Monday, January 20, 1992

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Three-back attack runs show for Redskins

The Battalion

want power, we've got power. You want quickness, we've got quickness. Versatility? We've got that, too.

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All of those things you see Thurman Thomas do for the Buffalo Bills every week, the Washington Redskins get from their backfield. The difference is in troop deployment. While Thomas is doing every-

thing and earning NFL most valuable player honors, the Redskins are using a three-headed running back. Call him Earnest Ricky Rig-gs. Or Gerald Byner Ervins. "It's a pleasure to have three guys who can play like that," Red-

skins tackle Joe Jacoby said. This year was Earnest Byner's

third 1,000-yard season and he is an excellent receiver. He also made the Pro Bowl this season.

'Earnest is very tough, a great competitor, a slashing kind of runner," Gibbs said of the back Wash-

HERNDON, Va. (AP) – You ington acquired in a 1989 trade ant power, we've got power. with the Cleveland Browns. "He's a leader from the preparation and toughness standpoint. He is very bright, versatile and well-conditioned.

'What is unique about this team is the togetherness," Byner said. "We've had it throughout this year. There are really nice relationships between the young guys and the old guys ... all the

guys." "Our line is big and strong, and has got an attitude." Gerald Riggs, 31, is big and

strong and sometimes was ac-cused of having the wrong atti-tude in his later years as an At-lanta Falcon. He was dealt to Washington in 1989 when the Falcons felt he no longer could handle a heavy load.

"He's the kind of back who can power his way in there for the touchdown," Gibbs said. "He's the classic big back who has

gained a lot of yards and still can do it. He has size and bulk.

"Gerald could play other places and I know he would like to carry the ball more. He has done everything we've asked of

Waived at the end of training camp and then re-signed, Riggs was asked to run only 78 times. He scored 11 times

"There's probably a few fans who would like to see me more," Riggs said. "But that's not my job

"When I get those chances, I "When I get those chances, I really have to produce," he said. "When I get the chance, I'm going to get it in there." Ricky Fryins didn't get into

Ricky Ervins didn't get into

the lineup with regularity until Week 7 against Cleveland. The Redskins were seeing a big lead evaporate when Gibbs turned to the rookie from Southern Cal. Ervins rushed for 113 yards in the second half and

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Washington won 42-17. When he added 82 yards in H

second half against the New Yo Giants, Ricky Ervins had donet unusual for a first-year Redskin "If I was the coach, I'd do the

same thing," Ervins said. "Ricky has great explosion, said Gibbs, who had been in pressed with Ervins in train camp, but could not overcome reluctance to use rookies. "He the home run guy. He's got th outside speed and is a darter.'

Ervins had a 4.7-yard avera this year, gaining 680 yards. H

also caught 16 passes. "I asked Earnest once w he'd been so good to me, helpi me all the time," Ervins said." said, 'Because when you get i there, I want you to help us win'

'That's how it is. Being a roo ie doesn't mean being isolated." Super <u>Bowl</u> XXVI will

played this Sunday in Minneapo lis, Minn.

Bills' kicker keeps focus on this year

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP Although Scott Norwood h plenty to shout about Monday, wasn't at Rich Stadium lo enough to make much noise.

Norwood, who ended last se son by missing a 47-yard field go that would have won the Sup Bowl, hit the game-winner from yards out in the Buffalo Bills' 1 victory over the Denver Broncos Sunday's AFC Championship.

That makes Norwood 4-for in Buffalo's playoff wins over th Broncos and the Kansas Ci Chiefs, giving him as much conf dence as he's had all season goin into the Super Bowl on Jan. 2 against the Washington Redskins

Norwood wasn't around talk about it. The Bills had a tea meeting, a brief film review of th Broncos game and did some con ditioning work. By the time th media was allowed in the locke room, Norwood had left.

After Sunday's game, he pro fessed he wasn't bothered by the prospect of having to answer two weeks' worth of questions about The Miss from last year.

'I don't dread this," he sai "It's part of the business. When comes time to buckle it up in couple of weeks, it will have not ing to do with it. As long as ye guys (reporters) aren't out the rushing field goals and running around the football field, the hype isn't important.

Coach Marv Levy and speci teams coach Bruce DeHaven bo said they are recommending th Norwood not talk to the media b fore the Super Bowl. Judging b his quick departure Monday, No wood took that advice to heart.

