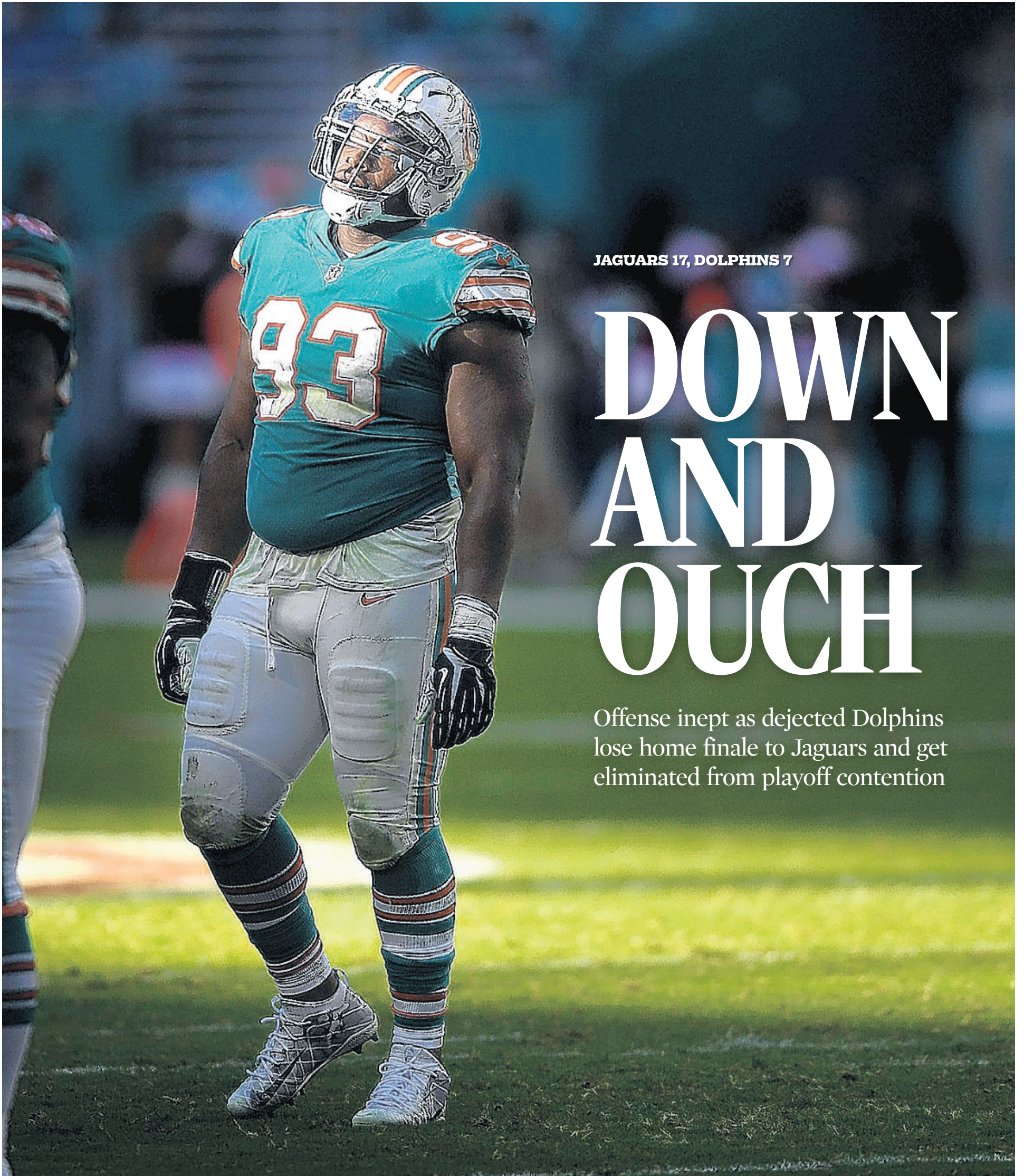


SunSentinel SPORTS



JAGUARS 17, DOLPHINS 7

DOWN AND OUCH

Offense inept as dejected Dolphins lose home finale to Jaguars and get eliminated from playoff contention

MICHAEL LAUGHLIN/SUN SENTINEL

Dolphins defensive tackle Akeem Spence walks off the field during the second half of a 17-7 loss to the Jaguars. The loss eliminated the Dolphins (7-8) from playoff contention.

Dolphins show again why it's time for this era to end

MIAMI GARDENS — On the most depressing day, in the most depressing stadium, the most depressing play involved Ryan Tannehill reminding any die-hard still squeezing hope why it's time to roll the credits on this Miami Dolphins era.

It was a pass he shouldn't have thrown, the Dolphins quarterback said afterward of the short attempt to running back Kalen Ballage.

It was a pass he'd seen several times on film, Jacksonville linebacker Telvin Smith said of the ball he intercepted on a good sprint.



Dave Hyde

Who suspected we'd get a play with this symbolism to end it all — the day, the season, maybe the latest mediocre and malodorous era?

Who expected such a dramatic confluence in one play that resonated like a loud drumbeat of continued, wrong-headed investment by decision-makers and bone-headed play by Tannehill?

Smith ran the interception back 33 yards into the end zone, where his Jacksonville teammates, happy to suspend their

See **HYDE, 3C**

AFC playoffs

DIVISION LEADERS

1. Chiefs (11-3), *Sun. late*
2. Texans (10-5)
3. Patriots (10-5)
4. Ravens (9-6)

WILD-CARD RACE

- Chargers (11-4), *clinched*
- Colts (9-6)
- Titans (9-6)
- Steelers (8-6-1)

Projected 2019 NFL draft order

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| 1. Cardinals | 8. Giants |
| 2. Raiders | 9. Bills |
| 3. Jets | 10. Panthers |
| 4. 49ers | 11. Falcons |
| 5. Lions | 12. Bengals |
| 6. Bucs | 13. Dolphins |
| 7. Jaguars | Source: ESPN |

BY SAFID DEEN

South Florida Sun Sentinel

MIAMI GARDENS — Miami Dolphins coach Adam Gase was infuriated.

Dolphins quarterback Ryan Tannehill was dejected and upset.

The Miami Dolphins suffered a demoralizing home loss that eliminated them from playoff contention, and may have altered the direction of their franchise moving forward after a 17-7 loss to the Jacksonville Jaguars on Sunday.

"It was brutal to watch, to be a part of," said Gase, who fell to 23-24 in his three seasons as Dolphins head coach with one final game remaining this year.

Here's what you mercifully missed, or may have unfortunately witnessed, during the Dolphins' final home game of the season:

■ Two of the NFL's most inept

offenses scoring on their first drives of the game. Then, nothing else — especially from the Dolphins — until the fourth quarter.

■ Dolphins mascot, TD, in the holiday spirit wearing a Santa Claus outfit, looking depressed in the back of the end zone after a missed Miami field goal.

■ The Jaguars, after forcing a turnover and starting an offensive drive in the red zone, going backwards and ending said drive at their own 46-yard line.

■ Several serenades of boos from Dolphins fans, among an announced crowd of 65,798 people in Hard Rock Stadium.

■ A go-ahead scoring drive in the fourth quarter, orchestrated by former Jaguars starting quarterback Blake Bortles, who was benched midway during the season.

See **DOLPHINS, 5C**



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