

A SWEET STROKE

Allan Houston of the New York Knicks goes up for a jumper in the second quarter of his team's game against Charlotte Sunday in Madison Square Garden. The Knicks won 91-82.

STORY C-10



The Post-Standard
SPORTS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2004

SECTION
C

Crunch becomes most penalized team in the AHL

G2

Bowls resume today with MPC Computers and Motor City

G8

Move Over, Dan



Manning erases Marino's TD record

The Associated Press

Indianapolis — Peyton Manning broke one of football's most hallowed records, and his reward was praise from one of his boyhood idols.

Manning broke Dan Marino's single-season touchdown pass record when he threw his 48th and 49th of the season on Sunday against San Diego. And he did it in dramatic fashion, rallying the Colts from a 31-16 fourth-quarter deficit to win 34-31 in overtime.

Right after the game he got to speak with Marino, the player he grew up idolizing as a young quarterback in Louisiana. Marino was in the CBS studio for the NFL Today, where he serves as a commentator.

"I was getting all emotional talking to him, I can't believe it," a choked-up Manning said. "Dan, besides my father, was always my favorite player growing up after my dad retired. I would have been content if I would have stayed

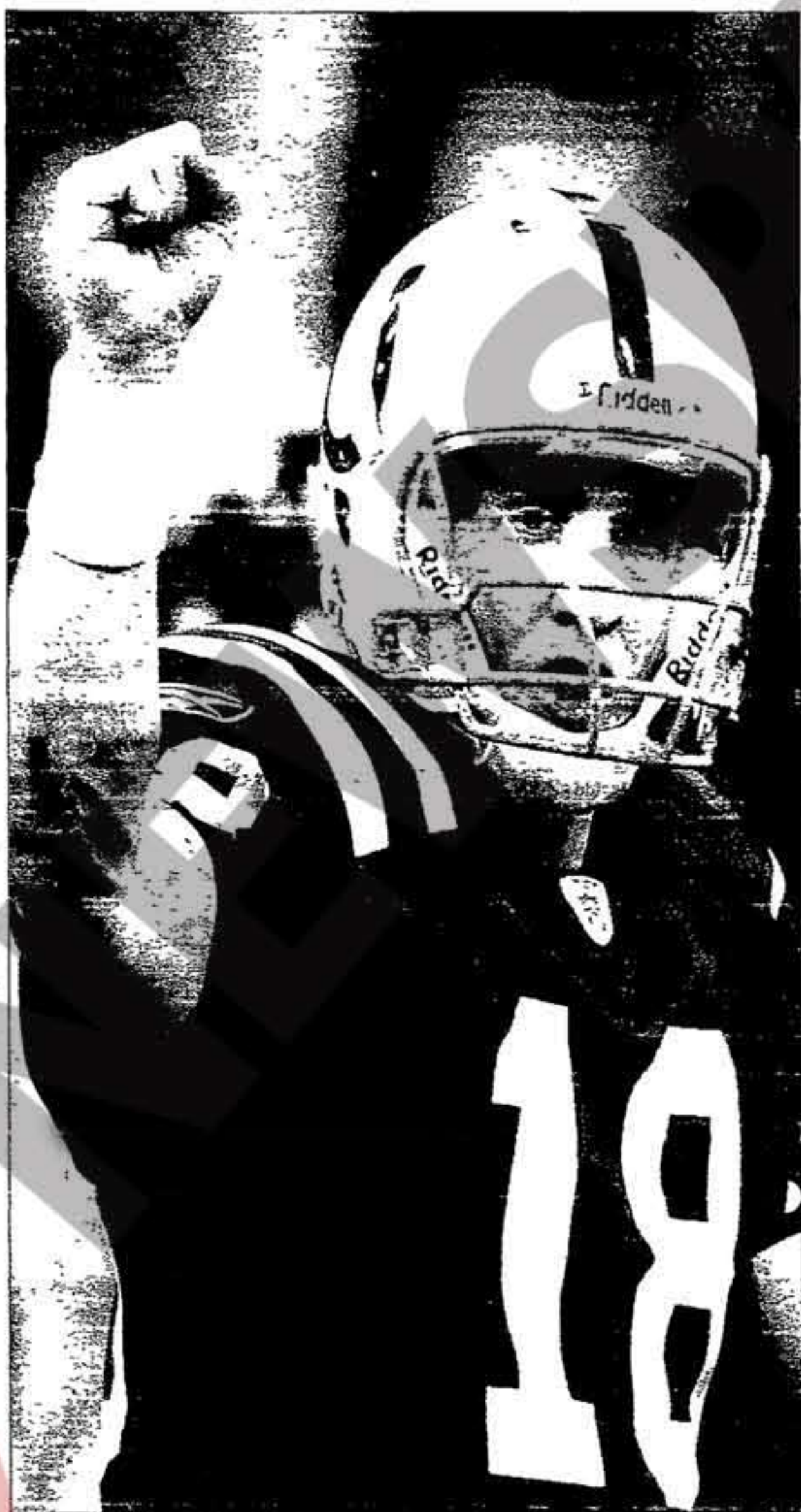
MANNING, PAGE C-7

Helping hands

Six Indianapolis Colts, including two former Syracuse University stars (in bold), have been on the receiving end of Peyton Manning's NFL-record 49 touchdown passes this season.

- Marvin Harrison (14)**
- WR Reggie Wayne (11)
- WR Brandon Stokley (10)
- WR Marcus Pollard (6)
- TE Dallas Clark (5)
- RB James Munroe (3)

Note: Harrison, Wayne and Stokley are the first trio of teammates in NFL history to each have 10 TD receptions and 1,000 yards in a season.



PEYTON MANNING of the Indianapolis Colts rejoices after throwing his NFL-record 49th touchdown pass of the season, a 21-yarder to Brandon Stokley with 56 seconds left in regulation against the San Diego Chargers on Sunday. The Colts won in overtime 34-31.

Playoffs within Buffalo's grasp

McGahee and Evans score twice as Bills pound 49ers for sixth straight win.

The Associated Press

San Francisco — Coach Mike Mularkey shut off every television in the locker room Sunday morning, ordering his Buffalo Bills to focus on the only game with playoff implications they could control.

