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On Monday Night's Injured List: 108 Football Fans; [FINAL Edition]

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Full Text (1215 words)

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In the stands as well as on the field, Washington Redskins football can be a punishing sport. A man got a peanut shell in his eye and needed a patch at Monday night's game. An exuberant fan dislocated a shoulder cheering, requiring hospitalization. A woman suffered a nosebleed when a booted football sailed through the uprights and hit her in the face. She got an ice pack, while her son got the ball.

"Great, Mom. You took one for the Redskins," the teenager said, according to the nurse who treated the woman.

As the Redskins took on the Dallas Cowboys at Jack Kent Cooke Stadium, medics tended to fans in what turned out to be the hurtinest home game yet. Perhaps because of the excitement of the rivalry, the 108 injuries were about double the number for the first home game, and up from 65 in the second contest.

One victim was a hapless Cowboys fan, a 27-year-old man from Riverdale, who allegedly was beaten up in the men's room when he begged to differ with a fan favoring the Redskins. The Cowboys partisan emerged with contusions on his face, arms and hands, but he refused to give a report to police. He returned to the stands much as an injured player insists on staying in the game, bruised but not beaten, and refusing to quit.

Here are the end-of-game fan injury stats:

Sixty-five headaches requiring Tylenol; 12 upset stomachs requiring antacid; two asthma attacks; one fight in the men's room; one assault by a football; one assault by a peanut shell; one twisted ankle; one possible heart attack; four persons taken to the hospital; and 20 cuts, almost all of them from the metal plates on bathroom doors.

Some of the wounded declined to give their names for publication, and others simply were in no condition to identify themselves even if they were willing. Not so Jeff Carella, 31, of Sterling, who arrived at one nursing station with a cut hand. "Beer bottle?" someone asked. "No, bathroom door," he said. He'd cut it just before the game and nursed it himself through the first half. "I wasn't going to miss anything," he said.

Farhad Haghi, 35, of Columbia, couldn't believe he'd cut his finger on the bathroom door, not after his girlfriend had paid \$200 each for their \$55 seats, as a birthday present to him.

Another casualty cut his hand when he thrust his fist high after a Redskins touchdown. Unfortunately, he pumped it right into the ceiling at a fan assistance window. "Really stupid," he said as he went to the busiest first aid station, on the first level at the south end of the field.

That was also where the woman came after a football kicked for an extra point landed on her nose. "She was shaking her head," said nurse Gloria Crawford, 35. "She couldn't believe it. We

just gave her an ice pack."

Crawford and co-worker Myra Moody, 43, a licensed practical nurse, had the busiest night, according to nurse supervisor Helen Bradley. Things picked up especially around halftime. There was the diabetic who'd forgotten her insulin and the asthmatic who'd forgotten her inhaler. The Cowboys fan came in all bloodied, followed by a woman with stomach pains who needed to lie down and did, for most of the second half.

"I got a medical emergency," announced Mike Sullenberger, 30, of Fairfax, but his complaint didn't count in the stats. "My eyeglass fell out of the frame. I was cleaning them. I need a piece of tape." He got it.

And there was another man, with the apparent signs of a heart attack, who kept saying, "I'm fine," and rejected repeated advice from the medics and a doctor that he go to the hospital for tests.

That hospital was Prince George's Hospital Center, 10 minutes away in Cheverly. Under the corporate name Dimensions Healthcare System, it advertises in the game program and on signs in the stadium that it is "chosen to take care of the Redskins, their staff, fans . . . and oh yes, the other team too."

To provide medical care for the transient city of Raljon, population about 78,000 during home games, Dimensions staffs six first-aid stations throughout Cooke Stadium with two workers each. It also provides two X-ray technicians, two on-field oxygen therapists, a roving physician and a nurse supervisor.

There also are 34 county-paid personnel from the Prince George's Fire Department to help Dimensions medics and to take the injured to the hospital. The Redskins compensate the county for their services.

The fans and teams pay nothing for the in-stadium service, which is costing Dimensions about \$200,000 this season, according to Winfield M. Kelly Jr., the corporation's chief executive officer and a former Prince George's County executive. In return, Kelly says, Dimensions gets priceless publicity.

An internist and orthopedist from Arlington Hospital also are there for the Redskins, to minister to the on-field bumps and bruises, such as the left knee injuries received Monday night by both wide receiver Michael Westbrook and running back Terry Allen.

Monday night, the therapists did not administer oxygen to any of the Redskins, but Vicki Smith, 37, and Joan Williams, 33, said they were thrilled to be at their first professional football game, and on the field no less. In the X-ray room off the tunnel leading to the field, only wide receiver and former Cowboy Alvin Harper came in for a pregame snapshot of his left hand.

At the stadium, each first aid station has two cots, dressings, medications, some medical equipment and a television set for viewing the game.

The last quarter was tense, both on the screen and off, in First Aid Station 4. A 39-year-old Gaithersburg man was lying on a cot with an IV in his arm, an oxygen mask over his face and medics hovering over him. "I got up to go to the restroom, felt dizzy. At the urinal, I started sweating. I got a kind of hot-flash feeling, came outside, took my jacket off, sat down."

A firefighter brought him in. "I feel fine now," he said. Christopher Ervin, the roving emergency

physician, didn't think so. "You might have had a heart attack," he said.

"Really, I'm fine," the man said. He got up and left.

"There are times you can force the issue and times you can't," Ervin said. "In settings like this, you can't."

At 12:02 a.m. Tuesday, in the flush of the Redskins victory, a 19-year-old woman staggered in, apparently drunk.

"I wasn't paying any attention to her," her boyfriend said. "Before I knew it . . ." She was taken to the hospital, where her parents were called to pick her up.

"Who was the busiest tonight?" Moody asked her supervisor, who said Moody's station was. "Yea! We won the prize," Moody said. As it turned out, her prize was just minutes and one level away, in the tunnel where the medics gathered and watched the victorious Redskins filter out of the stadium.

Moody got Redskins quarterback Gus Frerotte to sign her program book.

[Illustration]

PHOTO,,Tracy A. Woodward CAPTION:Vicki Smith, an oxygen therapist, stands on the sidelines. Smith and co-worker Joan Williams said they were thrilled to be at their first professional football game. ec

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