneys take off

Some matches may be pushed back by late football games

By Ted Allen

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Altavista, the Dogwood District regular-season volleyball champion, and Brookville, which won its fourth consecutive Seminole District title without a loss, received first-round byes for their respective district tournaments, which start today and Tuesday.

Full district tournament schedules will be published with Franklin County in the Western Valley District, lost a lottery drawing to determine which team got the second bye in the six-team field and will host William Fleming in a first-round match tonight at 7.

Only the Western Valley regular-season champion, Patrick Henry, and the tournament champion — or runner-up if it's PH — advance to next week's Northwest Region Tournament. Similarly, in the Dogwood, which has seven teams, only Altavista and the tournament champion — or runner-up if the Colonels take the title — qualify for the Region B tournament.

By contrast, in the Seminole District, four of the seven teams will go on to play in Region III, including Brookville, which has won its past 52 regular-season district matches and advanced to the state Final Four last fall.

Please see TOURNEYS, Page D6

Gibbs suffers rare embarrassment as Belichick runs up score

Patriots force four turnovers in Washington's fourth-worst loss in franchise history

By Les Carpenter
The Washington Post

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Long before game's end, the face — chiseled into stone at the Football Hall of Fame — burned a hole into the frosty October night. There are football blowouts and there are humiliations. And no matter what flaws the Washington Redskins of Joe Gibbs' second term might possess, there was always a respect for the man who led them.

If out of nothing but football



courtesy, one does not embarrass Joe Gibbs.

And yet late in this 52-7 demolishing of the Redskins Sunday, the fourth-worst defeat in the franchise's history, the coach with three Super Bowl championships in this century performed the simplest violation football etiquette against the coach with three titles from

the previous century.

In a game with the outcome long decided and the ball deep in Washington territory, New England Patriots Coach Bill Belichick told his quarterback Tom Brady to convert a fourth-down play in an attempt to drive the score higher than it already was. It is a tactic called running up the score. And it is rarely done in professional football — especially to Gibbs, the Redskins coach in his second tour with the team. So when Brady converted and later dove into the end zone for

his fifth touchdown of the game, the 68,756 fans at Gillette Stadium roared.

Gibbs glared. After the game, he barely shook Belichick's hand as he raced off the field.

Later, when asked about the play, Belichick stared for a moment.

"What do you want us to do, kick a field goal?" he said. Then he shrugged.

"It's 38-0," he continued. "It was fourth down. We were just out there playing."

Please see SKINS, Page D4



Patriots linebacker Mike Vrabel forces a fumble from Redskins QB Jason Campbell on Sunday.

AP photo

WHAT'S IN THIS SECTION

College Football



Check out the latest BCS standings
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Shawne Merriman and the San Diego Chargers play at home amidst the nearby wildfires
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NFL



Peyton Manning passes Johnny Unitas on the Colts' all-time touchdown list
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Today's TOP TV games

NFL: Packers @ Broncos
8:30 p.m., ESPN
Hockey: Sharks @ Stars
7 p.m., VS