

1. Buffalo Bills

Week	Day	Date	Time (ET)		Opponent	Score	W/L/T	Stories
1	Sunday	Sep. 11	12:00 PM	at	Chiefs	41-7	W	Recap Box
2	Sunday	Sep. 18	1:00 PM		Raiders	38-35	W	Recap Box
3	Sunday	Sep. 25	1:00 PM		Patriots	34-31	W	Recap Box
4	Sunday	Oct. 2	1:00 PM	at	Bengals	20-23	L	Recap Box
5	Sunday	Oct. 9	1:00 PM		Eagles	31-24	W	Recap Box
6	Sunday	Oct. 16	1:00 PM	at	Giants	24-27	L	Recap Box
7								Bye Week
8	Sunday	Oct. 30	4:05 PM		Redskins	23-0	W	Recap Box
9	Sunday	Nov. 6	1:00 PM		Jets	11-27	L	Recap Box
10	Sunday	Nov. 13	12:00 PM	at	Cowboys	7-44	L	Recap Box
11	Sunday	Nov. 20	1:00 PM	at	Dolphins	8-35	L	Recap Box
12	Sunday	Nov. 27	1:00 PM	at	Jets	24-28	L	Recap Box
13	Sunday	Dec. 4	1:00 PM		Titans	17-23	L	Recap Box
14	Sunday	Dec. 11	1:15 PM	at	Chargers	10-37	L	Recap Box
15	Sunday	Dec. 18	1:00 PM		Dolphins	23-30	L	Recap Box
16	Saturday	Dec. 24	1:00 PM		Broncos	40-14	W	Recap Box
17	Sunday	Jan. 1	1:00 PM	at	Patriots	21-49	L	Recap Box

Fitzpatrick leads Bills to 41-7 romp over Chiefs KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) -- In a joyous locker room long after the final whistle, Fred Jackson was asked whether Buffalo could stay grounded after a big win over the Kansas City Chiefs . He made sure to choose his words carefully. "We're 1-0," the veteran Bills running back said. "We haven't won the Super Bowl. We still have a lot of work to do and a long way to go." Just not as far as they had last season. With a retooled defense and composure oozing from career backup Ryan Fitzpatrick , the Bills romped to a 41-7 victory in one of the most hostile venues in the NFL. Fitzpatrick threw four TD passes, Jackson ran for 112 yards, and a team that hasn't reached the playoffs since the '90s handed Kansas City its worst season-opening defeat in franchise history. Two of Fitzpatrick's four touchdowns went to Scott Chandler , a journeyman tight end who'd caught one pass in his career coming into the game. Buffalo wound up with 40 points in a season opener for the first time since beating the Los Angeles Rams 40-7 on Sept. 6, 1992. "All those people that thought we were as bad as they thought we were, we're not," coach Chan Gailey said. "I do think we're improved over last year. I thought we'd play well." Gailey certainly had reason to be pleased. He was the offensive coordinator in Kansas City under Herm Edwards in 2008, and stayed on when Todd Haley was hired to take over the struggling club. Their marriage lasted all of three preseason games, and Haley fired Gailey a mere 13 days before the 2009 opener. "It feels good," Gailey acknowledged Sunday. "You're lying if you say it doesn't." David Nelson had four catches for 66 yards, Steve Johnson and Donald Jones each caught a touchdown pass, and the Bills rolled up 364 yards of total offense. Their defense, much-maligned a year ago, was every bit as good. The worst run-stuffing unit in the NFL last season held the league's top rushing attack to 108 yards. Buffalo's stout pass defense forced quarterback Matt Cassel into an assortment of dinks and dunks - 22 completions gained just 119 yards. "I felt like we were prepared," Cassel said. "We just didn't come out and play well. ... We all have to make a collective effort to get better." There's certainly room for improvement. Kansas City managed 213 yards of total offense, two fumbles turned into 10 points for Buffalo, and even reliable punter Dustin Colquitt had a problem with the shanks. The time of possession was almost a full quarter - 14 minutes, 4 seconds - in the Bills' favor. Even when Kansas City put together a promising drive, things went haywire. Cassel appeared to find tight end Leonard Pope from 19 yards out for a touchdown early in the second quarter. The officials reviewed the play, though, and determined Pope's left knee came down out of bounds while he was still juggling the ball. Cassel was sacked by Spencer Johnson on the next play, the lost yardage turning a chip-shot field goal into an adventure. Ryan Succop pushed the 49-yard try wide right. "It's a team loss - special teams, defense, offense, everybody left plays out on the field," linebacker Andy Studebaker said. "When you don't execute on a consistent basis, it's going to cost you points. And obviously, it cost us a lot of points today." The Chiefs finished last season with a pair of stinkers at Arrowhead Stadium, losing 31-10 to Oakland in their regular-season finale and 30-7 to Baltimore in the playoffs. They looked terrible in both their home preseason games, too. Maybe things will be better for them on the road. They play at Detroit next Sunday. "We weren't very good," Haley said. "We have to be better and we're going to be better. I believe in their ability to steel their mind and stick together in the face of adversity as a team, and that's what we're going to do." © 2011 STATS LLC

Bills rally to beat Raiders 38-35 ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) -- The Buffalo Bills will take the win any way they can get it. After a wild back-and-forth fourth quarter, Ryan Fitzpatrick found David Nelson wide open on fourth down for a 6-yard touchdown pass with 14 seconds left to secure a 38-35 victory over the Oakland Raiders on Sunday. "I don't know what happened, but I think they misaligned to be honest," Fitzpatrick said, in noting how wide open Nelson was over the middle. "I was lucky enough to see it." Chalk it up to luck, pluck and resilience, because the Bills are showing they're improved. A week after a convincing 41-7 win at Kansas City, the Fitzpatrick-led offense had a 35-point second half in overcoming a 21-3 first-half deficit. Buffalo scored touchdowns on each of its five second-half possessions as the teams traded the lead five times in the final 14:10. Fitzpatrick went 28 of 46 for 264 yards and three touchdowns, while running back Fred Jackson scored twice in the Bills' home opener. "I can't recall one quite like that," Bills coach Chan Gailey said. "It was an amazing gut-check by our football team. What they did coming out of halftime was really amazing." The Raiders (1-1) saw the result from a different perspective in squandering a chance to open a season at 2-0 for the first time since 2002. "Not a whole lot to say other than that effort isn't going to be good enough," defensive tackle Richard Seymour said. "We didn't seem to give the offense any help in the second half. That's on us. It isn't good enough." The 38 points were the most allowed by Oakland in a loss since a 43-37 defeat to Seattle in 1998. And they allowed 481 yards - 326 in the second half - and 34 first downs. "Good job by them, bad job by us," Raiders coach Hue Jackson said. "When it's all said and done, we did not finish the game." And yet, the Raiders nearly pulled off an

improbable comeback of their own. From his own 44, Jason Campbell threw a desperation pass into the end zone, that was intercepted by rookie cornerback Da'Norris Searcy, who outwrestled receiver Denarius Moore for the ball. Campbell went 23 of 33 for 323 yards and two touchdowns. Darren McFadden scored twice in finishing with 72 yards rushing and 71 receiving. Moore had five catches for 146 yards and a touchdown in filling in for an injury-depleted receiving group that was down three starters, including Darrius Heyward-Bey (knee). As if the game needed any more drama, officials required 10 minutes to review the final play - Searcy's interception - to determine the call on the field was correct. Referee Mike Carey returned to a near-empty stadium to announce the interception had in fact stood. Seymour didn't think the call would be overturned, and then lamented: "We had opportunities and didn't take advantage of them. That's the bottom line." Two plays before Nelson's decisive score, cornerback Chris Johnson dropped an interception in the Raiders' end zone on a pass intended for Donald Jones. "The game would've been over," Johnson said. "I take this loss for the team today." There was also no excusing how the Raiders left Nelson to slip free over the middle. The Bills looked down and out after a dreadful first half which ended with Oakland's Tyvon Branch blocking Rian Lindell's 39-yard field goal attempt. Buffalo then came out running in the third quarter, as Jackson opened the scoring on a 43-yard run. Then came the offense from both teams at the start of the fourth quarter. Jackson gave the Bills their first lead, 24-21, on a 1-yard run 50 seconds into the fourth quarter. The Raiders responded five minutes later, as McFadden caught a swing pass to the right and rumbled in from 12 yards. Buffalo went up 31-28 with 4:48 left when Fitzpatrick capped a nine-play, 80-yard drive with a 6-yard pass to tight end Scott Chandler. Back came the Raiders, who regained the lead 1:07 later when Campbell hit Moore on a 50-yard pass over the middle. Fitzpatrick then led a 14-play, 80-yard drive in which he twice converted on fourth down. "Determination," said receiver Stevie Johnson, who scored on a 7-yard catch. "We had the determination. Everybody was just a unit. We came out and did what we had to do." Searcy, certainly wasn't going to let anyone take the interception away. Not Moore, who got a hand on the ball, or the officials. "Once I grabbed it, I told myself nobody's going to grab it away from me," Searcy said. Notes: Bills owner Ralph Wilson was unable to attend his first home opener in the team's 52-year history because he's recovering from a broken hip. Wilson watched the game from his home in suburban Detroit. ... Wilson did provide a videotaped tribute at halftime, when former defensive lineman Phil Hansen was inducted on the Bills' Wall of Fame. ... According to STATS LLC, the 35 points were the most allowed by the Raiders in a second half. ... Discipline continues to play a factor against the Raiders. After being flagged 15 times for 131 yards against the Broncos, they had eight penalties for 85 yards against Buffalo. © 2011 STATS LLC

Start Bill-ieving: Buffalo 3-0 after beating Pats ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) -- No matter how big the deficit, no matter which opponent, Ryan Fitzpatrick and the Buffalo Bills are proving they're not the same old NFL pushovers. One week it's rallying to beat Oakland, the next it's storming back to conquer an even bigger nemesis: AFC East rival New England. Rian Lindell made a 28-yard field goal as time ran out to seal a 34-31 win over the Patriots on Sunday after the Bills erased a 21-0 second-quarter deficit. The win has Buffalo - a team which hasn't reached the playoffs in 11 seasons - off to a 3-0 start and sitting alone on top of the division. It's early, sure, but maybe it's time to start Bill-ieving. "I know that there were probably very few believers going into this game," Fitzpatrick said, a week after the Bills overcame a 21-3 first-half deficit in a 38-35 win over Oakland. "I think in terms of what this means for the city of Buffalo, it's the biggest win since I've been here for sure." That's not even the half of it for Fitzpatrick, a journeyman backup who signed with Buffalo in 2009. The significance of this victory goes back much further as the Bills snapped a 15-game losing streak against the Patriots that dates to the 2003 season opener. Linebacker Chris Kelsay can provide the proper perspective, given he's one of only four players left on the roster who played in that game. "It's the biggest win of my career. I can't think of any bigger," Kelsay said. "To beat these guys at home, in front of our fans, with the way they're behind us despite being down early, it's huge. I'll never forget it." Fitzpatrick led an offense that produced 448 yards and scored 30 points for the third straight week. Fred Jackson had 74 yards rushing and a score, and 87 yards receiving, with his final 38-yard catch setting up Lindell's field goal. Buffalo's opportunistic defense played havoc with the usually unflappable Tom Brady, who threw four interceptions - equaling the number he threw all of last season - and one of which Drayton Florence returned for a touchdown. New England (2-1) had a 10-game win streak snapped while losing to Buffalo for only the second time in 22 meetings. "We had too many penalties, too many scoring opportunities that we missed. That's why we lost the game," Brady said. Then again, it's not as if the Patriots have never lost before. "It's one loss, and it's a long season," Brady said. "Hopefully, we'll learn from it, move on." Brady still went 30 of 45 for 386 yards and four scores - two each to Wes Welker and Rob Gronkowski. He also set the NFL record for most yards passing (1,326) over a three-game stretch. Welker had a career-best 16 catches for a franchise-record 217 yards. Not that it mattered. "You know, what should be a great fun day of breaking records and doing all those things, it's totally the opposite," Welker said. "I think it shows that we've got a long way to go." The Patriots were overwhelmed by a Bills team that's gaining confidence and showing it's capable of pulling out victories following last year's 4-12 finish - three of those losses coming in overtime. Dating to 1950, the Bills became the only team to overcome deficits of at least 18 points to win in consecutive weeks, according to STATS LLC. In fact, only five teams had previously won twice in one season when trailing by 18 or more points. "It feels great, man," said receiver Stevie Johnson, who had eight catches for 94 yards and a touchdown. "We know we've got a ton of games to go, but just for the fans to say, 'We beat the Patriots,' that's something big." © 2011 STATS LLC

Dalton's first comeback leads Bengals over Bills CINCINNATI (AP) -- The kings of comebacks couldn't hold a late lead against a rookie quarterback struggling through one of his worst days. In the end, Andy Dalton was better in the clutch than those unbeaten Buffalo Bills. The rookie quarterback ran 3 yards for a tying touchdown, then led the Cincinnati Bengals in range for Mike Nugent's winning field goal in the closing seconds of a 23-20 victory on Sunday that stunned the AFC's last unbeaten team. Now, the Bills (3-1) know what it's like to blow a big lead. "It's the worst way to lose it," said running back Fred Jackson, who had a 2-yard touchdown run. "We had an opportunity to put away the game, but we didn't make the plays when we had to." Instead, Dalton made the decisive plays at the end of a miserable day in front of one of Cincinnati's smallest crowds. Only 41,142 fans showed up on a sunny afternoon, the smallest crowd for a regular-season game in Paul Brown Stadium's 12-year history. The Bengals hadn't played in front of such a small group since they drew only 34,568 to Riverfront Stadium for the last game of the 1995 season. Many of them had already left when Dalton pulled off Cincinnati's biggest comeback since 2004. "He's a young quarterback," rookie receiver A.J. Green said. "It's all about how you finish. The great ones finish, and he's going to be a great one." The second-round pick from TCU was awful in the first half. He was repeatedly high and wide with his throws while going only 7 of 20 for 116 yards with two interceptions. Safety Bryan Scott returned an interception 43 yards for a touchdown, helping Buffalo pull ahead 17-3 at halftime. "Even when we came in at halftime, we were like, 'Guys, don't let up. We have to come out in the second half still swinging,'" Scott said. "We know what it feels like to be on the other side of things." Soon, they did again. Dalton threw a 17-yard touchdown pass to Jermaine Gresham. His 3-yard run on a draw play tied it at 20 with 4:09 left. After the Bills punted, he used every bit of his 6-foot-2 frame to set up the winning kick. On third-and-3 from the Cincinnati 43, Dalton ran away from the rush and dived out of bounds while being hit, stretching the ball as far ahead as he could. It was marked a few inches short of the first down. After a review, the ball was moved about a foot forward, giving the Bengals a first down with 45 seconds left. Brian Leonard caught a 15-yard pass and ran 14 yards to the Buffalo 25, setting up Nugent's 43-yard kick as

time ran out. "I think we needed it a lot, especially at home," Nugent said. "We've got to do a better job of putting fans in the stands." Dalton finished 18 of 36 for 298 yards with his first NFL fourth-quarter comeback. "I've been through a lot," Dalton said. "You can't get too high, you can't get too low. If you're too high, it can hurt you. If you're too low, it can hurt you. I try to stay even-keel." Notes: Buffalo's Chad Rinehart started at right guard in place of Kraig Urbik, out with a knee injury. Drayton Florence replaced CB Terrence McGee, out with a hamstring injury. ... OT Demetrius Bell left with a shoulder injury in the fourth quarter. ... QB Ryan Fitzpatrick moved past 8,000 yards passing for his career. ... The Bills have returned interceptions for TDs in back-to-back game for the first time since 2009. ... It was Cincinnati's biggest comeback since Carson Palmer led them from a 17-point deficit to a 27-26 win in Baltimore in 2004. ... Green had catches of 58 and 40 yards, the first Bengals WR with two catches of 40 or more yards since Eddie Brown in 1988. © 2011 STATS LLC

Opportunistic Bills ground sloppy Eagles 31-24 ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) -- Safety George Wilson is tired of answering questions about how talented the Bills' opponents are, as if each of Buffalo's growing number of wins this season has been some type of fluke. Perhaps it's time, Wilson suggested, to start asking how good the Bills might be. "We have talent, too. We don't back down from any challenge," Wilson said. "If we do our job, we're going to be a tough football club to beat regardless of who we're playing." The Bills proved that once again on Sunday with a 31-24 win over the Philadelphia Eagles. Wilson had a team-leading 11 tackles, broke up three passes and had one of four interceptions in helping the "No-Name" Bills become Michael Vick and the so-called Eagles "Dream Team's" latest - and perhaps worst - nightmare. And no need to ask the Bills about all those yards they allowed in each of the past four games. "When it needed to get done, it got done," defensive tackle Kyle Williams said. Linebacker Nick Barnett made sure of that. After returning an interception 31 yards for a touchdown in the second quarter, he sealed the win by picking off Vick a second time with 1:49 left to end the Eagles' final scoring drive. While Buffalo (4-1) has already matched its win total from last year's 4-12 finish, the Eagles (1-4) continue to unravel, looking nothing like the high-priced team that was supposed to be a sure-thing Super Bowl contender. Philadelphia's lost four straight for the first time since 2005, and is off to its worst start since 1999, coach Andy Reid's first season. "I've never been a part of anything where you feel like things are snowballing on you," Eagles tight end Brent Celek said. "You feel like when you're in the game, things just continually feel like they're not falling your way. But that's up to us, we can turn it around." The Eagles' woes continue to be self-inflicted, only this time they didn't squander a second-half lead as they did in their previous three losses. On Sunday, Philadelphia's five turnovers led directly to the Bills scoring 17 points. And that includes Barnett's interception. Philadelphia's defense continues to prove porous after allowing Bills running back Fred Jackson to rack up a combined 196 yards, including 111 rushing, and score on a 5-yard run. Penalties continue to be a problem. Consecutive penalties turned a second-and-goal from the Bills 6 to a second-and-goal at the 26, forcing the Eagles to settle for Alex Henrey's 35-yard field goal that cut the deficit to 31-24. Then came the capper. Facing fourth-and-inches at midfield with 1:23 left, Bills quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick coaxed defensive end Juqua Parker offside to give Buffalo another set of downs and run out the clock. Reid refused to blame the loss on Parker. "I'm not going to hang one guy out to dry," he said. "A lot of people were involved throughout the game." Vick went 26 of 40 for 315 yards and two touchdowns with a career-worst four interceptions. And he added 90 yards rushing to give him 4,948 for his career, passing Randall Cunningham for most yards by an NFL quarterback. "Sitting at 1-4, there's really not too much you can say," Vick said. "I know I've got confidence in those guys. We've just got to keep fighting." The Bills now have 12 interceptions this season - one more than they had all of last season. And they've now scored on interception returns in three straight games to match the team record set in 1960, the franchise's inaugural season. Fitzpatrick went 21 of 27 for 193 yards passing with a 6-yard touchdown strike to David Nelson and an interception. The Bills eventually built a 28-7 lead on Brad Smith's 5-yard run early in the third quarter. "We're putting ourselves in a tremendous opportunity," Jackson said. "We're happy where we're putting ourselves. But we still have a lot of work to do and a lot of teams left to play." Notes: The Bills are in the midst of playing a three-game stretch against NFC East opponents that continues next weekend at the Giants. After their bye week, Buffalo "hosts" Washington at Toronto. ... Vick has seven interceptions on the season and eight touchdowns passing. ... NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell held a 35-minute question-and-answer session with a select number of Bills season-ticket holders earlier in the day, and stuck around with family and friends to watch the game from the stands. © 2011 STATS LLC

Bradshaw, Tynes lift Giants past Bills 27-24 EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) -- The New York Giants and Buffalo Bills are both heading into their bye week in good shape, though Tom Coughlin's team is probably going to enjoy it a little more after walking off with a win. Ahmad Bradshaw ran for season-high 104 yards and a career-best three touchdowns - all on 1-yard runs - and Lawrence Tynes kicked a go-ahead 23-yard field goal with 1:32 remaining to give the Giants a 27-24 victory Sunday. The win, coupled with Washington's loss to Philadelphia, sends New York into its off week in first place in the NFC East. The reality check is that the Giants know they have games against New England, San Francisco, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Green Bay and the Jets in their final 10-game stretch. "I love winning before a bye," Giants quarterback Eli Manning said. "It's a long two weeks. Just having that locker room excited, having that fourth quarter coming from behind as the offense stepped up and everybody did their part, we came together and the guys made the plays. We feel we're in a good spot." The good news for the Giants was they finally found a running game (122 yards) to go along with Manning's arm. The quarterback was 21 of 32 for 292 yards and no interceptions against the ballhawking Bills, who came in with 12 interceptions and a league-best plus-11 on turnovers. After giving up two big plays for touchdowns in the first half, the defense stepped up and limited the high-scoring Bills to seven points in the second half. Cornerback Corey Webster made the two biggest plays, intercepting two passes by Ryan Fitzpatrick, the only turnovers of the game. The second one started New York's game-winning drive, one that featured runs of 10 and 30 yards by Bradshaw, who became the first Giants back to gain 100 yards rushing this season. "We still have a long ways to go, but it is easily corrected off of a 'W' instead of a 'L,'" Webster said. "We made some mistakes, but we get to correct them. We have two weeks to do that so hopefully we get started moving in the right direction now." The Bills (4-2) will enter the bye game behind New England (5-1) in the AFC East after the Patriots beat Dallas. Not bad for a team that won only four games last season and hasn't been to the playoffs since 1999. "We feel like we're on track to where we want to be," said running back Fred Jackson, who ran for 121 yards, with most of it coming on a career-best 80-yard TD run in the first quarter. "We look at the two losses as games we should have won. We just didn't finish them. We've still got a lot of work to do, but we're excited about where we're going." Fitzpatrick finished 21 of 30 for 244 yards and threw touchdown passes of 60 yards to Naaman Roosevelt and 9 yards to Stevie Johnson. However, he was annoyed with himself for the interceptions, both on sideline go routes to Johnson. "This is one of the hardest parts of playing quarterback, when you don't get the job done," Fitzpatrick said. "The two interceptions I threw, you couldn't ask for better coverage, you couldn't ask for a better play, couldn't ask for a better route. They were both basically the same thing, Stevie on a go route. I'd like to give credit to Corey Webster, he made plays on both of them. That said, I feel like Stevie beat him and I underthrew both of them." After tying the game on the 9-yard pass to Johnson, Buffalo appeared ready to take the lead when Fitzpatrick completed a 32-yard pass to David Nelson for a first down at the New York 27. However, he went for the lead on a go-pattern to Johnson down the left sideline and Webster was all over it, intercepting at the 5. Johnson was called for a very flagrant facemask, giving New York the ball at its own 20. Bradshaw and the Giants took over and set up Tynes for his second field goal of the game. "Anytime I have a chance, trying to put the team on my back, keep making plays and that is what I plan to do,"

Bradshaw said. "Anytime they give me a shot I try to take advantage of it." New York had taken a 24-17 lead in the third quarter with a 10-play, 75-yard drive that Bradshaw capped after a review ruled that Mario Manningham did not score on a pass reception from the 7 that had originally been ruled a touchdown. The first half, which ended tied at 17, was a mixture of the Bills' big-play offense and the Giants' more methodical approach. Bradshaw scored on a pair of 1-yard runs and the Bills got touchdowns on Jackson's long run - just one play from scrimmage after Bradshaw's first TD - and a 60-yard catch and run by Roosevelt, his first career TD. Tynes kicked a 26-yard field goal for the Giants, while Rian Lindell had a 49-yarder for the Bills with 24 seconds left in the half. Notes: Jackson has rushed for 100 yards in four of six games and now has 11 in his career. His 80-yard TD run tied for the fourth-longest in Bills' history and was the longest run since Thurman Thomas scored from 80 in 1990. ... Buffalo has scored at least 20 points in six straight games this season, its longest run since 2006. ... G Chris Snee had a streak of 101 straight starts snapped when he missed the game with a concussion. ... Giants DE Justin Tuck said after the game he intended to play after the bye week. He has missed three straight games with neck and groin injuries. © 2011 STATS LLC

Bills draw cheers in Canada; beat Redskins 23-0 TORONTO (AP) -- Turns out Canadians can warm to a winner. Ryan Fitzpatrick quickly made his expensive new contract pay off, and the Buffalo Bills finally gave their adopted - and sometimes indifferent - fans north of the border something big to cheer about. Fitzpatrick hit tight end Scott Chandler for two touchdowns, and the Bills once porous defense had nine sacks and two interceptions to batter the already injury-riddled Washington Redskins 23-0 on Sunday. It marked Buffalo's first win in four trips to Toronto, since the cross-border series was established in 2008. They handed Redskins coach Mike Shanahan his first shutout loss in 24 seasons as an NFL coach or offensive coordinator, according to STATS LLC. And surprise, surprise, the Bills were the ones drawing much of the applause days after safety George Wilson questioned Toronto fans' passion and loyalty toward Buffalo. "That was one of the things coming in, give them something to cheer about. And I thought we did that today," said Fitzpatrick, who signed a six-year, \$59 million contract two days earlier. "I think there was more excitement out there than there has been in years past." Fitzpatrick did his part in helping the Bills (5-2) open a season with four consecutive "home" wins for the first time since 1995. And the defense proved dominating, coming out of its bye week off in limiting the Redskins to 178 yards and 10 first downs. "It was a great overall performance," said defensive end Spencer Johnson, who had a sack and blocked Graham Gano's 49-yard field-goal attempt in the second quarter. "To shut anybody out in the NFL, that's a big feat, a big accomplishment and a big step in the right direction." The Redskins (3-4) have lost three straight and look nothing like the team that entered its bye week at 3-1. "It's pretty humbling to take that," Shanahan said. "That's as bad as I've ever been involved with from the offensive side." Washington continues to unravel as a result of such a growing list of injuries that would put a dent into Canada's universal health care system. Without running back Tim Hightower (knee), receiver Santana Moss (hand) and tight end Chris Cooley (knee), the John Beck-led attack managed 61 yards of offense and three first downs on six first-half possessions. It didn't get much better in the second half. Their second drive of the half ended when Beck was sacked for a seventh time attempting to convert a fourth-and-4. The next time out, Beck was intercepted by Wilson. "I kind of don't have any answers right now," Beck said, making his second straight start since replacing Rex Grossman. "I'm trying to figure that out myself. This is the one you want to see the tape, because it will be very telling." Beck went 20 of 33 for 208 yards. With the Bills up 13-0 at the half, Fitzpatrick opened the third quarter with a seven-play, 80-yard drive, which he capped by hitting Chandler on a 15-yard fade in the left corner of the end zone. Running back Fred Jackson had 120 yards rushing, and 74 receiving. With 1,074 yards from scrimmage, he became only the fourth Bills player to surpass 1,000 yards seven games into a season, and first since Hall of Famer Thurman Thomas in 1991. The nine sacks is the second best total in team history, and two short of the record. And they came with Buffalo minus two key starters, defensive tackle Kyle Williams (foot) and linebacker Shawne Merriman (Achilles tendon). "I don't think anybody expected that," coach Chan Gailey said. "I'll be honest with you, I didn't expect that." Rookie first-round pick Marcell Dareus' 2 1/2 sacks led the way for a defense that entered the game with just four all season. "I think this is the first complete game our team has played, and it's only the beginning," Dareus said. "The sky's the limit." Fitzpatrick went 21 of 27 for 262 yards, and shook off a pair of turnovers and a big hit from linebacker London Fletcher. Late in the first half, Fletcher caught Fitzpatrick high on the chest and bowled him over just as the quarterback completed a short pass to Jackson, who turned it into a 46-yard gain. Fitzpatrick was slow in getting up and then dropped to one knee. After being attended to briefly by the training staff, Fitzpatrick stayed in the game to help set up Rian Lindell's 44-yard field goal to put Buffalo up 13-0 as time ran out. "I think the whole team had a collective gasp when they saw him down there trying to suck air," Jackson said. "It was good for him to get back in there." Notes: There were notable pockets of Redskins fans throughout the Rogers Centre as part of an announced crowd of 51,579. Fans were late-arriving, as there were numerous empty seats throughout the 54,000-seat stadium. ... The Bills did blame a false start on the cheering fans for doing the wave on a third-and-1 at the Redskins 16 in the fourth quarter. ... Shanahan was the Broncos receivers coach in a 27-0 loss to the Bears on Sept. 9, 1984, the only other time he's been blanked, according to STATS. © 2011 STATS LLC

Jets stop Bills 27-11 in AFC East showdown ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) -- Bart Scott and the New York Jets are accustomed to playing the role of villains. So the linebacker didn't feel any pangs of regret for putting a big dent in the Buffalo Bills and their feel-good start. "Everybody loves Cinderella stories," Scott said, referring to the Bills. "We've always been portrayed as the bad guys, but we relish in that role." And just like that, the big, bad, brash-talking Jets are back after Scott was part of a stifling 27-11 win in a key midseason AFC East showdown on Sunday. Rex Ryan's defense forced three turnovers and twice stopped the Bills on fourth down. The slow-starting Mark Sanchez-led offense finally got into gear in the second half to help New York win its third straight and improve to 5-3 and catch Buffalo and New England in the standings. "It's totally attitude," said defensive tackle Sione Pouha, who had a team-leading seven tackles and forced a fumble. "Jet-i-tude is the way we look at it. Today we displayed what Jet football is all about." Having done away with Buffalo, the Jets were already looking ahead to another AFC East showdown against the Patriots next weekend. It's a game Sanchez is already calling the "divisional championship." Sanchez overcame a pair of first-half turnovers to finish 20 of 28 for 230 yards and an 8-yard touchdown to Antonio Holmes. LaDainian Tomlinson and John Conner scored on 1-yard plunges as the Jets got their first road victory and handed the Bills their first home loss (4-1). The Bills looked nothing like the team that rolled through its first seven games in attempting to get off to a 6-2 start for the first time since 1993. They instead looked more like a team that's now lost four straight and six of seven against the Jets. "We just couldn't get anything going," quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick said. "They kept us frustrated all day and didn't allow us to do what we've been doing all year." Fitzpatrick finished 15 of 31 for 191 yards and two interceptions. He produced a mean-nothing 7-yard touchdown pass to David Nelson with 3:14 left, and the quarterback then ran the ball in for a 2-point conversion. Through their first eight possessions, they had as many turnovers - three - as they did first downs while also being held to under 20 points for the first time this season. So much for the statement the Bills hoped to deliver, or the "It's our turn" comment receiver Stevie Johnson made earlier in the week. "It's disappointing," said Johnson, who had three catches for 84 yards. "Nobody wants to lose against the Jets. That's how we feel in here." The loss came as a huge letdown for a pompom waving, passionate fan-base that filled Ralph Wilson Stadium. Many of the fans wore white to match their team wearing all white uniforms for the first time since 1986. "They played well and we played poorly," Bills coach Chan Gailey said. "It was a big ballgame. We haven't had this happen at home this year. And we've got to get better." It doesn't get easier for the Bills,

who now prepare to hit the road for four of five games, including their next three. The Jets took over in the third quarter, when they outscored the Bills 17-3 to build a 20-3 lead. Tomlinson scored 6:26 into the period to make it 13-0 three plays after Pouha forced Fred Jackson to fumble. Sanchez then hit Holmes for an 8-yard touchdown. The Jets' defense then sealed the win in the first minute of the fourth quarter. With Buffalo threatening, Scott and Calvin Pace combined to stuff Jackson for no gain on fourth-and-inches at the New York 15 yard line. The Jets responded with a 14-play, 84-yard drive capped by Conner's TD. New York continued to focus on its ground game which combined for two scores and 126 yards - the team's second-best total of the season. "I'm sure now there's going to be something written about the Jets being back," Scott said. "And we won't listen to that either, because at the end of the day, we know that you guys (in the media) don't know what the hell you're talking about." Notes: Ryan said RB Shonn Greene was "a bit dizzy," and was held out for precautionary reasons. TE Dustin Keller returned after hurting his head after landing hard on the turf in the first quarter while attempting to hurdle two Bills defenders. ... Nick Folk hit two of three field-goal attempts, including a 50-yarder into the wind. ... Bills PK Rian Lindell hit a 24-yard field goal. Lindell was having tests after the game after he hurt his right shoulder while making a diving tackle on Joe McKnight's kickoff return to open the second half. ... Bills Hall of Fame owner Ralph Wilson made his first appearance of the season at Orchard Park after he missed his team's first four home games while recovering from a broken hip. © 2011 STATS LLC

Romo, Cowboys soar past Bills 44-7 ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) -- Tony Romo is finally healthy and now he's got a running game, too. Throw in an opportunistic defense and a kicker who hasn't missed since mid-September, and it's clear the Dallas Cowboys are headed in the right direction. Just ask the Buffalo Bills. Facing the best team he'll see for a month, Romo guided touchdown drives on his first four series, and Terence Newman returned one of his two interceptions for a touchdown, sending the Cowboys cruising past the Bills 44-7 on Sunday. Dallas (5-4) won its second straight and could be starting a big surge. Not only were the Cowboys clicking in all phases Sunday, they're going into a soft patch on their schedule. Their next three foes went into this weekend a combined 6-18. "We needed a game like this," tight end Jason Witten said. "This needs to be the foundation of what lies ahead for this team." The Cowboys scored their most points since Sept. 9, 2007, which was the first game that current coach Jason Garrett was coordinating the offense. They also enjoyed their most lopsided win since Oct. 22, 2000. This 37-point margin is bigger than any regular-season victory in Dallas with Jimmy Johnson, Bill Parcells or Barry Switzer on the sideline. "I think that's as good as we played against a team that's credible," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said. "I think overall - the (run-pass) balance, feeling like we could create problems for their defense - I haven't felt like that since Jason has been the head coach. It shows we are making improvement." Romo put Dallas ahead 21-0 by throwing touchdown passes of 34 yards to Dez Bryant and 58 and 5 yards to Laurent Robinson. He hit his first 13 attempts and finished 23 of 26 (88.5 percent), setting the franchise record for single-game accuracy. Romo didn't lead any more touchdown drives after those first four possessions, but he also didn't do anything to ruin what he'd built. He had no interceptions and wasn't sacked, doing both for a second straight week. Being error-free Sunday was especially noteworthy because he was facing the defense that leads the NFL in takeaways and had the second-most interceptions. "We are learning a little bit about who we are and what we can do and what we are capable of doing," Romo said. Romo is clearly benefiting from the rapid development of rookie running back DeMarco Murray. He turned 20 carries into 135 yards and a touchdown and had 35 yards on six receptions. Murray was a concern of the defense all day, drawing enough attention to create open space for Romo in the secondary. Murray also continued to show it's going to take a lot of guys to stop him as he made several highlight-worthy moves - hurdling safety Jairus Byrd and, on another play, cutting back across the field to turn a likely loss into a 25-yard gain. "They can't load the box on us and they can't double team wide receivers," Murray said. Another reason for Romo's crisp performance: He's finally over the broken rib he hurt in Week 2. This was the first game he played since then without a special vest for protection. Buffalo (5-4) lost its second straight and third in four games. The rout made it an especially bitter homecoming for coach Chan Gailey and running back Fred Jackson. Gailey coached the Cowboys to the playoffs in 1998-99, his only two years on the job, and Jackson grew up in this suburb, at one time living on the property that's now Cowboys Stadium. Gailey said he told the Bills they did little right, but that he still believes in them. "We will regroup and continue to work to get better," Gailey said. "But you have to go do it. Nobody's going to give you anything in this league." Ryan Fitzpatrick was 20 of 31 for 146 yards and a touchdown, a 3-yarder to David Nelson punctuated by Nelson presenting the ball to his girlfriend - a Cowboys cheerleader. Fitzpatrick helped make Cowboys cheerleaders happy all afternoon. He threw a season-worst three interceptions and converted only 2 of 7 third-down attempts. This was the second straight ugly outing for Fitzpatrick, who recently signed a \$59 million, six-year contract. "We put in some good practice time and really thought we'd come out here and play well," Fitzpatrick said. "It's hard to even think ahead right now because of how embarrassing that loss was." Dallas' defense was opportunistic from the start, with DeMarcus Ware sacking Fitzpatrick on Buffalo's first offensive play. The Cowboys racked up four turnovers, including a fumble by Jackson. The local kid still had a productive day, gaining 114 yards on 13 carries. NOTES: Buffalo's previous worst loss this season was by 16 points, the previous Sunday. ... This was Romo's 21st game with three TD passes, breaking the record held by Danny White. White also had the accuracy record of 87.5 percent (21 of 24). ... The Cowboys haven't won three in a row since the end of the 2009 season. ... Buffalo C Eric Wood left with a knee injury in the third quarter and was to be evaluated Monday. ... Witten caught five passes, pushing him past Hall of Famer Ozzie Newsome for the third-most catches by a tight end in NFL history. ... Cowboys rookie kicker Dan Bailey made three field goals to extend his streak to 21 straight, the third-best in franchise history. © 2011 STATS LLC

