

WEEK 6 REDSKINS 38, VIKINGS 26

Week 7: Noon Sunday vs. Arizona • Mall of America Field • TV: Ch. 9 (100.3-FM, 1130-AM)

# RG3 IN A RUNAWAY

The rookie capped off a Redskins victory with a sensational scoring run.



JERRY HOLT • jholt@startribune.com

In this fourth-quarter confluence of star rookies, Washington quarterback Robert Griffin III left Vikings safety Harrison Smith sprawled on the turf on the way to a clinching 76-yard touchdown run.

## INSIDE THE GAME DAN WIEDERER



LANDOVER, MD. - Twenty minutes after Sunday's magic show ended, a jubilant crowd bounced out of FedEx Field, still feeling compelled to praise the afternoon's headliner.

The chants were loud. They were impassioned. And they left the visiting Vikings with a pounding headache.

"RG3! RG3! RG3!"

Indeed, Redskins rookie Robert Griffin III stole the show in his team's 38-26 victory, boosting his already sky-high popularity across the D.C. area.

For three hours, Griffin had all eyes on him yet showed extraordinary poise.

He was sharp with his throws and electric with his runs.

Most of all, he seemed to create an energy within his team and among the boisterous crowd. So much so, in fact, that Vikings star Adrian Peterson congratulated the 22-year-old quarterback after the game and walked away a believer.

Vikings continues on C9 ►

## SOMEBODY ... STOP HIM!

**Dec. 1, 2002:** Michael Vick set an NFL record for rushing yards by a quarterback as Atlanta beat the Vikings 30-24 at the Metrodome. Vick's 46-yard TD dash in overtime capped a 173-yard day.

**Sunday:** Washington's Robert Griffin III ran for 138 yards — fifth-highest total for a QB in NFL history — against the Vikings, sealing the game with a 76-yard scoring dash. The scoring run was longest for a QB since Kordell Stewart had an 80-yarder for Pittsburgh on Dec. 22, 1996.

D.C.'s newest hero is a breath — no, make that a blast — of fresh air

LANDOVER, MD. - Robert Griffin III doesn't understand the game. The kid's inexperience showed on Sunday.

Long after leaving the Vikings wind-burned and dizzy, Griffin strolled through the underground corridors of FedEx Field. Escalades and Suburbans rolled by, filled with self-described VIPs. Griffin, wearing baggy gray sweatpants, carrying a backpack and pulling a rolling bag, had to step out of their way, like a fan who had swiped a sideline pass.

Most NFL quarterbacks with Griffin's ability are followed by an entourage. Griffin almost got run over by someone else's.

"I just talked to him and told him, 'You have the heart of a champion,'" Vikings star Adrian Peterson said.

And the legs of an Olympian.

There have been running quarterbacks in the NFL who could do what Griffin did on Sunday, ending the Redskins' 38-26 victory with a 76-yard

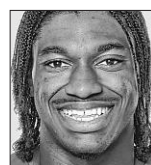
jim  
souhan

Souhan continues on C7 ►

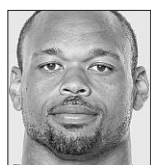


# redskins 38, vikings 26

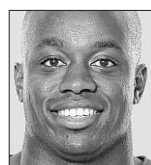
## game balls



**ROBERT GRIFFIN III**  
Redskins quarterback  
The No. 2 overall pick out of Baylor had 182 passing yards and added 138 on the ground, with two TDs.



**LORENZO ALEXANDER**  
Redskins linebacker  
The special teams captain had a big game on D: a fumble recovery to set up a TD, 1½ sacks and four QB hurries.



**MADIEU WILLIAMS**  
Redskins safety  
Former Viking was game's second-leading tackler (12) and returned an interception 24 yards for a TD.

« WE HAVE TO TURN THOSE THREES INTO SEVEN. TODAY IT FINALLY CAME BACK AND BIT US. »

Vikings running back Adrian Peterson

# RG3'S LATE RUNAWAY OVERWHELMS VIKES

## ◀ VIKINGS FROM C1

"Looking into his eyes, he's got the heart of a champion," Peterson said of Griffin. "It's easy to see he's a great player. He's been blessed."

Like any grand finale at a David Copperfield show, Griffin's final trick Sunday appeared as effortless as it was breathtaking.

