

1971

Head Coach: George Allen

Record: 9-4-1, lost in Wild Card Game

Honors

Honors: George Allen, NFC Coach of the Year; Larry Brown, Pro Bowl, All-NFC; Speedy Duncan, All-NFC; Len Hauss, Pro Bowl, All-NFC; Roy Jefferson, Pro Bowl; Curt Knight, Pro Bowl, All-NFC; Jack Pardee, All-NFC

Statistical Leaders

Passing								Rushing				Receiving					
Name	Att	Comp	%	Yds	Yd/at	TD	Int	Name	No.	Yds	Avg.	TD	Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Kilmer	166	166	54	2221	7.3	13	13	Brown	253	948	3.7	4	Jefferson	47	701	14.9	4
Jurgensen	16	16	57	170	6.1	0	2	Harraway	156	635	4.1	2	Dowler	26	352	13.5	0
								Mason	31	85	3.7	0	Taylor	24	370	15.4	4
Team	334	182	54	2391	7.2	13	15	Team	477	1756	3.7	8	Team	182	2391	13.1	13
Opp	411	191	46	2448	6.0	11	29	Opp	408	1396	3.4	7	Opp	191	2448	12.8	11

Punt Returns				Kickoff Returns				Punting			Kicking				Interceptions				
Name	ret	Avg	TD	Name	ret	Avg	TD	Name	no	avg	Name	PAT	Att	FG	Att	Name	No.	Yds.	TD
Duncan	22	10.6	0	Duncan	27	26.8	1	Bragg	59	40.5	Knight	27	27	29	49	Bass	8	78	1
																Team	29	480	5
																Opp	15	284	1

The Roster

Alston, Mack	Fischer, Pat	Kilmer, Billy	Schoenke, Ray
Bass, Mike	Grant, Bob	Knight, Kurt	Sistrunk, Manny
Baughn, Maxie	Hanburger, Chris	Laaveg, Paul	Smith, Jerry
Biggs, Verlon	Harraway, Charley	Malinchak, Bill	Snowden, Jim
Bragg, Mike	Hauss, Len	Mason, Tommy	Talbert, Diron
Brown, Larry	Hermeling, Terry	McDole, Ron	Taylor, Charley
Brundige, Bill	Hull, Mike	McLinton, Harold	Taylor, Mike
Brunet, Bob	Jaqua, Jon	McNeil, Clifton	Tillman, Rusty
Burman, George	Jefferson, Roy	Pardee, Jack	Vactor, Ted
Dowler, Boyd	Jones, Jimmie	Owens, Brig	Wilbur, John
Duncan, Leslie	Jordan, Jeff	Petitbon, Richie	Wyche, Sam
(Speedy)	Jurgensen, Sonny	Rock, Walter	

George Allen Hired as Redskins Coach

Jan. 6—Promising to win now, George Allen was introduced as the Redskins' new head coach today.

According to team president Edward Bennett Williams, Allen will have "all of the authority" that the late Vince Lombardi had, meaning complete control of the football end of the operation.

Williams proclaimed that Allen is "the best football coach in the world."

"I am saying unequivocally, unqualifiedly, and unambiguously that this is the last coach I will ever hire," Williams gushed.

For his part, Allen had high praise for several players including quarterback Sonny Jurgensen, calling him "one of the great passers in modern football."

"I plan to win in 1971," said Allen, who is not a believer in long-term rebuilding plans.

Allen, a highly-regarded defensive coordinator in Chicago before going to the Rams, said that he will focus on the defensive side of the ball. He noted that the Redskins

finished dead last in the 13-team NFC in rushing defense and 12th in total defense.

Allen was 49-17-4 in his five seasons in Los Angeles.

Jan. 23

Redskins Trade for Billy Kilmer *Allen sends undisclosed pick for Saints QB*

Allen's Contract Richest Ever

Jan. 28—A Los Angeles newspaper has revealed some of the details of the contract that George Allen signed as the coach of the Washington Redskins. Among the provisions in the deal:

- A \$25,000 bonus to sign the contract.
- An annual salary of \$125,000 yearly for seven years.
- Bonuses for reaching various levels in the playoffs including \$15,000 for making it to the Super Bowl.
- A new house for which the team will pay up to \$150,000.

- An option to purchase 5% of the team for \$500,000 (pending the outcome of litigation by the estate of George Preston Marshall).
- Permission to keep all money earned from endorsements and radio and TV jobs.
- Other perks include expense accounts, a car and driver, and six weeks of vacation a year.

While it is difficult to estimate the value of some of the provisions, it is believed that Allen's is the most lucrative ever for an NFL coach.

Big Deal—Redskins, Rams Swap Players, Picks

Jan. 28—George Allen dialed up his old team, the Los Angeles Rams, and negotiated the biggest trade in NFL history.

In all, 15 players and draft picks changed hands between the Rams and the Redskins. In the history of the NFL, there has never been a bigger trade involving two teams.