Surging Dolphins beat injury-riddled Bills 35-8 MIAMI (AP) -- The fiercest hits by Miami Dolphins defenders sent opposing helmets flying. The ball squirted loose a few times too, further evidence of the Buffalo Bills' once-promising season slipping away. The Dolphins set up two touchdowns with interceptions and mounted a goal-line stand as their improbable midseason surge gained momentum Sunday when they drubbed Buffalo 35-8. Matt Moore threw for three scores. After losing their first seven games, the Dolphins (3-7) have three consecutive victories for the first time since 2008, winning by a combined score of 86-20. An improving defense has led the turnaround by keeping the opposition out of the end zone for three straight games. "You can see how good we can be," said safety Jeremiah Bell, who made an interception. "This is where we expected to be at the beginning of the season. It just took us awhile." Heading the other direction are the Bills (5-5), who have been outscored 106-26 while losing three in a row. "We're baffled as to what has happened," quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick said. "For the past three weeks, it has not been fun to play, and I'm sure it has not been fun to watch." To make matters worse for the injury-riddled Bills, NFL rushing leader Fred Jackson sat out much of the second half with a bruised right calf, and two players were carted off. Cornerback Terrence McGee hurt his left knee and will probably miss the rest of the season, coach Chan Gailey said, and receiver Donald Jones could miss three to six weeks with a left ankle injury. The Dolphins, who came into the game tied for last in the league with four interceptions, twice picked off passes that deflected off receivers. Both turnovers led to touchdowns. "I wouldn't want to play against our defense," Miami receiver Brandon Marshall said. "It seems like every time the ball was in the air, there was a big hit." Jared Odrick contributed a sack and reprised his celebratory Pee-wee Herman dance. "A tremendous dance," coach Tony Sparano said. The fifth and final TD came on a blocked punt by Chris Clemons, which Lex Hilliard recovered on the goal line for a 35-6 lead. The score on a blocked punt was Miami's first since 1990. The goal-line stand came midway through the second half, when Miami stopped the Bills four times after they had a first down at the 2. The Dolphins scored

touchdowns on their first three possessions and led 21-3 after 18 minutes. Moore threw little after that and finished 14 for 20 for 160 yards, with a passer rating of 133.3. "Guys around me are making big plays and making it easy for the quarterback," Moore said. "It's such a good feeling." Fitzpatrick, who has yet to win a game since signing a \$59 million, six-year contract last month, was sacked twice and had a rating of 45.8. He has 12 turnovers in the past six games. Jackson was held to 17 yards on seven carries. The Bills fumbled four times, and while they recovered them all, they went 0 for 14 on third- and fourth-down conversions - a rate of futility that left Gailey shaking his head. "I don't know if I've ever been through that before, ever," Gailey said. "When you're that bad, you're having a pitiful day." By the third quarter, the Bills' ineptitude had become farcical. On one play, the wet ball slipped out of Fitzpatrick's hand as he prepared to pass, so he caught it and tried again, throwing a short completion. Even hiking the ball was problematic for the Bills, with Fitzpatrick forced to reach for several errant snaps. The past three weeks, the Bills have totaled two touchdowns, and one came during garbage time. Buffalo took the opening kickoff and drove for a field goal, then went 25 minutes without a first down. Bad field position hurt the Bills, who started eight possessions inside their 20. Miami mounted an 87-yard drive on its first possession, capped by Moore's 1-yard touchdown pass to Anthony Fasano. The Dolphins forced a punt, then struck again. Moore's 46-yard pass to Charles Clay set up a 5-yard scoring run by Reggie Bush. When Nolan Carroll intercepted a pass that slipped through the hands of Buffalo's Brad Smith, Miami was in business again at the Bills 23. Moore then threw a 12-yard scoring pass to Clay for the rookie's first career TD. Late in the first half, Bell intercepted a pass that deflected off David Nelson and returned it to the Buffalo 4. Moore then hit Davone Bess with a 4-yard scoring pass for a 28-3 lead. The halftime point total was Miami's largest since 2002. "This is nice for the guys," said Sparano, whose team was a league laughingstock not long ago. "They're just worried about doing their job and trying to prove people wrong. They make me smile a little bit. I don't know that I want to show that, though. They'll think I'm getting soft." Notes: The Dolphins are the third NFL team to win three consecutive games at any point after starting a season 0-7. ... A streak of 735 punts without a block by Buffalo's Brian Moorman ended. It was the third-longest such streak in NFL history. ... The Bills' Dave Rayner kicked a career-long 56-yard field goal on the final play of the first half. © 2011 STATS LLC

Sanchez throws 4 TDs as Jets top Bills 28-24 EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) -- This was one frantic finish the New York Jets might consider a turning point if they end up pulling off another late-season playoff push. Mark Sanchez threw a career-high four touchdown passes, including the winning 16-yard score to Santonio Holmes with just over a minute remaining, as the Jets kept pace in the AFC playoff race with a 28-24 comeback victory over the Buffalo Bills on Sunday. "He's at his best," coach Rex Ryan said of his quarterback, "in big moments." And, this was certainly one of them. One win down. Five more to go. With several Jets players saying they needed to win each of their last six games to reach the postseason, things appeared bleak with New York (6-5) trailing 24-21 after Dave Rayner's 53-yard field goal and facing a third-and-11 from the Bills 36. But Sanchez connected with Plaxico Burress, who reached up and made an impressive one-handed grab along the left sideline for 18 yards and the first down. "It was crazy," Jets cornerback Darrelle Revis said of the catch. "He's 6-foot-5 and he's got those 'Go-Go-Gadget' arms. It was probably one of the best catches I've seen in a while." Added Sanchez: "I don't know if words could do it any justice. It was a big-time catch in a crucial situation." Sanchez quickly ran a quarterback sneak - just to make sure there was no challenge, even though replays showed Burress caught it cleanly. On the next play, Sanchez rolled out to his right to buy some time and found Holmes alone in the right corner of the end zone to give the Jets the lead with 1:01 left. "I felt good," Sanchez said of his confidence entering the winning drive. "We've been in that situation before." But the Jets then had to overcome a valiant comeback attempt by the Bills (5-6), who have lost four straight. With Buffalo driving for a winning score, a wide-open Stevie Johnson dropped a pass that would have gone for a long gain. Ryan Fitzpatrick also threw behind Johnson in the end zone with 8 seconds left that might have been a touchdown. "It's hard," Fitzpatrick said. "They scored at the end and we had a legitimate four chances to get it in there in the end zone and unfortunately we were unable to make the plays. It hurts real bad." Sanchez wasn't great in this one, going 17 of 35 for 180 yards and an interception, but came through with the game on the line. It was his eighth fourth-quarter comeback victory in two-plus seasons. He also threw two touchdown passes to Dustin Keller and another to Burress as the Jets rebounded from a deflating loss to Tim Tebow and the Denver Broncos 10 days ago. "Defensively, the one thing we can say is we finished," Ryan said. Fitzpatrick was 26 of 39 for 264 yards and three touchdowns, but couldn't pull out one more in the end. Buffalo played without several injured starters, including Fred Jackson and George Wilson. Johnson had one of the Bills' touchdown catches late in the first half and got up and mocked being shot in the thigh, clearly making fun of Burress who served 20 months in prison for shooting himself in the leg in a nightclub in 2008 while he was with the Giants. Johnson then ran to the left side of the end zone mocking the "flight" celebration the Jets often use after scoring and fell to the ground, getting flagged 15 yards for excessive celebration on the play that gave Buffalo a 14-7 lead. "I was just having fun and part of having fun ended up being a penalty and a touchdown for the Jets," Johnson said. "It was a stupid decision by myself." New York was already going to have good field position, but Rayner flubbed a squibbed kick attempt that hit off the Jets' Emanuel Cook, who recovered the ball at Buffalo's 36. The Jets moved to the 14 when Buffalo's Marcell Dareus was hit for a 15-yard penalty for using his helmet to make contact with Sanchez. Three plays later, Burress caught a 14-yard touchdown pass in the back of the end zone to tie it at 14 with 1:03 left in the half. Burress simply bowed to the crowd and ran to the stands and handed the ball to his son Elijah, as he always does after scoring receptions. "I've seen worse, and I've heard worse," Burress said of Johnson's celebration. "So, it doesn't bother me at all. The result I'm looking at is we won the football game." The Jets' offense started the third quarter with a nice drive capped by Keller's second touchdown catch of the game that gave New York a 21-14 lead with 3:50 remaining in the period. After the Jets held the Bills to three-and-out late in the third quarter, Buffalo got the ball right back when cornerback Antonio Cromartie - who was returning the punt because Jim Leonhard was a bit banged up - muffed the fair catch and Leodis McKelvin recovered at New York's 36. McKelvin injured his ribs on the play and left the game. Fitzpatrick went for a big play right away, throwing a ball up deep down the right sideline to former Jets wide receiver Brad Smith, who appeared to get a hand on it, along with Cromartie, and tapped the ball up, grabbed it out of the air as the defender fell and took off into the end zone for a career-best 36-yard touchdown that tied it at 21 with 2:11 remaining in the third quarter. Notes: David Nelson had the Bills' other touchdown, an 8-yard catch that gave Buffalo a 7-0 lead late in the opening quarter. ... Jets DE Mike DeVito left in the third quarter with a right knee injury, and Ryan had no update on the severity. ... Former Bills first-rounder Aaron Maybin had two of the Jets' three sacks. He had none in two unproductive seasons in Buffalo. ... Fitzpatrick became the fifth QB in team history with 50 TD passes, joining Jim Kelly, Joe Ferguson, Jack Kemp and Drew Bledsoe. © 2011 STATS LLC

Johnson leads Titans to 23-17 win over Bills ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) -- Chris Johnson has found his stride just in time to provide the Tennessee Titans' playoff hopes some real legs. In another sign he's emerging from a two-month slumber, Johnson rushed for 153 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Titans to a 23-17 win over the slumping Buffalo Bills on Sunday. Held to under 100 yards seven times in his first eight games, Johnson now has topped the century mark three times in his last four outings. The Titans (7-5) have won two straight and moved into a tie with four other teams in contention for the AFC's final wild card berth. It's a group of contenders that no longer includes the Bills (5-7), who have lost five straight, a spiral that has them suddenly battling Miami (4-8) for last place in the AFC East. The Titans host New Orleans next weekend. "In the beginning of the season, the passing game carried us, and now it's time for the running

game to step it up," Johnson said. "The offensive line and everything is hitting on all cylinders right now, and hopefully we can continue to keep this momentum going." Johnson put the Titans ahead for good with an electrifying 48-yard scamper off right tackle in the first quarter. He then capped the next possession with a 4-yard run up the middle to put the Titans ahead 17-7. He had 90 yards by that point, which is more than he'd had in all but three games this season. Coming off a 190-yard performance in a 23-17 win over Tampa Bay last week, Johnson's two scores matched his season total, and he now has 486 of his 852 yards rushing in his past four games. "Yeah, that's the CJ I know," safety Alterraun Verner said. Kicker Rob Bironas hit three field goals, including a 44-yarder midway through the fourth quarter to give the Titans a 23-10 lead. The Titans defense forced two fumbles - both recovered by rookie linebacker Colin McCarthy - which led directly to 10 points. The Bills no longer look anything like the upstart team that got off to a 5-2 start this season and instead more resemble the bumbling squad that opened 0-8 last year. "Extremely shocked and disappointed: All those words," quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick said. "The way we've played lately hasn't been good enough." C.J. Spiller had a career-best 83 yards rushing and scored on a 35-yard touchdown run in his second start since Fred Jackson broke a bone in his leg. Receiver Stevie Johnson toned down his touchdown celebration after scoring on a 2-yard catch with 2:58 left to make the game close. Johnson had been criticized for much of the past week over his celebration in a 28-24 loss to the New York Jets. Johnson was fined \$10,000 by the NFL for mocking Jets receiver Plaxico Burress, pretending to shoot himself in the thigh. He was also flagged 15 yards for going to the ground in pretending to be a crashing plane. "Last week was last week," said Johnson, who had five catches for 52 yards. "We moved on to the Titans and we tried to get this W and we came up short." The Bills ran out of time to manufacture a comeback. Getting the ball back at their own 15-yard line with 62 seconds left, their final drive ended with Fitzpatrick throwing three straight incompletions from his 46. The back-and-forth first half featured some exhilarating and bizarre plays. Spiller gave the Bills a 7-3 lead midway through the first quarter when he beat the Titans to the left corner and cut it up the sideline. He was chased down from behind by Michael Griffin, who punched the ball loose inside the 10-yard line. The ball ricocheted off Spiller's left knee and was bouncing out of the end zone when the running back made a diving attempt to secure it before sliding out. Officials initially ruled it a touchback, before reversing the call to a touchdown after replays showed Spiller had control of the ball while inbounds. The rest of the day, it was Tennessee in control. "A lot of these guys are growing confidence that wasn't there from the beginning," receiver Nate Washington said. "We are starting to realize we have a good chance at being a great football team here - not just good, but great." NOTES: Johnson's 48-yard TD run was his longest since scoring a 76-yard touchdown in the 2010 season opener. ... Fitzpatrick's TD pass gave him 20 this season, becoming the first Bills player to throw that many in consecutive years since Jim Kelly did it in 1994-95. ... The Bills honored Allen Wilson, longtime beat writer for The Buffalo News, who died Saturday of leukemia. Flowers and a framed picture of "Big Al" were placed at his seat in the press box. Bills safety and captain George Wilson spoke for the players in issuing his condolences, calling the writer a "good man" and "genuine guy." © 2011 STATS LLC

Rivers, Gates lead Chargers to 37-10 win vs Bills SAN DIEGO (AP) -- The San Diego Chargers finally are playing well. The way Tim Tebow and the Denver Broncos are playing, though, it could be too late. Philip Rivers threw three touchdown passes, two to Antonio Gates, and the Chargers kept their slim playoff hopes alive while beating Buffalo 37-10 Sunday to eliminate the Bills from postseason contention. The Chargers (6-7) have won two straight following their six-game losing streak. Minutes after the Chargers game ended, Denver beat Chicago in overtime to improve to 8-5 atop the AFC West with three games to go. Also ahead of the Chargers are the Oakland Raiders (7-6), who lost at Green Bay. "Until they say we're done, there's always a chance," said safety Eric Weddle, who converted a first down on a fake punt and had an interception, both of which led to touchdowns. "Even if we were done, we'd be playing our hearts out." Chargers coach Norv Turner hadn't heard the Denver score until it was brought up in the postgame news conference. "I'm glad you told me that because I didn't hear the results yet and I won't bother watching it now that you gave me the rundown," Turner said. "We have to take care of ourselves. We know all the math, but there's nothing we can do about that. It's get ready to play a game." The Chargers host Baltimore (10-3) next Sunday night. Buffalo (5-8) lost its sixth straight game and was eliminated from playoff contention for the 12th straight year. The Bills, like the Chargers, started the season 4-1. They were 5-2 after a 23-0 victory against Washington on Oct. 30 and haven't won since. "I think the last few weeks we made some progress. Today obviously we took a step backward," Buffalo quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick said. "We didn't do anything well. In this matchup of desperate teams, the Chargers took control early and never let up. Rivers was 24 of 33 for 240 yards. Ryan Mathews gained 114 yards on 20 carries, the first time he's had three straight 100-yard games. The Bills made it a game when Rivers fumbled while going back to pass early in the third quarter. The ball rolled into the end zone and Bryan Scott shoved aside the QB to recover for a touchdown that pulled the Bills to 16-10. "Fortunately, it didn't cost us today," said Rivers, who's had some costly turnovers this season. "It was good to win again." Just like that, though, San Diego regained the momentum with the fake punt on the next drive. With the Chargers in punt formation at their 32, Weddle, the up-back, took the snap and ran 10 yards for a first down. Vincent Jackson had consecutive catches of 16, 17 and 13 yards. Rivers scrambled for 9 yards and an apparent TD, but it came back on a holding call against right tackle Jeromey Clary. Three plays later, Gates broke free in the end zone for a 2-yard scoring catch. "Momentum is big in the NFL," Weddle said. "Once we got the momentum back, we figured it was over there. Once we converted the fake punt and then scored, it was a two-score game." Said Buffalo coach Chan Gailey: "We had a very small window to make that a game and we didn't stop that drive when they faked the punt," Gailey said. "We didn't stop that drive and we couldn't get anything going offensively consistently." On Buffalo's next play from scrimmage, Steve Gregory intercepted Ryan Fitzpatrick and returned it 26 yards for a touchdown and a 30-10 lead. "We felt like we came out in the second half with some confidence and it was all gone after that pick-6." Rivers also threw a 26-yard scoring pass to Patrick Crayton. Fitzpatrick was 13 of 34 for 176 and two interceptions. The Chargers scored on their first three drives. Rivers was 6 for 6 for 63 yards on the opening possession, including a 9-yard TD pass to Gates. Weddle intercepted Fitzpatrick when the ball bounced off the back of linebacker Na'il Diggs and returned it 26 yards to the San Diego 45. Rivers completed two more passes for 20 yards and Mike Tolbert finished the drive with a 1-yard run. The PAT was blocked and San Diego lead 13-0. Mathews' 37-yard run up the middle on the next drive set up Nick Novak's 47-yard field goal for a 16-0 lead that held up at halftime. The Bills had an impressive drive to open the second half, including Stevie Johnson's 53-yard catch-and-run, to reach the Chargers 9. But two incompletions by Fitzpatrick and a sack by Antwan Barnes forced the Bills to settle for Dave Rayner's 37-yard field goal. NOTES: Gates became the 27th player in NFL history with 75 touchdown catches. He's within five catches of overtaking Hall of Famer Charlie Joiner, the team's receivers coach, for all-time receptions (586). ... Rivers' lost fumble was his fifth, giving him an NFL-high 22 turnovers. ... Fitzpatrick set a career high with 3,013 yards passing, making him the second Bills QB with consecutive 3,000-yard seasons (Jim Kelly 1988-89, 1991-95). © 2011 STATS LLC

Bush has 203 yards in Dolphins' 30-23 win ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) -- The Buffalo Bills couldn't get a hand on Reggie Bush. And the Miami Dolphins running back proved too slippery for the slick field, too. With persistent flurries blowing in off nearby Lake Erie, Bush rushed for a career-best 203 yards and capped a 76-yard touchdown run by sliding feet-first through the end zone in helping secure a 30-23 win Sunday over the free-falling Bills, who have lost seven in row. "I play FIFA a lot on PlayStation, and they're always sliding a soccer slide," Bush said of his celebration. "Just having fun. Just enjoying the moment." It

was a moment to enjoy for a Dolphins team that's coming off a tumultuous week in which Todd Bowles won in his debut as interim coach after head coach Tony Sparano was fired. And it was a breakthrough outing for Bush. After spending the past few weeks showing he's capable of rushing for 100 yards, Bush stepped his game to an altogether new level. "It feels good. It means a lot," Bush said. "It means that hey, I'm doing everything that I expect I was going to be doing. It's not so much as me being surprised that this happened today or that I could rush for 100 yards. It's more of the fact that this is something I expected." The 203 yards matched his combined rushing total from his past two games, and it ranks third on the Dolphins team list. And he's already pushed his season-best total to 973 yards, which is nearly half of the 2,090 the former first-round pick had during his first five seasons in New Orleans. Matt Moore showed no signs of a head and neck injury that sidelined him a week ago by throwing two touchdown passes - a 22-yarder to Anthony Fasano and a 65-yard strike to Brandon Marshall - and finishing with 217 yards passing. Cornerback Vontae Davis had two of Miami's three interceptions. Miami won for the fifth time in seven games since a 0-7 start. Though both AFC East teams are 5-9, the Dolphins have moved ahead of Buffalo in the division after sweeping the season series. "The pride of this team, which is basically all we've got now, is showing," Moore said. "Coach Bowles did a good job of keeping everybody together. It was a sad day, but we've got to keep moving." The Bills continued their spiral and are in jeopardy of finishing last in the division for a fourth straight season. Rather than looking like the upstart team that got off to a 5-2 start this season, they resemble more the rag-tag bunch that got off to an 0-8 start in 2010. "It's like a tale of two seasons," linebacker Chris Kelsay said. "I think we expected to win every time we stepped on the field. I don't think we expect to win now." C.J. Spiller scored on a 24-yard rush and added a 3-yard touchdown catch. Ryan Fitzpatrick's struggles continued. He finished 31 of 47 for 316 yards with two touchdowns - including a 2-yarder to Derek Hagan - and three interceptions. He has 12 interceptions and eight touchdown passes during the team's seven-game skid. "We haven't played very well, and that starts with me," Fitzpatrick said. "I've got to get better. That's the bottom line." Bush secured the win with his electrifying run up the middle to put the Dolphins up 30-13 with 5:41 left. It came on the first play from scrimmage after Spiller's 3-yard score. Breaking through a huge hole up the middle, he blew past safety Jairus Byrd, who was the only Buffalo player to get a hand on him. "I was standing up and felt him breeze by me," Dolphins guard Richie Incognito said. "I looked up to see if anybody was going to catch him, and there was nobody there." Moore broke the game open in the third quarter when he hit Marshall in stride up the right sideline for an over-the-shoulder 65-yard touchdown pass. The Bills then bumbled the game away with their next two possessions ending with Fitzpatrick throwing interceptions. That included an underthrown pass intended for Stevie Johnson up the left sideline that was picked off by Davis, who enjoyed playing in the cold weather. "Buffalo, it can't get any better. Being in Miami, I haven't seen snow since college at Illinois," Davis said. "I don't want to stay, but I kind of missed it." NOTES: Bills coach Chan Gailey denied a report that assistant coach Dave Wannstedt was calling defensive plays instead of coordinator George Edwards. During the game, Buffalo's WGRF-Radio - the team's broadcaster - reported Wannstedt was more involved in the play-calling duties. ... Bills TE Lee Smith is out indefinitely after hurting his ankle. WR Stevie Johnson was held out in the fourth quarter after hurting his groin. ... Dolphins PK Dan Carpenter rounded out the scoring by hitting all three field-goal attempts, a 20-yarder and two from 26 yards. © 2011 STATS LLC

Bills pick off Tebow 4 times, beat Broncos 40-14 ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) -- Tim Tebow picked a terrible time to run out of fourth-quarter comebacks. Rather than inspiring the Denver Broncos to another dramatic rally, the quarterback sealed the most dreadful performance of his two-year career by throwing four interceptions - all in the second half and two returned for touchdowns 18 seconds apart - in a 40-14 loss to the Buffalo Bills on Saturday. It happened as the Broncos (8-7) had a chance to inch closer to clinching their first playoff berth in six years, and against a Bills team that was coming off seven straight losses and had little to play for. "My confidence is just fine," Tebow said. "I have to do a better job of not giving them opportunities. I tried to make something happen, and I tried to force it." Denver coach John Fox hasn't lost faith in Tebow. "I just think a couple of misreads," Fox said. And no, he gave no thought of pulling Tebow at any point during a second half in which four of the Broncos' final six possessions ended with interceptions. On the bright side, Denver's not done yet, despite falling into a tie with Oakland atop the AFC West. Denver closes its season by hosting the Kansas City Chiefs next week, and still holds the tiebreaker edge over the Raiders. "Everything is still on the table," Tebow said. "We have to go and execute and play a little better. Hopefully, we can get in the tournament." Tebow finished 13 of 30 for 185 yards with a 17-yard touchdown pass to Daniel Fells. He added 34 yards rushing, and scored on a 1-yard plunge. That wasn't nearly good enough for a player who entered the game best known for engineering five fourth-quarter comebacks this season. The Bills (6-9) made sure he never got in position for a sixth in coming away with a win in their home finale. Safety Jairus Byrd and linebacker Spencer Johnson scored on interception returns 18 seconds apart midway through the fourth quarter. C.J. Spiller rushed for a career-best 111 yards and a touchdown, and Leodis McKelvin scored on an 80-yard punt return. "It's special," Johnson said. "We had a monkey on our back for a long time." Added safety George Wilson: "It's a great reward for the resilience, commitment and dedication." The Bills' four interceptions were two more than they managed in their previous seven games. They have returned five interceptions for touchdowns to set a single-season franchise record. If the game wasn't over with 8:03 left when Byrd jumped in front of Tebow's pass intended for Eric Decker up the left hash mark and returned it 37 yards for a touchdown, then it certainly was decided on the Broncos' next play from scrimmage. Tebow was flushed from the pocket and was scrambling to his left when linebacker Chris Kelsay dived from behind and batted the ball out of the quarterback's hand. The ball flew into the air and landed in the hands of Johnson, who ran it in from 17 yards. Kelsay, the longest-serving member of the defense, had two sacks and led the team with nine tackles. "We've lost seven games in a row. It wears on you," Kelsay said. "We got rewarded. We came together and we executed." After weeks of assertive defense, the Broncos gave up 40 points for a second straight game - though Tebow's giveaways certainly didn't help. And yet Denver allowed 160 yards rushing and 351 yards in all to a banged-up Bills offense that was averaging 14.2 points and 314.7 yards during its seven-game skid. While Tebow was struggling, Bills quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick enjoyed his most efficient game in two months by going 15 of 27 for 196 yards with no interceptions. Fitzpatrick entered the game taking plenty of heat during the seven-game skid, in which he threw eight touchdowns versus 12 interceptions. Dave Rayner shook off two missed field-goal attempts - and a booing crowd - to hit his final four, all from within 29 yards. "I'm glad that Coach stuck with me," Rayner said. "I'm glad that we got opportunities, because I never want to leave a game going oh-fer." Except for scoring touchdowns on their first possession of each half, nothing went right for the Broncos. They went nowhere in the first half after Tebow capped a 73-yard opening drive with a 1-yard run. Denver managed just 21 yards and no first downs on its final six possessions, including a kneeldown in the final seconds. They finished converting just two of 13 third-down chances and Tebow had four of his final six drives end with interceptions. NOTES: After McKelvin scored, Denver's Eddie Royal returned the ensuing kickoff 94 yards for a touchdown, but it was negated by a block in the back penalty against Dante Rosario. ... Broncos RB Willis McGahee had 64 yards rushing to give him 1,054 this season. He became the second NFL player to reach 1,000 yards rushing with three teams. He previously did it with Buffalo and Baltimore. Ricky Watters rushed for 1,000 yards with San Francisco, Philadelphia and Seattle. ... The Bills finished 5-3 at home (including a win over Washington at Toronto), matching their best record since going 5-3 in 2004. © 2011 STATS LLC

Brady leads Pats to top seed, beats Bills 49-21 FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) -- Tom Brady and the New England Patriots do an outstanding job rallying from

behind. They've been getting plenty of practice. Now that the Patriots have clinched home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs by scoring the final 49 points in a 49-21 win over the Buffalo Bills on Sunday, they know it will be much harder to recover from a poor start. "Every team in the playoffs is good," Patriots linebacker Jerod Mayo said. "To be honest, it would be tough to come back against them if we're behind 21-0." Tough, but not impossible. Not with Brady leading the attack. He finished the regular season with the second most yards passing in NFL history, 5,235, after throwing for 338. Drew Brees, who last week broke Dan Marino's record of 5,084 with the Miami Dolphins in 1984, added 389 Sunday for the Saints and ended with 5,486. The Patriots (13-3) have won their last eight games. But for the third in a row, they fell behind early. They trailed Denver 13-7 in the first quarter but beat the Broncos 41-23. Then they edged the Dolphins 27-24 after trailing 17-0 at halftime. Finally, they took charge Sunday after the Bills (6-10) scored touchdowns on their first three possessions, drawing boos from the home fans. That changed to a steady stream of cheers as the Patriots dominated the next three quarters, scoring on seven of their next eight possessions. "I'd love to be able to see what it looks like when we put together 60 great minutes of football," Brady said. "Today was 45, but it was better than 30 last week." And they won both games, a much more important achievement than surpassing 5,000 yards. "I play this game for one reason and that's to win," Brady said. "It's not something I ever (think), 'Man, I love throwing touchdowns,' or 'I love throwing for yards.' I love winning and that helps me sleep at night." For a while, it looked like he'd be tossing and turning thanks, in large part, to a defense that set the NFL record for most yards passing allowed, 4,727. The previous mark of 4,541 was set by the Atlanta Falcons in 1995. The Bills took a 21-0 lead in the first quarter on a 4-yard run by Tashard Choice and Ryan Fitzpatrick's scoring passes of 18 yards to Stevie Johnson and 15 yards to C.J. Spiller. "They couldn't stop us," wide receiver David Nelson said. Johnson was penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct when he lifted his jersey to reveal a T-shirt with the words "Happy New Year." After that, he was benched by coach Chan Gailey. "I can't complain about it or whine and pout. He made his decision and I am going with it," Johnson said. "What I did hurt my teammates." The pass to Spiller gave Fitzpatrick 13 completions in 16 attempts for 156 yards and two touchdowns. At that point, Brady had thrown twice, both incompletions. He finished with 23 completions in 35 attempts for three touchdowns - two to Rob Gronkowski - and one interception. Fitzpatrick ended at 29 for 46 for 307 yards, two touchdowns and four interceptions. Gronkowski set the single-season record for tight ends with 1,327 yards receiving after gaining 108 on eight catches. That broke the mark of 1,310 set earlier Sunday by Jimmy Graham of the Saints. The previous mark of 1,290 was set in 1980 by Kellen Winslow of the San Diego Chargers. The record came on a 22-yard completion from backup Brian Hoyer with 1:30 left, a play that Belichick called to give him a shot at the record. "It was cool, unbelievable," Gronkowski said of having that chance. "It says a lot about this team." As the top seed in the AFC, the Patriots will have their home fans behind them as they drive for the Super Bowl. "We've seen the No. 6 team win the Super Bowl. We've seen (a) first seed team win the Super Bowl," Belichick said. "What's more important than where you're seeded is how you play in the playoffs." Buffalo had snapped a seven-game losing streak with a 40-21 win over Denver in its previous game but heads into the offseason with the memory of a 5-2 start that it couldn't sustain. The game, Fitzpatrick said, "was kind of like our season. It started off so well with 21 points and we had things rolling offensively. ... but when Stevie got taken out and Scott (Chandler) went down (with a knee injury) it changed things for us. It slowed us down." Sunday's deficit was the Patriots' biggest of the season, but they had Brady to lead them back. A 1-yard run by BenJarvus Green-Ellis and a 39-yard pass to Aaron Hernandez, which put Brady over the 5,000-yard mark, cut the lead to 21-14. Field goals of 41 and 20 yards by Stephen Gostkowski made it 21-20 and the Patriots went ahead to stay 28-21 on Brady's 17-yard scoring pass to Gronkowski with 1:32 left in the third quarter and a 2-point conversion run by Danny Woodhead. They kept rolling with a 3-yard touchdown run by Green-Ellis, a 7-yard scoring pass to Gronkowski with 3:07 left in the game and a 21-yard interception return for another touchdown by Sterling Moore just seven seconds later. In the teams' first meeting in Week 3, the Bills overcame a 21-0 deficit for a 34-31 victory in which Brady threw four interceptions. But on Sunday, the Patriots intercepted four passes and avoided being swept by an AFC East opponent for the first time since 2000 and by the Bills since 1999. Belichick, meanwhile, became the only coach in NFL history with at least 13 regular-season wins in five different seasons. Notes: Tight end Chandler didn't play after the second quarter. ... Rookie Stevan Ridley led the Patriots with a career-high 81 yards rushing. ... Welker had six catches for 51 yards and led the NFL with 122 receptions and 1,569 yards receiving. © 2011 STATS LLC

2. Miami Dolphins

Week	Day	Date	Time (ET)		Opponent	Score	W/L/T	Stories
1	Monday	Sep. 12	7:00 PM		Patriots	24-38	L	Recap Box
2	Sunday	Sep. 18	4:15 PM		Texans	13-23	L	Recap Box
3	Sunday	Sep. 25	1:00 PM	at	Browns	16-17	L	Recap Box
4	Sunday	Oct. 2	1:15 PM	at	Chargers	16-26	L	Recap Box
5								Bye Week
6	Monday	Oct. 17	8:30 PM	at	Jets	6-24	L	Recap Box
7	Sunday	Oct. 23	1:00 PM		Broncos	15-18	L	Recap Box
8	Sunday	Oct. 30	1:00 PM	at	Giants	17-20	L	Recap Box
9	Sunday	Nov. 6	12:00 PM	at	Chiefs	31-3	W	Recap Box
10	Sunday	Nov. 13	1:00 PM		Redskins	20-9	W	Recap Box
11	Sunday	Nov. 20	1:00 PM		Bills	35-8	W	Recap Box
12	Thursday	Nov. 24	3:15 PM	at	Cowboys	19-20	L	Recap Box
13	Sunday	Dec. 4	1:00 PM		Raiders	34-14	W	Recap Box
14	Sunday	Dec. 11	1:00 PM		Eagles	10-26	L	Recap Box
15	Sunday	Dec. 18	1:00 PM	at	Bills	30-23	W	Recap Box
16	Saturday	Dec. 24	1:00 PM	at	Patriots	24-27	L	Recap Box
17	Sunday	Jan. 1	1:00 PM		Jets	19-17	W	Recap Box

Brady's 517 yards, 4 TDs lift Pats over Dolphins MIAMI (AP) -- Desperate to slow down Tom Brady , the Miami Dolphins tried playing 12 men on defense. That didn't work. They drew a penalty. Using only 11 defenders was even worse. Brady threw for a team-record 517 yards and four touchdowns, including a 99-yarder to Wes Welker , and the New England Patriots opened their season Monday night by beating Miami 38-24. Brady and the reigning AFC East champions picked up where they left off last season, when he was a unanimous choice for NFL MVP, and his team led the league in scoring. "He's a great quarterback," teammate Aaron Hernandez said, "and the world knows that." New England totaled 622 yards, the most in franchise history and the most allowed by Miami. Brady's performance overshadowed Miami's Chad Henne , who threw for a career-high 416 yards. The 906 net yards passing by both teams was an NFL record. "They made some plays on us," Brady said. "We made a few more than them." Even by Patriots standards - they're 1-0 for the eighth consecutive year - this was a fast start. Defensive end Jared Odrick picked off a deflected pass to set up a Miami touchdown and end Brady's NFL-record streak of 358 passes without an interception. Otherwise Brady was close to flawless. Brady went 32 for 48 and became the 11th quarterback to throw for at least 500 yards. Norm Van Brocklin set the record of 554 yards in 1951. Brady thrived directing a no-huddle attack that kept the Dolphins on their heels. "I enjoy scoring points," Brady said. "So whatever we need to do to score points, that's what I want to do." The capper came with 5:44 left and the Patriots leading 31-17. After they stopped Miami on downs at the 1-foot line, Brady lined up in the shotgun on first down and threw from his end zone to Welker, who had slipped behind Benny Sapp near the 30-yard line. "When I saw the coverage as we lined up, I knew there was a strong possibility I could be getting the ball," Welker said. "I just wanted to make the most of the opportunity." He did, catching the pass in stride and sprinting untouched for the score to complete the longest play in Patriots history. "Awesome," Brady said. "I only threw it 25 yards. Wes did all the work." Brady also threw touchdown passes on consecutive plays. He hit Hernandez for a 31-yard score, and when a replay review determined the receiver was down at the 1, Brady threw to him again for a TD on the next play. His other scoring passes covered 10 yards to Rob Gronkowski and 2 yards to Welker. "Some of their scores ended up looking like it was kind of easy," Miami coach Tony Sparano said. Said Brady: "I wouldn't say it was easy at all." He was sacked only once, and good protection gave his receivers plenty of time to work their way open. Newcomer Chad Ochocino was targeted three times and had only one catch for 14 yards. But Welker made eight receptions for 160 yards against his former team, and tight ends Hernandez and Gronkowski combined for 189 yards on 13 catches. "It wasn't a one-man band out there," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "We had a lot of contributions." The Dolphins' defense returned virtually intact from last season and was expected to be the team's strength, but Brady riddled them from the start. He completed his first eight passes for 127 yards on the Patriots' first two possessions, and both ended with TDs. Brady's first interception since Oct. 17 came early in the third quarter, when he tried to hit Julian Edelman in the flat. Sapp deflected the ball to the 304-pound Odrick, who rumbled 40 yards to the 9. Two plays later, Henne hit Brian Hartline with a 10-yard touchdown pass to make the score 14-all. Brady was so rattled it took him 10 plays to put the Pats ahead to stay. © 2011 STATS LLC

Johnson helps Texans beat Dolphins 23-13 MIAMI (AP) -- With the game on the line, five-time Pro Bowler Andre Johnson found himself covered by a reserve cornerback. The result was no contest, just like the one-sided series between the Houston Texans and Miami Dolphins . Johnson badly beat Nolan Carroll for a 23-yard score Sunday that helped seal the Texans' 23-13 victory over their favorite foils. Houston improved to 6-0 against Miami, in part because the Dolphins' sieve-like pass defense was no match for Johnson and Matt Schaub . The Texans improved to 2-0 for the second year in a row. Last season they faded to 6-10, extending their streak of never making the playoffs. "We've been here before in this situation," said Johnson, who is in his ninth season with Houston. "Our goal is to go 1-0 every week." The Dolphins are 0-2 for the fifth time in the past six years, and perhaps it's just as well they're on the road for most of the next two months. They're 1-11 at home since late 2009. "This stinks," receiver Brandon Marshall said. "We're trying to get things going in our stadium and our community, and you have to win at home to do that. It's frustrating. It's embarrassing." With fan apathy on the rise the stadium was half empty, despite Miami native Johnson buying 170 tickets for family and friends. He uncharacteristically dropped a deep pass in the third quarter but more than made amends, finishing with seven catches for 93 yards. "Andre made some great plays all day long," Schaub said. The biggest came after a Miami field goal cut Houston's lead to 16-13. The Texans responded with a 63-yard drive capped by Johnson's score. Carroll was on the coverage because Vontae Davis hurt his hamstring. "When the play was called, I knew I had a chance to score, and that's what happened," Johnson said. "The way he was playing me, I knew it was six." Carroll and cornerback

Sean Smith blamed busted coverage on the play. Schaub went 21 for 29 for 230 yards and had a quarterback rating of 118.5. Houston avoided any turnovers while the Dolphins committed two, had a 22-yard field-goal attempt blocked and missed a 34-yarder. Miami's Daniel Thomas rushed for 107 yards in his NFL debut, but Chad Henne went 12 for 30 and was especially erratic in the red zone. Lapses on defense and special teams also hurt the Dolphins, and linebacker Jason Taylor said lineup changes may be in order. "I'm not sure everyone understands the magnitude of what we're trying to do here," Taylor said. "If you can't get it, get out of the way and we'll get somebody else who will." Houston's Ben Tate topped 100 yards rushing for the second time in as many career games - he netted 103 yards in 23 carries. Teammate Arian Foster, who missed the opener because of a sore left hamstring, carried only 10 times for 33 yards and sat out the second half when his hamstring tightened. Mario Williams forced a turnover to set up the game's first touchdown. The Texans had two sacks and pressured Henne enough to limit him to 170 yards after he threw for 416 in the season opener. The Texans' defense, revamped after they ranked 30th in yards allowed last season, has allowed two touchdowns in two games. "We only gave up 13 points," Kubiak said, "and you're going to win a lot of games doing that." One bright spot for the Dolphins was Thomas, their first 100-yard rusher in the past 21 games. He lost a fumble but played well enough to keep Reggie Bush on the bench for much of the game. Bush had only seven touches. Williams had a hand in the first touchdown. With Henne throwing from his goal line, Williams beat tackle Marc Colombo and reached to hit Henne as he released a pass, which fluttered to cornerback Johnathan Joseph. Two plays later, Schaub threw a 4-yard touchdown pass to Owen Daniels for a 13-3 lead. Miami twice failed to score after driving inside the Houston 20. Dan Carpenter missed wide left on one field-goal try, and another was a low line drive that rookie J.J. Watt blocked. On one of those possessions, Marshall had a shot at a lunging catch in the end zone but failed to hold onto the ball. Notes: Joseph left the game in the first half with a right ankle sprain but later returned. ... Miami LB Karlos Dansby left the game in the first half with a groin injury. ... Thin air? Miami's Brandon Fields had a 70-yard punt, and Houston's Brett Hartmann had a 69-yarder. ... NFL active sack leader Taylor reached Schaub once, increasing his total to 133 1/2. ... The Dolphins started seven possessions at their 20 or worse. © 2011 STATS LLC

