



2010 WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Record: 6-10

4th Place – NFC East

Head Coach: Mike Shanahan

2010

Sept. 12 W
 Sept. 19 L
 Sept. 26 L
 Oct. 3 W
 Oct. 10 W
 Oct. 17 L
 Oct. 24 W
 Oct. 31 L
 Nov. 15 L
 Nov. 21 W
 Nov. 28 L
 Dec. 5 L
 Dec. 12 L
 Dec. 19 L
 Dec. 26 W
 Jan. 2 L

6-10

13-7 Dallas
 27-30 (OT) Houston
 16-30 at St. Louis
 17-12 at Philadelphia
 16-13 (OT) Green Bay
 24-27 Indianapolis
 17-14 at Chicago
 37-25 at Detroit
 28-59 Philadelphia
 19-16 (OT) at Tennessee
 13-17 Minnesota
 7-31 at NY Giants
 16-17 Tampa Bay
 30-33 at Dallas
 20-17 (OT) at Jacksonville
 14-17 NY Giants

Redskins Stumble in First Year of Shanahan Era

It was chaotic. It was outright embarrassing at times. And the Redskins could do no better than a 6-10 mark with a new coach who came to D.C. sporting two Super Bowl rings, and with a six-time Pro Bowl quarterback who'd taken his team to five NFC championship games and a Super Bowl, and had thrown for nearly 33,000 yards.

In addition, the Redskins finished in last place in the NFC East for the third straight year and went 6-6 in 12 games decided by a touchdown or less, a sign that they were still struggling, as in past seasons, to pull out close games at the end.

At least the final record was two wins better than the horrifying debacle of 2009. That doesn't say much, but the Redskins looked much closer to a real team by the end of the 2010 campaign – and much stronger at their core. They had a no-nonsense head coach in Mike Shanahan who made it clear that he wouldn't tolerate any more reckless, disrespectful and cancerous player behavior. Shanahan instilled in his troops the discipline and focus that they sorely lacked under his happy-go-lucky and inexperienced predecessor, Jim Zorn, who was fired at the end of the 2009 season.

After the last 2010 game, a 17-14 loss to the Giants at FedExField, players sounded confident heading into the offseason that the Redskins were on the right track, far from the despondency that consumed the team when 2009 ended. They appeared to be on the same page, and there was no uncertainty about who the boss was.

"This was organized," fullback Mike Sellers said when asked to compare the 2009 and 2010 seasons. "The stuff we had with Zorn, you had players yelling at head coaches. There was no respect when it came to a coach. Everyone respects coach Shanahan, and everyone knows what he wants. He's straight up with you."

Cornerback DeAngelo Hall, who had a career-high six interceptions and was named MVP of the Pro Bowl, echoed Sellers' thoughts.

"Two totally different situations, two totally different visions, two totally different coaches," Hall said. "We have a coach in coach Shanahan who we believe in. We feel like he's going to be here for a while, and every guy in this locker room believes in him. We're behind him 100 percent."

Optimistic words, indeed, about a team that had taken baby steps on the road to recovery. Nevertheless, questions lingered about the team's future.

The quarterback situation, for one, was uncertain. Long-time Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb, for whom the Redskins traded two draft picks in April 2010, posted the worst season of his 12-year career. He tallied career-lows in touchdown passes (14) and quarterback rating (77.1), and was benched twice, including for the last three games of the season. He failed to earn a spot as the Redskins' starting quarterback for the coming seasons, as did his backup, Rex Grossman, who produced mixed results in the final three games.

On the defensive side, the Redskins' transition to the 3-4 under new defensive coordinator Jim Haslett was an embarrassment. The defense

finished 31st in the league and allowed a team-record 6,228 yards, 1,100 more than in 2009. The unit also yielded 377 points, 11th-most in the NFL.

Problems on defense were compounded by the ongoing soap opera and war of words between malcontent \$100 million tackle Albert Haynesworth and Shanahan. Haynesworth barely came to play in 2010, his second season in D.C., and was a problem child, constantly bucking Shanahan and Haslett. He was reluctant to play in the 3-4 and missed a host of games because of minor injuries and personal issues. After he showed up late for a team meeting on Dec. 3, Shanahan suspended him for the last four games of the season. He ended up with a paltry 2.5 sacks and 16 tackles, and solidified his spot as the Redskins' worst free agent signing during Dan Snyder's ownership era that began in 1999.

Once, as Haynesworth rushed Eagles quarterback Michael Vick, he was blocked by a lineman but mysteriously fell down. He stayed on the ground for a few seconds while the play developed and as Vick looked for someone to throw the ball to. Video of the play, accompanied by the song "Lay, Lady, Lay," appeared on YouTube in a mocking tribute to Haynesworth. Just for the record, Vick threw a touchdown pass on the play, part of a 59-28 romp over the Redskins in a Monday night game at FedExField.

Former Redskins such as offensive tackle George Starke voiced their anger at the underachieving, overpaid Haynesworth for the way he showed a reckless disregard for his team's welfare.

"Basically, he's stealing from the Washington Redskins, he's stealing from his teammates," Starke, a solid contributor during the Redskins' glory years in the early-1980s, said on the TV show, "Burgundy & Gold Magazine" "I'm really uncomfortable with this whole thing because I just can't imagine this." <http://blip.tv/burgundy-gold-magazine/b-g-magazine-redskins-great-george-starke-4486228>