To the Rams went linebacker Marlin McKeever, first and third round picks in 1971 and third-, fourth-, fifth-, sixth- and, seventh-rounders in 1972. In exchange, the Redskins got linebackers Maxie Baughn, Jack Pardee, and Myron Pottios, running back and special teams ace Jeff Jordan, guard John Wilbur, defensive tackle Diron Talbert, and a fifth-round pick in 1971.

The fifth-round choice that came to the Redskins didn't stay in DC for long. Allen immediately dispatched it to Green Bay for the rights to tight end Boyd Dowler. The former Packer tight end had already come to the Redskins as an assistant coach, but Allen wanted to be able to activate Dowler should the Skins need him.

"This is great, terrific for the Redskins," Allen said. "We've upgraded our defense at least 25 percent. It's worth at least two victories. Our goal is now nine or ten wins."

Some agreed with Allen, others were skeptical. Talbert, Allen maintained, was his number one pick, but at age 27 with four years and 44 NFL games on his body, he was hardly the spry youngster that one might get with the tenth overall selection. The three linebackers Baughn, Pottios, and Pardee, were all were looking at the age of 30 in the rear view mirror.

May 11

Redskins Trade for Ron McDole *Three undisclosed picks go to Bills for 290-lb. defensive end*

Allen's Style Offers Contrast

July 11—Vince Lombardi was, to say the least, vocal during practices. In fact, Dickinson College teachers and secretaries would complain about the language the late legendary coach used while exhorting his troops at Biddefield. Bill Austin, a Lombardi disciple, didn't employ his mentor's salty language but his voice carried around the Carlisle campus as well.

Today, in his first practice, George Allen offered a different style. His voice rarely was audible. He maintained a

low profile, spending much of his time with the linebacker group. It was a much more businesslike approach to the game that has been seen in the past few years.

To be sure, Allen exerted his authority. When some were lagging in wind sprints, Allen threatened to make the group run again unless the last man across the finish line met a maximum time.

The pace picked up considerably after that.

Bad Break—Jurgensen Faces Shoulder Surgery

Sept. 5—X-rays show Sonny Jurgensen suffered a broken left shoulder when making a tackle after throwing an interception in the third quarter of the Redskins' preseason game in Miami.

Jurgensen is on his way to Oklahoma City where surgery to repair the break will be performed.

When asked why he would risk injury making a tackle in a meaningless game, Jurgensen said, "I cannot ever recall trying to get out of the way of anybody in football. You are supposed to tackle them, aren't you?"

While the injury may put the star quarterback out for the year, no decision has been made about putting him on season-ending injured reserve. Billy Kilmer will take the reins of the offense in Jurgensen's absence.

Sept. 13

Over the Hill? Final Roster All Veterans *No rookies make squad as Skins prepare for Cards*

9/18/71	Redskins (1-0) 24	CARDINALS (0-1) 17	46,805
Was	7	0	14
StL	0	10	7
Was	Brown 1 run (Knight kick)		
StL	Smith 8 pass from Hart (Bakken kick)		
StL	FG Bakken 25		
Was	Hanburger 16 fumble return (Knight kick)		
Was	Smith 31 pass from Kilmer (Knight kick)		
StL	Smith 9 pass from Beathard (Bakken kick)		
Was	FG Knight 25		

Busch Stadium--Chris Hanburger gave the Redskins the lead by returning a fumble 16 yards for a third-quarter touchdown as the Redskins won in St. Louis.

Coach George Allen, successful in his Redskins debut, preaches getting takeaways to set up scores and his philosophy was on display in this game. In addition to Hanburger's return, one St. Louis turnover led to an easy score by the Washington offense early in the contest and another put Allen's team in position to score the touchdown that put it away.

In the first quarter safety Richie Petitbon intercepted a Jim Hart pass and returned it 24 yards to the Cardinals' one. Larry Brown scored on the next play, and it was 7-0. St. Louis responded with a 66-yard touchdown drive and a Jim Bakken field goal to take a 10-7 lead into the locker room at halftime.

Early in the second half, the Cardinals' Sid Edwards fumbled after catching a pass from Hart and Hanburger scooped it up and rolled 16 yards to the go-ahead touchdown.

About six minutes after that, St. Louis paid the ultimate price for yet another turnover, this one a Brig Owens interception at the Cardinals 39. Soon after that, Billy Kilmer, in for the injured Sonny Jurgensen, threw 31 yards to Jerry Smith for a touchdown and a 21-10 lead.

After St. Louis pulled to within 21-17, the Redskins sealed it with about four minutes left with a Curt Knight field goal. That score was set up by, what else, a Cardinal turnover.

9/26/71	Redskins (2-0) 30, Giants (1-1) 3				62,795
Was	14	3	3	10	30
NYG	3	0	0	0	3
NYG	FG Gogolak 18				
Was	Taylor 71 pass from Kilmer (Knight kick)				
Was	Pardee 20 interception return (Knight kick)				
Was	FG Knight 52				
Was	FG Knight 32				
Was	Taylor 1 pass from Kilmer (Knight kick)				
Was	FG Knight 13				

Yankee Stadium—Charley Taylor caught two touchdown passes and Jack Pardee returned an interception for another TD as the Redskins routed the Giants.

