MONDAY • 09.23.2013 • B



Cowboys 31, Rams 7

**UP NEXT:** 7:25 p.m. Thursday vs. 49ers, NFL Network, KPLR (11)



Rams' defense left big holes for Murray, who rushed for 175 yards.



**RICHARD W. RODRIGUEZ • Fort Worth Star-Telegram** 

### **DEMARCO-ED. DEMARCUS-ED.**

Ware sacked Sam Bradford twice to break the Cowboys' franchise record of 114.



**LM OTERO •** Associated Press

# **MORRY GASH •** Associated Press Cardinals third baseman David

Freese can't come up with a ball hit by Milwaukee's Martin Maldonado during the second inning Sunday night.

## Cards clinch playoff berth

#### **Brewers 6, Cards 4**

Washington loses before Redbirds play, guaranteeing at least a wild-card position.

#### BY DERRICK GOOLD

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MILWAUKEE • Birthday boy Mike Matheny was working out when he saw that he'd done something no Cardinals manager had since the Great Depression.

General manager John Mozeliak was on the bus with some players when they heard the final score from Washington and knew the Redbirds had earned a postseason berth for the third consecutive season.

The Cardinals already in the clubhouse had to find out from reporters or others because every television was tuned to football, not their postseason fate.

There was no jubilation, no champagne iced. Toasts can wait.

"We'll have a good conversation about it," said Matheny, who turned 43 on Sunday. "We've got work ahead of us. We've got things we need to do."

Hours before the Cardinals lost 6-4 to the Brewers late Sunday night at Miller Park, the club already had clinched a postseason invitation. The Washington Nationals' loss to Miami in the first game of a doubleheader assured the Cards of at least the National League's second wild-card berth into October.

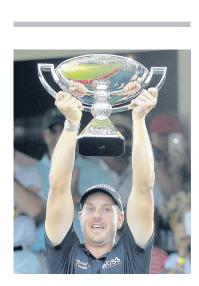
It is the 10th time since 2000 that the Cardinals will appear in the postseason, and the second time in as many seasons as manager that Matheny has led the team into the playoffs.

See CARDINALS • Page B5

#### **UP NEXT**

7:15 tonight vs. Nationals, FSM

NL CEN	ITR	AL		NL WIL	D C	ARI	D
STL	91	65	_	PIT	89	67	_
PIT	89	67	2	CIN	89	67	_
CIN	89	67	2	WAS	84	72	-

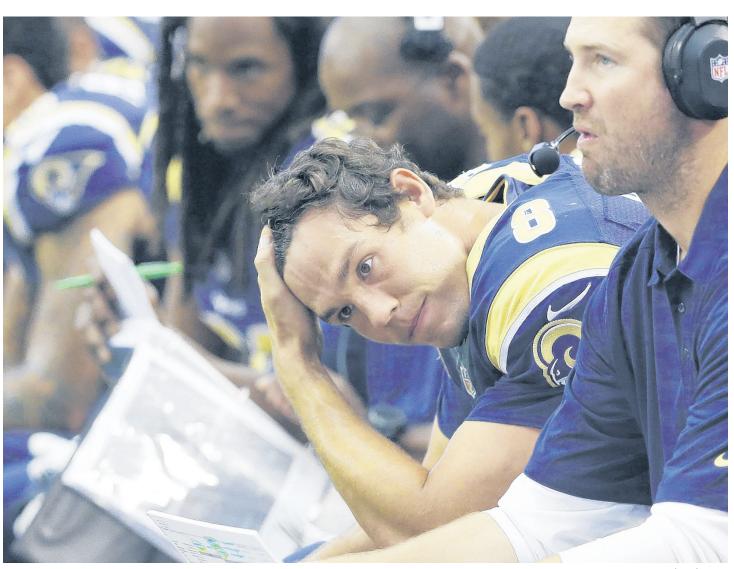


**DOUBLE VICTORY** FOR STENSON

STORY • B3

## DEMORALIZED.

Rams have nothing to show on offense or defense in disturbing loss.



LM OTERO • Associated Press

#### Fisher, players unable to explain how it all fell apart

**BY JIM THOMAS** 

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**ARLINGTON, TEXAS** • In year two of Jeff Fisher's tenure as head coach, you thought the Rams were beyond games like this. But no. Just change most of the names and numbers, and Sunday's 31-7 loss to Dallas could come straight from the vaults of many a Scott Linehan and Steve Spagnuolo horror film.

Outplayed, outmatched and embarrassed, the Rams had no answer for basically anything Dallas tried on either side of the ball at AT&T Stadium, aka Jerry Jones' Playpen. And afterward, Fisher didn't really have an answer for what went wrong.

"You know what? I can't explain it," Fisher said. "We're going to look at the tape and see what happened. But I didn't expect to see this happen. I'm disappointed. Our players are disappointed. We had a really good (practice) week, and it just didn't carry over."

Not by any stretch of the imagination. It was a long way to travel to get your tails

See RAMS • Page B6



			7700		
Colts	27	Panthers	38		
49ers	7	Giants	0		
Ravens	30	Titans	20		
Texans	9	Chargers	17		
Lions	27	Patriots	23		
Redskins	20	Buccaneers	3		
Saints	31	Browns	31		
Cardinals	7	Vikings	27		
Bengals	34	Jets	27		
Packers	30	Bills	20		
Dolphins	27	Seahawks	45		
Falcons	23	Jaguars	17		
Bears	40				
Steelers	23	Coverage • B8	Coverage • B8-9		



#### Rams star in grotesque horror show

BERNIE MIKLASZ • bjmiklasz@post-dispatch.com

**ARLINGTON, TEXAS** • I feel bad for those who had to watch the game at home, on television, when the Cowboys demolished the sorry, no-account Rams 31-7 on Sunday afternoon at AT&T Stadium.

Please know this: You were better off in your safe houses, hundreds of miles from this gruesome scene.

You should have seen what the Rams' horror show looked like on the Cowboys' continent-sized jumbo, jumbo, jumbo, Jumbotron. The Rams' hideous display of football was blown up, magnified a thousand times and sharpened by high definition.

The big big big screen technology made Cowboys pass-rushing beast DeMarcus Ware look like Godzilla; I thought he was going to eat everyone in the place after he got done with Rams quarterback Sam Bradford.

"I didn't see this one coming," Rams coach coach Jeff Fisher said. "I can't explain it." He couldn't prevent it, either.

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