McCoy, Browns finish strong to edge Dolphins 17-16 CLEVELAND (AP) -- Not long after orchestrating Cleveland's stirring comeback, Colt McCoy stood behind a podium and dissected the improbable win. He smiled and shrugged. Did it really happen? It seemed strange, almost surreal. Because despite a litany of mistakes, playing without their star running back, with two wide receivers battling through injuries, a woeful offensive display and a skeptical crowd waiting for something else to go wrong, the Cleveland Browns somehow won. Maybe, after all these years, it's their turn. "We had to overcome a lot," McCoy said. "As ugly as it was, it's a huge win for us." McCoy drove the Browns 80 yards in the final three minutes, capped by a 14-yard touchdown pass to Mohamed Massaquoi with 43 seconds left to rally Cleveland to a 17-16 win Sunday over winless Miami, a deflating loss sure to intensify the pressure on Dolphins coach Tony Sparano. With the Browns trailing by six and less than four minutes left, McCoy walked up and down Cleveland's sideline telling his teammates to believe. "We need one drive," McCoy recalled telling them. "One drive and we can win this thing." They bought in, and three weeks into a new season, the Browns are 2-1 for the first time since 2002. "We put one together," said McCoy. "We got in the two-minute offense, guys got open, guys made plays. We played like garbage for most of the day." Before his game-winning TD toss to Massaquoi, who was limited in practice this week by an ankle injury, McCoy had overthrown, underthrown and flat-out missed receivers. But when it mattered most, he completed nine of 13 passes for 75 yards to six different receivers on Cleveland's climactic 13-play drive. Browns first-year coach Pat Shurmur said the win reinforced a constant message to McCoy and his other players. "Just hang in there," Shurmur said after getting his first home win. "Hang in there because you're going to get your opportunities all the way to the final gun, and he (McCoy) found a way to lead us on a drive. "Colt knows how to win games." Getting the ball back with 3:23 left, McCoy worked the ball down to Miami's 14, picking up a key fourth-and-4 conversion and was helped along by an offsides penalty on Dolphins end Jason Taylor. On first down, McCoy made the defining play of his still budding NFL career. Dropping back, he pump faked before lofting a perfect pass to the right corner over rookie cornerback Jimmy Wilson and to a leaping Massaquoi. "My best throw of the day," McCoy said. "Mo did a nice job and got that guy (Wilson) to bite just a little bit. He wasn't that open, but in the NFL, when they're like that, you just gotta make a good throw. Mo did a great job of getting his feet in. It was a great feeling." The Browns played without running back Peyton Hillis, who was sent home with strep throat. Montario Hardesty started and ran for 67 yards on 14 carries in his first full game since undergoing knee surgery last year. Hardesty added three catches for 19 yards, including a 10-yarder on fourth down on the last drive. For one of the few times in years, the final moments went the Browns' way. "We lost a lot of games like this last year, but that is a thing of the past," said Josh Cribbs, who caught a 33-yard TD from McCoy despite playing with a groin injury. "We're starting to win the games that we should win. We went out there and got it done." The Dolphins (0-3) are in a bad way. With upcoming road games at San Diego and the New York Jets, they're staring an 0-5 start in the face. Sparano was already under fire for the slow start, and the heat only figures to rise in the days ahead. "I do believe the group in that room believes we're going to win," Sparano said. "I do think we are going to win. Now all that being said, we're 0-3. That's what we have to show for it. At the end of the game, we didn't make a play." After Massaquoi's acrobatic TD grab, the Dolphins caught two breaks. First, the Browns were penalized for excessive celebration and then flagged for a horse-collar tackle on the kickoff. Dolphins quarterback Chad Henne took over near midfield, but threw three straight incompletions before he was picked off by Mike Adams on a pass intended for Brandon Marshall. Henne knows the Dolphins must regroup quickly to salvage the season. "It starts with believing you can win," Henne said. "We have to put the right mental attitude out there, knowing we are going to win. If you have the right attitude, you're more confident in yourself. We're going to find out what kind of team this is." © 2011 STATS LLC

Rivers, Tolbert lead Chargers over Dolphins 26-16 SAN DIEGO (AP) -- San Diego Chargers fans might not recognize the AFC West standings a quarter of the way into the season. Their beloved Bolts are in the lead, at 3-1, after beating the winless Miami Dolphins 26-16 on Sunday. It's a big change from Norv Turner's first four seasons as coach, when slow starts agitated the fans. The Bolts were 1-3 at this point in Turner's first season, 2007, then had three straight 2-2 starts. "The only thing faster would be 4-0," said Philip Rivers, who was 21 of 31 for 307 yards and one touchdown. "It's a little faster than it has been around here. It's usually a flip of 3-1." The Chargers have done it with workmanlike performances, not exactly the flash and dash fans might expect from such a high-powered offense. Mike Tolbert ran for San Diego's other score, and the Chargers knocked out Miami quarterback Chad Henne. The Chargers have scored only two touchdowns in each of their last two games, both against teams that were winless at the time. Against the Dolphins, they got four field goals from Nick Novak, from 27, 48, 23 and 38 yards. "We're 3-1. We did enough to win," Rivers said. "I care about winning. Had we been in a game today where four field goals wouldn't have been enough, then maybe I'd be saying we ought to get touchdowns, but we did enough to win the game." The Chargers have a one-game lead in the AFC West over Oakland, which lost to New England. "Everybody seems to think we can't start fast," Tolbert said. "But no matter how we win, how ugly it is, we're 3-1. We're on a good pace right now. We're trying to keep momentum going. "As long as you win, the style points really don't count. We don't care about style." They didn't need to in a game in which the teams combined for three touchdowns and seven field goals. "We're finding ways to win," said safety Eric Weddle, who had another late-game interception. "If that's all you can say about us, then that's a good thing to say." Turner was impressed with his team's effort. "There wasn't anything 'blah-blah' about anyone on our side," the coach said. Henne hurt his left shoulder at the end of a run on a broken play on the Dolphins'

second possession and didn't return. Although backup Matt Moore led the Dolphins to the game's first TD, Rivers' passing eventually overpowered Miami (0-4). Rivers threw a 55-yard touchdown pass to Vincent Jackson to tie the game at 7 late in the first quarter. Ryan Mathews' 42-yard gain on a screen pass set up Tolbert's 1-yard leap over the pile for a 20-10 lead early in the third quarter. Rivers took a knee three times inside the Dolphins' 20-yard line to end the game. "One thing that has been nice about all three of our wins is we took a knee at the end of the game," Rivers said. "A lot of guys will say that's the best formation in football." Jackson, who was in and out of the game with a muscle strain in his leg, had three catches for 108 yards. Mathews had another solid day, running 16 times for 81 yards and catching five passes for 68 yards. Henne and Moore were each intercepted once. "Everybody is going to wish they had some plays back," Moore said. Chargers star tight end Antonio Gates missed his second straight game with a sore right foot, an injury that's bothered him since last season. Henne was hurt at the end of a 1-yard run in the first quarter. He went to hand off to Lex Hilliard, who wasn't ready for the ball. Henne was hit by Shaun Phillips and stayed on the ground for a few minutes. He walked off the field, then went into the locker room. When he came back out to the sideline, it was clear he wasn't going back in. "I wanted to see how it felt, but the risk was too heavy to do," Henne said. "Doctors will let me throw tomorrow, we'll get some more tests done, see how my strength is." Henne said it was a checkdown to a run and there were "missed communications with the running back. Injuries happen. I'll bounce back." Moore came in and completed a 31-yard pass to Charles Clay. Hilliard capped the drive with a 4-yard TD run, but it was overturned after replay, with the officials saying his knee was down inside the 1-yard line. Hilliard then dove over the pile to give the Dolphins a 7-0 lead. Rivers needed three plays to tie it. After consecutive first downs, he lobbed the 55-yarder to Jackson, who dived to make the catch, then got up before a Dolphins defender could touch him, and scooted into the end zone. Reggie Bush, playing as a pro in his hometown for the first time, ran 13 times for 50 yards and caught two passes for 15 yards. Miami's Dan Carpenter kicked field goals of 41, 37 and 51 yards. Notes: The game was blacked out in Southern California. ... The PA announcer referred to Bush as "Reggie Jackson" after a carry late in the first quarter. ... San Diego's Larry English had two sacks. ... Rookie CB Marcus Gilchrist, making his first start in place of injured Quentin Jammer, intercepted Henne. © 2011 STATS LLC

Jets end 3-game skid with 24-6 win over Dolphins EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) -- Mark Sanchez was all smiles in front of his locker for the first time in weeks, knowing exactly what this win meant for the New York Jets. "We're back on track," the relieved quarterback declared. Crisis averted. Season saved. With their locker room beginning to unravel because of mounting losses and infighting, Rex Ryan and his feuding Jets ended a three-game skid with a 24-6 victory over the winless Miami Dolphins on Monday night. "Hey, we needed a win in the worst way," Ryan said. "I'm just happy that we found a way to get one." This victory was far from pretty or convincing. But it didn't need to be. It only needed to not be another loss. After all, the Jets (3-3) came in as a team in turmoil, and a fourth straight loss - especially against the lowly Dolphins - could be catastrophic. "The guys came together and we knew coming into this week," wide receiver Santonio Holmes said, "that we couldn't allow an 0-4 team to come in here and get a victory." Darrelle Revis turned the momentum in the Jets' favor when he ran back the first of his two interceptions 100 yards for a touchdown late in the opening quarter and helped New York do just enough to avoid its first four-game skid under Ryan. Sanchez threw a 38-yard touchdown pass to Holmes and ran for another score as the Jets - who called this a "must-win" game - capped a rough week by sending the Dolphins to their fifth straight loss. "Losing was tough," Revis said. "It was hard coming to work. We wanted to get this win. We came in with a great game plan and guys stuck together." There were some serious doubts whether that would be the case, though. With frustration quickly spreading throughout the locker room, New York traded wide receiver Derrick Mason to Houston for what the team said was a lack of production. Then, the Jets had to deal with some infighting as Holmes called out the offensive line for not giving Sanchez enough time to throw deep. Right guard Brandon Moore fired back, saying those comments could have a "fragmenting effect" and were not what a captain, which Holmes is, should do. Ryan, who insisted his team's Super Bowl hopes would not be undone by locker room disharmony, even sent Holmes and Moore out as the captains for the pregame coin toss. "It was good," Holmes said. "We both looked each other in the eye and said, 'Let's go. It's time to play some football.'" Turns out, this game against the Dolphins (0-5) came at just the right time. Next up for New York: the San Diego Chargers (4-1) on Sunday, with a chance to head into the off week on a high note. "In every locker room, things like this happen," Ryan said. "Trust me, we're past that thing. It's unfortunate that it happened. We're chasing a much bigger thing than that. We're moving forward." Meanwhile, the Dolphins are 0-5 to start a season for the second time in five years, and things are looking an awful lot like 2007 - when Miami went 1-15. The heat on Dolphins coach Tony Sparano could intensify now. "It's tough right now," said wide receiver Brandon Marshall, who had six catches for 109 yards. "When you lose, everything looks bad. It's a nasty feeling in the building and a nasty feeling every day. The only thing we can do is fight to get a win." Marshall didn't even live up to his promise late last week that he would get ejected sometime in the second quarter. He also said he might even start a fight with Jets linebacker Bart Scott or cornerback Antonio Cromartie. It was all talk. But that's what many fans and media were thinking the struggling Jets were, too. And New York did little to convince them otherwise while the Dolphins got on the scoreboard first on Dan Carpenter's 23-yard field goal midway through the opening quarter. The night appeared to be taking an awful turn for the Jets when they lost the ensuing kickoff when it bounced off blocker Garrett McIntyre - standing in front of returner Joe McKnight - and was recovered by Austin Spitzer. But three plays later, Matt Moore threw at Marshall in the end zone and Revis stepped in front of the pass and returned it untouched 100 yards to make it 7-3. "That's exactly what we needed on defense, to set the tone early," Cromartie said. The return tied for the longest in franchise history, first set by Aaron Glenn in 1996, also against Miami. It was also the longest interception runback in the league this season. Moore, starting for the injured Chad Henne, was 16 of 34 for 204 yards and two interceptions. "It's rough, kind of the same old story, trying to find answers and make plays down there in the red zone and we seem to hit a wall," Moore said. "Just got to keep going." The Jets opened with four straight three-and-outs for the second consecutive game before getting things going late in the first half. On third-and-9 from the Jets 20, Jeremy Kerley caught a 14-yard pass for New York's initial first down of the game, with 6:17 left in the half. Then, the offense started clicking with a few long drives. Holmes' 38-yard grab early in the fourth quarter sealed it after Sanchez bought some time with his feet and found the receiver, who easily outran linebacker Cameron Wake and made a few nice moves on his way into the end zone to put New York up 24-6. "What happened last week was last week," Holmes said. "We're looking forward and ahead." Sanchez finished 14 of 25 for 201 yards and the touchdown pass to Holmes, and Shonn Greene ran for 74 yards on 21 carries. "To think that guys were upset or had it out for each other, that's crazy," Sanchez said. "Not here, not with Rex. I knew it was something that would pass, something we'd laugh off. Just getting a win changes everything." Notes: Dolphins RB Reggie Bush left in the third quarter with his right arm hanging at his side - it was announced as a neck injury. He had 71 yards rushing and two catches for 7 yards. ... Cromartie said he pulled himself out of the game late with a groin strain, but will definitely play against the Chargers. ... The Jets finished 6 of 15 on third down, while the Dolphins were just 2 of 13. ... The Jets sacked Moore four times, including two by LB Calvin Pace. © 2011 STATS LLC

Tebow rallies Denver to 18-15 OT win over Miami MIAMI (AP) -- Fans chanted Tim Tebow's name in derision. They hooted as he missed open receivers, got buried under blitzes and kept falling short on third down. Then he led an improbable comeback that became the latest chapter in the legend of Tebow. In his first

start this year, Tebow rallied the Denver Broncos with two touchdown passes in the final 2:44 of the fourth quarter to force overtime, and Matt Prater's 52-yard field goal gave them an 18-15 win Sunday over the stunned Miami Dolphins. "It's tough to say, but man, Timmy did a great job," said Dolphins center Mike Pouncey, who played with Tebow at Florida. "Hopefully the critics will get off him about what he can't do and talk about the things that he can do, and that's figure out a way to win the game, no matter what." The Broncos appeared beaten when they trailed 15-0 with 5:23 left and took over at their 20. At that point Tebow was 4 for 14 for 40 yards, and Denver was 0 for 10 on third-down conversions. "It was my fault we were in that position," Tebow said. "Silly things kept happening. On the sidelines, we were still believing. We wanted it, and they believed in me for more than 60 minutes." In the frantic final minutes of the fourth quarter, Tebow led TD drives of 80 and 56 yards sandwiched around a successful onside kick. He scored a 2-point conversion standing up with 17 seconds left to tie the game. In overtime, Denver's D.J. Williams sacked Matt Moore to force a fumble and recovered it at the Miami 36. Three plays later Prater hit the game-winner. "It was never in doubt," coach John Fox jokingly said. His team became the first to rally from a deficit of at least 15 points in the final three minutes since at least 1983, according to STATS LLC. The Broncos (2-4) won for the first time in the eight games they've played on the Dolphins' field. Miami (0-6) extended the NFL's longest losing streak to nine games, leaving the status of embattled coach Tony Sparano even more tenuous. "Of course he's the head coach and he's going to take a lot of heat," receiver Brandon Marshall said. "But trust me, it's not him. Not just him. It's all of us." The Dolphins lost for the 12th time in their past 13 home games. "I'm just discouraged for the players in the locker room," Sparano said. "They work really hard, and we don't have anything to show for it right now." Tebow started for the benched Kyle Orton, and for much of the game the Broncos sputtered. Tebow was sacked seven times as he struggled to identify blitzes, and several throws landed nowhere near a receiver. As he walked to the sideline after one series stalled, spectators jeered, and Dolphins players gestured to the crowd for more noise. "You can't lose confidence in yourself, or you've lost already," Tebow said. "When you get knocked down, you've got to keep getting back up." That's what Tebow did. With the Broncos on the verge of being shut out for the first time since 1992, he led an eight-play touchdown drive that got them back in the game. Matthew Willis' 42-yard reception was a pivotal play, and Tebow threw a 5-yard scoring pass to Demaryius Thomas with 2:44 left to make the score 15-7. Then came the onside kick. Miami receiver Marlon Moore leaped to catch the ball but bobbled it and the Broncos' Virgil Green recovered at their 44 with 2:31 left. "They made the play. I didn't," Moore said. "It was just a bang-bang play. I had it, the dude turned the corner, hit me, it came out, they got it." Tebow's strike to a diving Daniel Fells gained 28 yards to the 3. Two plays later, Tebow fooled the Dolphins by rolling left and throwing back to the right to Fells, who dived across the goal line for a 3-yard score. Denver still needed a 2-point conversion to stay alive, and Tebow kept up the middle to score standing up. Prater missed field-goal attempts of 49 and 43 yards in regulation, but his kick with 7:24 left in overtime gave Denver the victory. "I'm trying to search for answers," Miami running back Reggie Bush said. "I just keep coming back to embarrassing." While the Broncos were two time zones from home, lots of fans wore Tebow jerseys, and the popular quarterback drew a big roar trotting onto the field for his first series. Tebow won a 2005 high school state championship and the 2008 national title with the Florida Gators in the same stadium. Crowd loyalties were divided even at halftime, when the Dolphins paid tribute to the 2008 Gators. Seventeen former Gators and former coach Urban Meyer took part in the ceremony, drawing a mix of cheers and jeers. Despite the salute to the Gators and Tebow mania, the stadium was almost half empty at the start - a sign of growing fan discontent with the Dolphins. The crowd was booing the home team before Miami's first series ended, but Denver move the ball no better. Together the two teams failed to convert their first 16 third-down situations. Midway through the third period Denver had netted 2 yards on 10 pass plays, an average of 7 inches per play. But in the final 13 minutes Tebow went 9 for 13 for 121 yards, and he finished 13 for 27 for 161 yards. He ran for 65 yards in eight carries. "He's a young guy, a good player," Fox said. "He's going to get better. We saw him get better today." Notes: Broncos RB Willis McGahee left the game in the third quarter with a broken hand. It was wrapped afterward, but he said he would be fine. Denver DE Robert Ayers sprained his knee, and DE Elvis Dumervil sprained his ankle. ... LeBron James tweeted: "Congrats to (at)TimTebow for that comeback win today. Impressive! He's just a winner." ... DE Jared Odrick registered the first sack of the season by a Dolphins lineman. ... Denver rookie Von Miller had his sixth sack of the season. © 2011 STATS LLC

Manning-Cruz TD pass keeps Dolphins winless, 20-17 EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) -- All the warnings coach Tom Coughlin gave the New York Giants before their game with the winless Miami Dolphins seemingly went in one ear and out the other. The Giants' running game was non-existent. The defense showed up for a half. And as the minutes ticked by, it seemed the Dolphins were sensing victory - that's until Eli Manning stole it from them, like so many others before him. Manning threw a 25-yard touchdown pass to Victor Cruz with 5:58 to play and the Giants barely avoided a post-bye letdown, keeping Miami (0-7) winless with a 20-17 victory Sunday. "The pressure was there just to get the win," Giants guard Chris Snee said. "No one was concerned about 'Oh, we're going to lose to a winless team, or we were going to lose.' We thought we were still going to win the game and that's just the confidence we have, and that stems from Eli." Despite some pressure, Manning was outstanding in handing the Dolphins another late loss that has to increase the pressure on embattled coach Tony Sparano. He hit 31 of 45 passes for 345 yards, two touchdowns and no interceptions in rallying the Giants from an 11-point first-half deficit. He would have had a lot more yards if tight end Jake Ballard and receiver Hakeem Nicks held on to a couple of perfect long tosses. Mario Manningham caught the other touchdown, a 7-yard play that got New York (5-2) back into the game late in the first half. "We knew we were going to get pressure," Coughlin said. "We probably got pressure 40-50 percent of the time. It caused some issues with the running game (58 yards). But Eli made some big plays. Obviously he threw the ball a lot today. No turnovers, no interceptions, and he made plays when we had to have them. Once again, he did a very good job." Manning said the Giants had chances to put up a lot more points, but they hurt themselves with the drops, penalties and negative plays down close. "We knew coming in it would be a tough battle," Manning said. "A lot of games have come to the fourth quarter, and we knew it would be a tough road. They did a lot of good things defensively, ran a lot of different blitzes. We didn't run the ball real well today, and we had to throw the ball more than we wanted to. But we're capable of doing that." And when they are close this season, Manning has found a way to win most of the time. Four of their five wins have come in the fourth quarter. "He is a clutch player," said center David Baas, who joined the team this season. "No matter what happens, he stays calm and rises to the occasion." The loss was another frustration for the Sparano, who endured a week of hearing rumors that the Dolphins were interested in hiring former Steelers coach Bill Cowher next season. It followed a brutal loss to Tim Tebow and Denver, a game in which Miami blew a 15-point lead with less than three minutes to play. "We went toe to toe with them, swung hard. We didn't win. It's not acceptable," Sparano said. Cowher issued a statement Sunday, saying no one has approached him about a job and he intends to work for CBS TV again next season. Lawrence Tynes kicked two short field goals, and New York's defense got four sacks on the Dolphins' final two drives. Corey Webster iced it with his third interception in the last two games. Steve Slaton and Matt Moore (13 of 22 for 138) capped the Dolphins' first two drives with 1-yard runs. But Miami could only muster a 40-yard third-quarter field goal by Dan Carpenter the rest of the way. The Giants' winning drive covered 53 yards in six plays. Ahmad Bradshaw, who missed much of the second half getting his right foot X-rayed, had runs of 2 and 11 yards to get the drive started and Manning hit Nicks for 17 yards to the Miami 23. The quarterback found a wide open Cruz over the middle and the New Jersey native spun out of Will Allen's attempted tackle at the 5-yard line. "It was basically a seam route," said Cruz, who has four touchdown catches as a part-timer. "They were playing Cover-2, Eli put it on me, and I just went up the field spun around,

and got into the end zone." A kickoff return by Slaton to the Dolphins 45 resulted in nothing when New York got two sacks, the last by a combination of Mathias Kiwanuka and Justin Tuck, who was playing for the first time in four games. Miami, which wasted two time-outs early, got the ball back at its 16 with 3:35 to play and quickly got a 24-yard completion to Davone Bess. However, Osi Umenyiora and Kiwanuka got sacks for 10-yard losses on consecutive plays to set up Webster fourth-down pick. Miami, which came in having scored seven touchdowns in its first six games, scored on its first two series, the first time they scored on consecutive drives this season. Moore looked like Tom Brady - next week's opponent - in leading the Dolphins on scoring drives of 66 and 90 yards. He had a 15-yard third-down scramble to set up Slaton's 1-yard run, and an 11-yard third-down run on the longer drive that he capped with a fourth-down 1-yard bootleg. Notes: The game was the Giants' 1,200th regular-season game. They join the Chicago Bears, Green Bay Packers and Chicago-St. Louis-Phoenix- Arizona Cardinals at that plateau. ... Moore rushed for a career-best 31 yards. ... Reggie Bush rushed for a season-high 103-yards. ... Dolphins C Mike Pouncey missed much of the second half after taking a shot to the head that left his body numb. ... Nicks pulled a hamstring on the Giants next to last series. © 2011 STATS LLC

Dolphins pick up first win, 31-3 over Chiefs KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) -- It didn't matter how big of a lead the Miami Dolphins built on the Kansas City Chiefs. It still wasn't enough to keep them from feeling jittery. One of two winless teams left in the NFL, the Dolphins came into Arrowhead Stadium on Sunday with the cloud of two second-half collapses still hovering. They were also facing a Chiefs team that had mastered the art of the comeback: 0-3 to 4-3 in four games. So it made sense that nobody on the Dolphins sideline was celebrating until the final seconds ticked away, and coach Tony Sparano's beleaguered team could finally enjoy a 31-3 victory. "I'm just happy for the guys in our locker room," Sparano said. "All I've wanted to do for seven weeks is see these guys smile." There was plenty to smile about. Matt Moore threw for 244 yards and three touchdowns, the first three-TD performance by a Miami quarterback since Chad Pennington in 2008. Reggie Bush ran for 92 yards and another score, and tight end Anthony Fasano hauled in two touchdown passes in the first half. Brandon Marshall finished with eight catches for 106 yards and another score, once again making for a miserable afternoon for the Chiefs. The former Broncos wide receiver has 52 catches for 689 yards and seven touchdowns in eight games against Kansas City in his career. "We had a couple of big plays, which kind of lit the fire," Moore said. "You make a couple of big plays early and there's no telling what can happen." The virtuoso performance by the Miami offense helped brush away the spectre of an 0-7 start, which included a pair of disheartening losses the past two weeks: The Dolphins blew a 15-point lead in an overtime loss to Denver and a seven-point lead last week against the New York Giants. "This is all about the players," Sparano said. "These guys did a super job all week long of putting all the garbage behind them." Kansas City, meanwhile, looked more like the team that lost its first two games by a combined 89-10 than the one that rattled off four straight wins to climb into a tie atop the AFC West. The Chiefs, Chargers and Raiders remained tied for first place in the division after all three lost Sunday. Matt Cassel was 20 of 39 for 253 yards despite facing a secondary missing cornerback Vontae Davis and had backup Nolan Carroll leave several times with a hamstring injury. Of course, the defensive backfield didn't have much to defend. The Dolphins' relentless front spent most of the afternoon in Cassel's face, sacking him five times and forcing the slow-footed quarterback to scramble nine more times. The Chiefs came into the game having allowed 13 sacks all season, tied for sixth-best in the league. "They executed and we didn't," Cassel said. "We were able to put together some drives, but we weren't able to sustain those drives offensively. We have to do a better job of executing. It starts with me and all the way down the line." Things looked promising for Kansas City its opening possession, when it put together a grinding, 14-play, 53-yard drive that Ryan Succop finished off with a 43-yard field goal. The Chiefs didn't do much after that. Miami answered with a touchdown later in the first quarter when nobody pick up Fasano off the line of scrimmage. Moore simply tossed a pass to him from 3 yards out, the first of 31 straight points scored by the Dolphins - more than they'd scored in any game this season. On the Dolphins' ensuing possession, Moore hit fullback Charles Clay for gains of 21 and 22 yards, and then found Fasano open down the sideline for a 35-yard touchdown completion and a 14-3 lead. Fasano's only other two-TD game also came against the Chiefs. The Dolphins offense really hit the accelerator in the third quarter, when Moore found Marshall for a 14-yard touchdown pass, and Bush shook loose for a 28-yard scoring run, the former No. 2 overall draft pick's first TD on the ground since Nov. 15, 2009. Any chance of a comeback ended early in the fourth quarter, when Kansas City failed to convert on fourth down at the Dolphins 3. The Chiefs also couldn't score on fourth-and-goal at the 5-yard line in the closing minutes of the game. "This was not the kind of performance we expected or wanted," Chiefs coach Todd Haley said stoically. "This was a very dangerous team that was playing a lot better than their record. It's hard to win in the NFL and they just did a better job than us." Chiefs cornerback Brandon Flowers put it more succinctly. "We got beat," he said. "We got beat pretty bad by the Miami Dolphins. At home." Notes: LB Jason Taylor played in his 196th game for Miami, tied with OL Bob Kuechenberg for second place on the franchise list. ... The three points allowed by the Dolphins were the fewest since they beat Buffalo 16-3 on Dec. 7, 2008. ... Jackie Battle carried 14 times for 40 yards for the Chiefs. Cassel was their second-leading rushing with nine carries for 38 yards. ... The Chiefs have lost eight of their last 10 games against Miami. © 2011 STATS LLC

Dolphins end home skid by beating Redskins 20-9 MIAMI (AP) -- Reggie Bush scored the clinching touchdown, then happily heaved the ball into the stands, and the cluster of fans scrambling for the souvenir included a man in a Miami Dolphins jersey holding a baby. The scrum was understandable, given that victory keepsakes have been a rarity lately for Dolphins fans. Bush scored two TDs and the Dolphins twice intercepted Rex Grossman to earn their first home victory in nearly a year by beating the Washington Redskins 20-9 Sunday. The Dolphins (2-7) ended a franchise-record streak of seven consecutive losses in Miami since last Nov. 14. They won for the second week in a row after starting 0-7. "It was nice to come in this locker room and celebrate a win," coach Tony Sparano said. "I see 2-7 now as a hill but not a mountain. That's how our players see it, too." The Redskins (3-6) dropped their fifth consecutive game, the longest losing streak of Mike Shanahan's career as a head coach. They haven't held a lead since Oct. 2, when they beat St. Louis. "It's frustrating being 3-6," Grossman said. "We're better than that." Grossman threw for 215 yards but was sacked three times and had a passer rating of 58.7, lower than his NFC-worst season figure. Possessions by Washington reached the Miami 20, 26, 5 and 10-yard lines, but those threats produced only three field goals. Grossman was a surprise starter, replacing John Beck four weeks after being benched. Shanahan said he decided to go with the more experienced quarterback because of a wave of injuries to the Redskins' offense. "I thought Rex gave us a chance to win," Shanahan said. "If you have this many guys go down, I didn't want to go with the inexperienced guy and throw him to the wolves." The Dolphins led 10-6 at halftime, then mounted scoring drives of 70 and 81 yards to seal the win. After blowing fourth-quarter leads in three earlier losses, this time they held on. "The first seven games we were kind of in disarray," Bush said. "We were trying to find our identity. The difference now is we're playing 60 minutes and finishing at the end of games." Miami was clinging to a 13-9 lead when Grossman drove his team 49 yards to a first down at the 10 early in the fourth quarter. He then threw a pass directly to linebacker Karlos Dansby, whose interception ended the threat. "I have to be more careful in a crucial point in the game," Grossman said. Vontae Davis also had an interception for the Dolphins, who doubled their season total. After Dansby's takeaway, Miami drove 81 yards and scored the clinching TD on Bush's 18-yard run. He crossed the goal line standing up and heaved the ball into the stands in jubilation. "We made plays that winners make at the end," Sparano said. The Redskins' three scoring drives totaled only 48 yards. They twice took over deep in Miami territory

thanks to an interception and a fumble recovery, but each time settled for a field goal by Graham Gano . He also missed from 50 and 49 yards, and Washington netted only 61 yards rushing. Miami's Matt Moore , the AFC offensive player of the week last week, threw an ugly interception and lost a fumble but completed 20 of 29 passes for 209 yards. The Dolphins, who came into the game last in the NFL in third-down conversions, went 8 for 14 in those situations. They started the game in the wildcat - the first time they've used the package this season. Running back Daniel Thomas took the snap and pitched to Moore, who threw deep and incomplete to Brandon Marshall . Miami tried another trick play later in the drive, with Thomas throwing incomplete. More conventional was the final play of the series, a 1-yard touchdown run by Bush. After that, Sparano went conservative. The Dolphins drew boos when they ran out the clock at the end of the first half rather than trying to score. But nursing the early lead paid off because the Redskins couldn't cash in on their chances. Kevin Barnes ' interception in the first half gave the Redskins the ball at the Miami 5, but three plays lost 3 yards and they kicked a field goal. Washington started at the Miami 24 after Ryan Kerrigan 's sack forced a fumble by Moore, and again the Redskins came away with only three points. "You get into the red zone three times, you've got to make plays to win the game," Shanahan said. Dansby, Jason Taylor and Jared Odrick had the Dolphins' sacks. Taylor increased his career total to 135 1/2, most among active players. Notes: Washington's Leonard Hankerson left the game with a strained right hip with four minutes left. He said the injury wasn't serious, but he wasn't sure whether he would be able to play in the next game. ... Redskins defensive lineman Kedric Golston left the game in the third quarter with a knee injury. ... Hankerson had eight catches for 106 yards and became the first Washington rookie since 2001 with 100 yards receiving. ... Bush rushed for 47 yards and has 242 in the past three games, a career best. © 2011 STATS LLC

Surging Dolphins beat injury-riddled Bills 35-8 MIAMI (AP) -- The fiercest hits by Miami Dolphins defenders sent opposing helmets flying. The ball squirted loose a few times too, further evidence of the Buffalo Bills ' once-promising season slipping away. The Dolphins set up two touchdowns with interceptions and mounted a goal-line stand as their improbable midseason surge gained momentum Sunday when they drubbed Buffalo 35-8. Matt Moore threw for three scores. After losing their first seven games, the Dolphins (3-7) have three consecutive victories for the first time since 2008, winning by a combined score of 86-20. An improving defense has led the turnaround by keeping the opposition out of the end zone for three straight games. "You can see how good we can be," said safety Jeremiah Bell , who made an interception. "This is where we expected to be at the beginning of the season. It just took us awhile." Heading the other direction are the Bills (5-5), who have been outscored 106-26 while losing three in a row. "We're baffled as to what has happened," quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick said. "For the past three weeks, it has not been fun to play, and I'm sure it has not been fun to watch." To make matters worse for the injury-riddled Bills, NFL rushing leader Fred Jackson sat out much of the second half with a bruised right calf, and two players were carted off. Cornerback Terrence McGee hurt his left knee and will probably miss the rest of the season, coach Chan Gailey said, and receiver Donald Jones could miss three to six weeks with a left ankle injury. The Dolphins, who came into the game tied for last in the league with four interceptions, twice picked off passes that deflected off receivers. Both turnovers led to touchdowns. "I wouldn't want to play against our defense," Miami receiver Brandon Marshall said. "It seems like every time the ball was in the air, there was a big hit." Jared Odrick contributed a sack and reprised his celebratory Pee-wee Herman dance. "A tremendous dance," coach Tony Sparano said. The fifth and final TD came on a blocked punt by Chris Clemons , which Lex Hilliard recovered on the goal line for a 35-6 lead. The score on a blocked punt was Miami's first since 1990. The goal-line stand came midway through the second half, when Miami stopped the Bills four times after they had a first down at the 2. The Dolphins scored touchdowns on their first three possessions and led 21-3 after 18 minutes. Moore threw little after that and finished 14 for 20 for 160 yards, with a passer rating of 133.3. "Guys around me are making big plays and making it easy for the quarterback," Moore said. "It's such a good feeling." Fitzpatrick, who has yet to win a game since signing a \$59 million, six-year contract last month, was sacked twice and had a rating of 45.8. He has 12 turnovers in the past six games. Jackson was held to 17 yards on seven carries. The Bills fumbled four times, and while they recovered them all, they went 0 for 14 on third- and fourth-down conversions - a rate of futility that left Gailey shaking his head. "I don't know if I've ever been through that before, ever," Gailey said. "When you're that bad, you're having a pitiful day." By the third quarter, the Bills' ineptitude had become farcical. On one play, the wet ball slipped out of Fitzpatrick's hand as he prepared to pass, so he caught it and tried again, throwing a short completion. Even hiking the ball was problematic for the Bills, with Fitzpatrick forced to reach for several errant snaps. The past three weeks, the Bills have totaled two touchdowns, and one came during garbage time. Buffalo took the opening kickoff and drove for a field goal, then went 25 minutes without a first down. Bad field position hurt the Bills, who started eight possessions inside their 20. Miami mounted an 87-yard drive on its first possession, capped by Moore's 1-yard touchdown pass to Anthony Fasano . The Dolphins forced a punt, then struck again. Moore's 46-yard pass to Charles Clay set up a 5-yard scoring run by Reggie Bush . When Nolan Carroll intercepted a pass that slipped through the hands of Buffalo's Brad Smith , Miami was in business again at the Bills 23. Moore then threw a 12-yard scoring pass to Clay for the rookie's first career TD. Late in the first half, Bell intercepted a pass that deflected off David Nelson and returned it to the Buffalo 4. Moore then hit Davone Bess with a 4-yard scoring pass for a 28-3 lead. The halftime point total was Miami's largest since 2002. "This is nice for the guys," said Sparano, whose team was a league laughingstock not long ago. "They're just worried about doing their job and trying to prove people wrong. They make me smile a little bit. I don't know that I want to show that, though. They'll think I'm getting soft." Notes: The Dolphins are the third NFL team to win three consecutive games at any point after starting a season 0-7. ... A streak of 735 punts without a block by Buffalo's Brian Moorman ended. It was the third-longest such streak in NFL history. ... The Bills' Dave Rayner kicked a career-long 56-yard field goal on the final play of the first half. © 2011 STATS LLC

Rookie RB Murray helps lift Dallas over Miami ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) -- The blood began running early. On one of his first carries, DeMarco Murray skinned his elbows and stained his uniform, sending red streaks across the white numbers of his blue jersey and white pants. By the end - when Murray was grinding out yard after yard and burning off precious time - the look fit him and the Dallas Cowboys quite nicely. Murray churned out 27 yards on five straight carries in the final 2:41, setting up fellow rookie Dan Bailey for a 28-yard field goal as time expired that gave the Cowboys a 20-19 victory over the Miami Dolphins on Thursday. The win was Dallas' fourth straight and it guaranteed the Cowboys (7-4) would be atop the NFC East at the start of December. They're a half-game ahead of the New York Giants , who play at New Orleans on Monday night. If New York wins, the clubs would be tied. A Saints win would keep Dallas on top alone. "There is no favorite," Cowboys cornerback Terence Newman said. "I'll tell you what happens at the end of the season. We just have to keep on plugging and get some wins." Murray's evolution from backup to featured back has transformed the Dallas offense. He's mostly been a breakaway threat who has kept defenses from loading up to stop Romo. This late-game performance showed what a fully developed player he may be. He gained between 3 and 9 yards on five straight carries, taking the clock from 2:41 to :17 while forcing the Dolphins to burn their last two timeouts. He showed his awareness best when he broke to the outside and fell rather than try gaining a few more yards and risking getting pushed out of bounds. "I definitely knew what to do," Murray said. "It was an awesome way to finish the game." The Dolphins (3-8) had four drives that got within 10 yards of the end zone, yet settled for field goals every time. Their only touchdown came on a 35-yard pass from Matt Moore to Brandon Marshall . However, Miami still nearly pulled it out. In the second half, the Dolphins

scored on all but their final drive, and that was all it took to end a three-game winning streak. "When you come into somebody else's place, those (deep drives) have got to be touchdowns," Miami coach Tony Sparano said. "They've been touchdowns the last few weeks and that's why you win." Eighteen years after these teams played another Thanksgiving game decided on a last-second field goal - one best remembered for Leon Lett's gaffe on snow and ice - conditions were so balmy that the glass end-zone doors at Cowboys Stadium were opened for the first time all season. Maybe that's what caused both teams to play so sloppy for so long. TV viewers, especially anyone fresh off a huge holiday meal, might've dozed off watching the first half. But things got plenty interesting after halftime. Moore led Miami on three straight scoring drives of at least 70 yards, the last putting the Dolphins up 19-17 with 7:14 left. Dallas punted on its ensuing drive, then Moore was finally stopped, too. Miami punted and Dez Bryant made a rare appearance as a returner, taking it 20 yards. Romo took over at the Cowboys' 36-yard line with 2:59 left. Jason Witten went into the huddle and told teammates, "'We need this W, whatever it takes. No penalties. We've got to get it there,'" left guard Montrae Holland said. Witten himself caught consecutive passes to put Dallas at the outer edge of Bailey's range. Murray got it closer, then Bailey split the uprights. "That's what they are paying me to do, I guess - to go out there and make kicks," said Bailey, who has made 26 in a row, one shy of the club record. Romo ended a streak of 128 straight passes without an interception, but he completed 22 of 34 for 226 yards. Many of those came while scrambling and some while also being hit or grabbed. He was patient waiting for a 5-yard touchdown pass to Laurent Robinson to develop, and the pair were in sync on an 18-yarder made with Romo moving to his left. "He just kind of kept hanging in there," Garrett said. "I thought he moved in the pocket really well. In critical situations, he ... allowed us to make plays." Murray ran 22 times for 87 yards, and caught four passes for 41 yards. Robinson caught seven passes for 79 yards. Witten had four catches for 43 yards and Bryant caught three balls for 35 yards. Moore was 19 of 32 for 288 yards and a touchdown. He took four sacks and had trouble handling several snaps; one went through his hands and was recovered by Dallas only 5 yards from the end zone. That set up the first Romo-to-Robinson touchdown, with 55 seconds left in the half, ending Miami's streak of 13 quarters without allowing a touchdown. Reggie Bush ran 16 times for 61 yards and had 35 more on three receptions. Marshall had 103 yards on five catches, including the TD pass hauled in while Newman had him in a headlock for about 5 yards. "We felt like we played a good game all day, but we didn't make enough plays and they did," Miami safety Jeremiah Bell said. "That's the price you pay, so if we would have made more plays, we would have won the game." © 2011 STATS LLC

