

## MILESTONES

## Williams returns in style

**Karlos Williams:** The Bills running back returned after missing three games with a concussion, and during Buffalo's 33-17 victory against the Miami Dolphins he became the seventh player to score a touchdown in each of his first five NFL games.

**Greg Zuerlein:** The Rams kicker hit a career-long 61-yarder, the first from 60-plus yards in the NFL in nearly two years. Zuerlein became the second kicker in NFL history with multiple field goals from 60-plus yards, joining Oakland's Sebastian Janikowski.

**Marcus Mariota:** The Tennessee quarterback became the first rookie in NFL history with two games of four touchdown passes and no interceptions.



Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger is carted off the field after he was injured in the fourth quarter. *Gene Puskar, The Associated Press*

## INJURIES

## Big Ben hurts left foot in 4th

Ben Roethlisberger is back on the injury list. Making his second start since returning from a knee injury, Roethlisberger injured his left foot midway through the fourth quarter Sunday. He was taken to the locker room on a cart, and the Steelers said Roethlisberger eventually left Heinz Field to undergo further evaluation. Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said Roethlisberger needs an MRI and didn't have any further update.

- The Vikings also lost their quarterback in a win. Teddy Bridgewater suffered a concussion against St. Louis.
- Oakland's Latavius Murray left with a concussion.
- Bills running back LeSean McCoy injured his right shoulder.

## Wrapup

## PETERSON'S 125 YARDS RUSHING LEAD VIKINGS

**MINNEAPOLIS»** Adrian Peterson rushed for 125 yards on 29 carries for Minnesota, helping set up Blair Walsh's 40-yard field goal in overtime that lifted the Vikings a 21-18 victory over the Rams on Sunday after quarterback Teddy Bridgewater left with a concussion.

In a predictably grind-it-out game between two similarly constructed teams, the Vikings ended Todd Gurley's streak of games with 125-plus yards rushing at four. Gurley gained 89 yards and a touchdown on 24 attempts for the Rams, who received the overtime kickoff but went three-and-out.

Marcus Sherels tiptoed along the sideline for a 26-yard return of Johnny Hekker's 63-yard punt, and Peterson ran the ball well into Walsh's range to give the Vikings their seventh consecutive win at home.

## SUNDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sam Bradford threw a 41-yard touchdown pass to Jordan Matthews in overtime as the **Eagles** sent the **Cowboys** to their longest losing streak in 26 years with a 33-27 victory in overtime. Matthews broke away from Byron Jones and ran past safety J.J. Wilcox on the first possession of overtime to hand the Cowboys (2-6) their sixth straight loss. Jordan Hicks had a 67-yard interception return for a touchdown for the Eagles (4-4). ... Ryan Fitzpatrick threw two touchdown passes while playing with a torn ligament in his left thumb, Chris Ivory ran for two scores and the **Jets** took advantage of late mistakes by the **Jaguars** and hung on to win 28-23. Brandon Marshall had a 20-yard TD catch after the Jets recovered a muffed punt late in the fourth quarter, helping New York end a two-game skid.

Blake Bortles threw for 381 yards and two touchdowns, including a 20-yard pass to Bryan Walters with 2:16 left to keep Jacksonville in it. But Marcus Williams made his second interception of the game on Jacksonville's next possession. ... Sammy Watkins had a career-best 168 yards receiving and a touchdown and rookie running back Karlos Williams scored twice in leading the **Bills** to a 33-11 win over the **Dolphins**. Watkins broke the game open with a 44-yard touchdown catch from Tyrod Taylor to put the Bills up 26-14 late in the third quarter. LeSean McCoy had a season-best 112 yards rushing and a touchdown, before leaving in the fourth quarter with a right shoulder injury. Linebacker Jerry Hughes had two sacks, including a forced fumble, which he recovered to set up Watkins' score. The Bills were coming out of their bye week. Coming off a 36-7 loss to New England, Miami has lost two straight since winning its first two games after interim coach Dan Campbell took over when Joe Philbin was fired. The Dolphins are 0-4 against AFC East rivals. ... Blaine Gabbert threw a pair of second-quarter touchdown passes to Garrett Celek as the undermanned **49ers** held on to beat the **Falcons** 17-16. The 49ers head into the bye on a winning note after a week of change. Making his first start in more than two years, Gabbert didn't take a sack behind an offensive line that has faced heavy scrutiny all year. Celek made TD catches of 1 and 11 yards. Gabbert threw an interception midway through the fourth quarter, giving Atlanta another chance with 7:14 to go. After an incomplete, Ryan hit six consecutive throws, but he eventually missed Julio Jones in the end zone and Atlanta kicked a field goal and fell just short. ... Eli Manning threw for 213 yards and two touchdowns, helping the first-place **Giants** rebound from last week's road debacle at New Orleans with a 32-18 victory over the **Buccaneers**. Josh Brown booted four field goals for the Giants, including fourth-quarter kicks of 53 and 44 yards that gave New York some breathing room after the Bucs pulled within two points. Manning threw first-half TD passes of 8 yards to Reuben Randle and 4 yards to Shane Vereen. The Giants defense, bolstered by the return of Jason Pierre-Paul, did its part by keeping the Jameis Winston-led Tampa Bay offense out of the end zone until the rookie scrambled 10 yards for a touchdown that made it 20-18 with 9:25 remaining in the game.

