

INSIDE

■ Scores & More, 6C

SPORTS

The Gazette

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Strausser loses battle, wins war

By Laura Palmer
Gazette sportswriter

By lap 18, Jonn Strausser wasn't worried about catching leader Billy Bennett or winning the 25-lap Sportsman feature race.

And with his car on the verge of overheating, Strausser's confidence on winning a second straight track title wavered.

The veteran knew he needed to finish better than fifth to secure the points title during the season championships Friday night at Hawkeye Downs Speedway.

The car never completely overheated and Strausser hung on to finish second in the feature to Bennett, who for the second year in a row finished second to Strausser in the points standings.

"We got a little too warm. I didn't know what was going to happen," Strausser said. "I kept looking at the gauges and they kept getting higher and higher, so I didn't look anymore."

Strausser won the final race a year ago to finish two points ahead of Bennett.

Bennett, who started next to Strausser in the first row, took the lead for good on a

HAWKEYE DOWNS

restart. He edged past Strausser on the backstretch of lap two and was never threatened as he claimed his ninth feature.

"The car felt the best it has all year," Bennett said. "Everything clicked. We won the Hard-Charger award and (nine) features. I'm real proud of this season. You can't complain about a year like that."

Strausser held off third-place Keith Gogel in the stretch. Wade Prasil and Josh Walker finished fourth and fifth, respectively.

Arlo Becker started in the fourth row, but used the high side to quickly moved through the pack and slide by Bill Flannagan into second place on lap three of the Modified feature.

He took the lead from season champion Brian Slaton on lap seven and scooted to the 25-lap feature win.

Slaton and Flannagan, who finished 1-2 in the points standings, finished second and third, respectively. Scott Fiala was fourth.

Becker must have felt pretty comfortable

because on lap 14 he waved to the crowd as he whizzed by.

"I had a lot of fans from Davenport here tonight," said Becker of Atkins. "It makes me feel real good to win it."

Jeff Franks of Cedar Rapids had already claimed the points title in the Hobby Stock Division, but said winning the 20-lap feature was still special.

"It meant a lot to me," said Franks of winning the feature. "We've won the most features, had the most top three finishes. This capped off a real good season."

Franks had no trouble grabbing his fourth checkered flag of the season. He started on the pole, quickly built a cushion and never relinquished the lead.

"It was a long 20 laps," said Franks, who hopes to move up a class next season. "It looks easy when you start in the front. But it's a very long race."

Don Johnson, who started in the second row, held off Jerry Blazek, who started along side Franks, and the pair finished second and third, respectively. Brian Allen was fourth.

Lyle shatters state breaststroke record

SWIMMING

Her 25.03 win in the 50 free against Washington bettered the school record of 25.23 held by Kasia Gawranska, who was a Polish exchange student at Regina High School, swimming for West on a sharing arrangement. Gawranska is now attending Clemson University on a swimming scholarship.

Lyle has been swimming at West under a sharing agreement since her freshman year.

She was fourth in the 100 breaststroke at the state meet her freshman and sophomore years.

Tuesday, she bettered the school mark in the 50-meter freestyle.

Her 1:05.96 clocking in the breaststroke eclipsed the state record of 1:06.09 set in 1985 by another West swimmer, Ann Colloton.

In Tuesday's 106-82 loss to Cedar Rapids Washington, also at Mercer, Lyle won the 100 breaststroke in 1:06.64.