Bush helps Dolphins beat Raiders 34-14 MIAMI (AP) -- Miami Dolphins cornerback Vontae Davis blitzed from the blind side for his first career sack, then dashed upfield in jubilation. A dazed Carson Palmer rose slowly, looked back at Davis and did a double take, as if startled to discover his tackler was a 5-foot-11 cornerback. The Dolphins are full of surprises lately. Once-woeful Miami won for the fourth time in the past five games Sunday by beating Oakland 34-14. Reggie Bush ran for 100 yards and a touchdown, Matt Moore had a hand in two TDs and Kevin Burnett returned an interception 34 yards for Miami's final score. The surge by the Dolphins (4-8) comes after they lost their first seven games. In the past five weeks they've outscored opponents 139-54, with the lone loss a one-point defeat at Dallas on Thanksgiving. "We've been on a wild ride here," Moore said. "We've had our ups and downs," Bush added, "but I couldn't be more proud." The Raiders (7-5) fell into a tie with Denver atop the AFC West, and the rout ended their three-game winning streak. Oakland fell to 6-25 in regular-season games in the Eastern Time Zone since December 2002. "We couldn't run. We couldn't stop the run. We didn't pass very well," coach Hue Jackson said. "Just a bad day at the office." The rout takes some luster off Oakland's next game against unbeaten Green Bay. Miami - a team that totaled four touchdowns during one five-game stretch - secured the victory with a 21-point third quarter, including two TDs in a 20-second span. The Dolphins led 34-0 before Palmer threw two touchdown passes in the last eight minutes. By the final period, the Dolphins were feeling frisky. Bush took a jarring hit from linebacker Aaron Curry trying to catch a pass, then showed his resilience by rolling onto his stomach and doing five pushups. "I just wanted to let them know their hits weren't going to affect me at all," Bush said. "One of the biggest reasons we're playing so well is we're having a lot of fun," Burnett added. Raiders defensive tackle Richard Seymour was ejected for throwing a punch as the Dolphins drove for the score that put them up 27-0. "I apologize to the team, to our players and to Raider nation," Seymour said. "I wasn't there to finish the game with my teammates." Oakland linebacker Rolando McClain played three days after he was arrested on misdemeanor assault, firearms and other charges in his Alabama hometown. He made eight tackles, but that wasn't nearly enough to slow Miami. "We didn't play well. That's on me," Jackson said. "It's not about coming to the East, and it's not about anything that happened this week. It's my fault. I didn't get them ready." The Raiders came into the game last in the league in yards allowed per run and were outgained on the ground 209 yards to 46. Bush reached the 100-yard rushing mark for the third time in his career, and Daniel Thomas added 73 yards. Miami scored twice before Oakland had a first down. The Raiders' best starting position all day was their 28-yard line, and they had the ball for less than 22 minutes, in part because they went 2 for 11 on third down. The Dolphins took a 13-0 lead by scoring on their first three possessions. The first two ended in field goals, and a 63-yard march culminated with Moore's 12-yard scoring pass to Davone Bess. The halftime break didn't slow Miami's momentum. Clyde Gates returned the second-half kickoff 77 yards, and two plays later Bush scored on a 1-yard run for a 20-0 lead. Moore capped a 91-yard drive by scoring on a 6-yard keeper. Miami struck again when Burnett intercepted a tipped pass, weaved upfield and dove across the goal line. "Kevin looked like a running back," Moore said. "It's so much fun watching our defense play." Palmer went 20 for 41 despite late scoring passes of 40 yards to T.J. Houshmandzadeh and 3 yards to Darrius Heyward-Bey. "They meant nothing," Palmer said. Notes: Jackson said Raiders injured included tight end Kevin Boss (hip pointer), defensive tackle John Henderson (knee) and receiver Chaz Schilens (foot). Jackson and the Raiders provided no further information. ... The late Jim Mandich, a Dolphins tight end and broadcaster, joined the team's honor roll during a halftime ceremony. ... The margin of victory was Miami's largest against Oakland. ... Burnett has four career interceptions and has returned three for scores. © 2011 STATS LLC

Takeaways help Eagles beat Dolphins 26-10 MIAMI (AP) -- Early in the game, Michael Vick's helmet went rolling into his end zone, an apt symbol for the direction of the Philadelphia Eagles' season. Time to concede? Not quite. Not against the self-destructive Miami Dolphins. Vick made a triumphant return from an injury by throwing for 208 yards and a touchdown, and the Eagles totaled nine sacks and beat the Miami Dolphins 26-10 Sunday. Philadelphia took advantage of three takeaways to score 24 points during a nine-minute span in the second quarter, and later sent Miami quarterback Matt Moore to the sideline with a head injury. The underachieving Eagles (5-8) won for only the second time in the past six games and still need a sweep of the final three games to have any chance of repeating as NFC East champions. "We've been through a lot, a lot of games we were supposed to win and didn't finish," Vick said. "I'm proud we won today." The Dolphins (4-9) had a three-game home winning streak snapped and sank deeper into last place in the AFC East. "We've been on a roll," receiver Brandon Marshall said. "It stinks that our momentum was stopped." Jason Babin led the Eagles' pass rush with three sacks to increase his season total to 15, and he forced a fumble. Moore's replacement, J.P. Losman, was sacked by Phillip Hunt for a safety. Vick, back after missing three games with broken ribs, won for only the fourth time in his past 12 starts. He went 15 for 30, including a 34-yard touchdown pass to DeSean Jackson, and shook off four sacks. "I'm in a lot of pain, but I just wanted to finish and get through the game," Vick said. "I got hit a lot, and it kind of wore me down. I tried to hang in there." Vick, who had said he would run less in the wake of the injury, carried only twice but did scramble several times to extend plays. LeSean McCoy rushed for only 38 yards, but scored two

touchdowns to hike his season total to 17. Miami Pro Bowl tackle Jake Long left the game in the first quarter with a back injury, and after that the Dolphins had trouble blocking Philadelphia. The Eagles' short-yardage defense stuffed Miami on four possessions, twice on fourth down and twice to force kicks. "The Eagles have been inconsistent like we have," Marshall said. "But that's a team with a lot of talent. At any moment they can be an undefeated team, or look like one." The Dolphins went 3 for 18 on third- and fourth-down conversions. The nine sacks of their QBs equaled a franchise record set in 1999, and the offensive linemen took responsibility for the loss. "All the blame is squarely on our shoulders," guard Richie Incognito said. "We got Matt hurt. They're a physical group. They just beat us one on one." Moore threw only his second interception in the past six games, lost a fumble and was sacked four times. He left the game midway through the second half after being hit from behind as he threw an incomplete pass. Miami's lone touchdown was set up by an early blocked punt. Marshall was held to four catches for 27 yards. "There comes a time when we as players and coaches have to do a better job of getting guys involved that need to be involved," Marshall said. "It just didn't seem like we had anything on offense in the second half that could attack what they were throwing at us." The Dolphins' offensive ineptitude negated a lot of good work by their defense. McCoy, who came into the game second in the NFL in rushing, averaged only 1.4 yards on 27 carries. Jason Taylor sacked Vick twice in first eight minutes to increase his career total to 138 1/2, which ranks sixth all time. Miami's Jimmy Wilson blocked a punt to set up the game's first score, which came when Moore hit Brandon Marshall on third down for a 16-yard score. A gamble by the Dolphins then backfired when they tried a 55-yard field goal that fell short. Vick took advantage of the field position to drive his team 54 yards for a tying touchdown, which McCoy scored on a 2-yard run. Turnovers by Miami on consecutive possessions led to 10 points for the Eagles. Kurt Coleman intercepted Moore's pass when he threw deep into triple coverage, and his return to the 1 set up a touchdown run by McCoy. On the next series, Asante Samuel forced a fumble by Davone Bess and recovered, and the Eagles kicked a field goal. After Moore lost a fumble when sacked by Babin, the Eagles then moved 73 yards in just four plays, and Vick's strike to a wide-open Jackson made it 24-7. "We played like men today," Babin said. "Do we have a chance for the playoffs? Maybe. We were kind of out of it, but guys in this locker room decided, 'We're going to play and have fun and show you guys we love the game.' I think that really rang true the whole day." Notes: Eagles LB Darryl Tapp suffered a rib injury on the safety and left the game. X-rays were negative. Receiver Jeremy Maclin departed when the sore hamstring he has been nursing tightened. ... Honored at halftime was Howard Schnellenberger, who recently retired as coach at Florida Atlantic. He was the Dolphins' offensive coordinator during their 1972 perfect season. ... A Dolphins assistant coach was flagged for unsportsmanlike conduct with less than three minutes left. © 2011 STATS LLC

Bush has 203 yards in Dolphins' 30-23 win ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) -- The Buffalo Bills couldn't get a hand on Reggie Bush. And the Miami Dolphins running back proved too slippery for the slick field, too. With persistent flurries blowing in off nearby Lake Erie, Bush rushed for a career-best 203 yards and capped a 76-yard touchdown run by sliding feet-first through the end zone in helping secure a 30-23 win Sunday over the free-falling Bills, who have lost seven in row. "I play FIFA a lot on PlayStation, and they're always sliding a soccer slide," Bush said of his celebration. "Just having fun. Just enjoying the moment." It was a moment to enjoy for a Dolphins team that's coming off a tumultuous week in which Todd Bowles won in his debut as interim coach after head coach Tony Sparano was fired. And it was a breakthrough outing for Bush. After spending the past few weeks showing he's capable of rushing for 100 yards, Bush stepped his game to an altogether new level. "It feels good. It means a lot," Bush said. "It means that hey, I'm doing everything that I expect I was going to be doing. It's not so much as me being surprised that this happened today or that I could rush for 100 yards. It's more of the fact that this is something I expected." The 203 yards matched his combined rushing total from his past two games, and it ranks third on the Dolphins team list. And he's already pushed his season-best total to 973 yards, which is nearly half of the 2,090 the former first-round pick had during his first five seasons in New Orleans. Matt Moore showed no signs of a head and neck injury that sidelined him a week ago by throwing two touchdown passes - a 22-yarder to Anthony Fasano and a 65-yard strike to Brandon Marshall - and finishing with 217 yards passing. Cornerback Vontae Davis had two of Miami's three interceptions. Miami won for the fifth time in seven games since a 0-7 start. Though both AFC East teams are 5-9, the Dolphins have moved ahead of Buffalo in the division after sweeping the season series. "The pride of this team, which is basically all we've got now, is showing," Moore said. "Coach Bowles did a good job of keeping everybody together. It was a sad day, but we've got to keep moving." The Bills continued their spiral and are in jeopardy of finishing last in the division for a fourth straight season. Rather than looking like the upstart team that got off to a 5-2 start this season, they resemble more the rag-tag bunch that got off to an 0-8 start in 2010. "It's like a tale of two seasons," linebacker Chris Kelsay said. "I think we expected to win every time we stepped on the field. I don't think we expect to win now." C.J. Spiller scored on a 24-yard rush and added a 3-yard touchdown catch. Ryan Fitzpatrick's struggles continued. He finished 31 of 47 for 316 yards with two touchdowns - including a 2-yarder to Derek Hagan - and three interceptions. He has 12 interceptions and eight touchdown passes during the team's seven-game skid. "We haven't played very well, and that starts with me," Fitzpatrick said. "I've got to get better. That's the bottom line." Bush secured the win with his electrifying run up the middle to put the Dolphins up 30-13 with 5:41 left. It came on the first play from scrimmage after Spiller's 3-yard score. Breaking through a huge hole up the middle, he blew past safety Jairus Byrd, who was the only Buffalo player to get a hand on him. "I was standing up and felt him breeze by me," Dolphins guard Richie Incognito said. "I looked up to see if anybody was going to catch him, and there was nobody there." Moore broke the game open in the third quarter when he hit Marshall in stride up the right sideline for an over-the-shoulder 65-yard touchdown pass. The Bills then bumbled the game away with their next two possessions ending with Fitzpatrick throwing interceptions. That included an underthrown pass intended for Stevie Johnson up the left sideline that was picked off by Davis, who enjoyed playing in the cold weather. "Buffalo, it can't get any better. Being in Miami, I haven't seen snow since college at Illinois," Davis said. "I don't want to stay, but I kind of missed it." NOTES: Bills coach Chan Gailey denied a report that assistant coach Dave Wannstedt was calling defensive plays instead of coordinator George Edwards. During the game, Buffalo's WGRF-Radio - the team's broadcaster - reported Wannstedt was more involved in the play-calling duties. ... Bills TE Lee Smith is out indefinitely after hurting his ankle. WR Stevie Johnson was held out in the fourth quarter after hurting his groin. ... Dolphins PK Dan Carpenter rounded out the scoring by hitting all three field-goal attempts, a 20-yarder and two from 26 yards. © 2011 STATS LLC

Brady leads comeback, Patriots top Dolphins 27-24 FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) -- The New England Patriots emphasize playing well for 60 minutes every game. On Saturday, 30 was enough - barely. Rallying from their worst half of the season, the Patriots scored on their next five possessions and clinched a playoff bye with a 27-24 win over the Miami Dolphins on Saturday. "You don't want to, certainly, make a habit of this," said Tom Brady, who scored on two 1-yard sneaks and threw for a 1-yard touchdown. "We showed some resiliency." New England (12-3) won its seventh straight game. After the Houston Texans lost to the Indianapolis Colts on Thursday night, the Patriots needed a win or a tie to lock up one of the top two spots in the AFC. "It's good to clinch," said Deion Branch, who caught the touchdown pass from Brady, "but not by the way we played. It's not the way you want to do it." Miami (5-10) lost for the third time in eight games after opening at 0-7 and is 1-1 under Todd Bowles, who took over when Tony Sparano was fired. "First half we came out and played our tempo and our ballgame," Bowles said. "The second half they made us play theirs." The AFC East champions trailed 17-0 at halftime but made the necessary adjustments and went to their no-huddle offense more, keeping the Dolphins from making defensive substitutions. And Brady was on target after a first half in which heavy

defensive pressure against a makeshift offensive line affected his accuracy. He completed just 7 of 19 passes for 87 yards and was sacked three times in the half. But in the second half, he completed 20 of 27 passes for 217 yards, finishing at 27 for 46 for 304 yards and leading one scoring drive after another - a 45-yard field goal by Stephen Gostkowski, the scoring pass to Branch, his own sneak that tied the game, Gostkowski's 42-yard go-ahead kick after Devin McCourty's first interception of the year, and the other sneak with 2:56 to go, making it 27-17. The Dolphins made it closer on Matt Moore's 15-yard scoring pass to Davone Bess with 1:48 to play. They had three timeouts left, but their hopes faded when Brady hit Wes Welker for a 6-yard gain and a first down. "We had (Brady's) number in the first half, but in the second half he came out and made a lot of plays," Miami linebacker Karlos Dansby said. "He is a coach on the field." The Dolphins seemed headed for a victory and got a break even before the game started when Patriots left tackle Matt Light hurt his ankle in warmups and didn't play. Left guard Logan Mankins took his spot, but he left with a knee injury suffered on New England's second series. "There's always things that are going to go wrong in a football game and things aren't going to work out the way you want them to all the time," said Welker, who finished with 12 catches for 138 yards after managing just two for 20 in the first half. "The main thing is just playing a full 60 minutes and never giving in and understanding that one drive and one score (can) get things going." The Patriots punted on their first six series of the first half then missed a field goal on the other. The Dolphins struggled in the second half when Moore fumbled the snap at his 38-yard line and Vince Wilfork recovered, starting the drive capped by Branch's touchdown. "They committed penalties in the first half," Dolphins guard Richie Incognito said. "We turned the ball over and committed penalties in the second half. That is never a good recipe." Reggie Bush had another outstanding game for Miami with his fourth straight rushing day of at least 100 yards. He finished with 113 on 22 carries one week after gaining a career-high 203 yards. His latest performance gave him 1,086 yards rushing for the season, the first time in his six years, the first five with the New Orleans Saints, that he passed 1,000. "It really doesn't mean anything right now," he said. "This one's pretty tough." The Dolphins had taken a 3-0 lead on Dan Carpenter's 47-yard field goal 4:01 into the game and made it 10-0 with 1:15 gone in the second quarter on Moore's 19-yard pass to Brandon Marshall. They stretched that to 17-0, the Patriots' biggest deficit of the season, on a 1-yard touchdown pass from Moore to Charles Clay. The 89-yard drive was helped by two defensive pass interference penalties on third down. But the Patriots remained calm in the locker room at intermission. "There wasn't a bunch of yelling," Wilfork said. "We just came in and said we've got to play better, we've got to make more plays." They did. The Dolphins didn't. "Our guys fought," Bowles said, "but we didn't finish." Notes: Welker set a franchise record for one season with 1,518 yards receiving. He broke the mark of 1,493 set by Randy Moss in 2007. ... Bush was checked by medical personnel on the sideline late in the game. "Something in my leg just didn't feel right," he said. "I'm walking. If it was serious, I wouldn't be walking." ... Moore completed 17 of 33 passes for 294 yards, his highest total as a Dolphin. He threw for more than that with the Carolina Panthers once in 2009 and once in 2010. ... The victory was the largest comeback by the Patriots from a second-half deficit since Nov. 10, 2002 when they beat the Chicago Bears 33-30 after trailing 27-6 in the third quarter. © 2011 STATS LLC

Miami knocks Jets out of playoff race, 19-17 MIAMI (AP) -- MIAMI (AP) -- The New York Jets will sit out the playoffs, and that's guaranteed. The Jets failed to fulfill coach Rex Ryan's pledge to win a Super Bowl title, with Sunday's 19-17 loss at Miami eliminating them from the chase for an AFC wild-card berth. Mark Sanchez threw three interceptions, the last coming with the Jets threatening to take a late lead. They gave up six third-down conversions during the Dolphins' 21-play, 94-yard drive for their only touchdown. The Jets (8-8) came into the game needing a win along with losses by three other teams to reach the playoffs. Instead, they finished the season with three consecutive defeats, a big step backward for a team that reached the AFC championship game each of the past two years. Ryan said he didn't regret his guarantee, even if the Jets fell way short. "I'm always going to chase the Super Bowl," Ryan said. "I know I get criticized for it beyond belief, but if you don't, then you're probably a loser, OK? I'm not a loser." Soap opera fodder for the offseason came out of the Jets' final drive, when receiver and captain Antonio Holmes was benched. Running back LaDainian Tomlinson said teammates were unhappy with Holmes' effort, demeanor and body language. "It's tough for guys to follow a captain that kind of behaves in that manner," Tomlinson said. "You've got to lead by example, and you've got to play your tail off until the last play." Holmes was held without a catch for the first time in his 88-game career. NFL active sacks leader Jason Taylor, playing his final game, harried Sanchez into an interception and was carried off the field after the game. It was a rare moment of celebration for the Dolphins (6-10), who completed their third consecutive losing season, their longest such stretch since the 1960s. They fired coach Tony Sparano on Dec. 12 and have begun the search for a successor. "Obviously we wanted more Ws," quarterback Matt Moore said. "It's a time to learn from, and there were a lot of mistakes to go back and correct. But there are a lot of positive things as well. It's hard not to feel good after a win, especially against the Jets." Another small consolation: Miami tied the NFL record for most wins after a 0-7 start. The Jets again were victims of their own mistakes, with each interception leading to a field goal. They've given up 126 points off turnovers this year, the most in the league. Sanchez's final misfire came at the Miami 10 with 3 minutes left and the Jets trailing 16-10. Reserve linebacker Marvin Mitchell stepped in front of intended receiver Shonn Greene and rumbled 55 yards to set up a field goal. The 305-pound Starks came away with two interceptions. "The interceptions obviously were backbreakers," Ryan said. Taylor, who said Wednesday he would retire at the end of his 15th NFL season, sent the crowd into pandemonium when he scooped up a fumble and scored with 2 1/2 minutes left. However, a replay review negated the turnover, with the officials determining the ball carrier was down before the fumble. The Jets then scored with 1:15 to go on Sanchez's 10-yard pass to Patrick Turner, but Miami's Brandon Marshall recovered the ensuing onside kick to seal the win. Taylor played tailback in the Dolphins' victory formation as Moore twice took a knee to run out the clock. "It was a good way to end this thing - to beat your No. 1 rivals in your home stadium in your last game," Taylor said during an emotional postgame news conference. "I can't complain. I'm very, very happy and blessed to be where I am." The Dolphins took the lead for good in the fourth quarter with a drive that took 12 minutes and 29 seconds. Moore threw completions to convert all six third downs during the sequence, including on the final play when he hit Charles Clay with a 1-yard touchdown pass. The drive set franchise records for the number of plays and time of possession. "I didn't realize how long it was," Moore said. "It was unbelievable, just a great job on everybody's part." Otherwise the Dolphins' offense sputtered without 1,000-yard rusher Reggie Bush, who sat out with a right knee injury. Dan Carpenter compensated with field goals of 44, 58, 40 and 44 yards. The stands were perhaps half full, reflecting the disenchantment of Dolphins fans. Owner Stephen Ross drew jeers when he honored Taylor during a pregame ceremony, and a small plane overhead tugged a banner that called for the firing of general manager Jeff Ireland. "This whole season was a lesson for us," cornerback Sean Smith said. "On paper, we were a very good team, but you have to prove it every Sunday." Notes: Miami WR Davone Bess left the game in the fourth quarter with a right knee injury. LB Karlos Dansby departed in the first quarter with a groin injury. G Richie Incognito left in the third period with a neck injury. ... Jets LB David Harris was ruled out in the fourth quarter with a calf injury. ... Taylor's brother-in-law, former Dolphins LB Zach Thomas, was an honorary co-captain. ... Video tributes to Taylor on the scoreboard during the game included one from Dan Marino wearing jersey No. 99. ... The longest previous drive in Dolphins history was 18 plays. © 2011 STATS LLC

3. New England Patriots

Week	Day	Date	Time (ET)		Opponent	Score	W/L/T	Stories
1	Monday	Sep. 12	7:00 PM	at	Dolphins	38-24	W	Recap Box
2	Sunday	Sep. 18	4:15 PM		Chargers	35-21	W	Recap Box
3	Sunday	Sep. 25	1:00 PM	at	Bills	31-34	L	Recap Box
4	Sunday	Oct. 2	1:15 PM	at	Raiders	31-19	W	Recap Box
5	Sunday	Oct. 9	4:15 PM		Jets	30-21	W	Recap Box
6	Sunday	Oct. 16	4:15 PM		Cowboys	20-16	W	Recap Box
7								Bye Week
8	Sunday	Oct. 30	4:15 PM	at	Steelers	17-25	L	Recap Box
9	Sunday	Nov. 6	4:15 PM		Giants	20-24	L	Recap Box
10	Sunday	Nov. 13	8:20 PM	at	Jets	37-16	W	Recap Box
11	Monday	Nov. 21	8:30 PM		Chiefs	34-3	W	Recap Box
12	Sunday	Nov. 27	4:15 PM	at	Eagles	38-20	W	Recap Box
13	Sunday	Dec. 4	1:00 PM		Colts	31-24	W	Recap Box
14	Sunday	Dec. 11	1:00 PM	at	Redskins	34-27	W	Recap Box
15	Sunday	Dec. 18	2:15 PM	at	Broncos	41-23	W	Recap Box
16	Saturday	Dec. 24	1:00 PM		Dolphins	27-24	W	Recap Box
17	Sunday	Jan. 1	1:00 PM		Bills	49-21	W	Recap Box
19	Saturday	Jan. 14	8:00 PM		Broncos	45-10	W	Recap Box
20	Sunday	Jan. 22	3:00 PM		Ravens	23-20	W	Recap Box
22	Sunday	Feb. 5	6:30 PM		Giants	17-21	L	Recap Box

Brady's 517 yards, 4 TDs lift Pats over Dolphins MIAMI (AP) -- Desperate to slow down Tom Brady , the Miami Dolphins tried playing 12 men on defense. That didn't work. They drew a penalty. Using only 11 defenders was even worse. Brady threw for a team-record 517 yards and four touchdowns, including a 99-yarder to Wes Welker , and the New England Patriots opened their season Monday night by beating Miami 38-24. Brady and the reigning AFC East champions picked up where they left off last season, when he was a unanimous choice for NFL MVP, and his team led the league in scoring. "He's a great quarterback," teammate Aaron Hernandez said, "and the world knows that." New England totaled 622 yards, the most in franchise history and the most allowed by Miami. Brady's performance overshadowed Miami's Chad Henne , who threw for a career-high 416 yards. The 906 net yards passing by both teams was an NFL record. "They made some plays on us," Brady said. "We made a few more than them." Even by Patriots standards - they're 1-0 for the eighth consecutive year - this was a fast start. Defensive end Jared Odrick picked off a deflected pass to set up a Miami touchdown and end Brady's NFL-record streak of 358 passes without an interception. Otherwise Brady was close to flawless. Brady went 32 for 48 and became the 11th quarterback to throw for at least 500 yards. Norm Van Brocklin set the record of 554 yards in 1951. Brady thrived directing a no-huddle attack that kept the Dolphins on their heels. "I enjoy scoring points," Brady said. "So whatever we need to do to score points, that's what I want to do." The capper came with 5:44 left and the Patriots leading 31-17. After they stopped Miami on downs at the 1-foot line, Brady lined up in the shotgun on first down and threw from his end zone to Welker, who had slipped behind Benny Sapp near the 30-yard line. "When I saw the coverage as we lined up, I knew there was a strong possibility I could be getting the ball," Welker said. "I just wanted to make the most of the opportunity." He did, catching the pass in stride and sprinting untouched for the score to complete the longest play in Patriots history. "Awesome," Brady said. "I only threw it 25 yards. Wes did all the work." Brady also threw touchdown passes on consecutive plays. He hit Hernandez for a 31-yard score, and when a replay review determined the receiver was down at the 1, Brady threw to him again for a TD on the next play. His other scoring passes covered 10 yards to Rob Gronkowski and 2 yards to Welker. "Some of their scores ended up looking like it was kind of easy," Miami coach Tony Sparano said. Said Brady: "I wouldn't say it was easy at all." He was sacked only once, and good protection gave his receivers plenty of time to work their way open. Newcomer Chad Ochocino was targeted three times and had only one catch for 14 yards. But Welker made eight receptions for 160 yards against his former team, and tight ends Hernandez and Gronkowski combined for 189 yards on 13 catches. "It wasn't a one-man band out there," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "We had a lot of contributions." The Dolphins' defense returned virtually intact from last season and was expected to be the team's strength, but Brady riddled them from the start. He completed his first eight passes for 127 yards on the Patriots' first two possessions, and both ended with TDs. Brady's first interception since Oct. 17 came early in the third quarter, when he tried to hit Julian Edelman in the flat. Sapp deflected the ball to the 304-pound Odrick, who rumbled 40 yards to the 9. Two plays later, Henne hit Brian Hartline with a 10-yard touchdown pass to make the score 14-all. Brady was so rattled it took him 10 plays to put the Pats ahead to stay. © 2011 STATS LLC

Brady stays hot, throws for 423 yards in 35-21 win FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) -- Big-yardage games are becoming routine for Tom Brady . So is setting records. Brady threw for 423 yards Sunday - six days after setting a single-game team record of 517 - and led the New England Patriots to a 35-21 win over the San Diego Chargers . "It seems like he's always great," linebacker Rob Ninkovich said. "He's the best quarterback in the league." The club record he shattered in the season opener at Miami had stood for 51 years. The NFL mark for most yards passing in the first two games of a season, 854, lasted about three hours. Carolina rookie Cam Newton set that before Brady ended the day at 940 yards. "Two pretty outstanding outings" by Brady, said left tackle Matt Light , who protects his blind side. "He's the leader of our offense. When he's doing well, we're all good." Brady became the first player in NFL history to follow a 500-yard passing performance with a 400-yard game, and the Patriots scored 30 points for the 10th straight regular-season game. He threw three touchdown passes and went 31 for 40 with no interceptions as the Patriots (2-0) scored on each of their four first-half possessions. The Chargers (1-1) turned the ball over inside the Patriots 35-yard line three times, leading to 17 points. They also were stopped on a fourth-and-goal at the 1, and the Patriots started a 99-yard drive that ended with one of

Brady's two scoring passes to Rob Gronkowski. Coach Bill Belichick didn't single out Brady, saying his success results from the other 10 offensive players doing their jobs. And Brady, who connected with seven receivers, said simply, "We were able to spread the ball around." Philip Rivers completed 29 of 40 passes for 378 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions for the Chargers. They had four turnovers for the second straight year against New England after losing 23-20 in 2010 when the Patriots gained just 179 yards. "They obviously got points (almost) every time they were down (near the goal line) and didn't turn it over and, obviously, we did," Rivers said. "That was the difference in the game." Brady had to share the spotlight and, somehow, wasn't totally obscured by the 325-pound form of defensive tackle Vince Wilfork. He got his first career interception to halt a promising Chargers drive late in the first half, rumbling 28 yards on the return. "I'm a well-conditioned athlete. I didn't need any oxygen," Wilfork said with a chuckle. He said he anticipated the screen pass to Rivers' right and stepped into the passing lane. "There's no way I'm ever going to see him coming," Rivers said. "I would throw that one again every time. He made a great play." For the second straight game, New England had a 99-yard touchdown drive. After Stephen Gostkowski's 22-yard field goal made it 10-7, the Patriots got the ball back at their 1-yard line when Jerod Mayo stopped Mike Tolbert short of the goal line. In the 38-24 win over the Dolphins, the Patriots also took the ball over at the 1, and Brady and Wes Welker hooked up for a 99-yard touchdown on the next play. This time Brady needed 10 plays to score, completing the drive with a 10-yard touchdown pass to Gronkowski for a 17-7 lead. San Diego wasted an opportunity on its next series when it reached the Patriots 29 before Wilfork's interception. That set up a 47-yard field goal by Gostkowski on the last play of the first half, putting the Patriots on top 20-7. After a scoreless third quarter, the Chargers made it 20-14 on a 3-yard scoring pass from Rivers to Vincent Jackson early in the fourth. Then the Patriots tried for a first down on fourth-and-4 at the San Diego 49 because punter Zoltan Mesko had hurt his knee on a kick late in the third quarter. Brady threw an incompletion to Deion Branch, who led the Patriots with eight catches for 129 yards. But just three plays later, New England's defense came through when Mayo forced a fumble and Ninkovich recovered at the Patriots 39. Brady needed just four plays to cover 69 yards and throw a 17-yard touchdown pass to Gronkowski. Danny Woodhead ran in for the 2-point conversion and a 28-14 lead. The Chargers needed a comeback, but tight end Antonio Gates didn't help as he was held without a catch for the first time in 34 games. "They would put a corner or safety on me, or two safeties," he said. "They did a lot of different things to take me out of the game." The Chargers did score again on Rivers' 26-yard pass to Jackson with 5:40 to go. The Patriots responded with a 16-yard touchdown run by BenJarvus Green-Ellis. But it was Brady who set that up with a 29-yard completion to Gronkowski two plays earlier. That gain put the quarterback over the 400-yard mark for the third time in his career. "He's the best," Mayo said. "Numbers don't lie." Notes: Welker tied Ben Coates for the Patriots record with catches in 63 straight regular-season games. ... Former QB Drew Bledsoe and C Jon Morris were honored at halftime as new members of the Patriots Hall of Fame. ... Jackson had a career-high 10 receptions. ... Rivers went over the 20,000-yard passing mark for his career with 2,374. ... The Patriots are 15-2 in their last 17 home openers. © 2011 STATS LLC

Start Bill-ieving: Buffalo 3-0 after beating Pats ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) -- No matter how big the deficit, no matter which opponent, Ryan Fitzpatrick and the Buffalo Bills are proving they're not the same old NFL pushovers. One week it's rallying to beat Oakland, the next it's storming back to conquer an even bigger nemesis: AFC East rival New England. Rian Lindell made a 28-yard field goal as time ran out to seal a 34-31 win over the Patriots on Sunday after the Bills erased a 21-0 second-quarter deficit. The win has Buffalo - a team which hasn't reached the playoffs in 11 seasons - off to a 3-0 start and sitting alone on top of the division. It's early, sure, but maybe it's time to start Bill-ieving. "I know that there were probably very few believers going into this game," Fitzpatrick said, a week after the Bills overcame a 21-3 first-half deficit in a 38-35 win over Oakland. "I think in terms of what this means for the city of Buffalo, it's the biggest win since I've been here for sure." That's not even the half of it for Fitzpatrick, a journeyman backup who signed with Buffalo in 2009. The significance of this victory goes back much further as the Bills snapped a 15-game losing streak against the Patriots that dates to the 2003 season opener. Linebacker Chris Kelsay can provide the proper perspective, given he's one of only four players left on the roster who played in that game. "It's the biggest win of my career. I can't think of any bigger," Kelsay said. "To beat these guys at home, in front of our fans, with the way they're behind us despite being down early, it's huge. I'll never forget it." Fitzpatrick led an offense that produced 448 yards and scored 30 points for the third straight week. Fred Jackson had 74 yards rushing and a score, and 87 yards receiving, with his final 38-yard catch setting up Lindell's field goal. Buffalo's opportunistic defense played havoc with the usually unflappable Tom Brady, who threw four interceptions - equaling the number he threw all of last season - and one of which Drayton Florence returned for a touchdown. New England (2-1) had a 10-game win streak snapped while losing to Buffalo for only the second time in 22 meetings. "We had too many penalties, too many scoring opportunities that we missed. That's why we lost the game," Brady said. Then again, it's not as if the Patriots have never lost before. "It's one loss, and it's a long season," Brady said. "Hopefully, we'll learn from it, move on." Brady still went 30 of 45 for 386 yards and four scores - two each to Wes Welker and Rob Gronkowski. He also set the NFL record for most yards passing (1,326) over a three-game stretch. Welker had a career-best 16 catches for a franchise-record 217 yards. Not that it mattered. "You know, what should be a great fun day of breaking records and doing all those things, it's totally the opposite," Welker said. "I think it shows that we've got a long way to go." The Patriots were overwhelmed by a Bills team that's gaining confidence and showing it's capable of pulling out victories following last year's 4-12 finish - three of those losses coming in overtime. Dating to 1950, the Bills became the only team to overcome deficits of at least 18 points to win in consecutive weeks, according to STATS LLC. In fact, only five teams had previously won twice in one season when trailing by 18 or more points. "It feels great, man," said receiver Stevie Johnson, who had eight catches for 94 yards and a touchdown. "We know we've got a ton of games to go, but just for the fans to say, 'We beat the Patriots,' that's something big." © 2011 STATS LLC

Brady plays mistake-free in 31-19 win over Raiders OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) -- Tom Brady went back to his usual ways of protecting the ball and it was the New England Patriots who took advantage of interceptions a week after being doomed by Brady's four picks. Brady bounced back from his debacle in Buffalo by throwing for 226 yards and two touchdowns, and committing no turnovers to help the Patriots beat the mistake-prone Oakland Raiders 31-19 Sunday. "If you're going to throw passes you're going to throw interceptions. That's part of playing quarterback," Brady said. "If it happens, it happens. You have to bounce back. We did a much better job of taking care of the football, which I think was a big reason why we won." The Raiders (2-2) were unable to say the same as Jason Campbell threw two interceptions, including a game-changer in the end zone at the end of the first half that went right to safety Patrick Chung with no receiver in the area. "It was just a bonehead play," Campbell said. "I was just going to throw the ball out of bounds, then I start running around trying to make a play." Wes Welker caught nine passes for 158 yards and a score, BenJarvus Green-Ellis and Stevan Ridley added rushing touchdowns, and the Patriots (3-1) played a mostly mistake-free game after last week's surprising loss. "It's always big to bounce back," said Welker, who has 40 catches for 616 yards through four games. "We had the letdown last week and we got a bounce-back from that," he said. "Coming on the road into a hostile environment, it's a big win for us. It was good to see." Campbell threw another interception early in the fourth quarter to 325-pound defensive lineman Vince Wilfork as the Raiders were unable to give the energized sellout crowd much to cheer about after the opening minutes. The Raiders committed nine penalties for 85 yards, including a pair of personal fouls on New England's opening drive by former Patriots star Richard Seymour. "We just didn't play well enough to win," Seymour said. "There's no excuses about it. They

played better than we did." But the biggest mistake was the one made by Campbell at the end of the first half. The Raiders were at the New England 6 and in position to take a 17-14 lead when Campbell stepped up in the pocket and threw the ball directly to Chung. The Patriots drove for a 44-yard field goal by Stephen Gostkowski in the closing seconds of the half. New England then took the opening kickoff of the third quarter down the field for a score on Ridley's 33-yard run. The Raiders trailed 24-10 by the time Campbell took his next snap. "It cost us. It cost our team," Campbell said. "It's something I don't usually do. Unfortunately, it happened. And from that point on, it kind of stirred the momentum. We just pretty much were going tit for tat at that point. You're going against a team like New England, an offensive juggernaut, you can't have mistakes like that." Oakland settled for a field goal deep in New England territory late in the third quarter after the officials overturned a pass interference call against the Patriots. New England answered with another touchdown drive capped by Brady's 4-yard pass to Deion Branch that made it 31-13 and gave him 275 career TDs, tying Vinny Testaverde for eighth place. Brady passed his boyhood hero Joe Montana on the career list with his TD pass to Welker in the first quarter and he also tied Peyton Manning's record of 13 straight games with at least two TD passes. "I'll never be in Joe's category," Brady said. "We throw the ball a lot more than they threw it back then. It's much more of a passing league now than it's ever been. Every one of those touchdowns was important today, so it was fun. It was fun to be back out there after last week." New England's much-maligned defense did enough despite losing star linebacker Jerod Mayo in the first half to a knee injury and allowing 504 yards. The Patriots held an opponent to under 20 points for the first time this season, a drastic change from last week's 34-31 loss to the Bills. Darren McFadden, the NFL's leading rusher, had 75 yards on 14 carries. Campbell finished 25 for 39 for 344 yards, but the Raiders made it into the end zone only once before Campbell's 6-yard TD pass to Denarius Moore with 28 seconds left. Brady, who threw for a record 1,327 yards in the first three games, needed to do much less against the Raiders. He completed 16 of 30 passes as New England did plenty of damage on the ground with Ridley rushing for 97 yards and Green-Ellis adding 75. Notes: The Raiders held a moment of silence before the game for Myra Kraft, the late wife of New England owner Robert Kraft. ... New England scored at least 30 points for the 12th straight game. ... Oakland had 19 points on six trips inside the New England 30. --- Follow Josh Dubow on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/JoshDubowAP> © 2011 STATS LLC