With 2 minutes, 56 seconds left, the Redskins clung to a five-point lead and faced a critical third-and-6 at their own 24-yard line.

And then came the snap and an aggressive Vikings blitz that never got home.

Linebackers Chad Greenway and Jasper Brinkley were knocked off course. Griffin saw an opening and darted through.

"We were putting a little pressure on him," Greenway said. "And he escaped. Really nothing more to say."

Cornerback Chris Cook, in coverage on Josh Morgan, was sealed by a block.

Safeties Harrison Smith and Jamarca Sanford were each a degree or two off in the angles they took in pursuit.

Suddenly Griffin sliced to the left sideline and seemed to hit a moving walkway.

The final 65 yards of his sprint created a celebratory mosh pit across the stadium.

"There aren't a lot of guys who play that position who can break a 76-yard run and not get caught," Vikings coach Leslie Frazier said. "That creates some issues for any defense. [He's] a heck of a young player."

Griffin had a hand in 36 of the Redskins' 55 plays. He ran 13 times for 138 yards and two scores. He also completed 17 of 22 passes for 182 yards, including a TD toss of 6 yards to full-back Darrel Young.

Early on, Griffin continually pinpointed passes to open receivers cutting toward the middle of the field, a vulnerability in the Vikings defense that the Redskins exploited time after time on four consecutive scoring drives.

Washington also added the Vikings with heavy doses of play-action and a multitude of zone read looks.

"Sometimes it can be tough," Greenway said. "It's a little bit of smoke and mirrors with all their fakes and stuff. ... When they're carrying out the fakes, you've got to play the run. And as a linebacker, it's tough to do both. You've got to read your



BRIAN PETERSON • brianp@startribune.com

DeAngelo Hall held the ball high after his interception iced a long-awaited Washington home victory.

keys and play ball. You're not going to get them all obviously. So credit them for a good scheme."

Still, for as electrifying as Griffin's performance was, the Vikings also left Washington kicking themselves for a flood of squandered opportunities.

The offense marched into the red zone on its first three possessions and, after 13 minutes, held an eye-popping 146-7 advantage in total yards. Yet all three of those drives stalled, resulting in field goals.

"If you go back in time, I've said it after at least four games," Peterson said. "We have to turn

those threes into seven. Today it finally came back and bit us."

The Vikings were also bitten badly by a pair of Christian Ponder turnovers. Ponder's final stats (35-for-52, 352 yards, two TDs) might look nice in the boxscore. But the fumble he lost deep in Vikings territory in the second quarter positioned Washington for a gimme TD drive: one play, 6 yards.

Worse, Ponder's interception early in the fourth was returned 24 yards to the end zone by former Vikings safety Madieu Williams on what the quarterback called "a fluke play."

It was certainly Ponder's worst and most costly throw, a good 5 feet over Michael Jenkins' head.

"The ball just slipped out of my hands, just sailed," Ponder said.

With that, the hopes of a fourth consecutive victory for the Vikings slipped away as well, the evening ultimately punctuated by that Griffin dash and the chants that might still be echoing through FedEx Field.

"RG3! RG3! RG3!"

Dan Wiederer  
dan.wiederer@startribune.com

## game scoring

	1	2	3	4	Final
VIKINGS	9	0	3	14	26
REDSKINS	0	17	7	14	38

### FIRST QUARTER VIKINGS 9, REDSKINS 0

**VIKINGS** — FG Blair Walsh 20, 11:31. **Drive:** Nine plays, 78 yards, 3:29. **Key plays:** Kyle Rudolph 18 pass from Christian Ponder on third-and-5; Adrian Peterson 32 run. **VIKINGS** — FG Walsh 27, 6:18. **Drive:** Eight plays, 44 yards, 3:16. **Key play:** Percy Harvin 23 pass from Ponder.

**VIKINGS** — FG Walsh 27, 1:47. **Drive:** Seven plays, 26 yards, 3:46. **Key plays:** Antoine Winfield interception at Washington 35; Michael Jenkins 19 pass from Ponder on third-and-10.

### SECOND QUARTER REDSKINS 17, VIKINGS 9

**REDSKINS** — FG Kai Forbath 50, 10:51. **Drive:** 13 plays, 48 yards, 5:56. **Key plays:** Santana Moss 6 pass from Robert Griffin III on fourth-and-3.