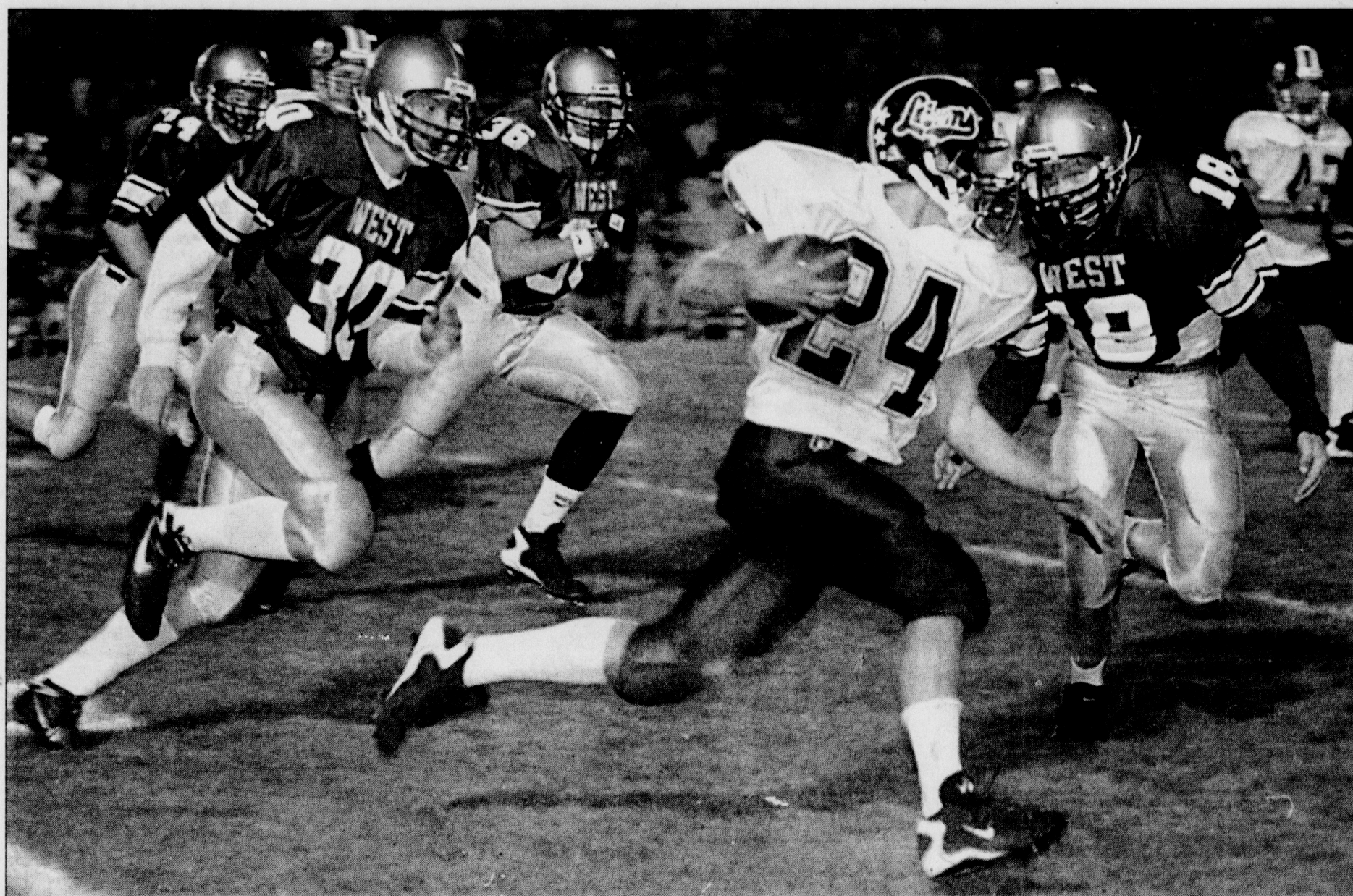


Photo by Jeanine Brown, Gazette intern

Roger Abel of Linn-Mar races for the goal with a pass as Iowa City West defenders Clint Feuerbach (30) and Chris Richardson (18) give chase during their game Friday in Iowa City. Top-ranked West High won, 42-17.

Steinburg powers Kennedy

By Mark Dukes
Gazette sports editor

Practice — and a big night from tailback J.C. Steinburg — paid off for Cedar Rapids Kennedy Friday night.

The Cougars, coming off a disappointing opening-game loss, held off Cedar Rapids Prairie, 27-21, in Mississippi Valley Conference football before a crowd estimated at 4,000 fans at Prairie's John Wall Field.

Kennedy (1-1) suffered a 29-6 season-opening loss to Cedar Rapids Regis, and there wasn't a Cougar fan pleased about it.

"We practiced hard this week," Kennedy Coach Don Knock said. "I was happy for the kids because we were all upset with the terrible performance last week."

Steinburg rushed for 149 yards and three touchdowns on 25 carries. His 54- and 46-yard runs in the first half gave Kennedy a 14-0 lead.

"We tried to get J.C. loose, and we finally did," Knock said. "We finally established the running game, although we can do better there, and we hit some key passes."

Prairie rallied twice, tying the game at 14-14 in the first half and trimming the Cougar lead to 27-21 with 1:56 remaining. The Hawks held Kennedy on downs near mid-field with 12 seconds left, completed a 32-yard pass but ran out of time.

"We spotted 'em 14 but came back," Prairie Coach Craig Jelinek said. "What I'm pleased about is that I thought our guys stayed with it."

