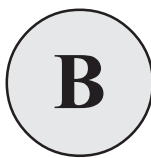


INSIDE:

Colts' dreams of perfection are shattered by Chargers, Havelock basketball falls to J.H. Rose and...
Quotes from this week in sports in "Make The Call."



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It's All Sports
With Eric Voliva

Perfection proves to be dream

I can imagine the beads of sweat dripping from Don Shula's brow growing to almost the size of pennies as he watched the Colts continue to extend their winning streak week by week.

And even I found myself wondering if the Colts would have the fortitude and focus needed to sustain what they had begun.

At least until the overlooked Chargers took matters into their own hands.

Was it that easy for Tony Dungy to forget about the somewhat mediocre Chargers, and how the Colts barely managed to squeak out a win against them around the same time last season, or did San Diego in some way figure out the complex formula that no other team thus far this season has been able to dissect?

Maybe a little bit of both, with a dash of Ladanian Tomlinson and Drew Brees added for spice.

The Colts had obviously prepared well for a dose of Tomlinson and Brees, and effectively kept them from making the big play, but not even Tony Dungy would have guessed that it would be little-

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Patriots stomp out Bears

Bears give up 17 points early and fall to nationally ranked Charlotte Independence

BY ERIC VOLIVA
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER



Bears wide receiver / defensive back Darryl Reynolds out jumps Patriots defensive back Zavis Padgett for the ball. The pass was thrown from New Bern quarterback David Towarnicky and was good for 23 yards and a first down at the Patriots' 17-yard line.

RALEIGH — In front of the 10,107 fans in attendance at Carter-Finley Stadium, the Bears found out that the third time isn't always a charm.

The 38-19 loss to Charlotte Independence — a team that is undefeated over the last six years, generating a 91-0 record in that span — on Dec. 10, was a good way for everyone to realize that there's always someone bigger and better lurking around the corner.

In the 4-AA North Carolina High School Athletic Association State Championship game, New Bern's 224 yards of total offense was a relatively miniscule number compared to 377 yards that Independence gouged out of the Bears' defense.

But New Bern did manage to win the turnover battle by taking the ball away three times, in the form of three defensive interceptions, while only giving the ball away twice.

Independence head coach Tom Knotts admitted after the game that the high number of turnovers that his team committed "were very bothersome," but went on to add that the Patriots "must be a pretty good team to have these kind of turnovers and still win a championship game."

While Independence may be a championship-caliber team wholly deserving of the victory over New Bern, the Bears' title bid can't be diminished in any way by the loss to the nationally ranked Patriots.

New Bern head coach Chip Williams feels that his teams success this year was somewhat lessened in the eyes of some observers by the losses to Mt. Tabor and J.H. Rose, but knew that his team was better than its record showed.

"It would have been my dream this year to come in here with a win

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Havelock basketball falls to Rose

A gutsy performance by the Havelock boys basketball team falls short at home

BY ERIC VOLIVA
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

HAVELOCK — In a game where the Rams could have easily thrown in the towel and begged for mercy — finding themselves down by as many as 24 points late in the fourth quarter — they chose to fight back, even though it was an uphill battle in the 85-66 loss to J.H. Rose Dec. 16.

Rose head coach James Rankins admitted that his team's victory over the Rams wasn't as easy as the score would lead you to believe.

"We tried to get out on the breaks, but they would collapse the lane," he said. "They have a gutsy team, and they never let up."

It was Rose that won the tip-off to start the game, but it was Havelock that scored first on two consecutive free throws.

But that would be the only time Havelock would have an advantage over Rose, as the Rams slowly slid into the 19-point deficit by which they would ultimately

be defeated.

The Rams found themselves sent to the line often throughout the game, and were only able to connect on 9 of the 21 attempts from the line. But even if they had connected on all the attempts, they would still have found themselves down 7 points by the end of the game.

Havelock did fight back with just over a minute remaining in the third period,

"They have a gutsy team, and they never let up."
— James Rankins

narrowing the deficit to only 7 points as Jaiil Smith connected on both free throw attempts, making the score 56-49.