There is a fine line between aggressive, physical play and dirty play and, in the judgment of the officials, the Redskins played on both sides of that line. Two players, Paul Laaveg and Verlon Biggs, were ejected early on for fighting and the Redskins were penalized 15 times. Larry Brown drew the first flag on the game's first play from scrimmage when he threw a punch at New York's Bob Lurtsema. Brown certainly got the worse of the skirmish, getting a nasty, 20-stitch cut on his hand when it caught the defender's facemask in addition to the penalty yardage.

"I do not like penalties," said George Allen, "but I would rather be aggressive and get penalties than not be aggressive and not get penalties."

The Giants took a 3-0 lead with a field goal but before the first quarter was done, the Redskins had opened up a lead. From the Washington 29, Billy Kilmer froze safety Spider Lockhart with a nice run fake to Charley Harraway. Lockhart had single coverage on Taylor and the receiver blew past the defender and hauled in Kilmer's pass and easily made it over the goal line to give Washington a 7-3 lead. After that, Pardee guessed right on Fran Tarkenton's pass into the flat and was in the clear when he picked it off at the Giant 20 and rolled into the end zone.

Just before halftime, Curt Knight booted a 52-yard field goal, tied for the longest in team history, to expand his team's lead to 17-3. With Tarkenton being bottled up by a defense that sacked him three times, New York was powerless to respond. One sack in particular frustrated Tarkenton. Jimmie Jones chased the mobile quarterback down for a 14-yard loss to the Giant 11. As Jones turned to return to the huddle, Tarkenton threw perhaps his most accurate pass of the day, zinging the ball off of the back of Jones' helmet.

After another Knight field goal, Taylor capped a 58-yard drive for the final touchdown with a one-yard recep-

tion. Bobby Mitchell was the main man in that drive, catching three straight Kilmer passes for 34 yards.

10/3/71	Redskins (3-0) 20, COWBOYS (2-1) 16				72,000
Was	7	7	3	3	20
Dal	0	9	0	7	16
Was	Harraway 57 run (Knight kick)				
Dal	FG Clark 22				
Was	Jefferson 50 pass from Kilmer (Knight kick)				
Dal	FG Clark 9				
Dal	FG Clark 27				
Was	FG Knight 25				
Was	FG Knight 32				
Dal	Hill 1 run (Clark kick)				

Cotton Bowl--Dallas had beaten the Redskins six straight times, a streak spanning three Washington head coaches, but things appeared to be different here right off the bat. On the second play from scrimmage, fullback Charley Harraway took a pitch on a weak side sweep, followed textbook blocks by Larry Brown, Walter Rock, and Roy Jefferson and rolled all the way, 57 yards for a touchdown. Washington was in the lead to stay.

Dallas tried to respond and mounted a promising drive, taking 15 plays to move upfield to the Washington 41. The promise died, though, when Mike Clark's field goal attempt from 48 yards was partially blocked, and it stayed 7-0.

Clark did have a successful field goal attempt in the second quarter, but the Redskins had the response. Jefferson took advantage of a slip by his defender and caught a 50-yard TD bomb from Billy Kilmer. The Redskins were up 14-3 and, although Dallas did get two more field goals before halftime, the impression was that the visitors were clearly in the driver's seat.

That impression proved to be accurate. Washington kept the ball on the ground—Kilmer attempted only 10 passes all day, getting over half of his 94 passing yards on the one TD to Jefferson—and set up two Curt Knight field goals to extend the lead to 20-9. Harraway rushed for 111 yards on the day and Larry Brown pitched in another 81.

The defensive highlight was Bill Brundige's long sack of Roger Staubach. A stunt allowed Brundige to take advantage of Diron Talbert's pressure that flushed Staubach out of the pocket. "Roger the Dodger" reversed his field for a second time, but Brundige had Staubach in his crosshairs and nailed him 29 yards behind the line of scrimmage.

Calvin Hill scored a touchdown on a one-yard run with 3:08 left in the game to get Dallas within four. After that, though, Brown rushed for one first down and Harraway for another and the Redskins killed the clock.

Skins Mania: 5,000 Greet Team at Dulles

Oct. 3—A frenzied crowd of Redskins fans estimated at 5,000 people was chanting "We're number one!" and "Defense, defense, defense" in the main terminal at Dulles Airport.

Then the team actually arrived back from Dallas following its triumph over the Cowboys and things really got wild.

Coach George Allen got the biggest cheer as he greeted the crowd, which was composed of infants, the elderly and every age group in between. Allen and team president Edward Bennett Williams were able to exit via a rear door, but the players had to go through the crowd to get to their cars. They signed autographs, posed for pictures, and generally marveled that so many would sit in a traffic jam on the airport access road just to catch a glimpse of their conquering heroes.

