

Redskins Gameday

By Jason La Canfora



REDSKINS (6-2) vs. STEELERS (5-2) 8:30 P.M. AT FedEx Field | **TV:** ESPN, WDCA-20 | **Radio:** WWXT (92.7 FM), WWXX (94.3 FM), WGRQ (95.9 FM), WSMD (98.3 FM), WWEG (106.9 FM), WTEM (980 AM), WNAV (1430 AM); Spanish WXTR (730 AM) | **Line:** Redskins by 2

STEELERS ROSTER

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
2	Dennis Dixon	QB	6-3	206
3	Jeff Reed	PK	5-11	225
4	Byron Leftwich	QB	6-5	250
7	Ben Roethlisberger	QB	6-5	241
10	Santonio Holmes	WR	5-11	189
14	Limas Sweed	WR	6-4	212
17	Mitch Berger	P	6-4	228
20	Bryant McFadden	RCB	6-0	190
21	Mewelde Moore	RB	5-11	209
22	William Gay	LCB	5-10	190
23	Tyrone Carter	SS	5-9	195
24	Ike Taylor	LCB	6-2	191
25	Ryan Clark	FS	5-11	205
26	Deshea Townsend	RCB	5-10	190
27	Anthony Smith	FS	5-11	192
33	Gary Russell	RB	5-11	215
37	Anthony Madison	LCB	5-9	180
38	Carey Davis	FB	5-10	225
39	Willie Parker	RB	5-10	209
43	Troy Polamalu	SS	5-10	207
44	Najeh Davenport	RB	6-1	247
49	Sean McHugh	TE	6-5	265
50	Larry Foote	LB	6-1	239
51	James Farrior	LB	6-2	243
53	Bruce Davis	LB	6-2	252
54	Andre Frazier	LB	6-5	255
55	Patrick Bailey	LB	6-4	235
56	LaMarr Woodley	LB	6-2	265
57	Keyaron Fox	LB	6-3	235
61	Jared Retkofsky	LS	6-5	260
62	Justin Hartwig	C	6-4	312
65	Jeremy Parquet	LT	6-6	321
66	Tony Hills	LT	6-6	305
68	Chris Kemoeatu	LG	6-3	344
72	Darnell Stapleton	RG	6-3	285
74	Willie Colon	RT	6-3	315
76	Chris Hoke	NT	6-2	305
77	Marvel Smith	LT	6-5	321
78	Max Starks	RT	6-8	337
79	Trai Essex	RG	6-4	324
81	Dallas Baker	WR	6-3	206
83	Heath Miller	TE	6-5	256
85	Nate Washington	WR	6-1	185
86	Hines Ward	WR	6-0	205
89	Matt Spaeth	TE	6-7	270
90	Travis Kirschke	LDE	6-3	298
91	Aaron Smith	LDE	6-5	298
92	James Harrison	LB	6-0	242
93	Nick Eason	RDE	6-3	305
94	Lawrence Timmons	LB	6-1	234
96	Orpheus Roye	LDE	6-4	330
98	Casey Hampton	NT	6-1	325
99	Brett Keisel	RDE	6-5	285

FIRST DOWN

Rolling Along

The Redskins (6-2) face the Steelers (5-2) in a marquee NFC-AFC matchup. Washington, which begins its bye week after facing Pittsburgh, reached the midpoint of its schedule tied for the second-best record in the NFC. Rookie head coach Jim Zorn has received great reviews from Redskins players for his aggressive approach in, well, everything they do.



SECOND DOWN

Run Tough

Pittsburgh has the NFL's top-ranked defense and is third against the run, giving up an average of 71.6 yards. Clinton Portis leads the league with 944 yards rushing and the Redskins are third as a team. Portis has gained at least 120 yards in Washington's last five games. No running back has gained 100 yards against the Steelers this season.