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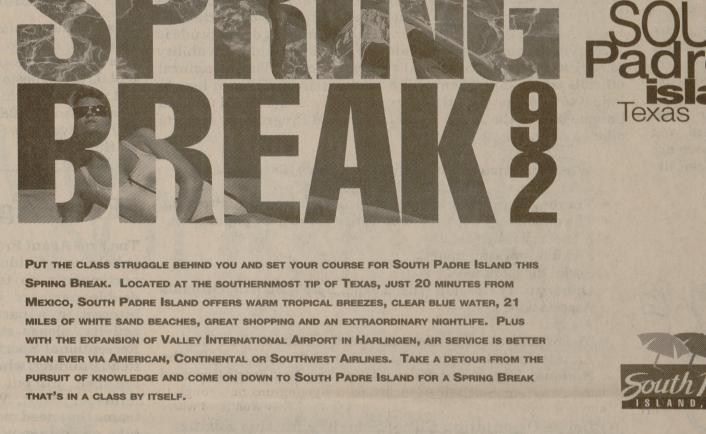
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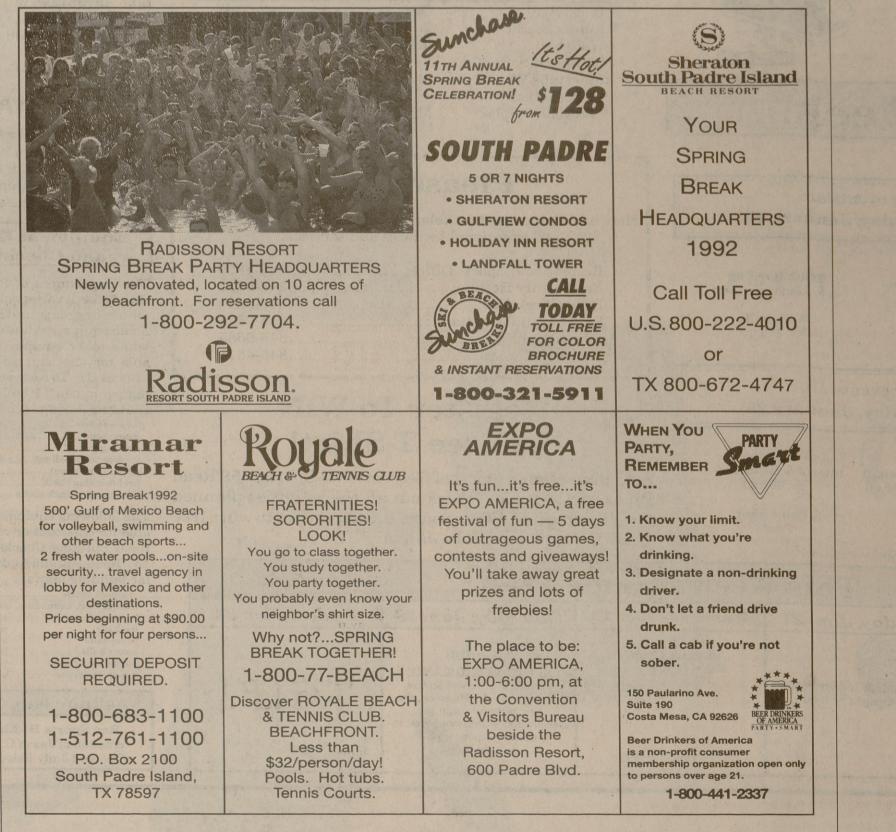
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'I'd advise him not to talk about it and to concentrate on th game," Levy said. "He's talked about it up to here.

I think that it's the best thin for him to look ahead, not back, DeHaven said.

'You know one of the big sto ries this week would have to Scott Norwood because of his kid last year," he said. "I don't se how anybody could possibly d an interview with him witho asking that question. And ever time that question arises, that's g ing to be a negative."

Norwood has insisted all ye long that he's put the Super Bor miss behind him. Although he fi ished the season hitting a caree low 62 percent of his field goal a tempts, he said he hasn't change

his technique or work habits. "I don't need to make any a justments," he said two wee 'I've been kicking the b ago. good this week, so I'm not adju ing. I'm just working hard.'

Adam Lingner, the Bills' los snapper, said he felt the Sup Bowl miss last year has colore Norwood's work this year.

'Every time something we wrong, it was magnified, both i ternally on his own part and pe ple on the outside saying thing about him," Lingner said. "It be came worse than it should have been because of what happened it the Super Bowl last year."



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