Patriots' defense steps up in 30-21 win over Jets FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) -- The New England Patriots were upset that opponents kept piling up yards on them. They took it out on the New York Jets. Even without star linebacker Jerod Mayo, the Patriots allowed just 255 yards and held the Jets without a first down on seven of their 11 possessions in a 30-21 win Sunday. "We said, 'Enough's enough,' and that's where you make your stand," said Patriots defensive end Andre Carter, who had seven tackles. It was a surprising showing by a defense that entered the game last in the NFL with an average of 477.5 yards allowed. And it played without its signal-caller, Mayo, who missed his first game because of a serious knee sprain. "I think every week we've been getting better and better and better (defensively) and today was a good day to get back on track," defensive tackle Vince Wilfork said. The Patriots (4-1) never trailed and won their 19th consecutive regular-season game at home. The Jets (2-3) lost their third straight. "We lost two in a row last year but we bounced right back from it," Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez said. "This is a little different territory. So we're going to see what a lot of guys are made of on this team and it's my job to get guys ready to play this next week against Miami." BenJarvus Green-Ellis rushed for a career-high 136 yards and two touchdowns and Tom Brady completed 24 of 33 passes for 321 yards, a touchdown and an interception after starting the day with an NFL-best 388 yards passing per game. "We want to be an offense that can be able to do whatever we want to do, run or pass, and complement our defense," said Green-Ellis, signed in 2008 as a rookie free agent from Mississippi. The Jets didn't do any of that well enough. Sanchez completed 16 of 26 passes for 166 yards and two touchdowns one week after going 11 for 35 for 119 in a 34-17 loss to the Baltimore Ravens. And the Patriots outrushed the Jets 152 yards to 97. "I thought we did some good things" on offense, New York coach Rex Ryan said, "but lacked a little consistency, obviously, and you have got to convert on third down." The Jets were just 3 for 11 on third down, compared to the Patriots' 7 for 14. "They did a great job spreading the ball around," New York cornerback Antonio Cromartie said. Before last season's 28-21 playoff win over the Patriots, Cromartie called Brady an expletive and said the quarterback showboated and pointed at the Jets sideline after a late touchdown during a regular-season game. But few players referred to the rivalry after Sunday's game. And the crowd was subdued in a lackluster first half and behaved most of the time as if the Jets were just another opponent. Brady had another strong day, completing 24 of 33 passes for one touchdown and one interception as the Patriots scored at least 30 points for the 13th straight regular-season game. The Patriots led 10-7 at halftime and 27-14 after Stephen Gostkowski's 24-yard field goal with 12:57 left in the game. Then Sanchez led a comeback by completing 5 of 6 passes for 65 yards on an 85-yard drive capped by a 21-yard touchdown pass to Santonio Holmes with 7:14 left. But the Jets couldn't stop the Patriots, who held the ball for 6:12 as Green-Ellis ran 10 times for 59 yards. "BenJarvus is a great guy to block for," Patriots guard Logan Mankins said. "He reads the play out, he finds the hole and he won't fumble." Gostkowski ended the march with a 28-yard field goal, his third of the game, with 1:02 remaining. "Against New England, you've got to get off the field," Ryan said. "They did a great job sustaining drives. You've got to give them all the credit. They earned it." On the first play of the third quarter, Brady and Wes Welker connected for a 73-yard gain. Three plays later, a wide-open Deion Branch caught a 2-yard touchdown pass from Brady on the left side of the end zone. "I took my eyes off of him," Cromartie said. "I took one peep. As soon as I peeped, he went the opposite way. That's all on me." The Jets came right back when Joe McKnight returned the kickoff 88 yards one week after scoring on a 107-yard kickoff return. They needed just three plays to reach the end zone on a 3-yard touchdown pass from Sanchez to Jeremy Kerley, cutting the lead to 17-14. But the Patriots defense never let them catch up. "That was definitely our best game," Carter said, "and now we have to continue to get better." Notes: A moment of silence was held for former Oakland Raiders owner Al Davis, who died Saturday. ... Before the game, the NHL champion Boston Bruins came on the field to loud applause with captain Zdeno Chara holding the Stanley Cup. ... The Patriots' 13 straight regular-season games with at least 30 points are one less than the record set by the St. Louis Rams in 1999-2000. ... Jets C Nick Mangold played after missing two games with a high right ankle sprain. ... The Patriots had TE Aaron Hernandez and DT Albert Haynesworth back after they also were sidelined for two games. © 2011 STATS LLC

Brady throws late TD as Patriots top Cowboys 20-16 FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) -- Tom Brady was having his worst game of the season. Then he did what he does best. Trailing by three points with 2:31 left, the NFL's reigning MVP marched the New England Patriots down the field for an 8-yard touchdown pass to Aaron Hernandez with 22 seconds remaining that capped a 20-16 win over the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday. "You're a long way away from the goal line and you haven't really moved the ball that well," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "I've said it before, there's no quarterback I'd rather have." The Patriots trailed 16-13 when they got the ball at their 20-yard line after a punt. At that point, Brady had completed just 19 of 32 passes for 211 yards with one touchdown, two interceptions and three sacks. Starting with a 16-yard completion to Hernandez, Brady went 8 for 9 for 78 yards. The other 2 yards came on Brady's 2-yard sneak for a first down. "When you have a quarterback like Tom, anything can happen as long as there's time on the clock," Hernandez said. It was the 32nd successful comeback of Brady's career in games the Patriots trailed or were tied in the fourth quarter. And it came against a solid defense - ranked fourth in the NFL - that had allowed just one touchdown on the Patriots' first nine possessions. "When you're playing against a quarterback like Tom Brady, he's going to go down as one of the all-time greats," Cowboys coach Jason Garrett said. "So you have to try to make it hard on him." The Patriots improved to 5-1, the best record in the AFC.

The Cowboys fell to 2-3, but two of those losses were by four points and the other by three. "This isn't a 2-3 team," said Dallas cornerback Terence Newman, who had an interception and a fumble recovery. "We've got some good pieces here." The Cowboys were coming off a bye. Next up are the St. Louis Rams. The Patriots are heading into a bye and return for a road game against the Pittsburgh Steelers. "We're still building," Brady said. "We're nowhere near where we need to be and nowhere near where we're going to be in a couple of months." Dallas quarterback Tony Romo was 27 of 41 for 317 yards with one touchdown and one interception in his first game since a 34-30 loss to Detroit in which the Cowboys squandered a 24-point, third-quarter lead and Romo threw two interceptions that were returned for TDs. "This team is continuing to grow and get better," Romo said. "We just need to finish a game like today and we will, I think." The Cowboys, who trailed 13-3 midway through the second quarter, took a 16-13 lead with 5:13 left on Dan Bailey's third field goal of the game, a 26-yarder. The Patriots then punted, but the Cowboys were content to use up the clock by running the ball - three rushes for 5 yards, plus a 5-yard penalty - and punted right back. "You have to run the ball in that situation because of the time situation," said Garrett, who trusted his defense to stop the Patriots. "It's one of the best offenses in the league. You're challenging your defense, no doubt about it." Until the final drive, Cowboys defensive coordinator Rob Ryan was headed for his second straight strong game against the Patriots. He held that job with Cleveland when the Browns beat the Patriots 34-14 last Nov. 7. Since then, the Patriots had scored at least 30 points in 13 consecutive games. That streak ended Sunday, but New England still won. Stephen Gostkowski's 31-yard field goal gave the Patriots a 3-0 lead before Bailey tied it with a 48-yarder. Gostkowski connected again early in the second quarter, this time from 26 yards, before Brady and Wes Welker hooked up on a 5-yard scoring pass. But Romo threw a 1-yard touchdown pass to Jason Witten with 33 seconds left in the half and Dallas trailed 13-10. Bailey then tied the game with a 22-yard field goal with 5:50 left in the third. And after Bailey put Dallas ahead for the first time with his final field goal, Brady took over. "Your margin of error is very, very small at that point," he said. "You can't not get the ball in the end zone." In those situations, Brady often does. "When it comes to crunch time," Cowboys linebacker Keith Brooking said, "he is at his best." Notes: Belichick and Brady have won 116 regular-season games together, tying Miami's Don Shula and Dan Marino for most in NFL history. ... DeMarcus Ware had two sacks for Dallas, giving him seven in five games this season. ... The teams met for the 11th time with the Patriots winning their fourth in a row after losing the first seven. ... Welker had six catches for 45 yards after entering the game with league-leading averages of nine receptions and 148 yards receiving. © 2011 STATS LLC

Steelers solve Brady, Patriots 25-17 PITTSBURGH (AP) -- The Pittsburgh Steelers no longer have a Tom Brady problem. And that may be a problem for the rest of the NFL. Old, slow and over? Not quite yet. Ben Roethlisberger picked apart the NFL's worst defense and the Steelers rattled the nearly unflappable Brady in a 25-17 victory on Sunday, putting an end to the two-time MVP's decade of dominance over the defending AFC champions. Brady came in 6-1 all-time against the Steelers, putting up eye-popping numbers in the process. He never got the chance on a chilly day at Heinz Field. Pittsburgh (6-2) controlled the ball for nearly 39 minutes and never let Brady get into a sustained rhythm. "It's been all Tom Brady versus the Pittsburgh Steelers and looking back on the past, how he's owned the Pittsburgh Steelers, and I think everybody forgot about our offense a little bit and the things they've been doing out there," Pittsburgh linebacker LaMarr Woodley said. "I think they took that a little personal." Playing efficiently and working almost exclusively on short, safe, underneath routes, Roethlisberger completed 36 of 50 passes for 365 yards and two touchdowns as the Steelers won their fourth straight following a 2-2 start. "We can be as good as we want to be," Roethlisberger said. "When we don't kill ourselves and stop ourselves, we can be pretty dangerous." Brady passed for two touchdowns but threw for a season-low 198 yards. His attempt to lead the Patriots to an unlikely comeback ended when Pittsburgh's Brett Keisel sacked him, forcing a fumble that Troy Polamalu slapped through the end zone with 8 seconds left to provide the final margin. "We all have to individually look in the mirror and figure out what we need to get better at," Brady said. There was no sense of panic among the Patriots, who fell into a tie with Buffalo atop the AFC East. Yet the Steelers did something no team has been able to do this year: keep Brady under wraps. Pittsburgh sacked him three times, held wide receiver Wes Welker - on pace for an NFL record for yards receiving in a season - to 39 yards on six receptions while limiting the Patriots to their fewest points since a 34-14 loss to Cleveland last year. The Patriots punted four times, missed a field goal in the third quarter that would have drawn them within a touchdown and failed to recover an onside kick with just over 2 minutes remaining. Not the kind of brisk execution that's been the hallmark of Brady and coach Bill Belichick's highly successful tenure. "It just wasn't a really good day for us in any phase of the game, in any area," Belichick said. "We just didn't do a good enough job. That's really all there is to say." Brady and Belichick remain tied with Don Shula and Dan Marino for most wins by a coach/quarterback tandem. Win No. 117 will have to wait at least a week after the Steelers emphatically awoke from an early-season slumber that included one-sided losses to Baltimore and Houston. Pittsburgh didn't panic after the slow start. And while the Steelers weren't ready to declare they're back, there was a definite sense of vindication on a day that felt more like January than late October, and not just because of the chilly weather. "It's a huge step," linebacker Lawrence Timmons said. "The New England Patriots have Belichick and Brady. This is a team that contends in the AFC every year and goes to the championship or the Super Bowl. So having this win, in our house, is huge and something to build on." On both sides of the ball, Roethlisberger has built a career and won two Super Bowls by chucking it deep with abandon. On Sunday he didn't complete a pass over 26 yards. He didn't have to. Roethlisberger consistently found Antonio Brown (a career-high nine receptions), Heath Miller (a season-high seven grabs) and speedster Mike Wallace (seven catches) on short and intermediate routes. The West Coast-style approach worked perfectly. Pittsburgh's five scoring drives lasted 11, 16, 10, 14 and 11 plays. The Steelers converted 10 of 16 third downs and Shaun Suisham kicked three field goals. "It's very frustrating," New England nose tackle Vince Wilfork said. "You talk about getting a team in second-and-longs and third-and-longs and taking advantage of those situations. We had them in those situations; we just didn't take advantage of them." Despite being dominated for long stretches in the first half, the Patriots trailed just 17-10 at the break. Yet the magic Brady has been able to muster repeatedly against the Steelers throughout his career never appeared. On the same field where he won two AFC championships, Brady never really got comfortable. "We had to beat them today," safety Ryan Clark said. "We're talking about this dominance that New England's had on us. I think we've won more Super Bowls, been to more Super Bowls than they have. It's not about history. We were excited to win today." Notes: Woodley finished with two sacks to become the first Steeler to get multiple sacks in four consecutive games. ... New England RB Kevin Faulk ran for 32 yards on six carries and caught five passes for 20 yards in his first game of the season. ... Patriots lost for just the second time in their last 11 games coming off a bye and lost in October for just the seventh time since 2003. ... New England TE Rob Gronkowski set a career high with seven catches. ... The Steelers played without offensive captain Hines Ward and defensive captain James Farrior, who missed the game with injuries. ... New England defensive lineman Andre Carter had two sacks for the 11th time in his career. © 2011 STATS LLC

Giants beat Patriots 24-20 on last-minute comeback FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) -- Super Bowl or midseason game, Eli Manning and the New York Giants are masters of the last-minute comeback against the New England Patriots. Manning capped a decisive drive eerily similar to the one in the 2008 Super Bowl, throwing a 1-yard touchdown pass to Jake Ballard with 15 seconds left and giving the Giants a 24-20 win on Sunday. "I knew we would win," Giants running back Brandon Jacobs said. "It definitely took me back to the Super Bowl." In that 17-14 victory, Manning threw a 13-yard scoring pass to Plaxico Burress with

35 seconds to go. Four plays earlier, David Tyree trapped Manning's third-down pass over the middle on top of his helmet for a 32-yard gain. On Sunday, the teams met in a meaningful game for the first time since then. And Manning threw another completion over the middle to an unheralded receiver on third down, connecting with a leaping Ballard for a 28-yard gain. Five plays later, they hooked up for the winning pass. "If it was thrown anywhere else, I wouldn't have caught it," Ballard said. "You dream about making catches like that." And Ballard's number? The same as Tyree's, 85. Manning, of course, threw all those passes, outplaying Tom Brady, who is known for his fourth-quarter comebacks. "I'd rather be down by three with a minute-thirty (left) than up by four with a minute-thirty with Tom Brady, with their offense on the field," Manning said. "You like those situations where you have an opportunity to go win the game." The Giants (6-2) kept their two-game lead in the NFC East over the Dallas Cowboys. The Patriots (5-3) are tied with the Buffalo Bills and New York Jets, next week's opponent, atop the AFC East. "We've got half the season to go," Brady said. "We'll see what our team's made of this week." The loss ended several impressive streaks: wins in an NFL record 31 regular-season starts at home for Brady and in 20 regular-season home games for the Patriots. Brady did throw a touchdown pass for the 24th straight regular-season home games. But the Patriots lost consecutive games for just the third time since the start of the 2003 season. The Giants won for the sixth time in seven games. "We got a little carried away," defensive end Justin Tuck said when asked about players lifting coach Tom Coughlin on their shoulders in the locker room. "Considering how good that team is and what they've done here in the last 20 games, it was a big win, and to win it in the fashion that we won it, it brings back memories." For a while, it looked like the Patriots would win with a comeback when Brady threw a 14-yard pass to Rob Gronkowski, making it 20-17 with 1:36 to go. But the Giants had enough time. And they had Manning. They were helped by a 20-yard pass interference penalty against Sergio Brown that put the ball at the 1 with 30 seconds left. "I was looking at the ball the whole time," Brown said. "I was surprised. They come and tell us as long as we're looking at the ball we can play the ball." Three plays later, Manning found Ballard in the back left corner of the end zone. "I knew I'd be hit hard," Ballard said. "I concentrated as hard as I could." He was guarded by Kyle Arrington. "We're going to be hard on ourselves," Arrington said. "We don't take losing well." After a scoreless first half, the Patriots took their first lead, 13-10, on Stephen Gostkowski's 45-yard field goal with 7:08 to go in the game. Manning then led the Giants on an 85-yard march to a 10-yard touchdown pass to Mario Manningham with 3:03 remaining. The Giants won despite injuries that kept their top rusher, Ahmad Bradshaw, and leading receiver, Hakeem Nicks, from making the trip. But New York's defense pressured Brady much of the game, coming up with two sacks and two interceptions. Manning completed 20 of 39 passes for 250 yards with two touchdowns and one interception. Brady was 28 for 49 for 342 yards and two touchdowns. Both quarterbacks struggled throughout the first half. The offense was so bad that fans booed when Brady threw an incompleteness with 8:30 left in the third quarter. They cheered on the next play when Aaron Ross fumbled Zoltan Mesko's punt and Rob Ninkovich recovered. But the Patriots managed just a 32-yard field goal by Gostkowski that cut the lead to 10-3. The Giants punted on the next series and got the ball back when Spencer Paysinger recovered Julian Edelman's fumble. Manning moved the Giants from the Patriots 40 to a third-and-goal at the 5, then threw an interception to Arrington in the end zone. Seven plays later, Brady hit Aaron Hernandez for a 5-yard touchdown, tying the game at 10 just 32 seconds into the fourth quarter. The Giants had much better field position in the first half, starting at their 23, 22, 36, 28, 25 and 49. But all those series ended with punts. The Patriots began at their 5, 6, 17, 20, 11 and 9. They punted four times and lost one interception before wasting their best scoring opportunity when Gostkowski pulled his 27-yard field goal attempt to the left with 3 seconds remaining. On that drive, the Patriots had five first downs, matching their total to that point. Notes: The Giants have forced at least one turnover in 21 straight regular-season games. ... Giants DE Jason Pierre-Paul had a sack for the fifth straight game. ... The Giants have 14 players remaining from the 2008 Super Bowl team, the Patriots have seven. © 2011 STATS LLC

Brady throws 3 TDs as Pats beat Jets 37-16 EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) -- A few classic drives. An impressive rout. Total control of the division. Struggling no more, Tom Brady and the New England Patriots sent a clear message Sunday night: They're still the team to beat in the AFC East. Not the Buffalo Bills. And certainly not the New York Jets. Brady threw three touchdown passes, including two to Rob Gronkowski, and the Patriots assumed sole possession of first place in the division with a convincing 37-16 victory over the Jets on Sunday night. "It's very sweet," Brady said, "getting this win." Especially after two consecutive losses had some wondering if the Patriots (6-3) were no longer the powerhouse they've been for years. Well, not so fast. "Losing two straight, you have 14 days of just feeling crappy," Brady said. "Every day of practice is harder. It's hard to build on losses. It feels really good to win this one." After the Jets got within a score at 23-16 early in the fourth quarter, Brady coolly led the Patriots down the field on an 84-yard drive that was capped by an 8-yard touchdown catch by Deion Branch. New England linebacker Rob Ninkovich then sealed the victory - which snapped a two-game skid - on the Jets' next possession with a 12-yard interception return for a touchdown midway through the final quarter. "One game won't win you much," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said, "but it's a good win and we're certainly happy to have it." The game was a showdown for the top spot in the division, but it was no contest as the Patriots took over sole possession by snapping the Jets' three-game winning streak and sweeping the regular-season series. "It looks doubtful right now," Jets coach Rex Ryan said of his team's chances of winning the division. "Maybe I should guarantee we're out of it. The last time I did we made it. "Yeah, we got no chance." Buffalo entered the day tied with New England and New York, but the Bills were blown out by the Dallas Cowboys 44-7. It was also the first home loss for the Jets (5-4) after opening 4-0, but they can't dwell on it because they play again at Denver on Thursday night. "You're not going to beat many teams when you make the mistakes that we made," Ryan said. "We've been down this road before. I apologize to our fans." Ryan insisted his team was greatly improved since a 30-21 loss at New England on Oct. 9 and declared it a must-win if New York wanted to get some home playoff games. Turns out, the Jets still have plenty of work to do if they expect to dethrone the Patriots. "It just wasn't our night," Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez said. "We earned what we got tonight." New England was coming off consecutive losses to Pittsburgh and the Giants, but said there was no concern in its locker room. It certainly showed as the Patriots avoided their first three-game losing streak since 2002. Brady finished 26 of 39 for 329 yards, the 40th time he reached the 300-yard mark in a regular-season game, breaking a tie with Hall of Famer Joe Montana for eighth on the NFL's list. He also joined New Orleans' Drew Brees as the only players to throw for 3,000 yards in their team's first nine games. Brees also accomplished the feat this season. Brady and Belichick broke a tie with Miami's Dan Marino and Don Shula as the winningest quarterback-coach duo since 1966 with 117 victories. "The good teams keep getting better this time of year," Brady said. "That's what we need to do." Gronkowski finished with eight catches for 113 yards and the two scores, and Stephen Gostkowski kicked three field goals. Andre Carter had a team-record 4 1/2 sacks as the Patriots' defense - ranked last in the league coming in - harassed Sanchez all night. Sanchez was 20 of 39 for 306 yards and a touchdown, but was intercepted twice and sacked five times. LaDainian Tomlinson passed Hall of Famer Barry Sanders for fifth place on the NFL's career list for yards from scrimmage, but left the game with an injured left leg which was tightly wrapped in the locker room. He said he would have "some tests" on Monday. The Jets appeared to get back in it when Plaxico Burress caught a 7-yard fade pass over Antwaun Molden in the right corner of the end zone for a touchdown on the first play of the fourth quarter, making it 23-16. But Brady went right back to work, leading the Patriots on a typically efficient drive, going 84 yards on 13 plays using a no-huddle offense that kept the Jets' defense off balance. Mixing in some solid runs by Danny Woodhead, Brady calmly spread the ball around to his receivers before connecting with Branch with 8:04 remaining. The score sent many in the crowd at MetLife Stadium heading for the exits. Many of those who remained didn't stick around much longer

once Ninkovich returned an errant pass by Sanchez 12 yards to make it 37-16 with 7:45 left. "Bill challenged us last week," nose tackle Vince Wilfork said. "We took his challenge and it showed tonight." Three Jets bobbled a muffed punt by Joe McKnight to set up Gostkowski's short field goal for a 16-9 lead. A few minutes later, Ninkovich returned a twice-tipped interception as Sanchez's throw went off the hands of running back Shonn Greene, then was deflected by linebacker Jerod Mayo to Ninkovich. The Jets got on the scoreboard when they got some rare pressure on Brady. Jamaal Westerman got to the Patriots quarterback in the end zone, and Brady threw the ball away left-handed and was called for intentional grounding and a safety. New York took the free kick and moved 65 yards on seven plays, and Sanchez ran in from the 2 on a quarterback draw for a 9-6 lead. But the Jets quarterback made a mistake on the play right before his score, calling a timeout with 1:24 left in the half. Ryan was so angry, he told NBC at halftime that the timeout was the "stupidest play in NFL history." Adding to the frustration was New York not opting to try a pooch kickoff following a 15-yard penalty on New England's Wilfork, and Nick Folk kicked the ball through the end zone. Brady hit five passes on an 80-yard drive, with Gronkowski getting open over the middle for the 18-yard score with 9 seconds left in the half that made it 13-9. NOTES: The Patriots lost CB Devin McCourty to an injured right shoulder midway through the second quarter after he collided with teammate Sterling Moore. ... Jets WR Patrick Turner had his first catch of the season, but later left with what the team called "a kidney injury." ... Patriots WR Chad Ochocinco had two catches for 65 yards, his first receptions since the last time these teams played, on Oct. 9. © 2011 STATS LLC

Brady throws 2 TD passes, Pats beat Chiefs 34-3 FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) -- Rob Gronkowski somersaulted into the end zone, staggered to his feet and still managed to spike the ball. "I was just fine," the Patriots star tight end said. "I just got the wind knocked out of me a little bit." New England was more than fine after looking groggy on offense early in the game before finishing big with a 34-3 win over the Kansas City Chiefs on Monday night. Tom Brady threw two touchdown passes to Gronkowski, who has five in his past three games. Julian Edelman returned a punt 72 yards for another score and Kyle Arrington had two of the Patriots three interceptions. "We try to be a very opportunistic defense," Arrington said, "and when plays like that present themselves, you've got to capitalize on them. And if I can get into the end zone one of these times, that would be good, too." The Patriots (7-3) didn't need him to do that on Monday when they increased their AFC East lead to two games. The Chiefs (4-6) weren't expected to do much on offense behind untested quarterback Tyler Palko, who threw three interceptions in his first career start with Matt Cassel injured. And they didn't, managing just a 26-yard field goal by Ryan Succop with 1:30 left in the first quarter for their only lead. "Three interceptions is inexcusable," Palko said. "The game is hard enough as it is without making mistakes." With Gronkowski collecting his ninth and 10th TD receptions of the season, the Patriots had their second straight dominant game after beating the New York Jets 37-16. The Chiefs lost their third straight. The Patriots didn't generate much of an attack during their first four series. There were three punts and a fumble by Brady that was recovered by Kansas City's Allen Bailey on the first play of the second quarter. And on his next series, Brady was sacked twice. "Obviously, the first half we didn't do anything," Brady said. "I don't think it could have gotten much worse." But the protection improved and Brady, who had thrown for just 19 yards in the first quarter, took advantage, leading three consecutive scoring drives. He connected with Gronkowski for a 52-yard score when the tight end caught the ball over the middle and scampered the last 35 yards, barely managing to remain inbounds on the right side as he neared the end zone. "When I get the ball, you just don't want to go down," he said. "You've got to try and do something with the ball. That's why you get it." Arrington, who leads the NFL with seven interceptions, got his first of the game on Kansas City's next series and Stephen Gostkowski made it 10-3 at halftime with a 21-yard field goal. "We were still fighting and we knew it was a close game going into halftime," Chiefs safety Kendrick Lewis said. "They got a big play and a big score (Gronkowski's second touchdown) in the second half and that started their rally." The Patriots got the ball to start the third quarter and went 85 yards on nine plays, scoring on Brady's 19-yard pass to Gronkowski, who went head over heels, landing on his neck in the right corner of the end zone after being hit by Derrick Johnson. "He's a great football player," Patriots guard Brian Waters said. "It doesn't surprise me for him to be able to bounce up." Gronkowski has 20 touchdowns in 26 games, surpassing Mike Ditka's mark of 31 for the fewest games needed by a tight end to reach 20 touchdowns. He also pulled within three of the single-season, tight end record of 13 touchdown receptions held by Antonio Gates of San Diego and Vernon Davis of San Francisco. "Everyone's doing their job and I just happen to be an open guy and Tom hits me in the end zone," Gronkowski said. Just 1:03 after his second touchdown, Edelman got his second punt return touchdown of his career as the Patriots jumped to a 24-3 lead with 9:24 left in the third quarter. Edelman, a wide receiver, also played defensive back, a position hit hard by injuries. "I do whatever I can to help the team," he said. Arrington picked off another pass on the Chiefs' next possession, leading to a 19-yard field goal by Gostkowski. And just when it looked as if Palko, who had thrown just 13 passes before Monday night, might direct his team to a touchdown, he threw an interception to Phillip Adams in the end zone with 10:50 left in the game. "We did too many things that get you beat in this league too many times," Chiefs linebacker Tamba Hali said. The Patriots finished the scoring on rookie Shane Vereen's first NFL touchdown on a 4-yard run with 1:01 left. In the previous meeting between the teams, Brady went down with a season-ending knee injury in the 2008 opener and was replaced by Cassel. But he injured his right throwing hand in the Chiefs' last game, a 17-10 loss, and had season-ending surgery on Nov. 14. Palko completed 25 of 38 passes for 236 yards and three interceptions. Brady was 15 of 27 for 234 yards and no interceptions. "All in all, I felt pretty confident," Palko said. "Obviously, there's a few things I'd like to have back." Notes: Gronkowski's 52-yard reception was the longest of his career. ... The Chiefs tried an onside kick after Succop's field goal but were called for touching the ball before it went 10 yards. ... Wes Welker extended his streak to 88 games with at least one catch. His first reception didn't come until six minutes remained in the game and he finished with two. © 2011 STATS LLC

Brady, Patriots rout Eagles 38-20 PHILADELPHIA (AP) -- The way Tom Brady was getting everyone involved, it's a surprise no linemen or linebackers caught passes. Brady threw for 361 yards and three touchdowns and the New England Patriots beat the Eagles 38-20 Sunday in a rematch of the 2005 Super Bowl. Filling in for the injured Michael Vick for the second straight game, Vince Young couldn't keep Philadelphia's fading playoff hopes alive despite throwing for a career-best 400 yards passing. The AFC East-leading Patriots (8-3) stayed in the hunt for the No. 1 seed in the conference behind a surgical-like effort from Brady. The six-time Pro Bowl quarterback finished 24 of 34, Deion Branch had 125 yards receiving and Wes Welker caught eight passes for 115 yards and two TDs. Brady's favorite targets, tight ends Rob Gronkowski and Aaron Hernandez, also chipped in. Gronkowski caught his 11th TD pass and Hernandez had six receptions. BenJarvus Green-Ellis scored twice on the ground. "It was more balanced today," Brady said. "That's how it needs to be. You have to run it. You have to throw it to everybody. We did a good job maximizing all the guys." The Eagles (4-7) are all-but-mathematically eliminated from playoff contention in a season that began with Super Bowl expectations. Angry fans made their feelings known about coach Andy Reid, chanting "Fire Andy!" in the second half. "The way we played, I can understand," Reid said. The defending NFC East champions fell to 1-5 at home and have lost eight of nine at the Linc, including a playoff loss to Green Bay last January. Down 10-0 early, the Patriots rallied behind Brady. New England scored on five of its next six possessions, excluding a kneel-down at the end of the first half. "Overall we did a great job of staying composed on the sideline and making the right adjustments and doing pretty much what we game planned for," Branch said. Brady and coach Bill Belichick improved to 4-0 against Reid's Eagles, including a 24-21 win for their third NFL title in four years after the 2004 season. "Tom did a good job really pressing the issue," Belichick said. "He felt he had them on the run with some of the mismatches. Tom kept pressing

it, guys got open and Tom did what he does best, finding the open guys." Young led the Eagles to a 17-10 win against the New York Giants last week in his first start in nearly a year. He put up decent numbers against the worst-ranked defense in the league, but couldn't overcome another inept performance by the Eagles' defense. Young finished 26 of 48. It was just his third career game over 300 yards. "Andy's a tremendous guy," Young said, defending Reid. "I have the utmost respect for him. Fans don't understand some of the situations that goes on during the game. You can't put it all on Andy. We're going to always continue to keep fighting hard, playing hard for him." Michael Vick broke two lower ribs in a loss to Arizona on Nov. 13. He got hurt on the second play of that game and stayed in, but hasn't practiced the past two weeks. It's uncertain whether Vick can play when Philadelphia visits Seattle on Thursday night. After a fast start, the Eagles fizzled. Brady engineered a 70-yard drive capped by Green-Ellis' 4-yard TD run to cut it to 10-7. The Pats converted two third downs on the drive, including two by penalty. Helped by a missed call, New England's defense then forced a three-and-out. Young was sacked by Rob Ninkovich, who spun the quarterback down by pulling his facemask. But the referees didn't see it, eliciting loud boos from the crowd when the replay was shown on the video screen. One play after just-signed Tiquan Underwood dropped a wide-open pass, Brady connected with Branch for 63 yards to the Eagles 1 on a third-and-13. Green-Ellis scored on the next play to put the Patriots up 14-10. Antwaun Molden intercepted Young's deep pass intended for DeSean Jackson on Philadelphia's next play and returned it 27 yards to the Eagles 34. But the Patriots couldn't convert the turnover into points. Stephen Gostkowski missed a 39-yard field goal wide right. No problem for Brady and Co. The Eagles went three-and-out again, and the Patriots went to a no-huddle when they got the ball back. Welker blew past the secondary and Brady hit his wide-open target in stride for a 41-yard TD pass to give New England a 21-10 lead. "He said if he got a certain look he could get it," Brady said. "Afterward he came to the sideline and said, 'I told you! I told you!' It's nice when they work out the way you talk about." Jackson dropped what could've been a 4-yard TD pass and the Eagles settled for a 22-yard field goal to get within 21-13. It was the second time in the first half that Jackson appeared to shy away from contact and dropped a pass across the middle. Fans let him hear it with a chorus of boos. Jackson, a two-time Pro Bowl pick, is in the final year of his rookie contract and has been unhappy that he didn't get a new deal. He dropped a deep pass that could've been a TD in the third quarter, and was benched in the fourth quarter. The Patriots got the ball to start the second half and Brady led them into the end zone again, tossing a 9-yard TD pass to Welker for a 31-13 lead. Brady threw a 24-yard TD pass to Rob Gronkowski to extend it to 38-13 in the fourth quarter. Notes: Patriots WR Chad Ochocinco sat out with a hamstring injury. ... Gostkowski's miss was his second from under 40 yards in 14 attempts. ... McCoy has 11 TDs rushing, five shy of breaking the single-season team record held by Hall of Famer Steve Van Buren. ... Young's last 300-yard game was against Arizona on Nov. 29, 2009. He threw for 387 yards in Tennessee's 20-17 win. © 2011 STATS LLC

Gronkowski's 3 TDs lead Pats over Colts 31-24 FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) -- Rob Gronkowski scored three more touchdowns. Chances are the New England Patriots are thinking more about the three touchdowns they allowed in the fourth quarter. Against the winless Colts, no less. The Patriots needed Deion Branch to recover an onside kick in the final minute to hold off Indianapolis 31-24 on Sunday. Trailing 31-3, the Colts rallied with a touchdown run by Donald Brown and two scoring passes from Dan Orlovsky to Pierre Garcon, the last with 36 seconds to go. Tom Brady took a knee on the final play to complete the victory. "We played good for 45 minutes and then didn't do anything offensively," Brady said. "So we'll hear about that." The Patriots (9-3) have won four straight and are tied for the AFC's best record. Indianapolis (0-12) must beat Baltimore, Tennessee, Houston or Jacksonville to avoid becoming the second NFL team to go 0-16. "People can say what they want to say about not playing hard, but I think that (comeback) pretty much shut that up right there," Colts tight end Jacob Tamme said. With two touchdowns passing, both to Gronkowski, Brady overtook Johnny Unitas and tied Warren Moon for sixth place in NFL history with 291 during the regular season. Brady was 29 of 38 for 293 yards. Gronkowski has 13 touchdown catches, tying San Diego's Antonio Gates in 2004 and San Francisco's Vernon Davis in 2009 for most by a tight end in a regular season. He originally was given another touchdown catch, but that was changed to a lateral on which he ran 2 yards for the 31-3 lead. Thinking he had set the record, Gronkowski held onto the ball as a souvenir instead of spiking it as he usually does. He even accepted congratulations from his teammates. "I wasn't thinking about whether it was a pass or a lateral," Gronkowski said. "I'll take the rushing touchdown. It's the first of my whole career." The Patriots entered the game as three-touchdown favorites with the teams, from different divisions, meeting for the ninth straight season. "Guys played well and did some things well," Colts coach Jim Caldwell said, "but, still, we're measured by wins." Caldwell gave Orlovsky his first start of the season in place of the ineffective Curtis Painter. Orlovsky, a member of the winless Detroit Lions team in 2008, completed 30 of 37 for 353 yards, two touchdowns and one interception. "We felt confident going into the game that if we stayed patient we could move the ball," Orlovsky said. "We fell short. I wish we had more time on the clock." Watching from the sideline was Peyton Manning, whose preseason neck surgery forced Caldwell to go with backups. "We almost had a big win today. It would have been huge for us," Manning said. The Colts tied the score 3-3 on Adam Vinatieri's 31-yard field goal early in the second quarter. And the Patriots punted on their next series. Then Brady got the offense rolling as New England scored touchdowns on its next four possessions, taking a 31-3 lead late in the third quarter. Wes Welker caught 11 passes for 114 yards, increasing his NFL-leading total to 93 receptions. The Colts had a new defensive coordinator, linebackers coach Mike Murphy, after Larry Coyer was fired Tuesday. The Patriots rarely lose in December, no matter their opponent. They're 38-5 in that month starting in 2001, tops in the NFL. And they're 19-1 at home in December, with wins in their last 18 games, since Gillette Stadium opened in December 2002. Trailing 3-0, Orlovsky led a 19-play drive lasting 10:19. The Colts had first-and-goal at the 1, but a run for no gain, an incompleteness, a false-start penalty and a sack forced them to settle for Vinatieri's field goal. New England took command by scoring twice in the last three minutes of the first half on Brady's 11-yard pass to Gronkowski and BenJarvus Green-Ellis' 1-yard run for a 17-3 lead. The Patriots got the ball to start the third quarter and Brady passed on each of the seven plays, completing all of them to drive 77 yards, ending with a 21-yard touchdown to Gronkowski. After a fumble recovery, Gronkowski scored again when he went in motion, took a toss from Brady and ran untouched into the right side of the end zone. "He is a tough kid and he knows how to run the routes," Colts defensive back Jerrell Powers said. "It also helps when you have one of the greatest quarterbacks." Gronkowski finished with five catches for 64 yards after entering the game tied for sixth in the NFL with 60 receptions. The Colts scored in the fourth quarter on Donald Brown's 5-yard run and Orlovsky's passes of 33 and 12 yards to Garcon. "If we don't play four quarters, we're not going to end up in the situation we want to be in," Welker said. The Patriots want to win the Super Bowl. The Colts have a more modest goal - winning just one game. "I thought Dan was patient," Manning said. "I really thought he did a good job. He gave us a chance there at the end." And Orlovsky gave Patriots coach Bill Belichick something to harp on when he meets with his players. "We've obviously got to do a better job of finishing the game," Belichick said. "That was disappointing, but we'll work on that." Notes: Brady has thrown for 30 touchdowns, becoming the sixth player in NFL history to do that at least three times. ... The Colts outgained the Patriots 437 yards to 366. ... The Patriots clinched a winning record for the 11th straight season. © 2011 STATS LLC