But, staying true to form, the Rams continued to give up long shots from the perimeter to the Rampants, who took advantage of that and connected on several 3-pointers throughout the game, while Havelock was unable to find any semblance of a perimeter game.

After pulling to within seven points, Havelock seemed to downshift and sputter when it came to digging in for a comeback.

Havelock head coach Bill Fryczynski was called for a technical foul with 36 seconds left in the third period, and as a result, Rampants' Raheem Smith connected on his two free throws, making the score 60-49, and from then on, the Rams had no chance.

Havelock closed out the game by scoring 2 points, which cut Rose's lead from 21 to 19, by the final score of 85-66.

Rose's Smith paced his teammates with 25 points, while Richard Shepard had 20 and John Williams had 13.

Havelock's Bruce Carter pulled out a double-double in the loss with 17 points and 17 rebounds, while teammate Josh Wall had 11 points and Andrew Taylor had 10.

Havelock hosts East Carteret this Thursday. The boys varsity game is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

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Havelock's Josh Hall goes up for a layup over Rose's Raheem Smith and Matt Steer.



West Craven's Tony Jones dribbles toward the basket.

Eagles find Rose to be thorn in their side

BY COREY FRIEDMAN
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

VANCEBORO — What Chris McDonald's fourth quarter strategy lacked in excitement, it made up for in effectiveness.

The West Craven head basketball coach directed his team to play aggressively and draw fouls, bringing the Eagles to the charity stripe 12 times in the final eight minutes of play and slashing a 14-point deficit to a

mere 3 points.

Time ran out before West Craven could build on its impressive late-game foundation Tuesday, Dec. 13, as J.H. Rose slid by the Eagles 68-63.

"We know that 22 [Rasheem Smith] is their main ball handler," McDonald said. "We wanted to really go at him and get him out of the game. Being the aggressor at that point actually worked to our advantage."

West Craven (3-5, 0-2

Coastal 8 Conference) has shot 51 percent from the foul line this season, a number McDonald said is "better than it's been, but it's not where we want it to be."

Forward Jimmy Gross paced the Eagles with 19 points. Tony Jones added 16 and Dante Stewart posted 14.

Rose (5-3, 2-0) traded swipes with West Craven in the first quarter, then pulled ahead early in the second quarter, go-

ing up 21-11 on consecutive baskets from Smith, who led all scorers with 20 points. Rampants forward Richard Shepard contributed 12 points.

Head coach James Rankins said his team played well offensively, but the Rampants lost control of the game when key scorers got in foul trouble.

"We couldn't keep our hands to ourselves," he said. "For some reason, our guys really wanted

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6 Pack	New England @ N.Y. Jets NFL (Dec. 26, MNF)	L.A. Clippers @ Charlotte NBA (Dec. 23)	L.A. Lakers @ Miami NBA (Dec. 25)	N.C. State @ Alabama NCAA Basketball (Dec. 22)	Florida @ Carolina NHL (Dec. 23)	Dallas @ Carolina NFL (Dec. 24)
Eric Voliva Record: 23-13	Patriots	Bobcats	Heat	Wolfpack	Hurricanes	Panthers
William Toler Record: 19-17	Patriots	Bobcats	Heat	Wolfpack	Hurricanes	Panthers
Corey Friedman Record: 24-12	Patriots	Clippers	Heat	Wolfpack	Panthers	Panthers