After Steinburg's two TD jaunts, both off the right side of the Kennedy line, Prairie responded with two solid drives. Quarterback Jeremy Snyder, who passed for 208 yards, lofted a beautiful 35-yard touchdown strike to 6-foot-3 Matt Ternes. Set up by a Casey Bowman fumble recovery, the Hawks tied it on tailback Grant Kellogg's 51-yard TD scamper with 3:36 left in the half.

Kennedy answered with a 13-play drive, capped by a 15-yard touchdown pass from Brad Steenhoek to Jim McArthur 11 seconds before intermission. The Cougars kept the drive going when Kyle Knock, deep to punt, tossed a 17-yard pass on fourth-and-5 to Brad Beachler.

Jason Givvin's fumble recovery at the Prairie 30-yard line gave Kennedy excellent field position early in the third period. Steinburg finished off a 7-play drive with a 1-yard plunge.

Roughing the kicker and pass interference penalties on Kennedy aided Prairie in the fourth quarter. The Hawks scored on a Ben Sanderson 3-yard run off a counter call and Jake Swanson kicked the point, leaving Prairie behind by six points with 1:56 left.

Jelinek praised the play of Snyder, who completed 13 of 28 passes, and Sanderson, who caught four passes for 56 yards. Ternes, tight end Al Novak and fullback Ryan LaGrange each had three catches. Kellogg gained 80 yards rushing.

Player collapses, dies

MUSCATINE (AP) — A Davenport Assumption High School football player died after collapsing on the sideline during a sophomore football game Friday night.

Linebacker Alex Velotas, 15, died at 8:04 p.m., shortly after arriving at Muscatine General Hospital, supervisor Dorothy Smith said. She said the death was being called a "cardiac episode," possibly brought on by an asthma attack.

Smith said emergency personnel were performing CPR on Velotas when he arrived at the hospital.

Muscatine Athletic Director Chuck Van Hecke said Velotas, a 6-foot, 204-pound linebacker, collapsed during the third quarter of the Assumption-Muscatine sophomore game.

Witnesses said Velotas took himself out of the game. His parents were in the stands.

West breaks free from Lions

By John Shipley

Gazette Johnson County Bureau
IOWA CITY — Top-ranked Iowa City West scored 21 third-quarter points to blow open a close game and overwhelm Linn-Mar, 42-17, Friday at Trojan Field.

The Trojans (2-0) looked little like the defending Class 4A champions in the first half, turning the ball over three times and getting fooled by a finesse offense that clearly surprised them.

They rebounded, however, behind an opportunistic defense and the running tandem of Carlos Honore and Vong Xaykosy, who combined for 281 yards and

PREP FOOTBALL

five touchdowns.

Linn-Mar scored on its first possession, a 12-play, 77-yard drive that culminated in a trick play that went 38 yards for a touchdown.

On third-and-11 at West's 38, Lions quarterback Will Meggers hit receiver Roger Abel for what appeared to be a quick seven-yard gain, but Abel pitched it to a streaking Nate Hansen, who raced the rest of the way into the end zone.

Jeff Raver's extra-point kick gave the Lions their first lead, 7-0, with just under five minutes

off the clock.

"That was an excellent call. It was a great play," West High Coach Reese Morgan said. "They caught us off guard."

West High tied it on the next series when Xaykosy returned the kickoff 50 yards and Honore danced 32 yards for a touchdown. But Linn-Mar took a 10-7 lead on Raver's 21-yard field goal to open the second quarter.

But that was about it for Linn-Mar (1-1), which missed a chance to take a 17-14 lead into intermission when Hansen dropped a Meggers pass in the end zone with four minutes left.