**REDSKINS** — Alfred Morris 1 run (Forbath kick), 2:27. **Drive:** 11 plays, 90 yards, 6:36. **Key plays:** Moss 5 pass from Griffin on third-and-4; Leonard Hankerson 14 pass from Griffin; Moss 30 pass from Griffin.

**REDSKINS** — Darrel Young 6 pass from Griffin (Forbath kick), 2:14. **Drive:** One play, 6 yards, 0:06. **Key play:** Lorenzo Alexander recovered Ponder fumble.

### THIRD QUARTER REDSKINS 24, VIKINGS 12

**REDSKINS** — Griffin 7 run (Forbath kick), 9:37. **Drive:** 10 plays, 80 yards, 5:23. **Key plays:** Joshua Morgan 17 pass from Griffin; Morgan 16 pass from Griffin; Griffin 15 run on third-and-11.

**VIKINGS** — FG Walsh 37, 4:18. **Drive:** 11 plays, 42 yards, 5:19. **Key plays:** Peterson 2 run on third-and-1.

### FOURTH QUARTER REDSKINS 38, VIKINGS 26

**REDSKINS** — Madieu Williams 24 interception return (Forbath kick), 12:40.

**VIKINGS** — Jenkins 9 pass from Ponder (Kyle Rudolph pass from Ponder), 8:02. **Drive:** 10 plays, 80 yards, 4:38. **Key plays:** Rhett Ellison 16 pass from Ponder; Harvin 20 pass from Ponder; Harvin 6 pass from Ponder on third-and-2.

**VIKINGS** — Rudolph 1 pass from Ponder (pass failed), 3:36. **Drive:** 8 plays, 67 yards, 2:42. **Key play:** Peterson 18 pass from Ponder.

**REDSKINS** — Griffin 76 run (Forbath kick), 2:43. **Drive:** Three plays, 80 yards, 0:53.

## team statistics

Vikings	total net yards	Redskins
<b>421</b>		<b>361</b>
-2	Return yards	25
2-50.5	Punts-average	3-38.3
5-29	Penalties-yards	7-66
2-1	Fumbles/balls lost	1-0

Vikings	net passing yards	Redskins
<b>327</b>		<b>178</b>
4-25	Sacks-yards lost	1-4
352	Gross yards	182
35-52-2	Completions-attempts-interceptions	17-22-1
67.3	Completion percentage	77.3

Vikings	net rushing yards	Redskins
<b>94</b>		<b>183</b>
24	Total rushes	32
3.9	Average per attempt	5.7

Vikings	first downs	Redskins
<b>27</b>		<b>20</b>
4/21	Rushing/passing	7/10
2	Penalty	3
8-17	3rd down:made-attempted	6-12
1-1	4th down:made-attempted	1-1

Vikings	touchdowns	Redskins
<b>2</b>		<b>4</b>
0	Rushing	2
2	Passing	1
0	Returns	1
31:32	Time of possession	28:28
	Game attendance	78,476

## individual statistics

### RUSHING

Vikings	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg	TD
A. Peterson	17	79	4.6	32	0
C. Ponder	4	13	3.3	7	0
P. Harvin	2	1	0.5	2	0
T. Gerhart	1	1	1.0	1	0

Redskins	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg	TD
R. Griffin	13	138	10.6	76	2
A. Morris	16	47	2.9	15	1
E. Royster	1	0	0.0	0	0
B. Banks	2	-2	-2.0	-2	0

Vikings	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg	TD
P. Harvin	11	133	12.1	23	0
A. Peterson	7	50	7.1	18	0
M. Jenkins	6	67	11.2	19	1
K. Rudolph	6	56	9.3	18	1
T. Gerhart	2	10	5.0	7	0
R. Ellison	1	16	16.0	16	0
D. Aromashodu	1	13	13.0	13	0
J. Carlson	1	7	7.0	7	0

Redskins	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg	TD
S. Moss	4	46	11.5	30	0
F. Davis	3	46	15.3	16	0
J. Morgan	3	42	14.0	17	0
L. Hankerson	2	23	11.5	14	0
B. Banks	2	3	1.5	3	0
A. Morris	1	9	9.0	9	0
E. Royster	1	7	7.0	7	0
D. Young	1	6	6.0	6	1

Vikings	Cmp.	Att.	Yds.	TD	Int.	Rat.
C. Ponder	35	52	352	2	83.2	

Redskins	Cmp.	Att.	Yds.	TD	Int.	Rat.
Griffin III	17	22	182	1	97.2	

Vikings	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg	TD
M. Sherefs	1	-2	-2.0	-2	0

Redskins	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg	TD
B. Banks	1	1	1.0	1	0

Vikings	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg	TD
P. Harvin	3	100	33.3	45	0

Redskins	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg	TD
None.					