Sports Scores

All scores and standings are current as of Monday, Dec. 19

NFL Scores

WL Record	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	Final Score
Carolina (10-4)	7	10	7	3	27
New Orleans (3-11)	7	0	0	3	10
Green Bay (3-11)	3	0	0	0	3
Baltimore (5-9)	14	10	10	14	48
Tampa Bay (9-5)	0	0	0	0	0
New England (9-5)	7	14	0	7	28
Denver (11-3)	0	7	14	7	28
Buffalo (4-10)	7	0	3	7	17
San Francisco (2-12)	3	3	0	3	9
Jacksonville (10-4)	0	7	0	3	10
San Diego (9-5)	10	3	3	10	26
Indianapolis (13-1)	0	0	17	0	17
Pittsburgh (9-5)	3	7	6	2	18
Minnesota (8-6)	3	0	0	0	3
Cleveland (5-9)	0	3	3	3	9
Oakland (4-10)	0	7	0	0	7
Dallas (8-6)	0	0	0	7	7
Washington (8-6)	7	21	7	0	35
Kansas City (8-6)	0	3	7	7	17
N.Y. Giants (10-4)	0	10	3	14	27
Philadelphia (6-8)	7	0	3	7	17
St. Louis (5-9)	3	10	3	0	16
Arizona (4-10)	3	7	0	9	19
Houston (2-12)	0	24	3	3	30
Seattle (12-2)	14	0	7	7	28
Tennessee (4-10)	0	14	10	0	24
N.Y. Jets (3-11)	0	10	7	3	20
Miami (7-7)	7	3	0	14	24
Cincinnati (11-3)	17	7	7	10	41
Detroit (4-10)	0	7	3	7	17
Atlanta (8-6)	0	3	0	0	3
Chicago (10-4)	0	6	10	0	16

NHL Standings

Atlantic		Central	
N.Y. Rangers (20-10-4)	Detroit (22-9-3)	Philadelphia (19-8-4)	Nashville (20-7-3)
N.Y. Islanders (16-13-2)	Chicago (13-17-2)	New Jersey (14-13-5)	Columbus (9-23-0)
Pittsburgh (8-18-7)	St. Louis (6-19-4)		
Northeast		Northwest	
Ottawa (23-5-2)	Vancouver (20-9-3)	Buffalo (22-10-1)	Calgary (19-9-4)
Montreal (16-9-6)	Edmonton (18-11-4)	Toronto (16-13-3)	Colorado (17-13-3)
Boston (11-16-6)	Minnesota (13-5-4)		
Southeast		Pacific	
Carolina (21-9-2)	Dallas (21-8-1)	Tampa Bay (18-12-3)	Los Angeles (20-13-1)
Atlanta (14-16-4)	Anaheim (15-13-6)	Florida (12-19-4)	Phoenix (16-15-2)
Washington (10-19-2)	San Jose (14-13-4)		

NBA Standings

Atlantic	
Philadelphia (13-12)	New Jersey (11-12)
Boston (10-14)	New York (6-17)
Toronto (5-20)	
Central	
Detroit (19-3)	Indiana (14-8)
Milwaukee (13-9)	Cleveland (13-9)
Chicago (12-11)	
Southeast	
Miami (14-11)	Orlando (9-13)
Washington (9-14)	Charlotte (7-18)
Atlanta (6-17)	
Pacific	
L.A. Clippers (15-8)	Phoenix (14-9)
Golden State (14-11)	L.A. Lakers (13-11)
Sacramento (10-15)	
Southwest	
San Antonio (19-5)	Dallas (18-6)
Memphis (14-9)	New Orleans (11-13)
Houston (10-13)	
Northwest	
Minnesota (12-10)	Denver (12-13)
Seattle (11-12)	Utah (11-13)
Portland (7-16)	

NFL Standings

NFC North		AFC North	
Chicago (10-4)	Cincinnati (11-3)	Minnesota (8-6)	Pittsburgh (9-5)
Detroit (4-10)	Baltimore (5-9)	Green Bay (3-11)	Cleveland (5-9)
NFC South		AFC South	
Carolina (10-4)	Indianapolis (13-1)	Tampa Bay (9-5)	Jacksonville (10-4)
Atlanta (8-6)	Tennessee (4-10)	New Orleans (3-11)	Houston (2-12)
NFC East		AFC East	
N.Y. Giants (10-4)	New England (9-5)	Washington (8-6)	Miami (7-7)
Dallas (8-6)	Buffalo (4-10)	Philadelphia (5-7)	N.Y. Jets (3-11)
NFC West		AFC West	
Seattle (12-2)	Denver (11-3)	St. Louis (5-9)	San Diego (9-5)
Arizona (4-10)	Kansas City (8-6)	San Francisco (2-12)	Oakland (4-10)