■ Turn to 4C: Trojans

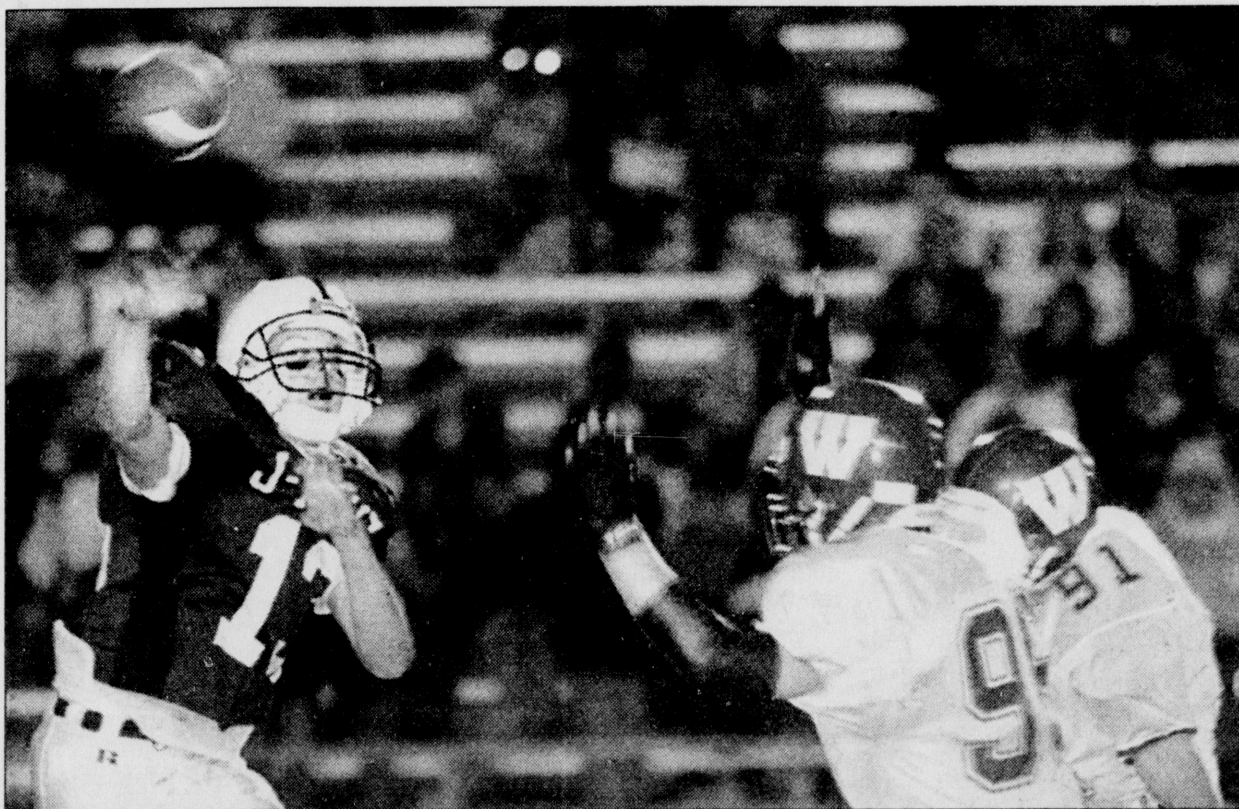


Photo by Katrina Kump, Gazette intern

Cedar Rapids Jefferson quarterback Matt McCracken throws a pass under defensive pressure from Joel Wazac (96) and Matt McDowell (91) of Cedar Rapids Washington during their game Friday at Kingston Stadium. Washington won, 37-0.

Potent passing lifts Wash

Lesmeister, Cornish key Warriors, 37-0

By Jeff Dahn
Gazette sportswriter

Thanks to the golden right arm of Keith Lesmeister and the sticky hands of Scott Cornish and Lydale Waller, the Cedar Rapids Washington passing attack is very much alive.

Friday night at Kingston Stadium, that attack was enough to make road-kill of Cedar Rapids Jefferson.

On an evening that mixed two parts football with one part band festival, Lesmeister threw for 232 yards and four touchdowns to lead Washington past crosstown rival Jefferson, 37-0, in a Mississippi Valley Conference contest played in front of an estimated 5,000 fans.

The win was the fourth straight for the Warriors in the 42-game series, and their sixth in the last seven meetings. They lead overall, 25-15-2.

The loss was Jefferson's 24th

straight over parts of the last four seasons.

It was a festive night, even for the beleaguered Jefferson fans.

The marching bands from Washington, Jefferson and Iowa State University all performed, which kept things hopping everywhere except on the J-Hawk sideline.

Washington started sluggishly on offense, but soon turned things on behind Lesmeister. The senior completed 15 of 22 passes with TD throws of 20 and 18 yards to Waller, and 4 and 18 yards to Cornish.

"Early in the game, we were coming off the ball a little slow," Lesmeister said. "Then all the seniors challenged each other to get our momentum going, and it seemed to work."

The Warriors limped to a 7-0 first quarter lead after being forced to punt on its first two possessions. But Lesmeister completed 6 of 8 second-quarter passes — including both TDs to Cornish — and Washington led at halftime, 21-0.

From that point, it was a walk in the park.