**TITANS 34, SAINTS 28, OT**

**Tennessee QB returns, burns New Orleans**

**By Brett Martel** *The Associated Press*

**NEW ORLEANS»** Tennessee Titans rookie Marcus Mariota on Sunday came back from his recent injury to derail Drew Brees and the New Orleans Saints. Mariota passed for 371 yards and four touchdowns, including a 5-yard scoring pass to Anthony Fasano in overtime, and Tennessee snapped a six-game skid with a 34-28 victory over New Orleans. The Saints (4-5), who had won three in a row, led 21-10 but could not put away the Titans (2-6), who turned in a feisty performance in their first game since coach Ken Whisenhunt was fired and replaced by Mike Mularkey. Sunday also marked Mariota's return from a knee sprain that sidelined him for two games. He completed 28-of-39 passes, at times converting quick, decisive throws under pressure. Brees was 28-of-39 for 387 yards and three touchdowns. He also scored on a short keeper. However, he also was intercepted on a third-quarter pass to the end zone. The

*The Associated Press*

## GAME OF THE DAY

## Flights, Cam, traction!



Green Bay Packers wide receiver Randall Cobb fails to make a catch as the Carolina Panthers' Charles Tillman and Bené Benwikere close in on him Sunday at Bank America Stadium in Charlotte, N.C. *Bob Leverone, The Associated Press*

## In the air and on the ground, Carolina QB leads team past Green Bay

## PANTHERS 37, PACKERS 29

**By Steve Reed**  
*The Associated Press*

**CHARLOTTE, N.C.»** The Carolina Panthers said they would prefer not to go Lambeau Field in the NFC playoffs.

They might not need to. Cam Newton threw three touchdown passes and ran for another score, and the Panthers took an important step toward securing home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs with a 37-29 win over the Packers.

Newton completed 15-of-30 passes for 297 yards and ran for 57 yards on nine carries.

The Panthers (8-0) extended their regular-season win streak to 12 and put themselves in terrific shape in the NFC standings, where every other team has at least two losses.

Aaron Rodgers threw for 369 yards and four touchdowns and led a furious fourth-quarter comeback from 23 points down but couldn't complete it. Linebacker Thomas Davis intercepted Rodgers on a fourth-and-goal pass at the Carolina 3 with 1:54 left.

The Packers (6-2) have lost back-to-back games after starting 6-0. Green Bay previously lost at Denver.

It was a frustrating day all around for the Packers, which led to some infighting on the sideline.

In the fourth quarter, Ha Ha Clinton-Dix began jawing at Julius Peppers, who

was seated on the bench. Peppers stood up and B.J. Raji stepped in, shoving Clinton-Dix backward.

Earlier in the game, Peppers came up with a loose ball after Newton leaped into the end zone for a TD run and Peppers threw the ball downfield after the quarterback asked for the ball back. Newton retrieved the ball and gave it to a fan.

Carolina outscored Green Bay 24-0 in the second quarter to open a 27-7 halftime lead behind three Newton scores.

The Panthers' dual-threat quarterback was dominant in the first half, throwing for 209 yards and two touchdowns and rushing for 37 yards and a touchdown.

The Packers opened the game in man coverage and Newton made them pay right away by finding huge holes to run through for big gains.



Tennessee Titans defensive end Angelo Blackson celebrates Sunday after sacking New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees. *Wesley Hitt, Getty Images*

throw was intended for Mark Ingram but instead found Tennessee's B.W. Webb, who had been moved up from the practice squad only a day earlier because of injuries to defensive backs Jason McCourty (groin) and Bliidi Wreh-Wilson (hamstring).

Both teams missed go-ahead field goal attempts in the last two minutes of regulation. First, Tennessee's Ryan Succop hit the cross bar on a 55-yard try that would have been a career long. Then in the final minute, Kai Forbath, who a week earlier had kicked a game-winning field goal,

had his 46-yard attempt partially blocked by Coty Sensabaugh.

Tennessee had to overcome a significant lack of discipline to win. One roughing-the-passer flag wiped out an interception in the first half, while two others gave the Saints first-and-goal on a pair of touchdown drives. Tennessee also was called for unsportsmanlike conduct several times for arguing with officials.

The Saints took a 28-20 lead on Brees' short pass to tight end Michael Hoomanawanui before the Titans rallied.