ACC Corner

Women's Basketball

North Carolina (10-0)	Boston College (9-2)
Virginia Tech (8-0)	Florida State (7-2)
Duke (7-0)	Miami (7-2)
Maryland (9-1)	N.C. State (7-3)
Georgia Tech (7-1)	Wake Forest (4-3)
Virginia (6-1)	Clemson (4-6)

Men's Basketball

Duke (10-0)	North Carolina (6-1)
N.C. State (8-1)	Wake Forest (8-2)
Maryland (7-2)	Boston College (7-2)
Georgia Tech (4-3)	Virginia Tech (9-3)
Clemson (9-0)	Miami (6-4)
Florida State (6-1)	Virginia (3-4)

Independence beats New Bern

Continued from Page B1

over Independence and say [to] everyone who said 'Well I don't know if you're as good as you were' and say 'We're as good as we have been, maybe even better,' but it didn't turn out that way," he said, "I don't know if the kids that played on this team got the recognition they deserved."

To start the game, the Patriots scored on their first three possessions, quickly jacking up the score 17-0 in less than nine minutes before the Bears were able to rally back with 7 of their own.

New Bern's offense was dominated early in the half, but the Bears slowly adjusted as time wore on, and were able to pick up huge gains before halftime.

Finding themselves in a hole 17-0, Mike Harvey intercepted Patriots quarterback Darryl McFadden with just under a minute remaining in the half, which led to a 27-yard touchdown pass from Bears quarterback David Towarnicky to Darryl Reynolds, making it a two-possession game at 17-7, Patriots' lead with 29 seconds left in the first half.

But Towarnicky was beleaguered all game by a quick and swarming Patriots defense, which held him to 166 yards passing, and only allowing him to complete 10 of the 29 passes he attempted.

The Bears didn't score again for almost an entire quarter and another Patriots TD later when Towarnicky plunged in from the 1-yard line for 6 points, but the extra point was no good, making the score 13-24.

The Bears' last score came courtesy of Darryl Reynolds, who was the *Independent Register's* pick for New Bern's player of the game, on his interception of Patriots quarterback Darryl McFadden, which he turned into a 65-yard score. He also had a 27-yard touchdown reception with 29 seconds left in the first half, both scores accounting for 12 of the Bears' points in the 38-19 loss.

New Bern running back Kelvin Hardesty rushed for 68 yards on 15 carries, with an average of 4.5 per rush. He had some big gains — a 26-yarder in the third quarter — but mostly was held in check by a tough Patriots defense.

Woody Wilson wasn't far behind Reynolds with three receptions for 36 yards and a long of 18.

Generra Taylor had an amazing 39-yard reception in the first quarter, but was shut down for the rest of the game by Independence.

West Craven loses

Continued from Page B1

to get their hands on the basketball. We've got to get better than that."

Earlier in the evening, the Lady Rampants defeated West Craven's girls 55-44. The Lady Eagles dropped to 3-5 and 0-2 in the Coastal 8 Conference, while Rose advanced to 4-3 and 2-0.

The Eagles are scheduled to travel to New Bern to take on the Bears tonight at 7 p.m., then face West Carteret at home on Jan. 3.

Indianapolis' dreams of perfect season fall short as San Diego plays spoiler

Continued from Page B1

known Chargers running back Michael Turner who would make the difference in the game.

Turner rushed eight times for 113 yards and a touchdown.

The touchdown came on an 83-yard run with 2:09 left in the game, effectively sealing the victory for the Chargers.

It seems every year there is some team that threatens the 1972 Dolphins' record, but for 33 years, the record

has remained untainted.

Even the Patriots of late couldn't master the perfect season in their three Super Bowl trips.

The Patriots, the Steelers and now the Colts have all come close, but none could stake claim to the record.

I may hurt a few fans' feelings when I say that I don't believe any of those teams even came close to deserving the right to share this record with the tough and gutsy '72 Dolphins.

The Patriots were disciplined and solid across the board, but somehow were lacking the unspoken gritty character of the Dolphins.

This year's Colts are amazing and daring, but are lacking the toughness and focus needed to sustain the push for glory.

The Steelers were the toughest and grittiest of the bunch, but had a rookie quarterback who lacked the experience needed for the quest.