THIRD DOWN

Ailing Moss

With primary punt returner Antwaan Randle El struggling, Santana Moss provided a boost on special teams last week, returning a punt 80 yards for a touchdown in a victory over the Detroit Lions. Moss, however, has a sore hamstring, and Washington is reluctant to use him often on punt returns because of his importance in the passing game.



FOURTH DOWN

Rest Around Corner

The Redskins could use some extended time off. Many players are hobbled by injuries and some key performers on defense have missed several games. The Redskins would rather begin their break by defeating the Steelers. This could be another signature moment in what appears to be a breakthrough season for Jason Campbell.



REDSKINS ROSTER

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
1	Ryan Plackemeier	P	6-3	247
5	Colt Brennan	QB	6-3	201
6	Shaun Suisham	PK	6-0	197
11	Devin Thomas	WR	6-2	218
12	Malcolm Kelly	WR	6-4	219
15	Todd Collins	QB	6-4	225
17	Jason Campbell	QB	6-5	233
20	Justin Tryon	CB	5-9	190
22	Carlos Rogers	CB	5-11	199
24	Shawn Springs	CB	6-0	204
25	Mike Green	S	6-0	200
26	Clinton Portis	RB	5-11	223
27	Fred Smoot	CB	5-11	190
29	Leigh Torrence	CB	6-0	179
30	LaRon Landry	S	6-2	213
31	Rock Cartwright	RB	5-8	218
37	Shaun Alexander	RB	5-11	225
41	Kareem Moore	S	5-11	213
45	Mike Sellers	FB	6-3	245
46	Ladell Betts	RB	5-11	225
47	Chris Cooley	TE	6-3	249
48	Chris Horton	S	6-1	216
50	Khary Campbell	LB	6-2	232
51	Alfred Fincher	LB	6-1	238
52	Rocky McIntosh	LB	6-2	232
53	Marcus Washington	LB	6-3	248
54	H.B. Blades	LB	5-10	250
55	Jason Taylor	DE	6-5	244
59	London Fletcher	LB	5-10	245
60	Chris Samuels	T	6-5	317
61	Casey Rabach	OL	6-4	296
64	Kedric Golston	DT	6-4	320
66	Pete Kendall	OL	6-5	292
67	Ethan Albright	LS	6-5	257
68	Justin Geisinger	G	6-4	315
69	Jason Fabini	OL	6-7	309
74	Stephon Heyer	OL	6-6	325
75	Chad Rinehart	OL	6-5	311
76	Jon Jansen	T	6-6	297
77	Randy Thomas	G	6-5	317
78	Erasmus James	DE	6-4	266
79	Lorenzo Alexander	DT	6-1	300
82	Antwaan Randle El	WR	5-10	190
83	James Thrash	WR	6-0	204
86	Fred Davis	TE	6-4	247
87	Todd Yoder	TE	6-4	253
89	Santana Moss	WR	5-10	200
92	Demetric Evans	DL	6-4	275
94	Anthony Montgomery	DT	6-6	315
95	Chris Wilson	DE	6-4	246
96	Cornelius Griffin	DT	6-3	311
98	Rob Jackson	DE	6-4	259
99	Andre Carter	DE	6-4	252



BY KEITH SRAKOCIC — ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ben Roethlisberger has been successfully pressured by the likes of Mathias Kiwanuka and the Giants, but the Redskins respect his size and toughness.

Big Target, Big Challenge

Redskins Want to Pressure Steelers' QB, but He Won't Go Down Easily

The Pittsburgh Steelers have not fared well against NFC East opponents this season, which could be good news for the Washington Redskins.

Pittsburgh struggled in pass protection at critical times during losses to the Philadelphia Eagles and New York Giants, and the Redskins paid attention. Putting consistent pressure on Pittsburgh quarterback Ben Roethlisberger is key to Washington's defensive game plan, players said, and Roethlisberger must be sacked if he is hit.

"With any quarterback, you want to get as much pressure on him, you want to get hits on him as much as possible," middle linebacker London Fletcher said. "But Roethlisberger is a big guy. He's able to break tackles, would-be sacks, so to speak, and keep plays alive with his

ability to get outside the pocket and make plays."

