

Bucs roll over 49ers

By Fred Goodall  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers offense finally played as well as defense in the playoffs. Brad Johnson returned from a monthlong layoff to throw 196 yards and two touchdowns, and the NFL's top-ranked defense shut down LeRoy Butler and Terrell Owens at the San Francisco 49ers 16-6 on Sunday.

The victory sends Tampa Bay to Philadelphia for next week's NFC championship game against the Eagles, who won the Bucs' season in the first round of the playoffs in two years.

The Bucs have lost all six of their road playoff games, including twice in the NFL championship game.

At home against the 49ers, they just about everything right.

Mike Alstott scored on a 2-yard run, and Johnson threw TD passes of 20 yards to Jurevicius and 12 yards to key Dudley after missing last two regular-season games with a bruised back.

Johnson led three long drives in the first half, Erick Brooks intercepted LeRoy Butler at the 49ers 26 to set Alstott's second TD for a 21-0 time lead.

Johnson completed 15 of 25 passes with one interception. Keyshawn Johnson had two receptions for 85 yards. The Bucs also rushed for 113 yards, most of them coming in the second half.

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University of Iowa, and the University of Hawaii.

Among the recruits kept in mind are defensive tackle Jack from Humble, linebacker Justin Warren from Tyler, defensive back Stephen from Richardson.

"Texas A&M's recruiting certainly has the chance to be in the top five," said recruiting agent David Sandhop. "They need to close with three or four recruits, with those recruiting Jorrie Adams and Red Bryan Jasper, Xavier Lawson from Duncanville, as well as another (junior college) lineman St. Preaux, and wide receiver Vin Taylor."

Taylor is the younger brother of current Aggie wide receiver Aaron Taylor. Adams is rated as a second-best offensive tackle in the nation, according to ESPN recruiting analyst Tom Lemming.

"Jorrie is the prototypical offensive tackle with good, quick feet and real long arms that tackles and keep the defensive end from getting around them," Sandhop said. "His site used to include the municipal building codes of Anna and Savoy, Texas, until a group that he never heard of, the Southern Building Code Congress International, said it had a copyright on the codes and that he was violating it."

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 9-6 in Veeck's favor in June.

Veeck told The Plain Dealer for a story on Sunday that the question over who owns the law is simple.

"How can the law be owned by somebody?" asked Veeck, whose father owned the Indians when they won their last World Series in 1948. "In a monarchy, we have the king's law, where the king owns the law. In a dictatorship, the dictator owns the law. In a democracy, the people are supposed to own the law."

Ohio Attorney General Betty Montgomery is one of 11 attorneys general who has filed court papers agreeing with Veeck.

"You've got to pay some exorbitant fee to have access to the law," said Montgomery's spokesman, Joe Case. "That's just not right. We're saying it makes no sense for an independent organization to have such power over what is the people's law, what is the property of the people."

NEWS IN BRIEF

**Texas women sent harassing letters**  
SHREVEPORT, La. (AP) — Police investigating a series of harassing letters sent to women in the East Texas area have told Shreveport police to be on the lookout for similar letters.

However, there have been no reports or indications that any have shown up in Shreveport or Bossier City, police said.

They said they got the alert from police in Tyler, Texas, where pharmaceutical salesman Tommy Dale Woodard, 52, was arrested last week on nine counts of harassment.

Most of the letters were left on women's cars, Tyler police spokesman Chris Moore said.

**Plane still missing after four days**  
FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — Rescue crews still had not located a missing small plane Sunday, more than four days after it vanished from radar near here.

Coconino County sheriff's officials were continuing to search an 81-square-mile area. The search for the white twin-engine Piper PA-23 was made more difficult because they were looking in an area covered by snow, officials said.

Lobbyists vie for attention at Texas' 78th legislature

By Kelley Shannon  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Outside the Texas House chamber, chatter rises from a cluster of smartly dressed men and women who wait for precisely the right moment to ply their trade.

They come here on behalf of oil companies, banks, utilities, hospitals and newspapers. Their mission: To meet with state lawmakers to make sure certain bills are passed — or killed.

Collectively these folks are known as the lobby.

During every legislative session, paid lobbyists flood the Capitol to influence legislation in the state House and Senate.

The timeworn tradition will carry on Tuesday when the 78th Texas Legislature convenes for its 140-day run.

"I imagine that there were probably lobbyists when it was the Republic of Texas. They probably just didn't wear as nice of clothes," said Tony Proffitt, an Austin consultant and former aide to the late Democratic Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock.

Spending on lobbying grew to a record \$230 million during the 2001 legislative session, according to a report by Texans for Public Justice.

Lately, consumer advocates have criticized Gov. Rick Perry, Lt. Gov.-elect David Dewhurst and presumptive House speaker Tom Craddick, for placing lobbyists in key staff and transition-team positions. But lobbyists and others say sweeping criticism of the profession is unfair.

"I think most people have a rather jaded view of lobbyists because they hear about lobbyists representing, quote, special interests, unquote," said Ralph Wayne, a former legislator and now the president and a registered lobbyist for the Texas Civil Justice League, a tort reform group.

But Wayne noted that teachers, doctors, grocers and people in other fields hire lobbyists.

"Lobbyists represent a lot of good people who need assistance in Austin," he said.

Some lobbyists spend hours in legislative committee meetings, where much of the work of lawmaking is done before a bill reaches the House or Senate floor for a vote, and they meet with legislators and their aides.

At the beginning of December, there were 1,288 registered lobbyists in Texas — more than seven for each of the 181 state legislators.

Big businesses such as Exxon Mobil Corp. and Phillip Morris have lobbyists. So do industry groups such as the Texas Automobile Dealers Association and the Texas Restaurant Association.

The United Way, Public Citizen, Common Cause and other charitable or consumer groups do too. But consumer lobbyists aren't nearly as numerous as business lobbyists in Texas, said Craig McDonald, director of Texans For Public Justice, a government-watchdog group.

McDonald contends the corporate lobby goes virtually unchallenged in Texas.

"We've had lots of instances where it's clear that the lobbyists write the laws," he said, citing a pollution regulation law enacted in the 1990s as an example.

Lobbyists also can affect lawmakers by coming up with campaign donations or threatening to give to a lawmaker's opponent, McDonald said.

Dewhurst, who will preside over the Senate, and Craddick each held fund-raisers in December where lobbyists were welcome. Legislators and state elected officials may not accept campaign contributions during the legislative session. That ban began Dec. 14.

Spending on lobbying keeps rising. In 2001, SBC Communications Inc., parent company of Southwestern Bell Telephone, was the biggest spender, shelling out up to \$7 million on 96 lobbyists, according to Texans for Public Justice.

When the Legislature is in full swing and the contents of bills are changing rapidly, many lobbyists linger outside the House and Senate chambers to meet for a few minutes with a targeted lawmaker. Lobbyists aren't allowed on the floors of the chambers.

The crowded lobby scene outside the Texas House is known to Capitol insiders as "the pit."

"You have to go out there and hang out and wait and wait and wait. Lobbying is sometimes like stalking," said Proffitt, the Bullock aide turned consultant.

Lobbyists register with the Texas Ethics Commission, stating whom they represent and their range of pay. Some have

salary ranges as low as \$10,000 or less. Others are \$200,000 or more.

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