

BASEBALL

Nats, O's riding high

Both the Nationals and the Orioles are closing in on playoff berths. Is a Beltway World Series on the horizon? **A1**



ON WASHINGTONPOST.COM/SPORTS

Nationals Journal Today, 7:10 p.m. Chat while the Nats try to clinch the NL East division title.

Post Sports Live Today, 11 a.m. The panel will have plenty to discuss after an eventful weekend.

The Insider Check in throughout the day for all of the latest news and notes from Redskins Park.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Cavs find a leader

Linebacker Henry Coley emerges as a motivating force for Virginia after its win over Louisville. **D3**

No surgery for Griffin; no return date either

With Cousins pitching in, time for a change-up



Jason Reid

Kirk Cousins does his best work in the pocket, and that's where Washington Redskins Coach Jay Gruden wants Cousins to stay while he fills in for injured quarterback Robert Griffin III. The designed running plays Gruden called for Griffin will be scrapped from the playbook, and that's only one of several changes coming on offense.

With a more comfortable pocket passer in Cousins, Gruden intends to utilize more of the team's West Coast passing game. Sunday's 41-10 laugher

against the Jacksonville Jaguars provided a glimpse of what to expect.

After Cousins replaced Griffin in the first quarter, the team's quarterback and play-caller quickly got in sync. Cousins completed his first 12 attempts. Overall, he connected on 22 of 33 passes for 250 yards and two touchdowns. He had no turnovers and an impressive 109.4 passer rating while Washington amassed 449 yards. Gruden wasn't surprised.

"Kirk is a special guy," Gruden said after the game, his tone conveying excitement about Cousins's potential. "He can handle it mentally and

REID CONTINUED ON D6



JONATHAN NEWTON/THE WASHINGTON POST
Robert Griffin III dislocated his ankle against the Jaguars on Sunday.

Redskins QB to wear a cast, seek opinion from specialist before determining timeline

BY MIKE JONES

The Washington Redskins know Robert Griffin III will not need surgery to repair his dislocated left ankle. They believe there's a chance the quarterback will return to the field this season. But they say they have no idea exactly when that will be.

"We'll know in a few more weeks as far as how long he will be out," Coach Jay Gruden said Monday afternoon. "We're going to send his results of the MRI off to

Dr. [Robert] Anderson, a foot and ankle specialist, and get it casted up and we'll just go from there."

Griffin injured his ankle early in the first quarter of Washington's 41-10 victory over Jacksonville as he rolled to the right, tried to elude a defender and launched a pass 20 yards downfield to wide receiver DeSean Jackson. X-rays conducted Sunday showed a dislocation of the ankle, but an MRI exam was necessary for doctors to learn the extent of the damage.

Had Griffin also fractured his ankle, he would have needed surgery and likely would have missed the remainder of the season. Gruden said he didn't know what kind of ligament damage Griffin had suffered but said it's clear the

REDSKINS CONTINUED ON D6

Mitch Korn's bag of tricks

The Capitals' new goalie coach has an array of props he uses during practice, each with a specific purpose:

High shot screen board:

Less a board than a dangling row of thin, black plastic strips, which challenges the goalie to find the puck as it comes through.

Medicine ball:

Clutched at chest level, it helps a goaltender focus on skating with his legs without arm propulsion. Hold them long enough, and it's a nasty workout.



Focus enhancers:

Mesh bags worn over the mask, another visual impairment. Korn initially tried snapping a shade visor onto the cage, like a football player, but settled for black and white laundry bags.

Low shot screen board:

Resembling an easel, this prop removes the goalie's ability to track the puck until it zooms through the short space beneath the board. Korn picked this up from Dave Prior, a former Capitals goaltending coach.

White pucks:

They blend into the ice. Korn was inspired by Halloween- and Valentine's Day-themed pucks at a local skate shop in Nashville.

Mini pucks:

Korn found these through Steve McKichan, an old student and a former goalie coach for the Toronto Maple Leafs.



JOHN MCDONNELL/THE WASHINGTON POST

Pulling out all the stops

BY ALEX PREWITT

NEWBURGH, N.Y. — Five goalie camps down and two more ahead on another beloved summer circuit, Mitch Korn hopped from his equipment van outside the Ice Time Sports Complex with a throaty cold and an eager grin. The previous session in Connecticut had ended that afternoon, a Monday in late July, so the operation quickly rumbled toward this one-rink city, chosen because Korn's sister lives nearby and that means free laundry.

"Let's start moving," Korn told his staff. He coughed once, the tax for so many weeks spent on the road. "Let's go."

Out from the van spilled hockey bags the size of

Mitch Korn, the new goalie guru for the Capitals, is the man who's teaching the men in the net

go-karts, stuffed with the teaching tools for which Korn has become known: buckets of pucks, bungee cords, medicine balls, a thin mirror about six feet wide and traffic cones that light up. Thirty-five years of college hockey, the American Hockey League and the NHL had led Korn to these tools, which form the reputation for education and innovation that accompanies the new Capitals goalie coach to Washington.

Depending on the source, Korn is either a goaltending guru, a netminder whisperer or, as longtime colleague Barry Trotz calls him, "Yoda" and "The Voice of Reason." He is also a pull-no-punches joker, an opportunistic self-deprecator, a frequent storyteller, a devout follower of Murphy's Law — "Anything that can go wrong will go wrong" — and a 5-foot-4, 57-year-old Jewish man from the Bronx who made it in a sport few played back home, without playing much of it himself.

But here in Newburgh, Korn would soon play the role of overseer. The following morning, 48 campers would arrive, aged 8 to 18, dubbed by Trotz as "Children of the Korn." Adding the counselors,

KORN CONTINUED ON D7

Nationals move one win from NL East championship

NATIONALS 4, BRAVES 2

BY ADAM KILGORE

ATLANTA — The players might not have noticed the small hooks protruding from the wall above their lockers Monday, ringing the visiting clubhouse at Turner Field. Spaced between every other nameplate, they had been installed overnight, a subtle touch intended not as decoration but preparation. The Atlanta Braves needed someplace to hang plastic sheets from in the event the Washington Nationals take back the National League East in their home stadium, in case the Nationals spray champagne all over the place.

On Tuesday afternoon, the Nationals will arrive at the park for Game 150 with the opportunity they have toiled for since February. The Nationals' 4-2 victory over the Braves pushed their lead to 1½ games and reduced their magic number to just two. Stephen Strasburg

NATIONALS CONTINUED ON D5

MAGIC NUMBER

2 The combination of Washington wins and Atlanta losses that will clinch the NL East title for the Nationals.

Nationals at Braves

Tonight, 7 (MASN)

Issues of race: An unsettling NBA offseason

Clippers, Hawks situations force league to re-evaluate its level of diversity

BY MICHAEL LEE

The defining story of the NBA offseason could have been LeBron James's triumphant return to his home state to heal the hurt of his previous defection. But while that homecoming dominated the early days of the summer, the predominant theme has now shifted from a reunion to a rift.

With Donald Sterling removed from the NBA and forced to sell the Los Angeles Clippers, Atlanta Hawks majority owner Bruce Levenson voluntarily selling his franchise and General Manager Danny Ferry taking an indefinite leave of absence, this offseason is forcing the league to confront the delicate issue of race. The situations with the Clippers and Hawks differ in scale and context but have brought to light the complicated dance for a league in which more than three-quarters of the players are black while coaching, management and especially ownership is overwhelmingly white. While complicated, it's a dance the NBA has performed gracefully for some time.

NBA CONTINUED ON D3