10/10/71	REDSKINS (4-0) 22, Oilers (0-3-1) 13				53,041
Hou	0	10	3	0	13
Was	6	10	0	6	22
Was	FG Knight 15				
Was	FG Knight 36				
Was	FG Knight 13				
Hou	Sledge 5 pass from Johnson (Moseley kick)				
Was	McDole 18 interception return (Knight kick)				
Hou	FG Moseley 42				
Hou	FG Moseley 25				
Was	FG Knight 17				
Was	FG Knight 39				

RFK Stadium--Even Curt Knight, who kicked a team-record five field goals, wasn't very impressed by the Redskins' 22-13 win over Houston. "It wasn't pretty," Knight said, quickly adding, "it counts." Yes, it does count and the Redskins moved to 4-0.

The only touchdown for the home team was scored by defensive end Ron McDole. With the Redskins ahead 9-7, Oilers quarterback Charley Johnson was forced to scramble back from his 28. He attempted an ill-advised pass that McDole intercepted at the 18. He scored easily, and it was 16-7.

Houston's Mark Moseley kicked field goals late in the second and early in the third quarters, the second drawing his team within three at 16-13. The Redskins defense, led by McDole and Jack Pardee, who had an interception and a fumble recovery, shut Houston down from there, and Knight's last two field goals in the fourth quarter put this one away.

10/17/71	REDSKINS (5-0) 20, Cardinals (2-3) 0				53,041
St>	0	0	0	0	0
Was	10	0	3	7	20
Was	FG Knight 16				
Was	Harraway 1 run (Knight kick)				
Was	FG Knight 11				
Was	Kilmer 3 run (knight kick)				

RFK Stadium--Jack Pardee intercepted three passes and the Redskins had a total of seven takeaways on the day to bury the Cardinals before a delirious sellout crowd. Larry Brown pitched in on behalf of the offense, rushing for 150 yards on 25 carries.

St. Louis turned the ball over at its earliest opportunity. Norm Thompson fielded the opening kickoff and a jarring hit by Bill Malinchak separated the returner from the ball. Terry Hermeling recovered the fumble at the Cardinals' 14, setting up a 16-yard field goal by Curt Knight with just under a minute and a half gone.

The Redskins earned their next score, embarking on a 72-yard drive that consumed almost seven minutes.

Charley Harraway gained the last yard on the 12th play, crashing over from the one for a 10-0 Washington lead.

On the rare occasions that the Cardinals could start something offensively, the Redskins thwarted them by taking the ball away. With the defense playing takeaway, the Washington offense was doing a good job of playing keep away, gaining 229 yards on the ground. Another Knight field goal in the third quarter and a three-yard TD run by Billy Kilmer in the fourth completed the scoring.

10/24/71	CHIEFS (5-1) 27, Redskins (5-1) 20				51,989
Was	10	7	0	3	20
KC	3	3	7	14	27
Was	C. Taylor 4 pass from Kilmer (Knight kick)				
KC	FG Stenerud 39				
Was	FG Knight 33				
KC	FG Stenerud 15				
Was	C. Taylor 36 pass from Kilmer (Knight kick)				
KC	O. Taylor 26 pass from Dawson (Stenerud kick)				
Was	FG Knight 23				
KC	Wright 15 pass from Dawson (Stenerud kick)				
KC	O. Taylor 28 pass from Dawson (Stenerud kick)				

Municipal Stadium--A costly touchdown pass gave the Redskins a 17-6 halftime lead, but the Chiefs stormed back in the second half on the strength of Len Dawson's three touchdown passes to hand the Redskins their first defeat of the year.

The above-referenced scoring play for Washington was a 36-yarder from Billy Kilmer to Charley Taylor with 43 seconds left in the first half. On the play, Taylor's second TD catch of the day, an attempted tackle caught his ankle the wrong way and broke a bone. Up to that point, he had caught seven passes for 125 yards.

The Chiefs had struggled to get anything going offensively in the first half due to a relentless Washington pass rush. Early in the second half, though, the Chiefs began to hit their stride. Dawson found Otis Taylor for 23 yards and a touchdown to pull within four at 17-13.

The Redskins had a chance to extend their led, but tight end Mack Alston, filling in for an injured Jerry Smith, dropped a pass at the Kansas City three. "I had to come back a little for it," said Alston, "but I should have caught it."

Later, Curt Knight kicked a 23-yard field goal to push the lead back up to seven, but the Chiefs were not done. Starting from their own 18, they moved 82 yards to tie the game. The drive was nearly over before it started as end Ron McDole sacked Dawson and the Chiefs faced third and 18. They converted that one when Taylor broke three tackles to fight his way for 19 yards. "We had them third down and long yardage, and we let them get away," said Allen.

Perhaps a bit shaken after that play, the defense allowed Elmo Wright to get open for a 51-yard gain to the Redskins 20. The touchdown came on another Dawson to Wright completion, this one from 15 yards.

Unable to mount a consistent ground attack and with their passing game hobbled by the absence of Taylor, Washington had to punt back to KC with less than five minutes left. The Chiefs moved in for the kill. Runs by Ed Podolak, Wendell Hayes and Warren McVea moved the

ball to the Washington 28. From there, Taylor made a spectacular one-hand grab of Dawson's pass in the end zone to give the Chiefs a 27-20 lead with 3:59 to play.

"How many guys catch the ball with one hand?" said Pat Fischer, who was covering Taylor on the play. "I don't think I could have been any closer to him than I was."