Listed at 6 feet 5 and 241 pounds, Roethlisberger often does his best work after being hit, escaping the rush and making big plays with his arm. "With him, you got to keep your eye on your man at all times," cornerback Fred Smoot said. "He scrambles and makes his own time most of the time. He's never down until he's down."

"He's a hard guy to get ready for because he does most of his damage after a play has broke down. You have to be ready to check a lot of routes. Even on one play, you might have to check three or four different routes. You really have to focus and stay with your man."

Roethlisberger, however, was not at his best in losses to the Eagles and Giants, in large part because of

the pressure they applied. Philadelphia recorded nine sacks in a 15-6 victory over Pittsburgh on Sept. 21. Roethlisberger was sacked five times and threw four interceptions during the Giants' 21-14 victory in Week 8.

The Giants lead the league with 30 sacks, and the Eagles are third with 27. The Redskins are tied for 29th with only 10.

Washington's defensive line has not been as productive as coaches envisioned when the team traded for Pro Bowl defensive end Jason Taylor, who has one sack and will not play against Pittsburgh after undergoing a second surgical procedure recently on his left calf. It would appear Washington must blitz often to produce the type of pressure the Giants and Eagles generate with their front four.

"We always have a pretty good mix with what we do," reserve linebacker H.B. Blades said. "We're going to try to get pressure however it calls for it. If it calls for us to blitz, we'll blitz. If it calls for us to sit back in coverage and let [the defensive line apply pressure], then that's what we'll do. You never know what the game calls for until you're in it."

"But whether you blitz him or get pressure other ways, [Roethlisberger is] still tough. Guys come through scot-free, but he finds a way to make plays. He's such a difficult guy to bring down. You have to do what you have to do depending on the way the game is going, but he finds guys when you blitz him, too."

Said strong-side linebacker Marcus Washington, "When guys have a shot at him, we're going to have to wrap up."

'He's a hard guy to get ready for because he does most of his damage after a play has broke down.'

Redskins cornerback **Fred Smoot**, on Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger

ZORN WATCH | FIRST-YEAR COACH JIM ZORN'S TAKE ON THE STEELERS

Zorn is impressed with Pittsburgh quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, who often makes plays after being hit. At 6 feet 5 and 241 pounds, Roethlisberger is hard to tackle.

"He's so tough. He does things differently than a lot of other QBs. Because he doesn't scramble much, he just wiggles in the pocket, he moves around in the pocket, keeps the play along. I think this: A lot of their big plays — not just the rhythm plays — but a lot of their big plays come off of them just keeping the ball alive to where he can make a key throw. You can only cover these guys for so long."

The Steelers' 3-4 defense has provided the foundation for the league's top defense. Athletic linebackers enable the Steelers to run their aggressive scheme well.

"Their 3-4 front is truly a 3-4 front more than other teams around the league. They have four linebackers, and they're all cloned, unfortunately for us. All those guys can run very well, they're very good at helping each other out. What's nice about it is you never know which group of linebackers or linebacker is coming, so they can really be flexible with how they want to match their blitzes with their secondary coverages. It's really a problem. It really is."

The Redskins' offensive line has been great at run blocking; just ask Clinton Portis. The group must be at its best in pass protection against the Steelers.

"We just have to block them, and we just have to throw on rhythm. We have a rhythm passing game, which will help. The thing that will help us is we do have a decent run game, and to be able to mix, and to be able to do the things that we've done, you almost have to see what you can do against a team like this because you're not going to force certain things, that they're just going to say, 'You're not going to do this today. Sorry.'"