Brady fumes over INT; Patriots top Redskins 34-27 LANDOVER, Md. (AP) -- Tom Brady's first interception in more than a month led to a screaming match on the sideline. That's how perfection-driven the New England Patriots are. On a day when tight end Rob Gronkowski is simultaneously strong and nimble while

setting an NFL record, on a day when the defense again makes just enough plays to compensate for all the yards it allowed, on a day when a 34-27 score vs. the Washington Redskins meant a fifth straight victory, it was Brady who had to be calmed down after a rare fourth-quarter mistake. With the Patriots leading by seven, Brady tried to find Tiquan Underwood at the back of the end zone and was instead picked off by Josh Wilson with 6:30 remaining. The Redskins then began a march downfield that could have sent Sunday's game to overtime - even as Brady sat on the bench and exchanged words with offensive coordinator Bill O'Brien. "I threw a pretty bad interception, so he wasn't happy about it," said Brady, who completed 22 of 37 passes for 357 yards with three touchdowns and his first interception since Nov. 6. "And there was probably a long line of coaches and players that were pretty (upset) at me after that, but Billy got to me first. He let me have it; I deserved it." And yet Brady had a 107.6 rating and upped his career touchdown pass total to 294, moving ahead of Warren Moon (291) into sole possession of sixth place all-time. Brady also surpassed the 4,000-yard mark for the fourth time in his career. But the Patriots (10-3) have such high expectations that a miscue in a close win over a struggling team like the Redskins (4-9) gets the juices flowing between player and coach. "We're both pretty emotional guys," Brady said. Gronkowski, meanwhile, caught six passes for a career-high 160 yards and set the NFL single-season mark for touchdown receptions by a tight end. His 14th was an 11-yard grab that moved him ahead of Antonio Gates (2004) and Vernon Davis (2009), and No. 15 was a 24-yard scoring strike in the second half. But it was the play immediately before No. 14 that everyone will remember. Gronkowski made a diving catch, got up, dragged DeJon Gomes and Reed Doughty a few yards and escaped while tiptoeing along the sidelines. Gronkowski tiptoed again when hit by Wilson and stumbled ahead to complete the 49-yard gain. "That play was right in front of us," New England coach Bill Belichick said. "He did a great job there, getting the ball off the ground, breaking a couple tackles, staying in bounds - he had almost no room to work with on the sideline. ... He's a tough guy to cover, a tough guy to match up on." But the Patriots didn't have the game won until they caught a couple of breaks at the end of Washington's final possession. The Redskins drove from their own 20 to New England's 5, but Santana Moss' catch at the goal line was negated by a pass interference call on the receiver, and then Moss tipped a pass into the hands of linebacker Jerod Mayo to save the day for a New England defense that ranks last in the league in yards allowed - and one that can't keep cutting it this close come playoff time. "You kind of don't want to give up those yards in the first place," Patriots safety James Ihedigbo said. "But at the same time, we're going to bow our necks once we get down there, and say, 'Hey, they're not getting in the end zone.'" The Redskins (4-9) amassed a season-high 463 yards but lost for the eighth time in nine games. Already playing without tight end Fred Davis and left tackle Trent Williams - both suspended for the rest of the season last week for violating the NFL's drugs policy - Washington lost another offensive starter during pregame warm-ups when right tackle Jammal Brown injured his right groin. But it was the officiating that had the Redskins steamed. In addition to the crucial flag on Moss, linebacker London Fletcher was whistled in the second quarter for a personal foul call that appeared particularly egregious. The referee announced that Fletcher hit a late-sliding Brady with a forearm to the head, but Fletcher's arm clearly hit the quarterback in the chest. Coach Mike Shanahan said he thought the call against Fletcher was "horrible." "We don't get no calls around here, man," Moss said. "You guys have been covering us for a long time. Y'all see what goes on out there. We blow our breath on one of the doggone guys over there and it's a penalty. Our quarterback gets killed - and you just almost hit somebody that's a quarterback and we get flagged. So a lot of stuff goes on. But I guess we've got to play against a team and the ref." Notes: The Redskins were the only current NFL franchise New England had never beaten on the road. ... Roy Helu (126) became the first Washington rookie to run for 100 yards in three straight games. ... Patriots WR Wes Welker became one of three players in NFL history with four 100-catch seasons, joining Jerry Rice and Marvin Harrison. ... Redskins FB Mike Sellers hyperextended his right elbow. ... The end zones were marked "Army" and "Navy," leftovers from the game the stadium hosted a day earlier. --- © 2011 STATS LLC

Brady, Pats slow down Tebow, Broncos 41-23 DENVER (AP) -- Not this time, Tim Tebow. Not with Tom Brady on hand. Brady threw for two touchdowns, ran for another and the New England Patriots shut down Tebow's late-game heroics and clinched a playoff berth with a 41-23 victory over the Denver Broncos on Sunday. "It was a really good day for us," Brady said. "Very emotional game. It was really rocking early. We showed some mental toughness." The Patriots (11-3) won their sixth straight game and another AFC East title by bouncing back from an early 17-6 deficit and an awful first quarter in which they were outgained on the ground 167 yards to 4. This time, there was no last-minute magic from Tebow, who had guided the Broncos (8-6) to four straight fourth-quarter comebacks and six straight wins. Instead of another slow start followed by a fantastic finish, the Broncos started fast and then fizzled. They scored on their first three possessions and then were done in by a trio of turnovers in the final 8 1/2 minutes of the second quarter. "We did have things going pretty well early, scored on the first three possessions and felt like we were moving the ball good and then we put it on the ground," Tebow said. "That's something you can't do against a great team and Tom Brady and Bill Belichick. "Besides that, we were right there with them." Champ Bailey had said the Broncos needed a big game against a big QB to prove to themselves and others that they were not just a curiosity but a contender. They didn't get it on this day. "We showed today that we're not ready to go to the playoffs and make a push," Bailey said. "We've got to get better and we only have two or three weeks to do it. If we don't, then we'll be sitting home." For a sixth straight season. With their first loss since Oct. 30, the AFC West-leading Broncos face a tougher path to the playoffs, with a trip to Buffalo next week followed by a season finale against Kansas City, which ended Green Bay's 19-game winning streak Sunday behind Kyle Orton, the player Tebow replaced in Denver. "I definitely feel like we're all right," said Tebow, now 7-2 as Denver's starter. He threw for 194 yards and ran for 93 yards and two scores but was sacked four times, including a 28-yard loss in the fourth quarter. "I thought he improved," coach John Fox said. "He'll continue to improve. This was a setback, no doubt about that. But sometimes setbacks are setups for bigger things to come." After all, the last time Tebow lost, to Detroit on Oct. 30, he was put on notice that his starting job was a week-to-week proposition, and Tebow won his next six starts. The one thing Tebow and the Broncos haven't been able to do is keep up with the league's elite passers. Denver has faced four QBs currently ranked in the top-10 in yards passing - Aaron Rodgers, Matthew Stafford, Philip Rivers (twice) and Brady. They're 1-4 in those games. Asked if Tebow & Co. can keep up with the league's top passers if they make it into the playoffs, Fox said: "I can't predict that. He's gotten better every week. Six or seven weeks ago, people said he couldn't hit the broad side of a barn. He does that. I think he can do that. I don't think that was why we lost the game tonight." Brady was. "He's still the best out there, in my opinion," Bailey said. "And you make mistakes against a guy like that, he's going to make you pay. That's pretty much what happened all day." Safety Brian Dawkins missed the game with a neck injury and the Broncos missed him as they had to rely on rookies Quinton Carter and Raheem Moore. "You can't expect to get the same results when you lose a guy like that," Bailey said. "But, at the same time, guys have to step up as professionals. You can't play like that and expect to get wins." Brady was 23 of 34, including his first scoring toss to Chad Ochocinco. His TD run was his first of the year. Brady made up for another bad day by the Patriots' defense to beat the Broncos for the second time in eight career starts - the only team with a winning record against the three-time Super Bowl champion. The Broncos' 167 yards rushing in the first quarter - 11 more than their league-leading per-game average - represented the biggest output in any quarter of the Belichick era in New England. But they would manage just 85 more. After the Patriots fell behind 16-7, they went to the no-huddle and Brady threw a 1-yard TD strike to Aaron Hernandez, who set career highs with nine catches for 129 yards. The Broncos' ball-control offense stumbled after that. Lance Ball, who earlier scored his first TD in the NFL on a beautiful 32-yard scamper, fumbled at his own 19 and linebacker Rob Ninkovich recovered, leading to Stephen Gostkowski's 21-yard field goal put the Patriots up for good at 17-16. Then,

defensive end Mark Anderson , subbing for Andre Carter , who seriously injured his left knee earlier in the game, forced and recovered a fumble by Tebow at the Broncos 40. Six plays later, Brady took it in himself from a yard out to make it 24-16. Brady celebrated his eighth career TD with a masterful spike. "I don't get in the end zone very often," Brady said. "Maybe once a season. So, when I do I get pretty excited." The Broncos' bumbling ways - which included a bad snap on an extra point attempt - continued when punt returner Quan Cosby tried to field a punt on the run and muffed it with three seconds left. Dane Fletcher recovered for New England and Gostkowski trotted out for a 34-yard field goal to make it 27-16 at halftime. Tebow's 2-yard keeper with 8:41 left pulled the Broncos to 34-23 and had the crowd thinking comeback again, but Brady led the Patriots on another 80-yard scoring drive, this one culminating in BenJarvus Green-Ellis' 1-yard TD run. "The more we fight, the better this team gets," defensive tackle Vince Wilfork said. "We knew they were going to come out fighting. They were going to come out fast and explosive. Our main goal was to weather the storm." Notes: The Patriots qualified for the playoffs for the 13th time since Robert Kraft bought the team in 1994. ... The Broncos haven't won seven straight since 1998. ... New England hadn't won in Denver since 2003. ... Brady's last TD run was Nov. 14, 2010, at Pittsburgh. --- © 2011 STATS LLC

Brady leads comeback, Patriots top Dolphins 27-24 FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) -- The New England Patriots emphasize playing well for 60 minutes every game. On Saturday, 30 was enough - barely. Rallying from their worst half of the season, the Patriots scored on their next five possessions and clinched a playoff bye with a 27-24 win over the Miami Dolphins on Saturday. "You don't want to, certainly, make a habit of this," said Tom Brady , who scored on two 1-yard sneaks and threw for a 1-yard touchdown. "We showed some resiliency." New England (12-3) won its seventh straight game. After the Houston Texans lost to the Indianapolis Colts on Thursday night, the Patriots needed a win or a tie to lock up one of the top two spots in the AFC. "It's good to clinch," said Deion Branch , who caught the touchdown pass from Brady, "but not by the way we played. It's not the way you want to do it." Miami (5-10) lost for the third time in eight games after opening at 0-7 and is 1-1 under Todd Bowles, who took over when Tony Sparano was fired. "First half we came out and played our tempo and our ballgame," Bowles said. "The second half they made us play theirs." The AFC East champions trailed 17-0 at halftime but made the necessary adjustments and went to their no-huddle offense more, keeping the Dolphins from making defensive substitutions. And Brady was on target after a first half in which heavy defensive pressure against a makeshift offensive line affected his accuracy. He completed just 7 of 19 passes for 87 yards and was sacked three times in the half. But in the second half, he completed 20 of 27 passes for 217 yards, finishing at 27 for 46 for 304 yards and leading one scoring drive after another - a 45-yard field goal by Stephen Gostkowski , the scoring pass to Branch, his own sneak that tied the game, Gostkowski's 42-yard go-ahead kick after Devin McCourty 's first interception of the year, and the other sneak with 2:56 to go, making it 27-17. The Dolphins made it closer on Matt Moore 's 15-yard scoring pass to Davone Bess with 1:48 to play. They had three timeouts left, but their hopes faded when Brady hit Wes Welker for a 6-yard gain and a first down. "We had (Brady's) number in the first half, but in the second half he came out and made a lot of plays," Miami linebacker Karlos Dansby said. "He is a coach on the field." The Dolphins seemed headed for a victory and got a break even before the game started when Patriots left tackle Matt Light hurt his ankle in warmups and didn't play. Left guard Logan Mankins took his spot, but he left with a knee injury suffered on New England's second series. "There's always things that are going to go wrong in a football game and things aren't going to work out the way you want them to all the time," said Welker, who finished with 12 catches for 138 yards after managing just two for 20 in the first half. "The main thing is just playing a full 60 minutes and never giving in and understanding that one drive and one score (can) get things going." The Patriots punted on their first six series of the first half then missed a field goal on the other. The Dolphins struggled in the second half when Moore fumbled the snap at his 38-yard line and Vince Wilfork recovered, starting the drive capped by Branch's touchdown. "They committed penalties in the first half," Dolphins guard Richie Incognito said. "We turned the ball over and committed penalties in the second half. That is never a good recipe." Reggie Bush had another outstanding game for Miami with his fourth straight rushing day of at least 100 yards. He finished with 113 on 22 carries one week after gaining a career-high 203 yards. His latest performance gave him 1,086 yards rushing for the season, the first time in his six years, the first five with the New Orleans Saints , that he passed 1,000. "It really doesn't mean anything right now," he said. "This one's pretty tough." The Dolphins had taken a 3-0 lead on Dan Carpenter 's 47-yard field goal 4:01 into the game and made it 10-0 with 1:15 gone in the second quarter on Moore's 19-yard pass to Brandon Marshall . They stretched that to 17-0, the Patriots biggest deficit of the season, on a 1-yard touchdown pass from Moore to Charles Clay . The 89-yard drive was helped by two defensive pass interference penalties on third down. But the Patriots remained calm in the locker room at intermission. "There wasn't a bunch of yelling," Wilfork said. "We just came in and said we've got to play better, we've got to make more plays." They did. The Dolphins didn't. "Our guys fought," Bowles said, "but we didn't finish." Notes: Welker set a franchise record for one season with 1,518 yards receiving. He broke the mark of 1,493 set by Randy Moss in 2007. ... Bush was checked by medical personnel on the sideline late in the game "Something in my leg just didn't feel right," he said. "I'm walking. If it was serious, I wouldn't be walking." ... Moore completed 17 of 33 passes for 294 yards, his highest total as a Dolphin. He threw for more than that with the Carolina Panthers once in 2009 and once in 2010. ... The victory was the largest comeback by the Patriots from a second-half deficit since Nov. 10, 2002 when they beat the Chicago Bears 33-30 after trailing 27-6 in the third quarter. © 2011 STATS LLC

Brady leads Pats to top seed, beats Bills 49-21 FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) -- Tom Brady and the New England Patriots do an outstanding job rallying from behind. They've been getting plenty of practice. Now that the Patriots have clinched home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs by scoring the final 49 points in a 49-21 win over the Buffalo Bills on Sunday, they know it will be much harder to recover from a poor start. "Every team in the playoffs is good," Patriots linebacker Jerod Mayo said. "To be honest, it would be tough to come back against them if we're behind 21-0." Tough, but not impossible. Not with Brady leading the attack. He finished the regular season with the second most yards passing in NFL history, 5,235, after throwing for 338. Drew Brees , who last week broke Dan Marino's record of 5,084 with the Miami Dolphins in 1984, added 389 Sunday for the Saints and ended with 5,486. The Patriots (13-3) have won their last eight games. But for the third in a row, they fell behind early. They trailed Denver 13-7 in the first quarter but beat the Broncos 41-23. Then they edged the Dolphins 27-24 after trailing 17-0 at halftime. Finally, they took charge Sunday after the Bills (6-10) scored touchdowns on their first three possessions, drawing boos from the home fans. That changed to a steady stream of cheers as the Patriots dominated the next three quarters, scoring on seven of their next eight possessions. "I'd love to be able to see what it looks like when we put together 60 great minutes of football," Brady said. "Today was 45, but it was better than 30 last week." And they won both games, a much more important achievement than surpassing 5,000 yards. "I play this game for one reason and that's to win," Brady said. "It's not something I ever (think), 'Man, I love throwing touchdowns,' or 'I love throwing for yards.' I love winning and that helps me sleep at night." For a while, it looked like he'd be tossing and turning thanks, in large part, to a defense that set the NFL record for most yards passing allowed, 4,727. The previous mark of 4,541 was set by the Atlanta Falcons in 1995. The Bills took a 21-0 lead in the first quarter on a 4-yard run by Tashard Choice and Ryan Fitzpatrick 's scoring passes of 18 yards to Stevie Johnson and 15 yards to C.J. Spiller. "They couldn't stop us," wide receiver David Nelson said. Johnson was penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct when he lifted his jersey to reveal a T-shirt with the words "Happy New Year." After that, he was benched by coach Chan Gailey. "I

can't complain about it or whine and pout. He made his decision and I am going with it," Johnson said. "What I did hurt my teammates." The pass to Spiller gave Fitzpatrick 13 completions in 16 attempts for 156 yards and two touchdowns. At that point, Brady had thrown twice, both incompletions. He finished with 23 completions in 35 attempts for three touchdowns - two to Rob Gronkowski - and one interception. Fitzpatrick ended at 29 for 46 for 307 yards, two touchdowns and four interceptions. Gronkowski set the single-season record for tight ends with 1,327 yards receiving after gaining 108 on eight catches. That broke the mark of 1,310 set earlier Sunday by Jimmy Graham of the Saints. The previous mark of 1,290 was set in 1980 by Kellen Winslow of the San Diego Chargers. The record came on a 22-yard completion from backup Brian Hoyer with 1:30 left, a play that Belichick called to give him a shot at the record. "It was cool, unbelievable," Gronkowski said of having that chance. "It says a lot about this team." As the top seed in the AFC, the Patriots will have their home fans behind them as they drive for the Super Bowl. "We've seen the No. 6 team win the Super Bowl. We've seen (a) first seed team win the Super Bowl," Belichick said. "What's more important than where you're seeded is how you play in the playoffs." Buffalo had snapped a seven-game losing streak with a 40-21 win over Denver in its previous game but heads into the offseason with the memory of a 5-2 start that it couldn't sustain. The game, Fitzpatrick said, "was kind of like our season. It started off so well with 21 points and we had things rolling offensively. ... but when Stevie got taken out and Scott (Chandler) went down (with a knee injury) it changed things for us. It slowed us down." Sunday's deficit was the Patriots' biggest of the season, but they had Brady to lead them back. A 1-yard run by BenJarvus Green-Ellis and a 39-yard pass to Aaron Hernandez, which put Brady over the 5,000-yard mark, cut the lead to 21-14. Field goals of 41 and 20 yards by Stephen Gostkowski made it 21-20 and the Patriots went ahead to stay 28-21 on Brady's 17-yard scoring pass to Gronkowski with 1:32 left in the third quarter and a 2-point conversion run by Danny Woodhead. They kept rolling with a 3-yard touchdown run by Green-Ellis, a 7-yard scoring pass to Gronkowski with 3:07 left in the game and a 21-yard interception return for another touchdown by Sterling Moore just seven seconds later. In the teams' first meeting in Week 3, the Bills overcame a 21-0 deficit for a 34-31 victory in which Brady threw four interceptions. But on Sunday, the Patriots intercepted four passes and avoided being swept by an AFC East opponent for the first time since 2000 and by the Bills since 1999. Belichick, meanwhile, became the only coach in NFL history with at least 13 regular-season wins in five different seasons. Notes: Tight end Chandler didn't play after the second quarter. ... Rookie Stevan Ridley led the Patriots with a career-high 81 yards rushing. ... Welker had six catches for 51 yards and led the NFL with 122 receptions and 1,569 yards receiving. © 2011 STATS LLC

Patriots rout Broncos 45-10 in AFC playoffs FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) -- Tebowmania had no chance against Tom Brady's playoff pedigree. All the heroics, all the big plays and quite a few records belonged to Brady and the New England Patriots on Saturday night in a 45-10 rout of overmatched Tim Tebow and the Denver Broncos. Brady threw six touchdown passes, five in the first half, putting the Patriots into the AFC championship game and silencing the nationwide frenzy surrounding Tebow. The Patriots (14-3), winners of nine straight games, will host either Baltimore or Houston next Sunday for a spot in the Super Bowl. Saturday night's romp snapped a three-game postseason losing streak, two of those at Gillette Stadium, and lifted the Patriots to the verge of their fifth Super Bowl appearance in 11 seasons. They've won three of those, two with Brady as the game's MVP. "We came in and started fast and it was a big win for us," said Brady, who even got off a 48-yard punt on third down. "I have no idea about records and stuff like that. Anytime you score 45, obviously with the help of our defense, and special teams played great - hopefully we can go out next week and play even better." From the first snap in 24-degree temperature (wind chill of 12), this was a mismatch. The Patriots were not going to make the same mistakes the Steelers made against this team. "He's been around the block a few times," cornerback Champ Bailey said of Brady. "He knows how to win games. If you're not ready to punch him in the mouth he's going to eat you up all night." A nation transfixed by Tebow's play, if not his religious beliefs, tuned in Saturday to see if he had any more magic in store for Brady and company. He had nothing left as the Patriots made this must-see TV only for those who live in New England. "Any time you're getting beat like that, it doesn't change how you fight," Tebow said. "It didn't matter whether it was the first play or the last play or whether we're down by 42. ... I wanted to be the same player." With New England up 42-7, the fans began their derisive Teeee-bow chants. On the next play, the Broncos quarterback was sacked for an 11-yard loss - one of five sacks for New England's 31st-ranked defense. "We went out and played very hard and good things happened," defensive tackle Vince Wilfork said. "A great team win." And so ended one of the season's most exciting story lines - one that began when Denver was 1-4 and made Tebow a starter. The one-time third-stringer promptly won six in a row and seven of eight, with a string of stunning comebacks. "A lot of ups and downs," Tebow said of his second NFL season. "Overall, it's been a very special opportunity for me, something I'm really thankful for. There's a lot of things we're proud of. Obviously, it's hard to see them all right now." That winning surge ended with a 41-23 home loss to New England, and the Broncos dropped their next two, backing into the AFC West title. But they rebounded nicely in their first playoff game since the 2005 season with the longest overtime touchdown in playoff history, an 80-yard catch and run by Demaryius Thomas against the Pittsburgh Steelers. Like everyone else on the Broncos' offense, Thomas was invisible against the Patriots. Denver couldn't cover or tackle All-Pro tight end Rob Gronkowski, who tied a postseason mark with three touchdown catches, all in the opening half. Brady toyed with the Broncos (9-9), throwing more TD passes than Tebow had completions (three) in the first 30 minutes. "We were playing complementary football, and it was awesome," Gronkowski said. "Obviously, you can't start off the game any better than that." Brady's sixth TD was to his other tight end, Aaron Hernandez, as the quarterback tied Steve Young and Daryle Lamont for the most in a postseason game. The two-time league MVP threw for 5,235 yards during the season, second in NFL history to Drew Brees' 5,476 in 2011. He looked ready to get that much against the Broncos as he moved to third place in career touchdown passes in the playoffs with 36, trailing Joe Montana (45) and Brett Favre (44). Brady was 26 for 34 for 363 yards and Gronkowski made 10 catches for 145 yards as the Patriots gained 509 yards in all. In stark contrast, Tebow was 9 for 26 for 136 yards. The Broncos won the coin toss and elected to defer. Bad idea: They never were in the game after that. Brady hit his first eight passes for 79 yards and two touchdowns. Offensive coordinator Bill O'Brien, who's leaving to become Penn State's coach once the Patriots are done, threw in a wrinkle by using Hernandez as a running back. On one of those plays, Hernandez broke free down the left sideline for a 43-yard gain, the team's longest run this season. But with the ball in his hands and a 14-0 lead, Brady momentarily stumbled. His throw over the middle for Julian Edelman sailed directly to safety Quinton Carter, whose weaving return set up Denver at the New England 24. Willis McGahee scored on a 5-yard run. Carter left the game moments later with a neck injury; Denver was already without strong safety Brian Dawkins with a neck problem. And its secondary had no chance without them. Yes, Brady had cooled off, but only for a while. Using the no-huddle, and aided by an effective running game, Brady hit three passes for 31 yards, with Gronkowski getting free over the middle this time for the 12-yard score. Several times, and not just on his romps into the end zone, Gronkowski simply shoved aside would-be tacklers to tack on yards after catches. Brady's TDs covered 10, 12 and 19 yards to Gronkowski, 7 to Wes Welker, 61 to Deion Branch and 17 yards to Hernandez early in the third quarter. Coach Bill Belichick wasn't about to back off at that point, but the Patriots stalled inside the Denver 5 early in the fourth period and Stephen Gostkowski made a 21-yard field goal to conclude New England's scoring. Hernandez left in the fourth quarter with a head injury. "He's feeling great," Gronkowski said. "Hernandez is a beast and I love playing with him and everything." On Brady's surprise punt, which Belichick said they had worked on for years without using, Broncos rookie linebacker Von Miller slammed into the back of New England's Dan Connolly, who wasn't looking. Matt Light then shoved

Miller, Connolly turned around and got into a pushing match with Miller as several players joined in and shoved each other, spilling onto the Patriots' sideline. Miller drew an unnecessary roughness penalty. Notes: Brady holds team records for most playoff games with three or more TD passes (four); most yards passing in a playoff game (363); most postseason completions (450); most yards passing in postseason (4,770); most TD passes for a career (36); and most postseason victories for a quarterback (15). ... In addition to Carter's injury, S David Bruton left with a concussion in the third period. DT tackle Brodrick Bunkley also left in that quarter, with a concussion. © 2011 STATS LLC

Brady gets helps from defense, Cundiff FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) -- Imagine this: The New England Patriots make yet another Super Bowl, and Tom Brady is not the main reason. By his own assessment, Brady wasn't very good in the Patriots' 23-20 AFC championship game victory over the Baltimore Ravens on Sunday. Vintage Brady doesn't need much assistance in such settings, but he got plenty of it from the Patriots' much-maligned defense, and from Ravens kicker Billy Cundiff shanking a 32-yard field goal with 11 seconds remaining. Oh, yeah, Brady's 1-yard touchdown dive in which he soared over the Ravens' touted defensive line, provided the winning points with 11:29 remaining. "In some ways, you always beat yourself up," Brady said after throwing for 239 yards, with two interceptions and, for the first time in 36 games, no TD passes. "I've been doing this for quite a while. I'm glad we won, I'm glad we're moving on. Hopefully I can go out there and do better in a few weeks." That would be on Feb. 5 in Indianapolis in a rematch of the 2008 Super Bowl - Brady and coach Bill Belichick's only loss in the big game after three wins: a 17-14 shocker at the hands of the New York Giants when the Patriots were going for a perfect season. New England opened as a 3-point favorite against New York (12-7), which won at San Francisco 20-17 in overtime. The Patriots probably wouldn't have won their 10th straight game overall - the last loss was to the Giants in Foxborough - if not for their defense's newfound stinginess. New England (15-3) ranked 31st in defense this season, but played just as well as Baltimore's highly rated unit for most of Sunday. The Patriots shut down Ray Rice, the league's total yardage leader, who was limited to 78 yards. Brandon Spikes made a fourth-quarter interception of Joe Flacco, who played well before that and threw for two touchdowns. And when the Ravens were threatening to score a late touchdown to win their first conference title in 11 years, New England clamped down. Its most critical play came from backup cornerback Sterling Moore, who stripped Lee Evans of the ball on what could have been a winning TD catch in the dying moments. Cundiff, an All-Pro kicker in 2010, then botched his kick. "Child-like joy. It's all about child-like joy," linebacker Jerod Mayo said. "Last night felt like the day before Christmas for me and I haven't had that feeling in a long time. At this level, the day before Christmas is like a regular day. But now I just feel like I got my present." Brady waited out the final tense minutes on the sideline, and then celebrated with the rest of his team when Cundiff's attempt went wide left. The Ravens (13-5) looked on in stunned horror. Cundiff had no excuse. "It's a kick I've kicked probably a thousand times in my career. I went out there and didn't convert. That's the way things go," Cundiff said. "I just told him that it's going to be OK," added John Harbaugh, who in each of his four seasons as Ravens coach has led them to the playoffs, but never to the Super Bowl. "You know, we'll move on. He is a great kicker. You know, and everyone has a tough moment. All of us do, so Billy will be fine." Baltimore appeared to be in fine shape after Flacco threw his second touchdown pass of the day. Operating against a porous secondary missing its top cornerback, Kyle Arrington, who left in the second quarter with an eye injury, Flacco gave Baltimore its first lead. His short pass on third down to explosive receiver Torrey Smith turned into a 29-yard scamper down the right sideline after Moore completely whiffed on the tackle. Danny Woodhead's fumble on the ensuing kickoff set up Baltimore at the Patriots 28, but a third-down sack forced Cundiff to kick a 39-yard field goal, making it 20-16. Brady brought his team right back. He took the Patriots 63 yards in 11 plays, and seemed to score on a 1-yard run. The call was overruled by replay, though, and on fourth-down, he dived just high enough over the line for the winning points. "Every inch counts in this game and every foot counts in this game," said 12-year veteran guard Brian Waters, who joined the Patriots this year and is headed to his first Super Bowl. On his touchdown, Brady took a huge hit from Ravens star linebacker Ray Lewis, then emphatically spiked the ball as he walked away. Earlier, Brady showed his fire by barking at Lewis following a hard tackle on a 4-yard run. "It's a pretty mentally tough team," said Brady, whose fifth trip to the Super Bowl will equal John Elway's achievement with Denver. "There's really some resiliency. We've shown that all season. Even in the games we've lost, the three games we lost, we fought until the end. We're always going to fight to the end. It's great to be a part of a team like this." Stephen Gostkowski's 28-yard field goal gave New England a 3-0 lead. Cundiff tied it with a 20-yarder, but BenJarvus Green-Ellis ran in from the 7 for a 10-3 lead after he drew a personal foul against Lardarius Webb, who ripped off the running back's helmet on a short rush. Green-Ellis pointed to the patch on his jersey honoring Myra Kraft, the late wife of Patriots owner Robert Kraft, after he scored. In the locker room afterward, Kraft said he wasn't aware of Green-Ellis' gesture. "They're an amazing team, they're a great brotherhood, they're a family," Kraft said. Baltimore tied it on Flacco's 6-yard TD pass to Dennis Pitta before Gostkowski's 35-yard field goal made it 13-10. He also hit from 24 yards in the third quarter. In the end, it came down to the Patriots making just enough big plays, and Cundiff's miss. "It's definitely tough to be as close as we were to going to Indianapolis and not having it go our way," Flacco said. Instead, it went New England's way. "We stepped up," Pro Bowl nose tackle Vince Wilfork said. "We all stepped up big time. Being in this situation is a great moment. You have to cherish this moment." Notes: Brady won his 16th career postseason game to tie Joe Montana for most in NFL history. ... New England's seventh Super Bowl appearance puts it one behind Pittsburgh and Dallas. ... The Patriots are 7-1 in AFC title games, 4-0 at home. ... Brady and Belichick are the first QB-coach combination to win five conference championships in the Super Bowl era. ... Baltimore was 7-0 against playoff teams this season before Sunday's loss. ... The Ravens finished 4-5 on the road. ... In three career games against the Patriots, Rice averaged 145.7 yards, nearly double what he managed Sunday. © 2011 STATS LLC

Giants top Pats for 2nd Super Bowl in 4 years INDIANAPOLIS (AP) -- Tom Brady let his final pass fly toward the scrum of players in the end zone, hoping for an incredible finish. Uh-uh, Tom. Not in this city, and not in this game. Indianapolis is a Manning town, whether it's Peyton or Eli pulling out the wins. And the Super Bowl is suddenly the province of the New York Giants, who have figured out how to topple Brady and the New England Patriots in the biggest moments. Eli Manning led another fourth-quarter touchdown drive and won his second Super Bowl MVP on Sunday night, leading the Giants to a 21-17 victory that provided a pulsating finish to an NFL season that started with turmoil and a lockout. "It's been a wild game," said Manning, who now has one more Super Bowl title than his older brother. "It's been a wild season." A wild finish was certainly fitting. The Giants (13-7) almost didn't make the playoffs, needing a lot of help at 7-7 with two games left. Their defense finally came together, and Manning gave them a chance in every game with his penchant for comebacks - a league-record 15 touchdowns in the fourth quarter. Of course, his greatest career comeback was in that Super Bowl four years ago, when the Patriots were undefeated and Manning led a late scoring drive that included an enduring Super Bowl moment - the incredible catch David Tyree made by trapping the ball against his helmet. The Patriots (15-4) had a chance to avoid more such history on Sunday. Brady, trying to match boyhood hero Joe Montana and Terry Bradshaw with four Super Bowl titles, had New England in range to put it away late in the fourth quarter. Wes Welker dropped a pass at the 20-yard line with 4 minutes left, forcing a punt that gave the Giants another chance trailing 17-15. "It comes to the biggest moment of my life, and (I) don't come up with it," said a red-eyed Welker. "It's one of those plays I've made a thousand times." Manning's turn for more Super Bowl magic. He threw a spot-on 38-yard pass down the sideline to Mario Manningham,

fitting the ball perfectly between two defensive backs barreling down on the receiver. Manningham got both feet down before getting smacked out of bounds in front of the Patriots' bench, a catch that was upheld on replay and reminded the 68,658 fans at Lucas Oil Stadium - one in particular - about that other catch four years earlier. "In those situations, you are always looking to see who is going to be the guy," Tyree said, in the Giants locker room. Once Manningham came down with it, the Giants sensed things had turned their way, just like four years earlier. "I think they are both spectacular catches," Giants coach Tom Coughlin said. "I think with Mario's earlier tonight, the way he kept his feet inbounds and held onto the ball (while) going out of bounds was a remarkable thing." The Patriots were thinking the same thing, too. "I thought that play they made on our sideline was a phenomenal throw and catch," Brady said. "That got them going." They got down to the 6-yard line with just over a minute left and the Patriots down to one timeout. New York could have run the clock down to a few seconds and kicked a field goal. Patriots coach Bill Belichick did the math and decided on a trade-off: Give up a touchdown for some time. New England pulled up and allowed Ahmad Bradshaw to run the final 6 yards with 57 seconds left. Once Bradshaw realized what was happening, he tried to stop at the 1-yard line to keep the clock going but ended up falling backward into the end zone. Brady would get one last chance with the Giants defense bearing down on him, as it always does. Defensive end Justin Tuck huddled the New York defense after a touchback on the kickoff left the ball at the 20-yard line. "I think a lot of guys had their eyes lit up," Tuck said. "This is what we've been working for all year, and we've got 57 seconds left to be world champs." Brady set a Super Bowl record by completing 16 consecutive passes earlier in the game, topping Montana's record. When he needed several quick completions to get moving in the last minute, he couldn't do it. The Patriots got only as far as midfield with 5 seconds left. Brady threw a desperation pass into the end zone, where the ball was batted around in a scrum before falling incomplete just beyond the reach of All-Pro tight end Rob Gronkowski, bringing the spray of confetti from above. "You come down to one play at the end," Brady said. "If we make it, we're world champs. If we don't, we're wishing we were." Brady's had a tough time against this Giants defense. During the regular season, it pressured him into mistakes during a 24-20 New York win in Foxborough, Mass. The Patriots went on to win their next 10, a streak that ended when Brady faced that same defense on Sunday. It just seems to have his number. On his first pass of the game, Brady was pressured by Tuck in the end zone and threw the ball to an open spot downfield to get rid of it, resulting in a safety. By contrast, Manning didn't make any big mistakes and, again, was at his best under the last-minute pressure. "He's become confident over time, kind of grew into it," said his father, former New Orleans Saints quarterback Archie Manning. "I always felt like you have to experience those situations before you become confident. He's certainly had his share." And nobody will question anything he says again. Manning was criticized for insisting before the season that he's an elite quarterback. Then, with the Giants struggling, he was overshadowed by a different Manning drama. Peyton and the Colts were hoping to reach a Super Bowl in their stadium. Instead, the quarterback had neck operations and the team came apart, prompting ownership to clean house. The week leading up to the Super Bowl was overshadowed in town by talk about Peyton's future. Eli insisted he wasn't bothered by sharing the spotlight. In the fourth quarter on Sunday, he had it all to himself. Manning was 10 of 14 for 118 yards in the final quarter with his seventh game-winning drive of the season. Overall, he completed 30 of 40 for 296 yards with a touchdown and no interceptions, leading the Giants to their fourth Super Bowl championship - two behind Pittsburgh for the record. In the end, a Manning got to hoist the silver Super Bowl trophy in Indianapolis. "It just feels good to win a Super Bowl," Eli said. "Doesn't matter where you are." © 2011 STATS LLC

4. New York Jets

Week	Day	Date	Time (ET)		Opponent	Score	W/L/T	Stories
1	Sunday	Sep. 11	8:20 PM		Cowboys	27-24	W	Recap Box
2	Sunday	Sep. 18	1:00 PM		Jaguars	32-3	W	Recap Box
3	Sunday	Sep. 25	1:05 PM	at	Raiders	24-34	L	Recap Box
4	Sunday	Oct. 2	8:20 PM	at	Ravens	17-34	L	Recap Box
5	Sunday	Oct. 9	4:15 PM	at	Patriots	21-30	L	Recap Box
6	Monday	Oct. 17	8:30 PM		Dolphins	24-6	W	Recap Box
7	Sunday	Oct. 23	1:00 PM		Chargers	27-21	W	Recap Box
8								Bye Week
9	Sunday	Nov. 6	1:00 PM	at	Bills	27-11	W	Recap Box
10	Sunday	Nov. 13	8:20 PM		Patriots	16-37	L	Recap Box
11	Thursday	Nov. 17	6:20 PM	at	Broncos	13-17	L	Recap Box
12	Sunday	Nov. 27	1:00 PM		Bills	28-24	W	Recap Box
13	Sunday	Dec. 4	1:00 PM	at	Redskins	34-19	W	Recap Box
14	Sunday	Dec. 11	1:00 PM		Chiefs	37-10	W	Recap Box
15	Sunday	Dec. 18	4:15 PM	at	Eagles	19-45	L	Recap Box
16	Saturday	Dec. 24	1:00 PM		Giants	14-29	L	Recap Box
17	Sunday	Jan. 1	1:00 PM	at	Dolphins	17-19	L	Recap Box