The loss did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the Redskins faithful. Some 20,000 of them were on hand to greet the team at Dulles Airport after the return trip.

Oct. 24

Bad Break: Taylor Out For the Season
Ankle broken while catching TD to sideline star receiver

10/31/71	REDSKINS (6-1) 24, Saints (2-4-1) 14				53,041
NO	0	0	0	14	14
Was	0	17	0	7	24
Was	Kilmer 1 run (Knight kick)				
Was	Brown 36 pass from Kilmer (Knight kick)				
Was	FG Knight 47				
NO	Ford 3 run (Durkee kick)				
Was	Fischer 53 interception return (Knight kick)				
NO	Gresham 1 run (Durkee kick)				

RFK Stadium—To be sure, it was more like football follies than a football clinic as the Redskins survived six turnovers to beat the Saints.

The Redskins fumbled away New Orleans' first two punts, but the Saints were only able to muster a failed 33-yard field goal attempt out of their good fortune. After the miss, the Redskins drove 80 yards in 12 plays to take the lead. Billy Kilmer scored it from a yard out on an option play about 30 seconds into the second quarter.

After fumbling away a scoring chance on their next drive, the Skins got the ball back shortly afterwards and embarked on a 71-yard scoring drive. From the New Orleans 36, Kilmer and fullback Tommy Mason executed a classic play action fake, which sucked in, among others, whoever should have been covering Larry Brown. The halfback easily caught the touchdown pass to give Washington a 14-0 lead. After a Curt Knight field goal, the Redskins lost another golden scoring opportunity just before halftime when Kilmer's pass was picked off in the end zone.

After a scoreless third quarter, an interception and a pass interference call helped New Orleans score on a three-yard run by Jim Ford to cut the lead to 17-7. The Redskins defense responded as Pat Fischer picked off a pass by Ed Hargett and raced down the sideline for the clinching TD.

11/7/71	REDSKINS (6-1-1) 7, Eagles (2-5-1) 7				53,041
Phil	0	0	7	0	7
Was	0	0	0	7	7
Phil	Bull 12 pass from Liske (Feller kick)				
Was	McNeil 32 pass from Kilmer (Knight kick)				

RFK Stadium--Once again, the Redskins committed a flood of turnovers, seven of them (four interceptions, three fumbles). Unlike their six-giveaway game the previous week against the Saints, the Redskins were unable

to pull out a win in this one, coming dangerously close to winding up on the losing end to the game Eagles.

After a first half in which scoring threats were few and scores were nonexistent, Philly broke through early in the third quarter. Larry Brown fumbled on the first play of the half and Ron Porter recovered for Philadelphia at the Washington 17. Three plays later, Ron Bull made a nice, over the shoulder catch of Pete Liske's 12-yard touchdown pass for a Philly 7-0 lead.

A penalty killed an apparent 45-yard touchdown pass from Billy Kilmer to Boyd Dowler and Curt Knight missed a 46-yard field goal attempt. This left the door open for the Eagles to drive towards what would have been the clinching field goal with just over four minutes left.

That door was slammed shut, though, as Ron McDole blocked Happy Feller's 35-yard attempt and Speedy Duncan picked it up and his 38-yard return and a personal foul penalty had the Redskins in business at the Eagles 38. Two plays later, Kilmer threw a 32-yard scoring pass to Clifton McNeil and Knight's point after tied the game at seven.

The Redskins had to survive another scare to come out with the tie. Liske completed a 31-yard pass to Harold Jackson that took the Eagles to the Washington 25. There were 21 seconds left on the clock when the ball was snapped for that pass play, but the Eagles never got another play off. The defense, particularly McDole, dawdled just enough getting to the line of scrimmage to kill the clock before the Eagles could intentionally ground the ball to set up what would have been a 32-yard Feller field goal attempt and Washington escaped with a tie.

11/14/71	BEARS (6-3) 16, Redskins (6-2-1) 15				55,049
Was	6	6	3	0	15
Chi	0	3	3	10	16
Was	FG Knight 30				
Was	FG Knight 12				
Chi	FG Percival 15				
Was	FG Knight 37				
Was	FG Knight 9				
Was	FG Knight 27				
Chi	FG Percival 42				
Chi	FG Percival 9				
Chi	Pinder 40 run (Butkus pass from Douglass)				

Soldier Field--Dick Butkus earned his reputation by preventing scores, not by catching passes for points. In this game, though, it was a Butkus reception that provided the winning margin for the Bears.

For most of the game, it appeared that the Redskins were in control, although numerous forays into Chicago territory resulted in field goals, not touchdowns. Curt Knight tied his own team record by kicking five field goals, the last of which put the Redskins ahead 15-3 early in the third quarter.

Eventually, the Redskins would pay for their inability to get into the end zone. The Bears chipped away at the lead, getting two field goals from Mac Percival. The second came early in the fourth quarter and cut the lead to 15-9. A touchdown and point after would give them the lead.

They got the touchdown with 3:14 left when Cyril Pinder found open spaces up the middle on a quick hitter and darted 40 yards for the tying score.

