



SEAN TAYLOR **21** 1983 — 2007



AP photos

Zema Williams, known to Redskins fans as 'Chief Zee', stands outside of the funeral for Sean Taylor at Florida International University in Miami.

HAIL TO A
REDSKIN



Redskins RB Clinton Portis walks off stage after speaking at the funeral.

'I don't fear much, but if I was on an opposing team, I might have had a fear and that would be number 21, Sean Taylor.'

Clinton Portis, Redskins running back

Teammates, friends
gather to pay tribute
to Sean Taylor

The Washington Post

MLAMI — The entire Washington Redskins organization and more than two dozen NFL players and officials joined thousands of other mourners to pay their final respects to slain safety Sean Taylor on Monday in an emotional three-hour funeral service at a collegiate basketball arena.

Redskins Coach Joe Gibbs, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and many of Taylor's NFL, college and high school teammates were among the 18 speakers who offered condolences or personal recollections, many raw and tearful, others funny and touching, in front of about 3,000 mourners on the Florida International University campus.

Many reminisced about Taylor's smile, his devotion to his family, girlfriend and young daughter, and his uncommon athletic feats on the field.

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Groh has
tough task
of slowing
TTU down

Run-n-Shoot style of
offense averages 41.8
points per contest

By Andy Bitter
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Al Groh has seen all sorts of offenses in his four decades as a football coach, but he's the first to admit he has never faced something quite like Texas Tech's air-it-out attack.

"Fortunately, I haven't had to go up against many that look like this," Groh said Monday of the Cavaliers' opponent in the Gator Bowl. "Probably my career wouldn't be like it is now if we had to do this on multiple occasions."

Jan. 1, 2008
1 p.m., WDBJ

It will be back to the lab for Virginia's seventh-year coach, who made his reputation as a defensive coach at every level. The task at hand? Figuring out a way to stop — or at least slow down — a Texas Tech team that is all but assured of leading the nation in passing for the fifth straight year and averages 41.8 points per game.

It's easy to theorize. It's hard to do. Please see **TASK**, Page D8



AP photo

Texas Tech quarterback Graham Harrell is carried by fans after the upset over then-No. 2 Oklahoma. He has 45 touchdown passes this year.

Prep Notebook

Rose's injury
out of mind

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Focusing on making forward progress with his feet, and forgetting any pain in the AC joint of his right shoulder, helped Amherst quarterback Peter Rose finish strongly in Saturday's 48-35 Group AA, Division 4, state semifinal victory over Salem at Lancer Stadium.

"I was always taught by my parents and my coaches that if you think about an injury while you're in the game, that's when you're going to hurt it," said Rose, the Region III offensive player of the year. "So I was just trying not to think about my shoulder and just play my style of football."

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Bannister the catalyst to Flames' new identity

UVa transfer making immediate impact in the locker room

By Chris Lang
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Basketball
Doubleheader
Women vs. JMU, 6 p.m.
Men vs. Presbyterian, 8:15 p.m.
Both games played in the Vines Center

Niagara basketball coach Joe Mihalich is one of the few who can judge the difference between last year's Liberty basketball team and this year's Flames' club from afar.

The Purple Eagles beat the Randy Dunton-led Flames in February in an ESPN BracketBusters game in New York and lost to the Ritchie McKay-led Flames last Saturday in Lynchburg. There are obvious differences between the teams. The Big South's all-time leading scorer, Larry Blair, is gone from the Liberty ros-

ter, as is dynamic wing Dwight Brewington.

But Mihalich noticed another key difference between the clubs.

"It's clearly a different team," Mihalich said. "They have an identity. They have guys who clearly understand their roles.

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Photo by Lee Luther Jr.

Bannister is a true point guard, something missed last season.

WHAT'S IN THIS SECTION

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The Yankees' door is closing on the Johan Santana sweepstakes
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College Football

Missouri believes they belong in the BCS over rival Kansas
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College Basketball

Liberty's Alex McLean earns Big South honors
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Today's
TOP
TV games



MBB: USC @ Memphis
9:30 p.m., ESPN
Hockey: Detroit @ Montreal
7:30 p.m., VS