Folk caps rally, kicks Jets past Cowboys 27-24 EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) -- Rex Ryan and the New York Jets tried to stay positive even though things appeared grim. After all, they trailed by 14 points and were unable to do much for three quarters against the Dallas Cowboys. As it turned out, the Jets were just getting started. "This was amazing," a smiling Ryan said. "It doesn't get much better than this, especially the way we got it done." An emotionally charged day for the Jets ended with an unlikely comeback as Nick Folk kicked a 50-yard field goal with 27 seconds left, giving them a 27-24 victory in the final game of the NFL's first full Sunday with the commemoration of the 10-year anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks as a backdrop. "It was a draining game," said Ryan, wearing an FDNY cap. "I am just so proud we were able to pull this thing out, for the town, as well. I probably even feel better about that than I do for our football team." Ryan wanted this one badly, and he said early last week that he felt more pressure to win this game than perhaps any other he has coached. And, it wasn't only the fact it was the home opener: He also wanted to beat his twin brother Rob, Dallas' defensive coordinator, with their father Buddy in the crowd. With pregame and halftime ceremonies honoring those affected by the attacks, the Jets felt they were taking on the role of "America's Team" against the Cowboys in front of a national television audience. "Oh my goodness, exciting," Jets running back LaDainian Tomlinson said. "It was rocking. I felt like I was at a concert, but we were on stage. It felt great tonight. You could feel the energy in the building, and that was a tribute to the fans." With the game tied at 24, the Cowboys had a chance for a winning drive with 59 seconds left, but Tony Romo was intercepted on the first play by Darrelle Revis, who returned it 20 yards to Dallas' 34. "We win that football game if I don't do what I did," Romo said. "It's hard to swallow." Four plays later, Folk kicked the go-ahead field goal against his former team. "I thought, 'Just make it look like an extra point,'" Folk said. "I took a deep breath before I went on the field." A few moments later, he was greeted by a sideline of wildly cheering teammates. "We just kept hanging in there and hanging in there, believing we can get it done," Ryan said. "I can't be more proud of our team. Obviously, we have a lot of work to do, but we'll take this kind of victory any day of the week." It was the third time in franchise history the Jets overcame a deficit of at least 14 points in the fourth quarter, and first since the "Monday Night Miracle" against Miami in 2000. "It was an emotional win," quarterback Mark Sanchez said. "It was the ultimate team win." It sure was, and it took some big plays on offense, defense and special teams to get it. The Jets tied it with 5 minutes left when Isaiah Trufant, promoted from the practice squad Saturday, ran in a blocked punt from 18 yards for a touchdown. Joe McKnight charged up the middle unblocked and got his hands on Mat McBriar's kick, which bounced right into Trufant's hands. "Your eyes light up and you pick up the ball and run," Trufant said. "I saw daylight and fans cheering." A few minutes earlier, it appeared the Cowboys were going to take a two-touchdown lead when Jason Witten's 64-yard catch put the ball at the Jets 3. Three plays later, Romo scrambled, then tried to run it in up the middle, but was sacked by Mike DeVito. The quarterback lost the ball, and it was recovered by Sione Pouha. "If we get points there, the game probably has a different story," Witten said. "At critical times, you can't have those mistakes." The Jets turned over the ball a few minutes later when a blitzing Danny McCray sacked Sanchez, hitting him from behind and knocking the ball loose. But the Cowboys couldn't take advantage when they had two penalties and were forced to punt - the play that swung the momentum in the Jets' favor. "We clearly need to play better at the end to win the ballgame," said Dallas' Jason Garrett, whose debut as the team's full-time coach was spoiled. Sanchez was 26 of 44 for 335 yards and touchdown tosses to Dustin Keller and Plaxico Burress, who played in a regular-season game for the first time in nearly three years. Sanchez, who was knocked around a bit in the game, appeared weary but said he felt fine. Burress last played in 2008 for the Giants before he spent 20 months in prison on a gun charge. He knew it would be an emotional moment when he finally took the field. "It feels like I never left," he said. "I still have some football shape to get into. I expected to be a little fatigued going into the fourth quarter." A few plays after putting a bone-crunching hit on Cowboys defensive back Michael Jenkins while blocking on a 28-yard catch by Santonio Holmes, Burress had a 26-yard catch as he spun into the end zone to make it 24-17 with 11:56 left. The play was reviewed by officials and upheld. "Mark just gave me an opportunity," Burress said. "He believed in me to make a play. He said my guy is better than your guy and he put it over there." Burress bowed to the crowd and then stretched both arms out with the ball in one hand, yelled to the crowd in celebration and gave the ball to his 4-year-old son Elijah. He finished with four catches for 72 yards. Romo was 23 of 36 for 342 yards and two touchdowns, picking on Antonio Cromartie on both to help give Dallas a 24-10 lead early in the fourth quarter. Romo threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to Dez Bryant on the Cowboys' opening drive. Miles Austin also outwrestled Cromartie for a 36-yard TD in the third quarter, and it appeared Romo's return after missing the final 10 games of last season with a broken left collarbone was going well - until it all fell apart in the fourth quarter. The Cowboys dropped to 246-1-1 when leading by 14 points or more in the fourth quarter, according to STATS LLC. "We lost this game because of me," a dejected Romo said. © 2011 STATS LLC

Sanchez, Cromartie lead Jets past Jags 32-3 EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) -- Rex Ryan stood in front of his offense Saturday night and issued an early season challenge. Let's see what you can do, he told his New York Jets players at the team hotel, if we win the coin toss and put the offense on the field first this time around. Well, Mark Sanchez & Co. got off to a fast start and broke a 16-game skid in which they failed to score an offensive touchdown in the first quarter, and Antonio Cromartie had two of the Jets' four interceptions of Luke McCown to cruise past the Jacksonville Jaguars 32-3 on Sunday. "That was huge," Sanchez said of the quick start. "We answered the call and now we just need to stay consistent, and that's on me." The Jets (2-0) won the toss, elected to receive - a rarity under the defensive-minded Ryan - and efficiently moved the ball down the field before scoring on a 17-yard catch by Santonio Holmes. "There was one streak we wanted to break and that's it, the first-quarter struggling offensively," Ryan said. "That's really a team deal and a team start. It was great to see them respond. When we tighten things up, not making communications mistakes, we're tough to beat." First-round pick Muhammad Wilkerson had his first NFL sack for a safety early in the game, helping set the tone for a long day for McCown and the Jaguars (1-1). The Jets' defense also felt challenged after Ryan opted to not give anyone on the unit a game ball following the season-opening victory over Dallas. "As a defense, as a whole, we want to cause havoc on our opponent as much as possible," Cromartie said. "That's what our defense is built on." Eric Smith and Josh Mauga also intercepted McCown, who was replaced by rookie Blaine Gabbert early in the fourth quarter after posting a dismal 1.8 quarterback rating while playing without injured tight end Mercedes Lewis. McCown was 6 for 19 for 59 yards, while Gabbert, the team's first-round pick, was 5 of 6 for 52 yards. "It was a tough one," said McCown, making his second start since replacing David Garrard. "The good thing is that it only counts for one game. We're 1-1 and we have to go back to work to get better." The Jets improved to 5-1 while wearing their navy New York Titans throwback jerseys, and are 2-0 for the second time in three years under Ryan. It was a crucial win for the Jets despite it being so early since they face three straight road games. It's uncertain if they will be without All-Pro center Nick Mangold, who left with an ankle injury late in the first quarter and didn't return. Ryan said X-rays were negative, but that Mangold would undergo an MRI exam Monday. "I don't expect it to be anything too crazy," said Mangold, who was on crutches and his foot in a boot after the game. Plaxico Burress, in his second game with the Jets after serving 20 months in prison on a gun charge, had no catches and saw just two balls come his way. "Four months ago, I was still hoping to play football again," Burress said. "I have nothing to complain about." Sanchez, who was rested for most of the fourth quarter, finished 17 of 24 for 182 yards with touchdowns to Holmes and Dustin Keller, and two interceptions. Keller had six catches for 101 yards, and Shonn Greene ran for 49 yards and a score. "For us to not score an offensive touchdown in the first quarter in 16 games before today, that's just crazy," Keller said. "Especially with all the weapons we have." New York was up 9-0 less than 5 minutes in, helped by its impressive opening drive. LaDainian Tomlinson had a 7-yard catch on third-and-4, and after a 2-yard run by Greene, Sanchez got plenty of time from his offensive line and connected with Keller for 33 yards. On the next play, Sanchez found Holmes, who brought down a high pass for a touchdown. Holmes had been questionable with an ailing knee and quadriceps muscle. The Jaguars' first possession was a sign of things to come as Sione Pouha deflected McCown's first pass, and on third down, Wilkerson beat Jaguars rookie left guard Will Rackley and flung McCown to the turf for a safety. The play was upheld after a review by officials. "It was awesome," Wilkerson said. "They got off to a fast start," Jacksonville coach Jack Del Rio said. "We'd like to be able to punt out of there and play defense. I thought we settled down and played decent defense for a large part of the afternoon. It was not an ideal way to start the ballgame, to take a safety and go down 9-0." Josh Scobee made it 9-3 with 3:02 left in the first quarter with a 55-yard field goal that was helped by Marquice Cole's interference penalty that set the Jaguars with great field position. But that was all the scoring for Jacksonville. "It was a day the Jets had their way, forced us to turn the ball over," Del Rio said. "They deserved to win today and they won handily." After Smith intercepted McCown and a 15-yard personal foul penalty on Eugene Monroe gave the Jets the ball in good field position, Nick Folk's 45-yarder made it 15-3 with 26 seconds left before the half. Keller's 11-yard touchdown catch put New York ahead 22-3 with 3:50 left in the third quarter, capping another impressive drive. It was helped when Sanchez ran for 7 yards and former Jets defensive back Dwight Lowery was called for a questionable unnecessary roughness penalty as he hit the New York quarterback as he was heading out of bounds. "If he was out of bounds, then I wouldn't be upset," Del Rio said. "When he is in the field of play and he has not slid, and we don't hit him high or low, then he's fair game." After nice 18-yard scoop catch by Holmes and a 2-yard run by Greene, Keller grabbed a pass that barely made it past the outstretched arms of Jaguars linebacker Paul Posluszny. A few moments later, Cromartie picked off McCown and returned it 26 yards to the Jaguars 1. It was initially ruled a touchdown, but a review showed the ball was out of bounds before Cromartie got it over the pylon. Greene then bulldozed his way into the end zone from a yard out to make it 29-3. On the Jaguars' next play from scrimmage, Mauga got the Jets' fourth interception of the game and helped set up New York's final score. "There's always room for improvement and to be more consistent," Jets cornerback Darrelle Revis said. "We started off very fast, set a great tempo and took it from there." Notes: Sanchez took a hard hit from Matt Roth on his last pass of the game and was checked out on the sideline, but said he was fine. ... Jacksonville's Maurice Jones-Drew had 88 yards on 18 carries and caught three passes for 19 yards. ... A week after having no penalties, New York was called for seven. ... The Jaguars played without starting cornerback Derek Cox (chest) and defensive end Aaron Kampman (knee). © 2011 STATS LLC

McFadden scores 2 TDs as Raiders bully Jets 34-24 OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) -- Darren McFadden ran past, around and through the Jets unlike any back has since Rex Ryan turned New York into one of the NFL's biggest bullies after arriving two years ago. About the only thing McFadden was unable to do was throw a pass - not for a lack of trying. McFadden rushed for 171 yards and two touchdowns and turned a broken halfback option play into a 27-yard run that set up the go-ahead score in the Oakland Raiders' 34-24 victory over the Jets on Sunday. "I told you guys I think he's one of the best players in football and he demonstrated that today," coach Hue Jackson said. After getting Oakland (2-1) back into the game with his 70-yard touchdown run in the second quarter - twice as long as any previous run in two-plus seasons against Ryan's Jets - McFadden helped the Raiders seize control during a dizzying stretch beginning late in the third. It started when rookie Chimdi Chekwa broke up a fourth-down pass to Plaxico Burress. Three plays later, Jackson called for a halfback option play that didn't work when the Jets covered Raiders quarterback Jason Campbell. "I wanted to throw the ball, but Jason being a quarterback, he was kind of covered, so I felt like it was in my best interest to just go ahead and run it," McFadden said. McFadden did just that, running 27 yards while faking a pass about 8 yards down the field. On the next play, rookie Denarius Moore took a reverse that the Jets appeared to have stopped. But Moore cut upfield to elude David Harris and Samson Satele flattened Jim Leonhard with a block, springing Moore for the touchdown that made it 24-17. "Let your players make plays," Jackson said. "That's what I'm trying to create here. I'm going to create an environment where our great players can do something special." Antonio Cromartie mishandled the ensuing kick and Taiwan Jones recovered the fumble at the 13. Michael Bush scored from 1 yard out 42 seconds after Moore's touchdown to make it 31-17 one play into the fourth quarter. That was one of four touchdowns on the ground on a 234-yard rushing day that was the worst the Jets (2-1) had allowed in 41 games - including playoffs - with Ryan as coach. "It was humiliating for us to have something like that happen to us," Jets defensive lineman Sione Pouha said. "All we can do is make the corrections that we need to do and bounce back." Mark Sanchez had a much rougher time on his second career trip to Oakland, getting bloodied on one of Oakland's four second-half sacks and needing a visor to protect a cut on his face. He also said after the game that he would have an X-ray to check if his nose was broken. It was a far different end than his game here two years ago, when he memorably was eating a hot dog on the sideline in the closing minutes of a 38-0 victory that was the most

lopsided home loss in Raiders history. Sanchez completed 27 of 43 passes for a career-high 369 yards, but threw a costly interception in the end zone in the first half. He later cut Oakland's lead to 31-24 with a 16-yard pass to Burress with 5:33 remaining. He also ran for one touchdown and had a second overturned by replay in the final minute, ending New York's last gasp. "I just feel like they're a revamped Raiders group," Sanchez said. "We had momentum on our side, we let them hang around at halftime then they came and knocked us around a little in the third quarter." A week after blowing a game defensively in the second half at Buffalo, the Raiders finished against New York. Campbell scrambled 10 yards and found Bush for a 28-yard gain after buying time with his feet to set up Sebastian Janikowski's 49-yard field goal with 2:32 left to ice it. Campbell was 18 for 27 for 156 yards, but the Raiders won this game in the trenches. "They're a physical football team and I felt like that played right into our hands," Raiders defensive tackle Richard Seymour said. "Because we're pretty physical up front on the offensive and defensive lines. Any time a team wants to come in and play that type of game with us, I like our chances all the time." The Raiders showed no hangover from last week's second-half collapse. They took just five plays to drive 76 yards for the opening score against the Jets, with tight end Kevin Boss making a 28-yard catch in his Oakland debut to set up McFadden's 2-yard run. The Jets responded with the next 17 points thanks to big plays from LaDainian Tomlinson. Tomlinson broke a tackle from Rolando McClain and took a short pass 74 yards down to the 1 to set up Sanchez's 1-yard TD run. Tomlinson later caught an 18-yard TD pass for his 160th career touchdown, including 26 against the Raiders. But McFadden's long run and a 54-yard field goal by Janikowski on the final play of the half tied the game at 17. © 2011 STATS LLC

Ravens score 3 TDs on defense to beat Jets 34-17 BALTIMORE (AP) -- The Baltimore Ravens have a week off to savor their latest win over Rex Ryan. Ryan, on the other hand, can't lament this defeat for long because he and the New York Jets have got another grudge match coming up. Baltimore scored three touchdowns off turnovers by Mark Sanchez in a 34-17 victory Sunday night. The win was the perfect way to end the first quarter of the season and head into a bye week. "We're going to watch the tape, note the mistakes, get better and get prepared for the next game," safety Ed Reed said. Baltimore's three scores on defense were the most in franchise history. Jameel McClain took a fumble by Sanchez 6 yards for a touchdown on New York's first offensive play, Jarret Johnson scored on a 26-yard fumble return and Lardarius Webb put the Ravens up by 17 points in the third quarter by taking an interception 73 yards into the end zone. The Ravens (3-1) held the Jets (2-2) to 150 yards and seven first downs in taking over sole possession of first place in the AFC North. "The best defensive effort I thought I had ever seen or the most amazing defensive performance I thought I'd ever seen was the Pittsburgh game with seven turnovers," coach John Harbaugh said, referring to Baltimore's season-opening 35-7 rout. "But this topped it. That's pretty impressive, to say the least." What made it even better was that it came against Ryan, who served 10 years with the Ravens until taking the Jets job before the 2009 season. "He created this and now he has to deal with us," Johnson said. "It was fun." Not so for Ryan. "I've been around football a long time and I've never seen anything like that," Ryan said. "The performance by their defense was spectacular. They were coming after us. That's a Ravens defense. It reminded me of the 2000 and 2006 defenses." Next up for the Jets: A trip to New England for a game against the Patriots. A week ago, New York gave up 234 yards rushing in a loss to the Oakland Raiders. This defeat can be attributed to Sanchez, who threw an interception and fumbled four times, losing three. He went 11 for 35 for 119 yards, and the only score he produced was a field goal by Nick Folk after a 25-yard drive. "He struggled mightily, there's no question about it," Ryan said. "It wasn't his best day, that's for sure, but he's our quarterback and I believe in him." New York has lost seven straight to the Ravens, the last two with Ryan on the Jets sideline. New York's touchdowns came on a 107-yard kickoff return by Joe McKnight and a 35-yard interception return by David Harris. The Ravens got 17 points off three fumbles by Sanchez to take a 27-7 lead in the second quarter, and although the Jets cut the gap to 10, they were unable to complete the comeback. "We all had our share in this loss," Sanchez said. "I'm fine pointing out my mistakes; as far as my mistakes, I'll take the blame for it." The Jets came out trying to pass. In hindsight, it might not have been a good idea. "The passing game early in the season has been doing pretty well," tight end Dustin Keller said. "We're a run first team and without that, we can't do what we want to do. So we have to correct that." Plaxico Burress, who had three catches for 33 yards, said, "We'll be fine. I've been through this before, where you lose a couple games in a row. We'll come out Wednesday focused on winning in New England." Down 27-17, New York got the ball on the Baltimore 27 after Joe Flacco fumbled when Jets linebacker Aaron Maybin picked up his first career sack. On the next play, Webb picked off a pass by Sanchez intended for Santonio Holmes on the right sideline and sprinted into the end zone with 8:49 left in the third quarter. Game over. "There is no need to panic right now," Burress said. "There is too much football left." Notes: Ravens LB Sergio Kindle made his NFL debut after missing all last season with a fractured skull and being inactive for the first three games this year. ... Jets LB Bryan Thomas hurt his ankle in the first quarter and did not return. LB Garrett McIntyre hurt his head in the second quarter. ... Baltimore has won 12 of its last 13 at home. ... The Ravens are 19-1 when scoring at least 30 points under offensive coordinator Cam Cameron. ... Flacco went 10 for 31 for 163 yards. His 37.4 QB rating was only slightly higher than Sanchez's 30.5. © 2011 STATS LLC

Patriots' defense steps up in 30-21 win over Jets FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) -- The New England Patriots were upset that opponents kept piling up yards on them. They took it out on the New York Jets. Even without star linebacker Jerod Mayo, the Patriots allowed just 255 yards and held the Jets without a first down on seven of their 11 possessions in a 30-21 win Sunday. "We said, 'Enough's enough,' and that's where you make your stand," said Patriots defensive end Andre Carter, who had seven tackles. It was a surprising showing by a defense that entered the game last in the NFL with an average of 477.5 yards allowed. And it played without its signal-caller, Mayo, who missed his first game because of a serious knee sprain. "I think every week we've been getting better and better and better (defensively) and today was a good day to get back on track," defensive tackle Vince Wilfork said. The Patriots (4-1) never trailed and won their 19th consecutive regular-season game at home. The Jets (2-3) lost their third straight. "We lost two in a row last year but we bounced right back from it," Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez said. "This is a little different territory. So we're going to see what a lot of guys are made of on this team and it's my job to get guys ready to play this next week against Miami." BenJarvis Green-Ellis rushed for a career-high 136 yards and two touchdowns and Tom Brady completed 24 of 33 passes for 321 yards, a touchdown and an interception after starting the day with an NFL-best 388 yards passing per game. "We want to be an offense that can be able to do whatever we want to do, run or pass, and complement our defense," said Green-Ellis, signed in 2008 as a rookie free agent from Mississippi. The Jets didn't do any of that well enough. Sanchez completed 16 of 26 passes for 166 yards and two touchdowns one week after going 11 for 35 for 119 in a 34-17 loss to the Baltimore Ravens. And the Patriots outrushed the Jets 152 yards to 97. "I thought we did some good things" on offense, New York coach Rex Ryan said, "but lacked a little consistency, obviously, and you have got to convert on third down." The Jets were just 3 for 11 on third down, compared to the Patriots' 7 for 14. "They did a great job spreading the ball around," New York cornerback Antonio Cromartie said. Before last season's 28-21 playoff win over the Patriots, Cromartie called Brady an expletive and said the quarterback showboated and pointed at the Jets sideline after a late touchdown during a regular-season game. But few players referred to the rivalry after Sunday's game. And the crowd was subdued in a lackluster first half and behaved most of the time as if the Jets were just another opponent. Brady had another strong day, completing 24 of 33 passes for one touchdown and one interception as the Patriots scored at least 30 points for the 13th straight regular-season game. The Patriots led 10-7 at halftime and 27-14 after Stephen Gostkowski's 24-yard field goal with 12:57 left in the game.

Then Sanchez led a comeback by completing 5 of 6 passes for 65 yards on an 85-yard drive capped by a 21-yard touchdown pass to Santonio Holmes with 7:14 left. But the Jets couldn't stop the Patriots, who held the ball for 6:12 as Green-Ellis ran 10 times for 59 yards. "BenJarvus is a great guy to block for," Patriots guard Logan Mankins said. "He reads the play out, he finds the hole and he won't fumble." Gostkowski ended the march with a 28-yard field goal, his third of the game, with 1:02 remaining. "Against New England, you've got to get off the field," Ryan said. "They did a great job sustaining drives. You've got to give them all the credit. They earned it." On the first play of the third quarter, Brady and Wes Welker connected for a 73-yard gain. Three plays later, a wide-open Deion Branch caught a 2-yard touchdown pass from Brady on the left side of the end zone. "I took my eyes off of him," Cromartie said. "I took one peep. As soon as I peeped, he went the opposite way. That's all on me." The Jets came right back when Joe McKnight returned the kickoff 88 yards one week after scoring on a 107-yard kickoff return. They needed just three plays to reach the end zone on a 3-yard touchdown pass from Sanchez to Jeremy Kerley, cutting the lead to 17-14. But the Patriots defense never let them catch up. "That was definitely our best game," Carter said, "and now we have to continue to get better." Notes: A moment of silence was held for former Oakland Raiders owner Al Davis, who died Saturday. ... Before the game, the NHL champion Boston Bruins came on the field to loud applause with captain Zdeno Chara holding the Stanley Cup. ... The Patriots' 13 straight regular-season games with at least 30 points are one less than the record set by the St. Louis Rams in 1999-2000. ... Jets C Nick Mangold played after missing two games with a high right ankle sprain. ... The Patriots had TE Aaron Hernandez and DT Albert Haynesworth back after they also were sidelined for two games. © 2011 STATS LLC

Jets end 3-game skid with 24-6 win over Dolphins EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) -- Mark Sanchez was all smiles in front of his locker for the first time in weeks, knowing exactly what this win meant for the New York Jets. "We're back on track," the relieved quarterback declared. Crisis averted. Season saved. With their locker room beginning to unravel because of mounting losses and infighting, Rex Ryan and his feuding Jets ended a three-game skid with a 24-6 victory over the winless Miami Dolphins on Monday night. "Hey, we needed a win in the worst way," Ryan said. "I'm just happy that we found a way to get one." This victory was far from pretty or convincing. But it didn't need to be. It only needed to not be another loss. After all, the Jets (3-3) came in as a team in turmoil, and a fourth straight loss - especially against the lowly Dolphins - could be catastrophic. "The guys came together and we knew coming into this week," wide receiver Santonio Holmes said, "that we couldn't allow an 0-4 team to come in here and get a victory." Darrelle Revis turned the momentum in the Jets' favor when he ran back the first of his two interceptions 100 yards for a touchdown late in the opening quarter and helped New York do just enough to avoid its first four-game skid under Ryan. Sanchez threw a 38-yard touchdown pass to Holmes and ran for another score as the Jets - who called this a "must-win" game - capped a rough week by sending the Dolphins to their fifth straight loss. "Losing was tough," Revis said. "It was hard coming to work. We wanted to get this win. We came in with a great game plan and guys stuck together." There were some serious doubts whether that would be the case, though. With frustration quickly spreading throughout the locker room, New York traded wide receiver Derrick Mason to Houston for what the team said was a lack of production. Then, the Jets had to deal with some infighting as Holmes called out the offensive line for not giving Sanchez enough time to throw deep. Right guard Brandon Moore fired back, saying those comments could have a "fragmenting effect" and were not what a captain, which Holmes is, should do. Ryan, who insisted his team's Super Bowl hopes would not be undone by locker room disharmony, even sent Holmes and Moore out as the captains for the pregame coin toss. "It was good," Holmes said. "We both looked each other in the eye and said, 'Let's go. It's time to play some football.'" Turns out, this game against the Dolphins (0-5) came at just the right time. Next up for New York: the San Diego Chargers (4-1) on Sunday, with a chance to head into the off week on a high note. "In every locker room, things like this happen," Ryan said. "Trust me, we're past that thing. It's unfortunate that it happened. We're chasing a much bigger thing than that. We're moving forward." Meanwhile, the Dolphins are 0-5 to start a season for the second time in five years, and things are looking an awful lot like 2007 - when Miami went 1-15. The heat on Dolphins coach Tony Sparano could intensify now. "It's tough right now," said wide receiver Brandon Marshall, who had six catches for 109 yards. "When you lose, everything looks bad. It's a nasty feeling in the building and a nasty feeling every day. The only thing we can do is fight to get a win." Marshall didn't even live up to his promise late last week that he would get ejected sometime in the second quarter. He also said he might even start a fight with Jets linebacker Bart Scott or cornerback Antonio Cromartie. It was all talk. But that's what many fans and media were thinking the struggling Jets were, too. And New York did little to convince them otherwise while the Dolphins got on the scoreboard first on Dan Carpenter's 23-yard field goal midway through the opening quarter. The night appeared to be taking an awful turn for the Jets when they lost the ensuing kickoff when it bounced off blocker Garrett McIntyre - standing in front of returner Joe McKnight - and was recovered by Austin Spitzer. But three plays later, Matt Moore threw at Marshall in the end zone and Revis stepped in front of the pass and returned it untouched 100 yards to make it 7-3. "That's exactly what we needed on defense, to set the tone early," Cromartie said. The return tied for the longest in franchise history, first set by Aaron Glenn in 1996, also against Miami. It was also the longest interception runback in the league this season. Moore, starting for the injured Chad Henne, was 16 of 34 for 204 yards and two interceptions. "It's rough, kind of the same old story, trying to find answers and make plays down there in the red zone and we seem to hit a wall," Moore said. "Just got to keep going." The Jets opened with four straight three-and-outs for the second consecutive game before getting things going late in the first half. On third-and-9 from the Jets 20, Jeremy Kerley caught a 14-yard pass for New York's initial first down of the game, with 6:17 left in the half. Then, the offense started clicking with a few long drives. Holmes' 38-yard grab early in the fourth quarter sealed it after Sanchez bought some time with his feet and found the receiver, who easily outran linebacker Cameron Wake and made a few nice moves on his way into the end zone to put New York up 24-6. "What happened last week was last week," Holmes said. "We're looking forward and ahead." Sanchez finished 14 of 25 for 201 yards and the touchdown pass to Holmes, and Shonn Greene ran for 74 yards on 21 carries. "To think that guys were upset or had it out for each other, that's crazy," Sanchez said. "Not here, not with Rex. I knew it was something that would pass, something we'd laugh off. Just getting a win changes everything." Notes: Dolphins RB Reggie Bush left in the third quarter with his right arm hanging at his side - it was announced as a neck injury. He had 71 yards rushing and two catches for 7 yards. ... Cromartie said he pulled himself out of the game late with a groin strain, but will definitely play against the Chargers. ... The Jets finished 6 of 15 on third down, while the Dolphins were just 2 of 13. ... The Jets sacked Moore four times, including two by LB Calvin Pace. © 2011 STATS LLC

Burress has 3 TDs; Jets rally, beat Chargers 27-21 EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) -- One trip into the end zone wasn't enough for Plaxico Burress. Neither was two. One touchdown catch after another, Burress had the big breakout game he and the New York Jets have been expecting. The veteran wide receiver tied a career high by catching three TD passes, including the go-ahead score that was set up by another interception by Darrelle Revis, and the Jets stormed back in the second half to defeat the San Diego Chargers 27-21 on Sunday. "Every morning you wake up on Sundays and you want to be great," said Burress, who has been slow to develop a rapport with quarterback Mark Sanchez. "I had to let the game come to me. I think I've been forcing it. But this was them saying, 'He's been working hard, we'll stick with it.'" "The fans pay money to come see you do well, and I felt for the past few weeks I was not playing well. This is gratifying." Leading 21-17, the Chargers appeared to be driving for a possible game-sealing score when Philip Rivers threw to Vincent Jackson and the ball tipped

off the receiver's hands and right to Revis, who returned the interception 64 yards to the Chargers 19. "It was a big play," said Revis, who thought cornerback Antonio Cromartie also got a piece of the ball. Revis had two interceptions on Monday night, including a 100-yard touchdown return, in the Jets' 24-6 win against the Miami Dolphins. After a few runs by Shonn Greene and a defensive holding penalty - the Chargers' 11th penalty in the game - Sanchez found Burress on a slant for a 3-yard touchdown to give the Jets (4-3) the lead for the first time with 8:41 remaining. It was Burress' second three-TD catch game of his career, and first since 2007 while with the Giants. "You've got to evaluate yourself," Burress said. "I looked at myself and said I've got to play better. It was not on anybody but myself." San Diego turned it over again on its next possession when the Chargers (4-2) faced a third-and-6 from their 41 and Kyle Wilson picked off Rivers for the first interception of his career. Nick Folk's 30-yard field goal with 1:36 left made it 27-21. San Diego had one last shot for a winning drive, but couldn't really threaten against New York's defense. "It's our fault," Chargers tight end Randy McMichael said. "You can ask any question you want to ask. The San Diego Chargers beat the San Diego Chargers. Nothing to do with the New York Jets. It's embarrassing." With the win, the Jets headed into their bye-week break with two straight wins - both at home - after a three-game road losing streak. They also are off to their first 4-0 start at home since 2004. "I feel like we're hitting our stride right now," coach Rex Ryan said. "We saw our team, the one we kind of envisioned at the start of the season. We were slow to get it going, but we saw it." Sanchez finished 18 of 33 for 173 yards, three touchdowns and an interception. Burress finished with four catches for 25 yards, but he provided the red-zone presence the Jets hoped he'd be when they signed him as a free agent after he served 20 months in prison on a gun charge. "He had three TDs," Ryan said with a grin. "Not bad." Greene had a season-high 112 yards on 20 carries. LaDainian Tomlinson, facing his former team for the first time since signing with the Jets last offseason, became the fourth running back in NFL history with 600 catches before leaving in the fourth quarter with the flu. He finished with 14 yards rushing and three catches for 37 yards. "I woke up this morning feeling pretty bad," he said, "but was able to push through as long as I could." The game had some added spice when Ryan created a coast-to-coast stir when he said he would've won a few Super Bowl rings if he had been hired as the Chargers' coach in 2007. That job went to Norv Turner, who shot back at Ryan asking if Ryan had those rings stored with the ones he has guaranteed with the Jets. The two shook hands after the game and had a brief but cordial conversation. "Before the game, I thought I could get him inside, work the body," Ryan joked. "Obviously, my chin is not so good. Again, it was unintentional and unfortunate. I have so much respect for Norv." The Chargers jumped out to an early lead and would have been up by a bunch if not for their mistakes. San Diego, coming off its bye, was called for a whopping 13 penalties. "The bottom line is we came out playing really well," said Rivers, who was 16 of 32 for 179 yards and a touchdown - and the two costly interceptions. "We just didn't finish off the game. If we played the second half like we played the first, it would have been a two-touchdown victory." Mike Tolbert gave San Diego a 21-10 lead with 1:16 remaining in the first half on a 1-yard touchdown run. New York had an impressive drive on its second possession of the second half, capping a 10-play drive on Burress' 4-yard touchdown catch that made it 21-17 with 2:57 left in the third quarter. "We put our defense in a hole early, it felt like," Sanchez said. "We almost spotted them 14 points." Donald Butler gave the Chargers an early 7-0 lead when he ripped the ball out of the hands of New York tight end Dustin Keller and scored on a 37-yard fumble recovery. New York appeared to take a 10-7 lead late in the first quarter on a 23-yard touchdown catch by Santonio Holmes, but the score was negated by a holding penalty on center Nick Mangold. Two plays later, Eric Weddle picked off a pass that set up Antonio Gates' 2-yard touchdown catch with 12:11 left in the first half. Gates, who missed three games with a flare-up of plantar fasciitis in his right foot, finished with five catches for 54 yards. The Jets came right back as Burress caught a 3-yard touchdown pass with 7:18 left in the opening half to make it 14-10. The Jets were helped by four Chargers penalties - two pass interference calls and two offsides - on the drive. "This," Revis said, "was a must-win for us." Notes: Tomlinson joined Larry Centers (827), Marshall Faulk (767) and Keith Byars (610) as running backs with 600 or more receptions. ... Jets DT Kenrick Ellis left with an ankle injury in the opening quarter and didn't return. ... Chargers LT Marcus McNeill sat out most of the second half with an undisclosed injury. © 2011 STATS LLC

Jets stop Bills 27-11 in AFC East showdown ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) -- Bart Scott and the New York Jets are accustomed to playing the role of villains. So the linebacker didn't feel any pangs of regret for putting a big dent in the Buffalo Bills and their feel-good start. "Everybody loves Cinderella stories," Scott said, referring to the Bills. "We've always been portrayed as the bad guys, but we relish in that role." And just like that, the big, bad, brash-talking Jets are back after Scott was part of a stifling 27-11 win in a key midseason AFC East showdown on Sunday. Rex Ryan's defense forced three turnovers and twice stopped the Bills on fourth down. The slow-starting Mark Sanchez-led offense finally got into gear in the second half to help New York win its third straight and improve to 5-3 and catch Buffalo and New England in the standings. "It's totally attitude," said defensive tackle Sione Pouha, who had a team-leading seven tackles and forced a fumble. "Jet-itude is the way we look at it. Today we displayed what Jet football is all about." Having done away with Buffalo, the Jets were already looking ahead to another AFC East showdown against the Patriots next weekend. It's a game Sanchez is already calling the "divisional championship." Sanchez overcame a pair of first-half turnovers to finish 20 of 28 for 230 yards and an 8-yard touchdown to Santonio Holmes. LaDainian Tomlinson and John Conner scored on 1-yard plunges as the Jets got their first road victory and handed the Bills their first home loss (4-1). The Bills looked nothing like the team that rolled through its first seven games in attempting to get off to a 6-2 start for the first time since 1993. They instead looked more like a team that's now lost four straight and six of seven against the Jets. "We just couldn't get anything going," quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick said. "They kept us frustrated all day and didn't allow us to do what we've been doing all year." Fitzpatrick finished 15 of 31 for 191 yards and two interceptions. He produced a mean-nothing 7-yard touchdown pass to David Nelson with 3:14 left, and the quarterback then ran the ball in for a 2-point conversion. Through their first eight possessions, they had as many turnovers - three - as they did first downs while also being held to under 20 points for the first time this season. So much for the statement the Bills hoped to deliver, or the "It's our turn" comment receiver Stevie Johnson made earlier in the week. "It's disappointing," said Johnson, who had three catches for 84 yards. "Nobody wants to lose against the Jets. That's how we feel in here." The loss came as a huge letdown for a pompom waving, passionate fan-base that filled Ralph Wilson Stadium. Many of the fans wore white to match their team wearing all white uniforms for the first time since 1986. "They played well and we played poorly," Bills coach Chan Gailey said. "It was a big ballgame. We haven't had this happen at home this year. And we've got to get better." It doesn't get easier for the Bills, who now prepare to hit the road for four of five games, including their next three. The Jets took over in the third quarter, when they outscored the Bills 17-3 to build a 20-3 lead. Tomlinson scored 6:26 into the period to make it 13-0 three plays after Pouha forced Fred Jackson to fumble. Sanchez then hit Holmes for an 8-yard touchdown. The Jets' defense then sealed the win in the first minute of the fourth quarter. With Buffalo threatening, Scott and Calvin Pace combined to stuff Jackson for no gain on fourth-and-inches at the New York 15 yard line. The Jets responded with a 14-play, 84-yard drive capped by Conner's TD. New York continued to focus on its ground game which combined for two scores and 126 yards - the team's second-best total of the season. "I'm sure now there's going to be something written about the Jets being back," Scott said. "And we won't listen to that either, because at the end of the day, we know that you guys (in the media) don't know what the hell you're talking about." Notes: Ryan said RB Shonn Greene was "a bit dizzy," and was held out for precautionary reasons. TE Dustin Keller returned after hurting his head after landing hard on the turf in the first quarter while attempting to hurdle two Bills defenders. ... Nick Folk hit two of three field-goal attempts, including a 50-yarder into the wind. ... Bills PK Rian Lindell hit a 24-yard field goal. Lindell was having tests after the game after he hurt his

right shoulder while making a diving tackle on Joe McKnight's kickoff return to open the second half. ... Bills Hall of Fame owner Ralph Wilson made his first appearance of the season at Orchard Park after he missed his team's first four home games while recovering from a broken hip. © 2011 STATS LLC

Brady throws 3 TDs as Pats beat Jets 37-16 EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) -- A few classic drives. An impressive rout. Total control of the division. Struggling no more, Tom Brady and the New England Patriots sent a clear message Sunday night: They're still the team to beat in the AFC East. Not the Buffalo Bills. And certainly not the New York Jets. Brady threw three touchdown passes, including two to Rob Gronkowski, and the Patriots assumed sole possession of first place in the division with a convincing 37-16 victory over the Jets on Sunday night. "It's very sweet," Brady said, "getting this win." Especially after two consecutive losses had some wondering if the Patriots (6-3) were no longer the powerhouse they've been for years. Well, not so fast. "Losing two straight, you have 14 days of just feeling crappy," Brady said. "Every day of practice is harder. It's hard to build on losses. It feels really good to win this one." After the Jets got within a score at 23-16 early in the fourth quarter, Brady coolly led the Patriots down the field on an 84-yard drive that was capped by an 8-yard touchdown catch by Deion Branch. New England linebacker Rob Ninkovich then sealed the victory - which snapped a two-game skid - on the Jets' next possession with a 12-yard interception return for a touchdown midway through the final quarter. "One game won't win you much," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said, "but it's a good win and we're certainly happy to have it." The game was a showdown for the top spot in the division, but it was no contest as the Patriots took over sole possession by snapping the Jets' three-game winning streak and sweeping the regular-season series. "It looks doubtful right now," Jets coach Rex Ryan said of his team's chances of winning the division. "Maybe I should guarantee we're out of it. The last time I did we made it. "Yeah, we got no chance." Buffalo entered the day tied with New England and New York, but the Bills were blown out by the Dallas Cowboys 44-7. It was also the first home loss for the Jets (5-4) after opening 4-0, but they can't dwell on it because they play again at Denver on Thursday night. "You're not going to beat many teams when you make the mistakes that we made," Ryan said. "We've been down this road before. I apologize to our fans." Ryan insisted his team was greatly improved since a 30-21 loss at New England on Oct. 9 and declared it a must-win if New York wanted to get some home playoff games. Turns out, the Jets still have plenty of work to do if they expect to dethrone the Patriots. "It just wasn't our night," Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez said. "We earned what we got tonight." New England was coming off consecutive losses to Pittsburgh and the Giants, but said there was no concern in its locker room. It certainly showed as the Patriots avoided their first three-game losing streak since 2002. Brady finished 26 of 39 for 329 yards, the 40th time he reached the 300-yard mark in a regular-season game, breaking a tie with Hall of Famer Joe Montana for eighth on the NFL's list. He also joined New Orleans' Drew Brees as the only players to throw for 3,000 yards in their team's first nine games. Brees also accomplished the feat this season. Brady and Belichick broke a tie with Miami's Dan Marino and Don Shula as the winningest quarterback-coach duo since 1966 with 117 victories. "The good teams keep getting better this time of year," Brady said. "That's what we need to do." Gronkowski finished with eight catches for 113 yards and the two scores, and Stephen Gostkowski kicked three field goals. Andre Carter had a team-record 4 1/2 sacks as the Patriots' defense - ranked last in the league coming in - harassed Sanchez all night. Sanchez was 20 of 39 for 306 yards and a touchdown, but was intercepted twice and sacked five times. LaDainian Tomlinson passed Hall of Famer Barry Sanders for fifth place on the NFL's career list for yards from scrimmage, but left the game with an injured left leg which was tightly wrapped in the locker room. He said he would have "some tests" on Monday. The Jets appeared to get back in it when Plaxico Burress caught a 7-yard fade pass over Antwaun Molden in the right corner of the end zone for a touchdown on the first play of the fourth quarter, making it 23-16. But Brady went right back to work, leading the Patriots on a typically efficient drive, going 84 yards on 13 plays using a no-huddle offense that kept the Jets' defense off balance. Mixing in some solid runs by Danny Woodhead, Brady calmly spread the ball around to his receivers before connecting with Branch with 8:04 remaining. The score sent many in the crowd at MetLife Stadium heading for the exits. Many of those who remained didn't stick around much longer once Ninkovich returned an errant pass by Sanchez 12 yards to make it 37-16 with 7:45 left. "Bill challenged us last week," nose tackle Vince Wilfork said. "We took his challenge and it showed tonight." Three Jets bobbled a muffed punt by Joe McKnight to set up Gostkowski's short field goal for a 16-9 lead. A few minutes later, Ninkovich returned a twice-tipped interception as Sanchez's throw went off the hands of running back Shonn Greene, then was deflected by linebacker Jerod Mayo to Ninkovich. The Jets got on the scoreboard when they got some rare pressure on Brady. Jamaal Westerman got to the Patriots quarterback in the end zone, and Brady threw the ball away left-handed and was called for intentional grounding and a safety. New York took the free kick and moved 65 yards on seven plays, and Sanchez ran in from the 2 on a quarterback draw for a 9-6 lead. But the Jets quarterback made a mistake on the play right before his score, calling a timeout with 1:24 left in the half. Ryan was so angry, he told NBC at halftime that the timeout was the "stupidest play in NFL history." Adding to the frustration was New York not opting to try a pooch kickoff following a 15-yard penalty on New England's Wilfork, and Nick Folk kicked the ball through the end zone. Brady hit five passes on an 80-yard drive, with Gronkowski getting open over the middle for the 18-yard score with 9 seconds left in the half that made it 13-9. NOTES: The Patriots lost CB Devin McCourty to an injured right shoulder midway through the second quarter after he collided with teammate Sterling Moore. ... Jets WR Patrick Turner had his first catch of the season, but later left with what the team called "a kidney injury." ... Patriots WR Chad Ochocinco had two catches for 65 yards, his first receptions since the last time these teams played, on Oct. 9. © 2011 STATS LLC