On the point after try, Butkus was lined up in the backfield as a blocker. The snap went over the head of holder Bobby Douglass, who, as luck would have it, was also Chicago's scrambling quarterback. Douglass ran down the ball at the 30 and flipped a desperation toss towards Butkus, who snared the ball in the corner of the end zone for the critical point.

The Redskins had a shot to pull it out in the closing seconds. Sonny Jurgensen replaced Billy Kilmer at quarterback and completed two passes to get his team into Bears territory with 15 seconds left. As Knight's attempt for his sixth field goal of the game, a 45 yarder, got airborne, the wind off of Lake Michigan kicked up, pushing the attempt wide left.

Nov. 16

Jurgensen to be Active, Kilmer Will Start
Billy not fazed by presence of star on bench

11/21/71	Cowboys (7-3) 13, REDSKINS (6-3-1) 0				53,041
Dal	7	0	3	3	13
Was	0	0	0	0	0
Dal	Staubach 29 run (Clark kick)				
Dal	FG Clark 26				
Dal	FG Clark 48				

RFK Stadium—Roger Staubach scrambled 29 yards for a first-quarter touchdown, giving the Cowboys all the points they would need to defeat the Redskins and take over first place in the NFC East.

It seemed that Staubach was in a world of trouble when he dropped back to pass from the Washington 29. His intended receiver, Lance Alworth, was covered, as were his other potential targets. Diron Talbert was drawing a bead on him. The quarterback, however, eluded the grasp of the Redskins tackle, dodged a few others, and made it into the end zone.

After the game, coach George Allen admitted that there really was no way to stop such a play. "We tried to take away his scrambling up the middle, and did. We dogged (sent) middle linebacker Mo Pottios up the middle. But Staubach went to the outside. There is no defense for the scramble. If you tried to set a defense just for that, you would throw off the rest of your defense."

The Redskins struggled mightily on offense. They managed just 65 yards rushing on 21 attempts. When they did get into scoring position, they couldn't convert. One field goal try was aborted when the snap was high and Curt Knight missed a 25-yard attempt when a gust of wind caught the boot and pushed it wide.

With the Redskins trailing 10-0 in the fourth quarter, Allen tried to work up a little magic by bringing Sonny Jurgensen into the game to replace Billy Kilmer. The prospect of anything miraculous quickly faded, though, when Jurgensen's first pass was intercepted.

Allen: Talk of Redskins Fold "Asinine"

Nov. 22—With the Redskins going 1-3-1 since their 5-0 start to the season George Allen is getting a bit testy.

When asked about this midseason slump mirroring his Rams' tendency to cool off after hot starts, Allen said, "This is asinine. We were 6-1 to start the season. I will take that."

"Should we have lost early?" he asked rhetorically.

Allen chose not to comment on the booing that took place when starter Billy Kilmer trotted back on to the field on Sunday with Dallas leading 10-0. Sonny Jurgensen had started to warm up and the boo-birds apparently were disappointed that he didn't enter the game at that point.

Jurgensen did come in later with the score the same, but his first pass was intercepted.

11/28/71	Redskins (7-3-1) 20, Eagles (3-7-1) 13				65,358
Was	0	13	0	7	20
Phil	0	0	6	7	13
Was	FG Knight 40				
Was	FG Knight 14				
Was	Jefferson 27 pass from Kilmer (Knight kick)				
Phil	Bailey 1 run (Kick failed)				
Was	Bass 38 interception return (Knight kick)				
Phil	Zabel 1 pass from Liske (Dempsey kick)				

Veterans Stadium—A 27-yard touchdown pass from Billy Kilmer to Roy Jefferson in the second quarter broke a nine-quarter touchdown drought for the Redskins and helped boost Washington to a key road win.

Kilmer had taken over for starter Sonny Jurgensen, who had left the game after hurting his left shoulder again, an injury that had sidelined him for much of the season. Jurgensen suffered the injury in the process of scrambling 10 yards to set up the first score of the game, a 40-yard field goal by Curt Knight. Kilmer's scoring throw to Jefferson capped a 50-yard, three-play drive and followed Knight's second field goal.

The Eagles cut the lead to 13-6 in the third quarter, but a Mike Bass interception return for a touchdown put it away for Washington.

12/5/71	REDSKINS (8-3-1) 23, Giants (4-8) 7				53,041
NYG	0	0	0	7	7
Was	13	7	3	0	23
Was	FG Knight 28				
Was	FG Knight 25				
Was	Brown 17 run (Knight kick)				
Was	Brown 2 run (Knight kick)				
Was	FG Knight 44				
NYG	Brown recovered blocked punt in end zone (Gogolak kick)				

RFK Stadium—With the Redskins offense struggling, it was up to the defense to pull this one out. The home team literally stole the victory, intercepting five passes and making some key special teams plays to set up all five Washington scores to beat the Giants.

The tone was set early as Chris Hanburger grabbed a tipped Fran Tarkenton pass and returned it to the New York 24. Unable to move the ball, the Skins called on Curt Knight to give them a 3-0 lead just over a minute into the

game. Three plays later, a Myron Pottios interception returned to the New York 10 leading to another Knight three pointer.