Now, looking ahead to this

years' playoffs, the picture is a little clearer than it was last week.

Seattle is clearly atop the NFC, but the Giants, Bears and Panthers are hanging close behind, each needing to win out to secure its own division.

The Colts sit atop not only the AFC, but the NFL as well, and are all but guaranteed home field advantage throughout the playoffs. The Bengals, Patriots and Broncos all lead their divisions.

Independent Register

NFL Top Performers

NFL Week 15

	Quarterback	Pts.	Running back #1	Pts.	Running back #2	Pts.	Wide Receiver	Pts.	Defense	Pts.	Total Pts.
Voliva - 498 pts	C. Palmer	22	L. Tomlinson	7	T. Barber	39	S. Smith	22	Panthers	18	108
Friedman - 430 pts	T. Brady	21	W. Dunn	8	R. Johnson	27	M. Harrison	16	Patriots	13	85
Toler - 467 pts	J. Delhomme	17	W. Parker	9	S. Alexander	26	C. Johnson	15	Bears	11	78
Consensus	C. Palmer	22	L. Tomlinson	7	S. Alexander	26	S. Smith	22	Bears	11	88

A look ahead at some fantasy matchups, which may be irresistible for week 16 in the NFL.

Drew Brees is currently ranked fifth in the NFL in passing with 3347 passing yards this season. His Chargers will be facing a porous Chiefs secondary that is ranked 31st against the pass.

Larry Johnson is coming off an impressive performance against the Giants, rushing for 167 yards and 2 touchdowns. But next week he can count on Trent Green and the passing game to open up the running lanes.

Tiki Barber shredded the Chiefs last week for 249 yards and 2 touchdowns, while rushing for 1577 yards this season. Next week he'll travel to Washington to take on a Redskins defense that has allowed 15 rushing TDs.

Chad Johnson just torched the Lions defense for 11 receptions, 99 yards, and a TD. Expect him to stick it to a tough Buffalo pass defense, as teammate Rudi Johnson helps to open up the Bengals passing game.

The **Buccaneers defense** is coming off an emotional letdown after being decimated by the Patriots. Gruden will not allow his team to be embarrassed in back to back games. Ronde Barber has 5 INTs this season.

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

"High school basketball should have a shot clock. Once a team gets the lead, it seems like they can just run down the clock."

"I like basketball for its athleticism, not for the guys playing horse at the foul line."

"First the Panthers came out flat against the Bucca-

neers after a very emotional win over the Falcons, then the very next week the Buccaneers come out even flatter against the Patriots. Can you see the pattern? Emotion plays such a big role in sports — when you give it your all one week, you're drained the next."

"I'll say it again, 'How about them Hurricanes?'"

"In high school sports you've got 4-AA teams playing 3-A teams, and in Charlotte Independence's case

Make The Call

you've got the equivalent of a semi-collegiate team. Someone please tell me where the parity is supposed to be? It's like David taking on Goliath. It just doesn't seem fair to the kids and coaches who've worked so hard throughout the season just for a fair shot at a title game, then have to play a team like [Independence]."

"Gruden's going to have their asses doing push-ups all

week. They better get it together," [In reference to Tampa Bay's defense].

"Havelock's boys basketball team has some athletes. If they can just get rid of the jitters earlier in the game, they might have a shot at winning more."

"This is the year of the interception in the NFL. At least three players already have

eight or more interceptions with two more games left in the regular season."

"I'm not sure if it's late enough to start labeling this year's first round busts [in the NFL]. Carolina's Thomas Davis could be considered either a wealth of undiscovered talent, or a bust. But like I've heard, it takes at least three years to make that decision final. Who knows, maybe he'll learn from all his mistakes this season and come on strong next year?"

"Has Gary Payton retired? If he hasn't, he should. Last I heard, he followed Shaq down to Miami."

Quote Of The Week

"Is anyone calling Michael Vick Superman anymore?"

If you have an opinion that you want to share with the other readers, label it "Make The Call" and e-mail it to eric@indieregister.com or mail it to 1734 Elmwood St. New Bern NC, 28560. The Independent Register reserves the right to not print quotes deemed unsuitable for publication.