"We had a game plan we thought we'd be successful at, but they were really coming at us" in the first quarter, Washington Coach Paul James said. "We had a heart-to-heart with the offensive line and decided to go to 'Plan B,' which was really just our normal stuff."

Cornish hauled in six of Lesmeister's throws for 100 yards and Waller added three catches for 74 more.

The J-Hawks didn't appear to have an answer for the Warriors' aerial assault, but Coach Jim Dostal said that wasn't the case.

"We had the answer, we just didn't do it," he said, adding he hopes his team is able to bounce back. "We have a schedule ahead of us we have to play, so we have to bounce back. What's

■ Turn to 4C: Warriors

SPORTSDAY

EVENTS OF AREA INTEREST

High school girls' swimming

□ Kennedy, Linn-Mar at Cedar Falls NU High Invitational

High school volleyball

□ LaSalle, Marion at Lancer Invitational, 9:30 a.m.

□ Kennedy, Jefferson at Des Moines Classic

□ Prairie, Regis at North Scott Invitational

College field hockey

□ U of I Hawkeye Invitational, 11 & 1:30 p.m.

College football

□ Iowa State at Iowa, 2:35 p.m.

□ Stephen F. Austin at Northern Iowa, 6:30 p.m.

□ Dubuque at Cornell, 1:30 p.m.

□ Principia at Grinnell, 1:30 p.m.

□ Coe at Eureka

□ Luther at Dr. Martin Luther

□ Upper Iowa at Huron, S.D.

College soccer

□ Monmouth at Coe, men 1 p.m., women 3 p.m.

College softball

□ U of I Hawkeye Classic

College volleyball

□ Evansville at Northern Iowa, 4 p.m.

□ Iowa vs. Miami (Ohio) and Kansas at Hawkeye Classic, 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.

□ Mount Mercy at St. Ambrose tournament

□ Iowa State vs. Ohio State, Eastern Illinois at Northern Illinois Invitational

□ Luther, Upper Iowa at Bethel tournament

□ Grinnell, Coe at Augustana Invitational

College cross country

□ Mount Mercy, Coe, Cornell at Mustang Gallop at Jones Park, 11 a.m.

□ Luther, Grinnell, Upper Iowa at All-American Invitational in Decorah, 11:40 a.m.

ON TELEVISION

(Live and first-run events only)

Auto racing

□ Neon Challenge Series, 11 a.m. (ESPN2)

□ NASCAR MBNA 200, Noon (TNN)

Baseball

□ Chicago at Boston, Noon (KFAX)

□ Philadelphia at Chicago, 3 p.m. (WGN)

Boxing

□ Marco Antonio Barrera vs. Jesse Magana, Junior Featherweights, 10:30 p.m. (HBO)

College football

□ Northern Illinois at Penn State, 11 a.m. (KGAN)

□ East Carolina at West Virginia, 11 a.m. (SportsChannel)

□ Virginia Tech at Boston College, 11:30 a.m. (ESPN)

□ Auburn at Mississippi, 11:30 a.m. (ESPN2)

□ Purdue at Notre Dame, 1:30 p.m. (NBC)

□ Iowa State at Iowa, 2:30 p.m. (KCRG)

□ Vanderbilt at Alabama, 5 p.m. (ESPN2)

□ Georgia at South Carolina, 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)

□ Kansas at TCU, 8 p.m. (ESPN2)

□ Ball State at Minnesota, 11 p.m. (SportsChannel, tape)

Golf

□ Quad City Classic, 11 a.m. (KCQX)

□ Presidents Cup, 2:30 p.m. (CBS)

Hockey

□ World Cup Championship: U.S. vs. Canada, 7 p.m. (FX, SportsChannel)

Horse racing

□ Woodward Stakes/Man o' War/Ruffian Handicap, 3 p.m. (ESPN)

Soccer

□ D.C. United at Tampa Bay, 4 p.m. (ESPN)

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PRO FOOTBALL

National Football League

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Buffalo 2 0 0 1000 40 30

Philadelphia 1 0 0 1000 20 20

Miami 2 0 0 1000 60 20

New England 2 0 0 1000 30 32

New York Giants 2 0 0 1000 30 32

Seattle 2 0 0 1000 20 29

West

Carolina 2 0 0 1000 51 26

Kansas City 2 0 0 1000 61 22

San Diego 2 0 0 1000 56 21

Chicago 2 0 0 1000 37 32

St. Louis 1 0 0 1000 26 50

Seattle 2 0 0 1000 37 32

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