The Giants' third possession ended in Tarkenton throwing his third interception, this one to end Ron McDole. As inept as the Redskins offense was, they couldn't mess up three gift-wrapped opportunities in a row. From the New York 37, they moved in and popped Larry Brown free for a 17-yard touchdown run to give Washington a 13-0 lead.

After the Giants punter muffed a snap, the Skins had to drive all of nine yards to another Brown touchdown run, this one of four yards. In the third quarter, Ted Vactor blocked a 12-yard field goal attempt by the Giants and Washington moved in for its final score, a 44-yard field goal that made it 23-0.

Allen Derides Rams' "Gadgets"

Dec. 8—George Allen fired off a few cross-country shots at his old team, the Rams, as he prepared his new team, the Redskins, for their big prime-time game next Monday night in Los Angeles.

The target of Allen's barbs was Los Angeles rookie head coach Tommy Prothro's fondness for trick plays.

"The Rams are a great gadget team," said Allen. "They use every type of gadget that's ever been used."

Prothro calls a variety of such plays including fake punts, double reverses, and passes off of reverses.

Allen has disdain for such tactics. "Over the years I've found gadgets can hurt you more than they help you. For every touchdown you make with them, one will backfire and the other team will get a score."

While we don't know what tricks Prothro has up his sleeve on Monday night, but it's likely that the Redskins will try to control the ball on the ground and use the run to set up the pass. Such tactics have gotten them to the verge of their first postseason appearance since 1945.

12/13/71	Redskins (9-3-1)	38,	Rams (7-5-1)	24	80,402
Was	7	17	7	7	38
LA	10	0	7	7	24
LA	Alexander 82 interception return (Ray kick)				
Was	Jefferson 70 pass from Kilmer (Knight kick)				
LA	FG Ray 32				
Was	FG Knight 52				
Was	McNeil 32 pass from Kilmer ((Knight kick)				
Was	Brown 1 run (Knight kick)				
Was	Jefferson 5 pass from Kilmer (Knight kick)				
LA	Klein 3 pass from Gabriel (Ray kick)				
LA	Ellison 1 run (Ray kick)				
Was	Duncan 46 interception return (Knight kick)				

Los Angeles Coliseum—They say that when something sounds too good to be true, it's probably not true. The Redskins and their fans probably pinched themselves a few times after this one, but it was, indeed, a reality.

Most Hollywood script writers would shy away from this story line as the main plot elements were too improbable even for fiction:

--Coach returns to beat the team that fired him the previous year.

--The win gives the coach's team its first postseason berth in 25 years and virtually eliminates his old team.

The coach, of course, is George Allen. He had his new team on the verge of its first playoff game since 1945 coming into this Monday night contest against the Rams, who were in the playoff hunt as well.

It did not start off well for Washington. Kermit Alexander picked off a Billy Kilmer pass and dashed down the sideline 82 yards for a 7-0 Ram lead. A 70-yard bomb from Kilmer to Roy Jefferson tied it up before the first quarter ended. The teams exchanged field goals before L. A. let a couple of golden opportunities slip away. The first time, they had moved to the Washington 18, where a decision to go for a first down on fourth and one backfired when Jack Pardee nailed Ram quarterback Roman Gabriel on a rollout. The second time, from the Redskin 22, Ted Vactor blocked a field goal attempt.

The block sparked the Washington offense back to life. They drove 62 yards for a touchdown, the payoff coming on Kilmer's 32-yard toss to Clifton McNeil. The Rams fumbled the ensuing kickoff and the Redskin offense was back in business. Seven plays later, Larry Brown bulled it over from a yard out and Washington took a 24-10 lead into the locker room.

It appeared that it was turning into a laughter in the third quarter after Mike Bass intercepted Gabriel's pass. Three plays after that, Kilmer threw a five-yard touchdown pass to Jefferson, and it was 31-10.

The Rams weren't quite done yet. Gabriel led touchdown drives of 59 and 69 yards in the third and fourth quarters, respectively, to pull his team within a touchdown. They had a couple more possessions to try to tie it up, but the first one ended in a punt and the second on Speedy Duncan's 44-yard interception return for the clinching touchdown.

Dec. 19

Sonny Out? Jurgy Contemplates Retirement QB says frustration over injury has led him to consider calling it quits

12/19/71	Browns (9-5)	20,	REDSKINS (9-4-1)	13	53,041
Cle	3	7	3	7	20
Was	3	10	0	0	13
Cle	FG Cockroft 30				
Was	FG Knight 18				
Cle	Collins 17 pass from Nelsen (Cockroft kick)				
Was	Brown 29 pass from Kilmer (Knight kick)				
Was	FG Knight 35				
Cle	FG Cockroft 22				
Cle	Glass 4 pass from Nelsen (Cockroft kick)				

RFK Stadium—The Redskins played gracious hosts to the Browns, turning the ball over four times to assist Cleveland in the win.