### FIELD GOALS

Vikings	1-29	30-39	40-49	50+
B. Walsh	3-3	1-1	0-0	0-0

Redskins	1-29	30-39	40-49	50+
K. Forbath	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-1

### PUNTING

Vikings	No.	Avg.	TB	120	Lg
C. Kluge	2	50.5	0	2	56

Titans	No.	Avg.	TB	120	Lg
S. Rocca	3	38.3	0	1	43

### INTERCEPTION RETURNS

Vikings	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg	TD
A. Winfield	1	0	0.0	0	0

Redskins	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg	TD
M. Williams	1	24	24.0	24	1

### TACKLES

Vikings	Solo	Ast.	Sacks	FR
A. Winfield	5	5	0	0
J. Sanford	5	2	0	0
C. Greenway	3	4	0	0
C. Cook	4	2	0	0
J. Brinkley	2	4	0	0
J. Allen	4	1	1	0
L. Guion	3	2	0	0
K. Williams	3	1	0	0
J. Robinson	3	0	0	0
E. Henderson	2	1	0	0
E. Griffin	1	0	0	0
H. Smith	1	0	0	0
B. Robison	0	1	0	0

Redskins	Solo	Ast.	Sacks	FR
P. Riley	6	7	0	0
Mad. Williams	8	4	0	0
L. Fletcher	6	5	1	0
D. Jones	7	0	0	0
D. Hall	3	4	0	0
R. Dougherty	2	5	0	0
J. Wilson	4	1	0	0
L. Alexander	3	2	1½	1
S. Bowen	3	1	½	0
B. Cofield	0	4	0	0
R. Jackson	1	2	0	0
J. Pugh	1	1	0	0
R. Kerrigan	1	1	0	0
C. Baker	1	0	0	0
J. Jenkins	0	1	0	0
Team	0	0	1	0

## week 7 vikings vs. arizona

Noon, Mall of America Field • TV: Ch. 9 • Radio: 100.3-FM • Line: Vikings by 4½

Week	Opponent	Result
Week 1	Jacksonville	Win 26-23 (OT)
Week 2	at Indy	Loss 23-20
Week 3	San Fran.	Win 24-13
Week 4	at Detroit	Win 20-13
Week 5	Tennessee	Win 30-7
Week 6	at Washington	Loss 38-26
Week 7	Arizona	Noon Ch. 9
Week 8	Tampa Bay	7:20 p.m. NFL Network
Week 9	at Seattle	3:05 p.m. Ch. 9
Week 10	Detroit	Noon Ch. 9
Week 11	Nov. 18	Bye
Week 12	Nov. 25	at Chicago Noon Ch. 9
Week 13	Dec. 2	at Green Bay Noon Ch. 9
Week 14	Dec. 9	Chicago Noon Ch. 9
Week 15	Dec. 16	at St. Louis Noon Ch. 9
Week 16	Dec. 23	at Houston Noon Ch. 9
Week 17	Dec. 30	Green Bay Noon Ch. 9

### NEXT OPPONENT: ARIZONA (4-2)

The Cardinals have lost two in a row after winning their first four games, and blew a golden opportunity on Sunday when they lost at home to Buffalo.

### CARDINALS WEEK 6

Buffalo 19, Arizona 16  
Jay Feely kicked a team-record 61-yard field goal, but his 38-yarder to win it in regulation was tipped. Buffalo's Jarius Byrd intercepted a pass to set up a game-winning field goal in overtime.



Kevin Kolb

### WHAT TO WATCH FOR

Quarterback questions  
John Skelton replaced Kevin Kolb as the Cardinals quarterback late Sunday after Kolb injured his ribs. Kolb got the starting job after Skel