That blackout led to a knockout. The Bills demolished the San Francisco 49ers 41-7 for their sixth straight victory, boosting everything from their postseason hopes to their confidence in Willis McGahee's injured knee.

Mularkey still won't say the word "playoffs," but his Bills certainly showed the determination and desperation necessary to become just the second team in NFL history to reach the postseason after starting 0-4.

"It's the same situation we've been in now for a long, long time," said Drew Bledsoe, who went 21-of-32 for 172 yards and

a touchdown. "In order for us to have a chance, we've got to go and win the next game. There's only one way to approach it. Sure, I saw the other (scores) in the stadium, but it doesn't matter."

Though nothing was decided, the other games went exceptionally well for the Bills (9-6). Fellow contenders Baltimore, Jacksonville and the New York Jets all lost.

"Some of us know the situations, but the only thing we could control is what was right here," linebacker Takeo Spikes said. "We knew the problems (the 49ers) were having, and we wanted to beat them with our best game."

McGahee rushed for 102 yards and two touchdowns, and rookie Lee Evans caught two scoring passes as the Bills extended their longest winning streak since 1990. Buffalo also clinched its first winning record since 1999.

From Spikes' menacing tackles to Evans' impressive catches,

BILLS, PAGE C-4



WILLIS MCGAHEE of the Buffalo Bills dives over the goal line from 1 yard out in front of San Francisco 49ers safety Dwaine Carpenter in the third quarter Sunday in San Francisco.

NFL: Week 16

STARS

- **Antonio Gates, Chargers:** Broke the NFL mark for touchdown receptions by a tight end when he caught his 13th of the season — a 4-yard shovel pass from Drew Brees in San Diego's 34-31 overtime loss to Indianapolis.
- **Vinny Testaverde, Cowboys:** Silenced the boos from fans who wanted him benched with a 39-yard touchdown to Patrick Crayton with 30 seconds left in a 13-10 win over Washington.

STIFFS

- **Refs in Chicago-Detroit game:** Chicago quarterback Chad Hutchinson appeared to throw a 43-yard, game-tying touchdown pass to Bernard Berrian with 1:26 left. But it was ruled incomplete

and the ruling was upheld, even though replays proved otherwise. Detroit won the game 19-13.