BY GENE J. PUSKAR — ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zorn is impressed with Pittsburgh's linebackers, including James Farrior, left, and LaMarr Woodley.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE	
WR	86 Hines Ward
LT	79 Trai Essex
LG	68 Chris Kemoeatu
C	62 Justin Hartwig
RG	72 Darnell Stapleton
RT	74 Willie Colon
TE	83 Heath Miller
WR	10 Santonio Holmes
QB	7 Ben Roethlisberger
RB	30 Willie Parker
FB	38 Carey Davis

DEFENSE	
LE	91 Aaron Smith
NT	98 Casey Hampton
RE	99 Brett Keisel
L0LB	56 LaMarr Woodley
L1LB	51 James Farrior
R1LB	50 Larry Foote
R0LB	92 James Harrison
LCB	24 Ike Taylor
RCB	27 Anthony Smith
SS	43 Troy Polamalu
FS	26 Deshea Townsend

SPECIAL TEAMS	
PK	3 Jeff Reed
P	17 Mitch Berger

STATISTICS

Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD	Int	Rtg
Roethlisberger	109	181	1352	10	7	85.7
Team	116	195	1446	11	7	86.4
Opp.	146	237	1348	6	6	75.0
Rushing	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	
Moore	65	322	5.0	32	3	
Parker	66	263	4.0	32	3	
Team	192	751	3.9	32	6	
Opp.	177	501	2.8	15	3	
Receiving	No.	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	
Ward	31	406	13.1	49	5	
Holmes	22	360	16.4	48	1	
Miller	21	240	11.4	22	1	
Washington	16	290	18.1	65	3	
Team	116	1446	12.5	65	11	
Opp.	146	1348	9.2	35	6	
INTS	No.	Yds	TD	Sacks	No.	
Polamalu	3	12	0	J. Harrison	8.5	
McFadden	2	0	0	Woodley	7.5	
Woodley	1	6	0	Timmons	3.0	
				Aa. Smith	2.0	
Team	6	18	0	Team	25.0	
Opp.	7	103	1	Opp.	24.0	
Scoring	TD	XP-Att	FG-Att	S	Pts	
Reed	0	17-17	10-10	0	47	
Ward	5	0-0	0-0	0	30	
Moore	4	0-0	0-0	0	24	
Parker	3	0-0	0-0	0	18	
Washington	3	0-0	0-0	0	18	
Team	18	17-18	10-10	0	155	
Opp.	10	10-10	12-12	2	110	

INJURY REPORT

OUT: S Ryan Clark (shoulder), LB Keyaron Fox (hamstring), CB Bryant McFadden (forearm), T Marvel Smith (back). **PROBABLE:** DT Casey Hampton (toe), G Chris Kemoeatu (ankle), RB Willie Parker (knee), S Troy Polamalu (not injury related), QB Ben Roethlisberger (right shoulder), LB LaMarr Woodley (calf).

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE	
WR	82 Antwaan Randle El
LT	60 Chris Samuels
LG	66 Pete Kendall
C	61 Casey Rabach
RG	77 Randy Thomas
RT	76 Jon Jansen
TE	47 Chris Cooley
WR	89 Santana Moss
QB	17 Jason Campbell
RB	26 Clinton Portis
FB	45 Mike Sellers

DEFENSE	
LE	92 Demetric Evans
LT	96 Cornelius Griffin
RT	64 Kedric Golston
RE	99 Andre Carter
SLB	53 Marcus Washington
MLB	59 London Fletcher
WLB	52 Rocky McIntosh
LCB	27 Fred Smoot
RCB	22 Carlos Rogers
SS	48 Chris Horton
FS	30 LaRon Landry

SPECIAL TEAMS	
PK	6 Shaun Suisham
P	1 Ryan Plackemeier

STATISTICS

Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD	Int	Rtg
Campbell	152	230	1754	8	0	100.5
Team	154	232	1783	9	0	102.4
Opp.	153	273	1633	8	5	75.8
Rushing	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	
Portis	187	944	5.0	31	7	
Betts	38	156	4.1	14	0	
Team	267	1242	4.7	31	7	
Opp.	172	662	3.8	24	4	
Receiving	No.	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	
Moss	42	658	15.7	67	5	
Cooley	40	451	11			