

SunSentinel SPORTS

ON THE DOLPHINS



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL REAVES, MARK BROWN/GETTY-AFP; WILFREDO LEE/AP

Let the *great* debate begin

In the afterglow of Sunday's miracle, the Dolphins' fun feels even better. The opponent. The ending. It should stand as the greatest regular-season win in South Florida history.

Go ahead. Treat yourself. Watch it again. Ten times. Twenty times. Watch the network video of the play. Watch the team video following Kenyan Drake into the locker room.

Watch the fan in the upper deck on his cell phone who loses it, the close-up of Ryan Tannehill dropping to the ground in disbelief and certainly the one of the elderly fan in New England screaming expletives at the television screen.

It never gets old, does it?

Never, ever, no matter how many dozen times you watch the Miami Dolphins' final play on Sunday does the fun go away.

The sun came up Monday, proving the dream wasn't a



Dave Hyde

dream, and around noon Dolphins coach Adam Gase discussed a playoff stretch run win which, in an add-on miracle, their season remains relevant.

But you don't need to go there. Not yet. You've smiled so little this barren millennium, you deserve to embrace the tidal wave of fun on that final, fluky play a little more and watch that video again and again for what it delivered:

The greatest regular-season win in South Florida sports history.

Exaggeration? Recency bias?

Go ahead. Name another win that plants the flag considering the involved elements. I'll sit here on this sum-

See **HYDE, 6C**

MARLINS

Realmuto question still has no answers

Mattingly on trade rumors: 'I look at him as part of our club'

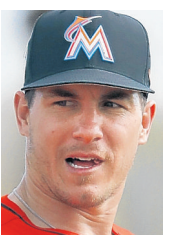
BY WELLS DUSENBURY
South Florida Sun Sentinel

LAS VEGAS — It only took a few questions before manager Don Mattingly was asked about the elephant in the room.

What's J.T. Realmuto's future with the Miami Marlins?

That's been the No. 1 question surrounding the organization this offseason.

Although the All-Star catcher still has two years left on his contract, his agent has publicly said Realmuto won't sign an extension with the team, leading to heavy speculation about whether Miami will deal him before next season.



Realmuto

Speaking to reporters on the first day of MLB winter meetings in Las Vegas, the Marlins manager addressed the situation, saying he still views the 27-year-old as part of the team's future.

"I look at him as part of our club," Mattingly said. "I think everyone's been pretty up front with how we feel about J.T. publicly, privately, personally with him. He knows how much we like him and what we think about him. He's handling everything fine. J.T.'s a tough kid. He's a big-time leader."

See **MARLINS, 4C**

HEAT

Wade marvels at how James is stepping up

Lakers 'one of the top teams' in West in Year 1 with LeBron

BY IRA WINDERMAN
South Florida Sun Sentinel

LOS ANGELES — With Monday night Dwyane Wade's final appearance at Staples Center as well as his final game against close friend and former championship teammate LeBron James, what is not lost on the Miami Heat guard is how James is thriving in a 16th season of his own and first with the Los Angeles Lakers.

"I mean, I'm so used to him being efficient. Like when he was in Miami, I think he shot like 60-something percent from the field for a season," Wade said, with James actually topping out at 57 percent during two of his four Heat seasons. "So, from that standpoint, I know the caliber of player he is, the work he puts in, the IQ he has of the game, all of that."

"I think the thing is how quickly — and they're going to grow so much more — but how quickly he's been able to get this team turned around early in the season, to get them where they're one of the top teams in the West and knowing that they're going to continue to grow."

Wade said James' mentorship is a powerful statement about the value of experience.

See **HEAT, 6C**

The late show

The Heat-Lakers game Monday night did not end in time for this edition. For coverage of the game, go to SunSentinel.com/sports



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