Tebow, Broncos top Jets 17-13 on last-minute drive DENVER (AP) -- There's a new Comeback Kid in Denver, and John Elway's proudly looking on as this plucky quarterback wins with his legs, not his arm. Tim Tebow's 20-yard touchdown run with 58 seconds left capped a 95-yard drive and sent the Broncos to a 17-13 victory over the stunned New York Jets on Thursday night. "I like winning," Tebow said after his third comeback in a month, "but I wish it wasn't this stressful." The Broncos had punted on their eight previous possessions when they got the ball with less than 6 minutes and 95 yards to go. Tebow calmly drove Denver down the field, thwarting a Jets defense that had throttled him all night. "We played them well, through the whole game, until that last play," Jets star cornerback Darrelle Revis said. "We played them well. Tim Tebow's legs took them to victory, ran them to victory." On third-and-4 from the Jets 20 and under a minute left, the Broncos got an extra minute to think about things when a fan ran onto the field and was corralled by security. During the break, the Jets dialed up their first all-out blitz of the night. Tebow took the snap from the shotgun with 1:06 left, read the blitz and outflanked safety Eric Smith around the left edge, then cut back and bulled his way past other Jets into the end zone. "He shocked me," Revis said, "probably shocked a lot of people." Not Jets coach Rex Ryan. "You know he's going to keep it in that situation. That's what he does. You keep the ball in your playmaker's hand," Ryan said. "We thought he was going to carry the ball and he didn't disappoint us. But he ran for a touchdown. The kid's a competitor and makes big plays with the game on the line." The Jets (5-5) lost for the second time in four nights. The Broncos (5-5) are 4-1 since Tebow replaced Kyle Orton, and at .500, they're a-half game behind Oakland in the AFC West race. "He's a competitive dude," Broncos coach John Fox said. "He's super competitive. He never lays his sword down. He'll fight you to the death. That's just his nature. He's a great young man." Mark Sanchez's desperation pass toward the end zone was batted down as time expired and the Jets trudged off the field with their playoff hopes dimmed just a week after they were brimming with optimism. Nick Folk's 45-yard field goal had broken a 10-10 tie with 9:14 remaining, and the Broncos found themselves facing a daunting task when they got the ball back with 5:54 left at their own 5. New York safety Jim Leonhard could have

quashed Denver's winning drive on the first play when he wrapped up Eddie Royal in the end zone on a throw to the right flat, but Royal wiggled free for 8 yards. Tebow ran just twice for 11 yards until the final drive, when he carried seven times for 58 yards in a performance reminiscent of his miracle in Miami, when he was ineffective for 55 minutes, then led the Broncos to two TDs in the final 5 minutes of a game Denver won in overtime. "I think it was just a bunch of guys that kept fighting, that had been knocked down a bunch of times and got back up," Tebow said. "I'm proud of these guys for their resiliency and determination." After completing just two passes in a win at Kansas City four days earlier, Tebow completed 9 of 20 passes for 104 yards Thursday night. "I said before, I trust him. I trust him with everything," teammate Von Miller said. "No matter how many interceptions he throws, no matter how many touchdowns he scores, that's Tim Tebow and I'm going to ride with him to the end. I hope he shut up a whole bunch of critics today." The debate across the NFL is whether the option is sustainable? After all, when Elway joined the team's front office this year, he said Tebow had to become a pocket passer to make it in this league. "I want to run whatever's going to work," Tebow said, disputing the notion advanced by Hall of Famer and TV broadcaster Steve Young that he must be mad that Fox isn't letting him throw the ball more like a conventional quarterback. Before Denver's unorthodox option offense prevailed again, it appeared the Jets were going to win this one thanks to an oddball touchdown. Left guard Matt Slauson recovered rookie running back Bilal Powell's fumble at the 1 and dived across the goal line early in the third quarter to give New York a 10-3 lead. "It was awesome at the time," Slauson said. "Unfortunately, it doesn't mean anything now." Denver tied it at 10 when Andre' Goodman stepped in front of Plaxico Burress and picked off Sanchez's ill-advised pass and returned it 26 yards for a touchdown. "I shouldn't have thrown it," Sanchez lamented. "It's an embarrassing play on my part." It was the third pick-six Sanchez and thrown this year, and the Jets followed that with their fourth lost fumble on special teams when Joe McKnight coughed it up on the kickoff return at his 41. Cassius Vaughn recovered for Denver, but the Broncos couldn't capitalize this time, going three and out. McKnight and Powell shared snaps after New York's backfield took another hit when starting running back Shonn Greene took a knee to the ribs and didn't return. They were already without LaDainian Tomlinson (knee), so Powell was activated for the first time all season. With each game, the Broncos mold their offense more and more to fit Tebow's unique skill set that made him the most successful combination college quarterback in NCAA history, just as former Florida coach Urban Meyer once suggested an NFL team would have to do. And they keep watching him run roughshod over defenders who are bigger, faster and stronger than they were in the SEC. "He did it to us in college and he's doing it here," said teammate Robert Ayers, who went to Tennessee. "It doesn't have to be pretty, it doesn't have to be Aaron Rodgers-like. As long as we get it done, that's all that matters." Notes: Broncos WR Eric Decker's girlfriend, country singer Jessie James, performed at halftime. ... Greene said X-rays were negative. ... No Jets offensive lineman had scored on a fumble recovery since guard Randy Rasmussen smothered running back Cliff McClain's fumble in the end zone against Miami in 1972. --- Follow AP Pro Football Writer Arnie Melendrez Stapleton on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/arniestapleton> © 2011 STATS LLC

Sanchez throws 4 TDs as Jets top Bills 28-24 EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) -- This was one frantic finish the New York Jets might consider a turning point if they end up pulling off another late-season playoff push. Mark Sanchez threw a career-high four touchdown passes, including the winning 16-yard score to Antonio Holmes with just over a minute remaining, as the Jets kept pace in the AFC playoff race with a 28-24 comeback victory over the Buffalo Bills on Sunday. "He's at his best," coach Rex Ryan said of his quarterback, "in big moments." And, this was certainly one of them. One win down. Five more to go. With several Jets players saying they needed to win each of their last six games to reach the postseason, things appeared bleak with New York (6-5) trailing 24-21 after Dave Rayner's 53-yard field goal and facing a third-and-11 from the Bills 36. But Sanchez connected with Plaxico Burress, who reached up and made an impressive one-handed grab along the left sideline for 18 yards and the first down. "It was crazy," Jets cornerback Darrelle Revis said of the catch. "He's 6-foot-5 and he's got those 'Go-Go-Gadget' arms. It was probably one of the best catches I've seen in a while." Added Sanchez: "I don't know if words could do it any justice. It was a big-time catch in a crucial situation." Sanchez quickly ran a quarterback sneak - just to make sure there was no challenge, even though replays showed Burress caught it cleanly. On the next play, Sanchez rolled out to his right to buy some time and found Holmes alone in the right corner of the end zone to give the Jets the lead with 1:01 left. "I felt good," Sanchez said of his confidence entering the winning drive. "We've been in that situation before." But the Jets then had to overcome a valiant comeback attempt by the Bills (5-6), who have lost four straight. With Buffalo driving for a winning score, a wide-open Stevie Johnson dropped a pass that would have gone for a long gain. Ryan Fitzpatrick also threw behind Johnson in the end zone with 8 seconds left that might have been a touchdown. "It's hard," Fitzpatrick said. "They scored at the end and we had a legitimate four chances to get it in there in the end zone and unfortunately we were unable to make the plays. It hurts real bad." Sanchez wasn't great in this one, going 17 of 35 for 180 yards and an interception, but came through with the game on the line. It was his eighth fourth-quarter comeback victory in two-plus seasons. He also threw two touchdown passes to Dustin Keller and another to Burress as the Jets rebounded from a deflating loss to Tim Tebow and the Denver Broncos 10 days ago. "Defensively, the one thing we can say is we finished," Ryan said. Fitzpatrick was 26 of 39 for 264 yards and three touchdowns, but couldn't pull out one more in the end. Buffalo played without several injured starters, including Fred Jackson and George Wilson. Johnson had one of the Bills' touchdown catches late in the first half and got up and mocked being shot in the thigh, clearly making fun of Burress who served 20 months in prison for shooting himself in the leg in a nightclub in 2008 while he was with the Giants. Johnson then ran to the left side of the end zone mocking the "flight" celebration the Jets often use after scoring and fell to the ground, getting flagged 15 yards for excessive celebration on the play that gave Buffalo a 14-7 lead. "I was just having fun and part of having fun ended up being a penalty and a touchdown for the Jets," Johnson said. "It was a stupid decision by myself." New York was already going to have good field position, but Rayner flubbed a squibbed kick attempt that hit off the Jets' Emanuel Cook, who recovered the ball at Buffalo's 36. The Jets moved to the 14 when Buffalo's Marcell Dareus was hit for a 15-yard penalty for using his helmet to make contact with Sanchez. Three plays later, Burress caught a 14-yard touchdown pass in the back of the end zone to tie it at 14 with 1:03 left in the half. Burress simply bowed to the crowd and ran to the stands and handed the ball to his son Elijah, as he always does after scoring receptions. "I've seen worse, and I've heard worse," Burress said of Johnson's celebration. "So, it doesn't bother me at all. The result I'm looking at is we won the football game." The Jets' offense started the third quarter with a nice drive capped by Keller's second touchdown catch of the game that gave New York a 21-14 lead with 3:50 remaining in the period. After the Jets held the Bills to three-and-out late in the third quarter, Buffalo got the ball right back when cornerback Antonio Cromartie - who was returning the punt because Jim Leonhard was a bit banged up - muffed the fair catch and Leodis McKelvin recovered at New York's 36. McKelvin injured his ribs on the play and left the game. Fitzpatrick went for a big play right away, throwing a ball up deep down the right sideline to former Jets wide receiver Brad Smith, who appeared to get a hand on it, along with Cromartie, and tapped the ball up, grabbed it out of the air as the defender fell and took off into the end zone for a career-best 36-yard touchdown that tied it at 21 with 2:11 remaining in the third quarter. Notes: David Nelson had the Bills' other touchdown, an 8-yard catch that gave Buffalo a 7-0 lead late in the opening quarter. ... Jets DE Mike DeVito left in the third quarter with a right knee injury, and Ryan had no update on the severity. ... Former Bills first-rounder Aaron Maybin had two of the Jets' three sacks. He had none in two unproductive seasons in Buffalo. ... Fitzpatrick became the fifth QB in team history with 50 TD passes, joining Jim Kelly, Joe Ferguson, Jack Kemp and Drew Bledsoe. © 2011 STATS LLC

Sanchez, Jets come back again, top Redskins 34-19 LANDOVER, Md. (AP) -- With the New York Jets trying to close out another too-close-for-comfort fourth-quarter comeback, coach Rex Ryan walked up to the player known as "Mayhem." "Fourth-quarter sacks win games," Ryan said. Linebacker Aaron Maybin then took his spot on the field and did one better. He not only sacked Rex Grossman, but also dislodged the ball from the Washington Redskins quarterback. The Jets recovered, setting up the first of two insurance touchdown runs by Shonn Greene that closed out Sunday's 34-19 win. "Fourth-quarter fumbles," Ryan said, "are even better. ... I think we need to get some jerseys out there with 'Mayhem' on their back." The Jets needed big plays in the waning minutes because, for the second straight game, their first three quarters were so-so. Yet, when the game was on the line, Mark Sanchez was able to lead his 10th career fourth-quarter or overtime comeback victory - and his second in two weeks - highlighted by his 30-yard pass to Santonio Holmes for the go-ahead touchdown with 4:49 to play. The victory kept New York (7-5) in the realistic hunt for an AFC playoff berth. The Jets scraped by the Buffalo Bills in similar fashion last Sunday, the first step in the team's stated mission to win out and make the postseason for a third straight year. "It tells us we have to get better," Ryan said. "Sometimes, you don't like it to come down to that." The Jets had only 168 total yards after three quarters, committed untimely penalties and had another special teams turnover against the Redskins (4-8), who have lost seven of eight and are expected to lose two starters - tight end Fred Davis and left tackle Trent Williams - for the remainder of the season for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy. Sanchez completed 19 of 32 passes for only 165 yards, but avoided throwing an interception after having at least one in five straight games. He also didn't get sacked for the second straight week. Greene ran for three touchdowns and finished with 88 yards on 22 carries. He again carried the load despite the return of LaDainian Tomlinson, who had missed the two previous games with an ailing left knee. Tomlinson appeared to reinjure the knee in the first quarter but later came back into the game. "It was rough the first half," Greene said. "But we just kept together and kept plugging away." Grossman completed 19 of 46 passes for 221 yards and one interception, and the sack-and-fumble by Maybin deep in Washington territory with the score 20-16 thwarted the Redskins' chance for a fourth-quarter comeback. Calvin Pace recovered, and Greene took a direct snap and scored on a 9-yard run two plays later to give the Jets an 11-point lead. "That was just one of those situations where we knew as a defense it was crunch time," said Maybin, who has six sacks on the season and wore a black T-shirt that read, "Duh, winning" in the locker room. "We've been in those situations." Graham Gano's fourth field goal, a 43-yarder with 1:59 to play, pulled the Redskins within eight. Washington then failed to recover an onside kick, and Greene scooted in from 25 yards with 1:47 remaining. The Jets trailed 16-13 after Gano's 46-yard field goal with 7:52 to go, but a mis-hit kickoff was returned by Josh Baker near midfield. Sanchez and the New York offense then came back to life, with the quarterback scrambling to avoid pressure before completing a 10-yard pass to Greene on a third-and-4 two plays before the big throw to Holmes down the left sideline. A tough Redskins season took another blow with the news about Davis and Williams. A person with knowledge of the situation, speaking on condition of anonymity because no official announcement has been made, told The Associated Press that the players are expected to be suspended by the NFL for four games. Davis had one of his best games of the season, catching six passes for 99 yards. The Redskins didn't comment on the suspensions, so most of the public thoughts expressed after the game concerned an offense that produced a touchdown on the game's opening drive - then didn't find the end zone again. The score came on a 2-yard run by rookie Roy Helu, who rushed for 100 yards for the second straight week. "The first half was all right," said Grossman, who needed a shot for his sore left shoulder before the game. "The second half, it was always something. ... It's just frustrating. I don't really have an answer for you." The Jets responded with a real clock-eater: 17 plays, 74 yards over 9:06, including three wildcat plays and a fourth-and-1 conversion. After the teams traded field goals, rookie Jeremy Kerley muffed a punt deep in New York territory and the Redskins recovered - the NFL-high sixth special teams turnover committed by the Jets this season. It set up another field goal by Gano to give Washington a 13-10 lead at the half. But it was another late surge that left Ryan confident that the Jets are playoff-bound. "We know where we think we're going," he said. "More confident than 100 percent? I don't know about that." Notes: Jim Leonhard, replacing Kerley as the return man after Kerley's fumble, ran back a punt 14 yards in the third quarter to set up a field goal. ... Other injuries: Redskins S D.J. Gomes (right knee) and Jets KR Joe McKnight (hyperextended elbow). --- Joseph White can be reached at <http://twitter.com/JGWhiteAP> © 2011 STATS LLC

Sanchez leads Jets to 37-10 rout of Chiefs EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) -- Mark Sanchez jogged onto the field for the first play of the game and immediately had to call an embarrassing timeout. It was just about the only thing that stopped the New York Jets all afternoon. Sanchez became the first Jets quarterback to throw two touchdown passes and run for two more scores as New York got off to a fast start and improved its positioning in the AFC playoff race by cruising to a 37-10 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs on Sunday. "I was happy we had another opening-drive touchdown," Sanchez said. "It set the tone early, and we converted on some big third downs and didn't get too many third downs, which was good. We had some explosive plays and the run game really took off." The Jets, plagued by slow starts all season, opened with a timeout - and boos from the MetLife Stadium crowd - because they had the wrong personnel on the field, but rebounded to score 28 points in the first half and were helped by an inept Chiefs offense that managed just 4 total yards in the first two quarters. New York (8-5) also leapfrogged Cincinnati, Tennessee and Oakland, all 7-6 after losses Sunday, and took over the last wild-card spot in the AFC. "It's just what we've been talking about for the last 12, 13 weeks," linebacker Calvin Pace said. "It all came to form today, which is what we needed. We kind of hold our own destiny in our hands and it was about getting a good win." Sanchez was 13 of 21 for 181 yards before being pulled for Mark Brunell with the game in hand, and was cheered warmly in pregame introductions after being booed in the team's last home game two weeks ago. Shonn Greene had a season-high 129 yards rushing and a score along with three catches for 58 yards, and Santonio Holmes and LaDainian Tomlinson each caught touchdown passes for the Jets, who have won three straight and improved to 6-1 at home. "I guess it would be our best game so far this year," coach Rex Ryan said. It might have been a costly win, though, as starting safety Jim Leonhard was lost early with an injured right knee after an interception. He was scheduled to have an MRI exam on his right knee Monday to determine the severity of the injury. Many teammates thought it could be season-ending, but the team would await the results before making an official determination. "I'm hopeful it's not that bad," coach Rex Ryan said, "but it's never good when you need help coming off." Tyler Palko was sacked five times by the Jets in a miserable outing by the penalty-plagued Chiefs (5-8) a week after the quarterback earned his first victory as a starter at Chicago. He was 3 for 8 for 11 yards in the half, sacked three times, and the Chiefs had 4 total yards and one first down, compared to the Jets' 16. Palko had a much better second half, finishing 16 of 32 for 195 yards and a touchdown and an interception. "The Jets put a lot of pressure (on you)," Palko said. "That's just what they do. They're a lot like the Steelers. They have guys all over the place." Dwayne Bowe dropped a would-be touchdown pass midway through the fourth quarter, but things got ugly for the Chiefs way before that. In the most brutal stretch for Kansas City, the Chiefs were penalized five times for 81 yards during the Jets' final touchdown drive. One of those was an unsportsmanlike conduct call on coach Todd Haley, who let his frustrations out on the officials. Kansas City finished with 11 penalties. "That generally gets you beat," said Haley, who wouldn't elaborate on what he said to the officials. "The one thing we can't do is lose our composure on calls." Sanchez's 1-yard run gave the Jets a score on their first drive, the second straight game they've done that, but it began ominously as he had to call the timeout. "That wasn't great," Ryan said. "That's not going to go on my coaching resume." An 11-play, 77-yard drive followed, jumpstarted by Greene's 31-yard rumble on the opening snap. On third-and-goal from the 3, Sanchez threw incomplete into the end zone, but Chiefs cornerback Javier Arenas was called for holding, giving

the Jets a new set of downs at the 1. Sanchez then took the snap, faked the handoff to Greene and it appeared every Chiefs player bit as the Jets quarterback rolled to his left and strolled into the end zone untouched. After Leonhard was injured and carted off the field, Sanchez dumped the ball off quickly to Greene, who zipped down the left sideline 36 yards before going out of bounds at the 2. Sanchez found Holmes in the middle of the end zone two plays later for a 4-yard touchdown and a 14-3 lead. Greene's 7-yard touchdown run put New York ahead 21-3 after a called fumble was overturned by officials. Tomlinson made it 28-3 less than 2 minutes later when he took a screen pass from Sanchez, made a few cutback moves and got a big block from center Nick Mangold for a 19-yard touchdown. It marked the first time the Jets scored 28 points in an opening half since scoring 40 against St. Louis in 2008. "I love the way we started the game," Ryan said. Added Haley: "It was probably our worst half of football. I don't know if it's even close this season." Things really started getting out of hand midway through the third quarter when the Chiefs were called for three straight penalties, including an unsportsmanlike conduct on an irate Haley. A few plays later, Brandon Flowers and Kendrick Lewis were called for consecutive pass interference penalties, bringing the ball to the 4. On third-and-goal, Sanchez took the snap and rolled into the end zone for a 3-yard touchdown - his career-high fifth TD run of the season - and a 35-3 lead. One of the few highlights for the Chiefs came when Jerheme Urban caught a 24-yard touchdown pass - in between four Jets defenders - to make it 35-10. Sione Pouha tackled Jackie Battle for a safety late in the game after T.J. Conley's punt was downed at the 1. "It felt good," Greene said, "to put a lot of points on the board and dominate." Notes: Chiefs K Ryan Succop badly botched an onside kick attempt that traveled 3 yards early in the fourth quarter. ... Chiefs S Jon McGraw left in the second quarter with an injured left ankle and didn't return. ... New York's five sacks were a season high. ... Chiefs RB Thomas Jones had just 12 yards on five carries, but passed Eddie George and Tiki Barber for 22nd on the NFL's career list. © 2011 STATS LLC

Eagles rout Jets 45-19, stay alive in NFC East PHILADELPHIA (AP) -- LeSean McCoy asked reporters gathered around his locker for a playoff update and came up with this conclusion when told what the Philadelphia Eagles needed to get in. "Sounds like a lot," McCoy said. It sure beats elimination, however. McCoy ran for three touchdowns to set two team records, and the Eagles routed the New York Jets 45-19 on Sunday to stay in the playoff chase. The Eagles (6-8) have won two straight for just the second time this season and somehow still have a chance to repeat as NFC East champions despite underachieving most of the year. But they have to catch Dallas (8-6) and the New York Giants (7-7). "It feels good to still have a chance to even be considered in the playoff race," quarterback Michael Vick said. "We've been through a lot, but we're resilient." The loss snapped New York's three-game winning streak, dropping the Jets (8-6) into a tie with Cincinnati for the final wild-card spot in the AFC. The Jets hold the tiebreaker advantage over the Bengals with a better record against common opponents. "Obviously, a horrendous performance by us," Jets coach Rex Ryan said. "Go into the game thinking we have to run the table to control our own destiny, and we come out of the game needing to win out to control our own destiny." Vick threw for 274 yards and a touchdown, and also ran for a score in his second game back after missing three with broken ribs. McCoy ran for 102 yards and surpassed Hall of Famer Steve Van Buren with his 19th touchdown of the season and 16th rushing TD in the third quarter. Juqua Parker returned a fumble for a score, and Brent Celek had a career-best 156 yards receiving. The Eagles scored 21 points off three turnovers en route to building a 28-0 lead, and didn't let up after the Jets got within 28-13 at halftime. "Every week is different," coach Andy Reid said. "I know the guys play hard and aggressive. I know they came in with the right frame of mind to do that." When the Eagles last played at the Linc, fans booed them off the field and yelled "Fire Andy!" at Reid following a lopsided loss to New England on Nov. 27. It was far more festive this time around. Reid didn't hear any boos, even with Ryan - son of beloved former Eagles coach Buddy Ryan - standing on the other sideline. The Washington Redskins kept Philadelphia's division hopes alive with a 23-10 win at the Giants earlier in the day. Then the Eagles did their part by beating the Jets for the ninth time in nine tries. Now it comes down to this: The Eagles can only get in the playoffs by winning the division. They must win at Dallas and home against Washington, and get some help. The Giants have to lose to the Jets and finish with a win at home over the Cowboys. None of that would've mattered if the Eagles didn't beat the Jets for just their second home win this season and second in their last 10 home games, including a playoff loss to Green Bay last January. "It's all about us," Vick said. "We still have to take care of business." Mark Sanchez, who was outstanding during the Jets' winning streak, completed 15 of 26 for 150 yards and two TDs. He was sacked four times and threw two interceptions. "It's embarrassing," Sanchez said. "It's not good football. We just didn't play our best speaking from an offense perspective, and it puts our defense in a hole. We are a much better football team than we showed." Philadelphia went ahead 7-0 when Parker picked up Santonio Holmes' fumble and returned it 47 yards for his second score this season. Holmes caught a pass for a 7-yard gain before the ball was stripped by Kurt Coleman. The Jets got a break when a punt that returner DeSean Jackson let bounce went backward and hit off teammate Curtis Marsh. Ellis Lankster recovered it at the Eagles 14. But Asante Samuel then intercepted Sanchez's pass at the 4 and returned it to the 23. Vick connected with Celek for a 26-yard TD pass to put Philadelphia up 14-0. Celek made an outstanding catch on a ball thrown ahead of him. He reached out to tip it with his right hand, corralled it inside the 5 and tumbled into the end zone. "It was a good throw by Mike, but I couldn't quite dig for it and I had to tip it to myself in order to catch it and was lucky enough just to get my hand on it," Celek said. The Eagles extended that lead to 21-0 on Vick's 11-yard TD run early in the second quarter. A roughing-the-passer penalty on Marcus Dixon - the second time the Jets were flagged for hitting Vick late - contributed to 15 of Philadelphia's 57 yards on that drive. Vick scrambled down the left side and dived headfirst, stretching his hand just over the pylon for his first rushing score of the season. He had 10 last year, including one in the playoffs. Sanchez fumbled when he was hit by Mike Patterson after running on a busted play on New York's next possession. Joselio Hanson recovered at the Jets 21, and McCoy ran in from the 9 to make it 28-0. But the Jets wouldn't go down easy. Nick Folk kicked a 39-yard field goal. Dion Lewis fumbled the kickoff, and the Jets started at Philadelphia's 24 after Lankster made his second recovery. Sanchez fired a 25-yard TD pass to Holmes to cut it to 28-10. Another turnover gave the Jets the ball back. McCoy fumbled at the end of a 12-yard run, and Brodney Pool raced 33 yards with it to the Eagles 27. It was McCoy's first lost fumble in 490 touches, dating to last season. Philadelphia's defense stiffened and the Jets settled for Folk's 28-yard field goal to get within 28-13. McCoy's 1-yard TD run in the third quarter broke Van Buren's team records. Van Buren had 18 total TDs and 15 rushing TDs in 1945. "It tells you I'm a pretty good back and I have an outstanding offensive line," McCoy said. "It's definitely a team thing." McCoy padded his total with a 33-yard TD run in the fourth quarter that made it 45-13. Notes: Philadelphia's Jason Babin had three sacks for the second straight game. His 18 sacks are three shy of Reggie White's team record set in 12 games during the strike-shortened 1987 season. Babin is the 10th player in NFL history to have three or more sacks in consecutive games. ... Parker is the second Eagles defensive player to have two fumble recoveries for a TD in a season. Seth Joyner did it in 1991. Parker's three career TDs are second in team history for a defensive lineman. Clyde Simmons had four. ... Jets WR Plaxico Burress has six TD catches in his last five games vs. Eagles. © 2011 STATS LLC

Cruz, Bradshaw lead Giants past Jets 29-14 EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) -- Rex Ryan was brash and confident all week, insisting his Jets were the kings of New York. Well, the Giants shut him up in a big way - taking the city bragging rights and setting up an even more important showdown with the Dallas Cowboys next weekend with a 29-14 victory Saturday. "I hate to use that cliché, but this is a huge one," left tackle David Diehl said. "This is about the city, the city of New York and what team wants to be responsible. They have talked all week and said what they wanted to say. From Day 1, they're our big brother and

other stuff. We went out there and played our game and showed whose stadium this is." Ryan said the Jets were the better team the last two years, based on their consecutive trips to the AFC championship game and the Giants missing the postseason. Tom Coughlin responded by saying, "Talk is cheap. Play the game." It was the Giants who did. "They were the better team today, and they're the better team this year," a humbled Ryan said. "Clearly, I was wrong." The Giants kept their postseason hopes alive, helped by Victor Cruz setting two franchise receiving records and Ahmad Bradshaw running for two touchdowns. While neither team looked much like playoff material, the Giants (8-7) are now in position to win the NFC East with a victory at home next Sunday against Dallas. "Given everything that was at stake, and all the noise that has been coming out of Florham Park," Giants co-owner John Mara said, "yeah, it means a little more." Running back Brandon Jacobs said he had an exchange with Ryan after the game in which the coach approached him, used an expletive and said, "Wait till we win the Super Bowl." Added Jacobs: "And I told him I'll punch him in the face. I told him out of all these Giants players on this team you're talking to the wrong one. And that was that." Ryan acknowledged that he and Jacobs "had a private conversation. He doesn't like me; I respect him." The back-and-forth went on even in the hours before the game, when Jacobs and kicker Lawrence Tynes both removed black curtains placed by the Jets over the Giants' Super Bowl logos. The Jets said it was simply their standard practice to cover those logos for every one of the team's home games, regardless of opponent, because it is the players' entrance. "We knew early what we were going to get no matter what happened as soon as he had the opportunity to run his big fat mouth," Jacobs said of Ryan's boasts throughout the week. Meanwhile, the Jets' playoff hopes took a devastating hit, and at 8-7 they'll need to win at Miami next week and get major help from several other teams. They have to hope for Cincinnati and Tennessee to lose, and have either Oakland or Denver lose. "I mean, we don't deserve to control our own destiny," Jets linebacker Bart Scott said. "We haven't played good enough football to do that. We need to try to finish strong, but if you don't make it to the playoffs, you've got nobody to blame but yourself." Cruz, who had three catches for 164 yards, broke Amani Toomer's single-season mark for yards receiving - and the team's record for longest touchdown reception, a 99-yarder that gave the Giants the lead for good in the second quarter. "It's just amazing," Cruz said, "and to beat the Jets in the process is added incentive." It was a brutal game at times, with both offenses sluggish and prone to mistakes. The Jets were also penalized 10 times, including a late hit call on Aaron Maybin, who plowed into D.J. Ware in the fourth quarter - a play on which Coughlin was injured out of bounds. The Giants coach needed to be checked out on the bench briefly before limping back to the sideline. "Never better," a smiling Coughlin said when asked how he was feeling. Eli Manning finished just 9 of 27 for 225 yards. Mark Sanchez completed 30 passes on a career-high 59 attempts but put up only 258 yards and was intercepted twice. The Jets were also a brutal 4 for 21 on third-down conversions. "I left a lot of completions out there," Sanchez said. The sloppiest stretch came midway through the fourth quarter with wild swings of momentum. The Giants thought they had stopped the Jets on fourth down, but a pass interference call gave them new life. Plaxico Burress - playing against the Giants in the regular season for the first time since they cut him in 2009 and he served a 20-month prison sentence on a gun charge - thought he had scored a touchdown, but offensive pass interference called it back. The Giants thought they'd recovered a fumble by Sanchez, but officials reversed the call on a challenge, saying his arm was going forward. The Giants got their turnover moments later, though, when Sanchez fumbled the snap in the end zone. The Jets weren't done. David Harris intercepted Manning's pass that tipped off Hakeem Nicks' hands, and the Jets had another apparent fumble by Sanchez reversed on review. On third-and-12 from the 13, Sanchez scrambled for 11 yards - and Antrel Rolle was called for holding, putting the ball at the 1. Sanchez dived into the end zone, making it 20-14 with 7:17 left. But the Jets wouldn't get any closer. Chris Canty sacked Sanchez for a safety, and after an onside free kick by the Jets was recovered by the Giants, Bradshaw had a 19-yard TD run with 2:04 left. "It's real sad right now," Jets cornerback Darrelle Revis said. "We needed this win. We made some mistakes and they outplayed us." Cruz's 99-yard catch - the longest scoring pass in team history - came with the Giants in dire straits facing third-and-10 from the 1. Manning, standing in the back of the end zone, zipped a pass to Cruz, who dodged tackle attempts by Antonio Cromartie and Kyle Wilson and took off down the right sideline. Eric Smith was the only one with a chance to get him, but Cruz outran him to give the Giants a 10-7 lead with 2:12 left in the opening half. It was also the longest offensive play against the Jets in team history. Now the Jets will prepare for the Dolphins - and keep their fingers crossed. "If the gates open," wide receiver Santonio Holmes said, "we're going to walk right through them." Notes: DE Jason Pierre-Paul had two of the Giants' five sacks, giving him 15 1/2 this season. ... Jets S Brodney Pool said he experienced migraine symptoms during the game, worsened after a hard hit in the third quarter when Bradshaw slammed into him. He said he was fine. ... Jets LB Garrett McIntyre hurt his knee covering the opening kickoff, and there was no immediate word on the injury. © 2011 STATS LLC

Miami knocks Jets out of playoff race, 19-17 MIAMI (AP) -- MIAMI (AP) -- The New York Jets will sit out the playoffs, and that's guaranteed. The Jets failed to fulfill coach Rex Ryan's pledge to win a Super Bowl title, with Sunday's 19-17 loss at Miami eliminating them from the chase for an AFC wild-card berth. Mark Sanchez threw three interceptions, the last coming with the Jets threatening to take a late lead. They gave up six third-down conversions during the Dolphins' 21-play, 94-yard drive for their only touchdown. The Jets (8-8) came into the game needing a win along with losses by three other teams to reach the playoffs. Instead, they finished the season with three consecutive defeats, a big step backward for a team that reached the AFC championship game each of the past two years. Ryan said he didn't regret his guarantee, even if the Jets fell way short. "I'm always going to chase the Super Bowl," Ryan said. "I know I get criticized for it beyond belief, but if you don't, then you're probably a loser, OK? I'm not a loser." Soap opera fodder for the offseason came out of the Jets' final drive, when receiver and captain Santonio Holmes was benched. Running back LaDainian Tomlinson said teammates were unhappy with Holmes' effort, demeanor and body language. "It's tough for guys to follow a captain that kind of behaves in that manner," Tomlinson said. "You've got to lead by example, and you've got to play your tail off until the last play." Holmes was held without a catch for the first time in his 88-game career. NFL active sacks leader Jason Taylor, playing his final game, harried Sanchez into an interception and was carried off the field after the game. It was a rare moment of celebration for the Dolphins (6-10), who completed their third consecutive losing season, their longest such stretch since the 1960s. They fired coach Tony Sparano on Dec. 12 and have begun the search for a successor. "Obviously we wanted more Ws," quarterback Matt Moore said. "It's a time to learn from, and there were a lot of mistakes to go back and correct. But there are a lot of positive things as well. It's hard not to feel good after a win, especially against the Jets." Another small consolation: Miami tied the NFL record for most wins after a 0-7 start. The Jets again were victims of their own mistakes, with each interception leading to a field goal. They've given up 126 points off turnovers this year, the most in the league. Sanchez's final misfire came at the Miami 10 with 3 minutes left and the Jets trailing 16-10. Reserve linebacker Marvin Mitchell stepped in front of intended receiver Shonn Greene and rumbled 55 yards to set up a field goal. The 305-pound Starks came away with two interceptions. "The interceptions obviously were backbreakers," Ryan said. Taylor, who said Wednesday he would retire at the end of his 15th NFL season, sent the crowd into pandemonium when he scooped up a fumble and scored with 2 1/2 minutes left. However, a replay review negated the turnover, with the officials determining the ball carrier was down before the fumble. The Jets then scored with 1:15 to go on Sanchez's 10-yard pass to Patrick Turner, but Miami's Brandon Marshall recovered the ensuing onside kick to seal the win. Taylor played tailback in the Dolphins' victory formation as Moore twice took a knee to run out the clock. "It was a good way to end this thing - to beat your No. 1 rivals in your home stadium in your last game," Taylor said during an emotional postgame news conference. "I can't complain. I'm very, very happy and blessed to be where I am." The Dolphins took the lead for good in the fourth quarter with

a drive that took 12 minutes and 29 seconds. Moore threw completions to convert all six third downs during the sequence, including on the final play when he hit Charles Clay with a 1-yard touchdown pass. The drive set franchise records for the number of plays and time of possession. "I didn't realize how long it was," Moore said. "It was unbelievable, just a great job on everybody's part." Otherwise the Dolphins' offense sputtered without 1,000-yard rusher Reggie Bush , who sat out with a right knee injury. Dan Carpenter compensated with field goals of 44, 58, 40 and 44 yards. The stands were perhaps half full, reflecting the disenchantment of Dolphins fans. Owner Stephen Ross drew jeers when he honored Taylor during a pregame ceremony, and a small plane overhead tugged a banner that called for the firing of general manager Jeff Ireland. "This whole season was a lesson for us," cornerback Sean Smith said. "On paper, we were a very good team, but you have to prove it every Sunday." Notes: Miami WR Davone Bess left the game in the fourth quarter with a right knee injury. LB Karlos Dansby departed in the first quarter with a groin injury. G Richie Incognito left in the third period with a neck injury. ... Jets LB David Harris was ruled out in the fourth quarter with a calf injury. ... Taylor's brother-in-law, former Dolphins LB Zach Thomas, was an honorary co-captain. ... Video tributes to Taylor on the scoreboard during the game included one from Dan Marino wearing jersey No. 99. ... The longest previous drive in Dolphins history was 18 plays. © 2011 STATS LLC