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# SPORTS

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SECTION **B**

## 2005's biggest story: Sox win

Chicago's first title since 1917 edges Katrina, Armstrong

By RONALD BLUM  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### NEW YORK

When the White Sox won the World Series for the first time in nearly nine decades, it took a while for Jerry Reinsdorf to realize what the title meant to many in Chicago.

"It started with a friend of mine sending an e-mail saying he had gone to the cemetery to tell his parents the White Sox had won the World Series," the White Sox owner said, "and when he got there, two-thirds of the graves were decorated with White Sox memorabilia. And then I found out that this was not just at that cemetery, this was going on all around the area."

Chicago's remarkable run to its first World Series title since 1917 was voted sports story of the year in balloting by newspaper and broadcast members of The Associated Press.

"There's hardly anybody still alive from 1917, and those few who are really don't much

(SEE SOX, PAGE B4)

## Notre Dame channeling Dangerfield

Irish defense overlooked in Fiesta Bowl matchup

By TOM COYNE  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### TEMPE, Ariz.

The Notre Dame defense isn't getting much respect at the Fiesta Bowl.

Ever since the matchup was announced last month, the focus has been on Notre Dame's offense vs. Ohio State's defense.

The talk has centered on Irish quarterback Brady Quinn going up against his sister's boyfriend, Ohio State linebacker A.J. Hawk. Or Notre Dame receivers Jeff Samardzija and Maurice Stovall going up against Ohio State's vaunted secondary. Or whether Darius Walker will be able to run against a Buckeye defense ranked No. 1 in the nation against the run.

Irish coach Charlie Weis isn't sure that will be the storyline.

"This is probably going to come down to their offense against our defense because everyone is talking about it being just the opposite," Weis said.

(SEE IRISH, PAGE B4)

### THE SCORES

DENVER	23
SAN DIEGO	7
N.Y. GIANTS	30
OAKLAND	21
N.Y. JETS	30
BUFFALO	26
CAROLINA	44
ATLANTA	11
PITTSBURGH	35
DETROIT	21
GREEN BAY	23
SEATTLE	17
MIAMI	28
NEW ENGLAND	26
KANSAS CITY	37
CINCINNATI	3
CLEVELAND	20
BALTIMORE	16
TAMPA BAY	27
NEW ORLEANS	13
SAN FRANCISCO	20
HOUSTON	17
JACKSONVILLE	40
TENNESSEE	13
MINNESOTA	34
CHICAGO	10
WASHINGTON	31
PHILADELPHIA	20
ST. LOUIS	(n)
DALLAS	

### THE STARS



Steelers running back Jerome Bettis greets fans after scoring three touchdowns in Pittsburgh's win Sunday. Bettis plans to retire after this season.

#### Jerome Bettis

Steelers running back Bettis, the fifth-leading rusher in NFL history, didn't have a big-yardage game, rushing for just 41 yards, but his three scores matched a career high and helped the Steelers secure a playoff berth with a 35-21 win against Detroit. Bettis has signaled that he will retire after this season, his 10th with the Steelers and 13th overall.

#### DeShaun Foster

Panthers running back Foster rushed for 165 yards, including a 70-yard touchdown run, the longest scoring run in team history, as the Panthers routed Atlanta 44-11 to clinch a spot in the playoffs.

#### Doug Flutie

Patriots quarterback Flutie, the 43-year-old Patriots backup, converted the NFL's first successful drop kick since 1941, making an extra point in the fourth quarter of the Miami Dolphins' mostly meaningless 28-26 victory Sunday against New England.

17 NFL: WEEK 17 13

# Winning by a nose

## Goal-line stand helps lineup of mostly backup Colts break two-game losing skid

By RICK MORWICK

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### INDIANAPOLIS

Jim Sorgi was nervous, frustrated and determined to make the most of a rare opportunity.

Little wonder he was arguably the most excited player in the RCA Dome after leading the Indianapolis Colts to a 17-13 win against the Arizona Cardinals in Sunday's regular-season finale.