SCOREBOARD

Buffalo 41	San Francisco 7
New England 23	NY Jets 7
Cincinnati 23	NY Giants 22
Indianapolis 34	San Diego 31 (OT)
Pittsburgh 20	Baltimore 7
Houston 21	Jacksonville 0
Detroit 19	Chicago 13
Seattle 24	Arizona 21
New Orleans 26	Atlanta 13
Dallas 13	Washington 10
Carolina 37	Tampa Bay 20
Miami 10	Cleveland 7

Today's game

Philadelphia..... at St. Louis
MORE NFL, PAGES C-4, C-5, C-6, C-7

Tuberville would listen if LSU wants to talk

If LSU officials choose to contact Tommy Tuberville about replacing Nick Saban, the Auburn coach is willing to listen. A person with direct knowledge of the process told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution on Sunday that Tuberville's agent, Jimmy Sexton of Memphis, has been given the green light to talk to LSU if the school is interested.

Saban, also Sexton's client, announced Saturday that he will leave LSU for the Miami Dolphins. Tuberville was named The Associated Press national coach of the year last week. His Auburn team is 12-0 after winning the school's first outright SEC championship since 1987.

Lakers' family feud makes for must-see TV

Shaq vs. Kobe drew the highest rating in six years for a basketball game. The overnight rating for the

Miami Heat's 104-102 overtime victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on ABC on Christmas Day was 8.0. That was the highest since February 1998, when Michael Jordan led the Chicago Bulls against the Lakers on NBC.

And we quote

John Lynch, Denver Broncos safety, about playing on Christmas:

"My little 4-year-old told me today, 'That's not fair, Daddy.' It might not be. But that's life."

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Charlie Miller, sports editor
470-0033

NFL defensive great Reggie White dies at 43

The Associated Press

Cornelius, N.C. — Reggie White, a fearsome defensive end for the Philadelphia Eagles and Green Bay Packers and one of the NFL's greatest players, died Sunday, his wife said. He was 43.

The cause of death was not immediately known, however White had a respiratory ailment for several years that affected his sleep, according to Keith Johnson, a pastor serving as family spokesman. An autopsy was scheduled.

"Today our beloved husband, father and friend passed away," White's wife, Sara, said in a statement. "His family appreciates your thoughts and prayers as we mourn the loss of Reggie White. We want to thank you in advance for honoring our privacy."

White died at Presbyterian Hospital where he was taken after his wife called 911. A po-

lice officer was outside White's Tudor-style home in a gated community, and would not let a reporter approach the house.

A two-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year and ordained minister who was known as the "Minister of Defense," White played a total of 15 years with Philadelphia, Green Bay and Carolina. He retired after the 2000 season as the NFL's all-time leader in sacks with 198. The mark has since been passed by Bruce Smith.

"Reggie White was a gentle warrior who will be remembered as one of the greatest defensive players in NFL history," NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue said. "Equally as impressive as his achievements on the field was the positive impact he made off the field and the way he served as a positive influence on so many young people."

A member of the NFL's 75th anniversary team, White was elected to the Pro Bowl a record

13 straight times from 1986-98. He was the NFL's Defensive Player of the Year in 1987 and 1998.

"A 43-year-old is not supposed to die in his sleep," Johnson said. "It was not only unexpected, but it was also a complete surprise. Reggie wasn't a sick man... he was vibrant. He had lots and lots of energy, lots of passion."

Johnson is the head of Christian Athletes United for Spiritual Empowerment, a ministry that White helped found. He said White had gone to see the movie "Fat Albert" on Christmas night with family and friends.

"He was a family person, a person who liked to have fun. Obviously, we're all going to really miss him," Johnson said.

White and his wife had a son and a daughter: Jeremy, a freshman at Elon University, and Je-colia, a junior in high school.

After an All-American senior season in 1981, White was selected to the Pro Bowl a record



REGGIE WHITE acknowledges the crowd at Lambeau Field in Green Bay after a Packers victory in 1995. White may have died in his sleep on Sunday. An autopsy will be performed to determine the cause of death.