The visitors recovered a Larry Brown fumble to set up their first score, a 30-yard Don Cockroft field goal. After Curt Knight kicked a field goal, Cleveland drove to a 17-yard touchdown pass from Bill Nelsen to Gary Collins, and it was 10-3.

Washington was in the lead before halftime with a 29-yard scoring pass from Billy Kilmer to Larry Brown and

another Knight field goal. The second half, though, belonged to Cleveland, though as Washington blew a pair of scoring opportunities with turnovers and then made the killer mistake.

Mike Howell intercepted a Kilmer pass and returned it 68 yards. That led to a short drive that culminated in Nelsen's four-yard scoring pass to Chip Glass, putting the Browns up by the final margin of 20-13.

Baughn, Gossett Swap Verbal Jabs

Dec. 23—It wasn't exactly a verbal Clash of the Titans given that it involved a player on injured reserve and a place kicker, but Washington's Maxie Baughn and the 49ers' Bruce Gossett have added a little spice to the week leading up to their teams' playoff game.

Gossett, the kicker, started things up when he asked a reporter, "You wonder why players like Tommy Mason and Maxie Baughn support George Allen?"

"Because without him they wouldn't be in football," Gossett continued, answering his own question. "They are not good enough to be working for anyone else but George Allen."

Baughn, who is on injured reserve and ineligible to play this week, minced no words when he heard of Gossett's commentary. "He (Gossett) is not a player; he's not even an athlete. Ask him how many tackles he's made."

"How many times has he been to the Pro Bowl? Check the record."

The record shows nine Pro Bowl selections for Baughn, three for running back Mason, and zero for Gossett.

Fischer Not Fazed by Pro Bowl Snub

Dec. 23—It was an issue that concerned the editorial board of one of the newspapers in the capitol of the free world but Pat Fischer, the supposed victim, really didn't care about it.

The Evening Star editorial headline read, "Where's Pat?" and it lamented the Redskins' star cornerback Fischer's exclusion from the NFC Pro Bowl roster. His selection was widely anticipated but Roger Wehrli, who missed several games for a four-win Cardinal team made it instead.

It didn't seem to matter much to Fischer. "Oh, I used to get excited about those things, but not anymore," he said. "I don't care about the all-star selections because they are made by a lot of people everywhere who don't even see the games."

He was flattered by the attention from the Evening Star. "They had me right up there under the editorial about the new Secretary General of the United Nations and above the one about offshore oil leases."

"I'm making money from those leases," said Fischer, a stockbroker in the offseason.

NFC Divisional Playoff December 26, 1971 Candlestick Park San Francisco

12/26/71	49ERS 24, Redskins 10				45,364
Was	7	3	3	7	20
SF	0	3	14	7	24
Was	Smith 5 pass from Kilmer (Knight kick)				
SF	FG Gossett 23				
Was	FG Knight 40				
SF	G. Washington 78 pass from Brodie (Gossett kick)				
SF	Windsor 2 pass from Brodie (Gossett kick)				
Was	FG Knight 36				
SF	Haskins fumble recovery in end zone (Gossett kick)				
Was	Brown 16 pass from Kilmer (Knight kick)				

The Redskins had their chances to advance to the NFC title game, but a pair of bad snaps on kicking plays and the failure of a fourth-down gamble to pay off doomed them to a loss in rainy, windy San Francisco.

In the early going, the Redskins blocked a Steve Spurrier punt and Billy Kilmer found Jerry Smith for a 5-yard touchdown. In the second quarter, Curt Knight and Bruce Gossett exchanged field goals.

As halftime approached, the Skins held a 10-3 lead, and they were poised to strike for more after Speedy Duncan returned a punt 47 yards to the San Francisco 12. But, on a play that reportedly was suggested by President Richard Nixon in a phone call to Allen the night before the game, Roy Jefferson lost 13 yards on an end around. The Redskins were forced to settle for a field goal attempt, but center George Burman bounced the snap in front of holder Sonny Jurgensen and the kick was blocked.

Still leading by seven in the third quarter, an uncharacteristic gamble by Allen failed when Larry Brown was tackled for a two-yard loss on a fourth and inches play at the Niners' 11. A few plays later, on third and short, John Brodie executed a beautiful play action fake and uncorked a perfect spiral to receiver Gene Washington, who snared it and ran in for a 78-yard TD to tie the game at seven.

After that, it was the Redskins giving the 49ers opportunities. San Francisco, unlike Washington, took full advantage. First, Rosy Taylor intercepted a Kilmer pass, leading to Brodie's two-yard touchdown pass to tight end Bob Windsor. Then, with the score 17-13 with three and a half minutes left to play, another Burman snap went awry as he bounced one a yard in front of punter Mike Bragg. The ball squirted between Bragg's feet into the end zone. There Bob Hoskins of the 49ers pounced on it for an easy touchdown to make it 24-13.

The Redskins drove to one touchdown on a 16-yard pass from Kilmer to Brown and, after their defense held San Francisco, regained possession at their own 37. With 51 seconds and no timeouts left, the odds of the Redskins scoring were slim to none and Slim left town when Cedrick Hardman sacked Kilmer for a 13-yard loss as the final gun sounded.