Stepping in for starting quarterback Peyton Manning after the first series, Sorgi calmly and efficiently directed the second unit offense in the face of blitzes and hurries seldom visited upon Manning.

Despite constant pressure, little run support and frequently getting chased out of the pocket, Sorgi completed 21 of 31 passes for 207 yards, two touchdowns and one interception in the best outing of his two-year career.

Moreover, and more important, his effort resulted in a win.

In two previous extended outings, one last year against Denver and another last week at Seattle, the Colts lost with Sorgi taking most of the snaps.

But not this time. And it happened under meaningful circumstances, with the Colts (14-2) needing a win for playoff momentum and wanting it to honor the return of coach Tony Dungy.

(SEE WINNING, PAGE B3)

### INSIDE

Roundup of regular-season finale action.

Page B3

Presentation of gameball helps team honor grieving coach.

Page B4



Arizona quarterback Josh McCown is stopped by the Colts' Larry Triplett short of a touchdown in the closing seconds Sunday. The play was ruled a touchdown on the field but was overturned after review, giving Indianapolis the 17-13 win.

## Question remains whether Colts can regain their near-perfect form

### INDIANAPOLIS

What's the difference between a three-game losing streak and a win to enter the postseason?

About the length of a Josh McCown helmet.

The Colts' 17-13 victory against Arizona on Sunday was more exciting than anybody had a right to expect considering Indianapolis played its backups all game except the first series.

The ending was an emotional lift and was capped by a touching gameball delivery to grieving coach Tony Dungy.

The controversial fumble/no-fumble ending was more drama than the Fox television network has seen since "24" was last on the air.

However, the outcome of the



Jason Martin

COLTS BEAT

Cardinals game would have done little to affect the Colts' postseason fortunes.

Forget all those flashy Fox graphics telling you that a team with a three-game losing streak has never made the Super Bowl.

As the Colts have proven the past

(SEE FORM, PAGE B4)

### SUNDAY'S SUMMARY

#### SCORE BY QUARTERS

Arizona	0	3	7	3-13
Indianapolis	7	3	7	0-17

#### First Quarter

Ind—Utecht 14 pass from Sorgi (Vanderjagt kick), 4:44.

#### Second Quarter

Ari—FG Rackers 28, 13:04.

Ind—FG Vanderjagt 44, 2:41.

#### Third Quarter

Ind—Walters 18 pass from Sorgi (Vanderjagt kick), 11:26.

Ari—Fitzgerald 25 pass from McCown (Rackers kick), 8:29.

#### Fourth Quarter

Ari—FG Rackers 42, 10:59.

A—57, 2:11.

#### TEAM STATS

	Ari	Ind
First downs	23	15
Total Net Yards	413	218
Rushes-yards	31-129	10-11
Passing	284	207
Punt Returns	1-9	2-15
Kickoff Returns	4-58	4-65

Interceptions Ret.	1-15	1-16
Comp-Att-Int	31-42-122	33-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-13	2-5
Punts	5-38.8	5-46.4
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	1-0
Penalties-Yards	12-98	7-50
Time of Possession	36:41	23:19

#### INDIVIDUAL STATS

RUSHING—Arizona, Shipp 16-57, McCown 8-42, Arrington 5-27, Ayanbadejo 2-3. Indianapolis, Mungro 1-7, Rhodes 5-4, Sorgi 4-0.

PASSING—Arizona, McCown 31-42-1-297. Indianapolis, Sorgi 21-31-1-207, Manning 1-2-0-5.

RECEIVING—Arizona, Boldin 8-81, Fitzgerald 6-80, Bergen 4-35, Ayanbadejo 4-28, Shipp 3-19, Edwards 2-31, Johnson 2-16, Arrington 2-7. Indianapolis, Moorehead 5-59, Walters 5-43, Rhodes 4-29, Utecht 2-33, Mungro 2-21, Harrison 2-19, Hartsock 2-8.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

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