

SunSentinel SPORTS

HEAT 122, BLAZERS 111

Winning's the point



The Heat's Derrick Jones Jr. blocks a shot by the Blazers' Damian Lillard during the first half at AmericanAirlines Arena on Sunday.

Tannehill, Whiteside showed what we're missing — or aren't in Whiteside's case



Dave Hyde

There they were, back to back this weekend, Saturday to Sunday, the two biggest athletes in South Florida a year ago by paycheck and talking points reminding us what we've missed.

For Ryan Tannehill, the reminder was a crucial lesson in the Dolphins' latest rebuild.

For Hassan Whiteside, it was a god-send about why the Heat is so fun and fresh without him this year.

For both, the subject was winning traits — a talent as sure strength or speed. Winning traits are what Tannehill showed Saturday in Tennessee's playoff win in New England and what Whiteside never will show. He can't. It's not in him.

Whiteside will show numbers, of course. The subject of stats came up again before Heat swamped his Portland team, 122-111, in American Airlines Arena.

Whiteside has good numbers this year

See **HYDE, 4C**

Pulling away at home

The Heat's 17-1 run at AmericanAirlines Arena this season includes 10 wins by double figures:

Date	Opp.	Score	+
Jan. 5	Blazers	122-111	11
Dec. 20	Knicks	129-114	15
Dec. 10	Hawks	135-121	14
Nov. 29	Warriors	122-105	16
Nov. 25	Hornets	117-100	17
Nov. 20	Cavaliers	124-100	24
Nov. 16	Pelicans	109-94	15
Nov. 3	Rockets	129-100	29
Oct. 29	Hawks	112-97	15
Oct. 23	Grizzlies	120-101	19

Minus Butler, Heat push home record to 17-1

BY IRA WINDERMAN

MIAMI — It was reunion night lite. With Hassan Whiteside back for the first time in opposing colors and with both teams short-handed, the Miami Heat remained true to form in Sunday night's 122-111 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers.

They remain nearly invincible at AmericanAirlines Arena, an NBA-best 17-1 at home.

And they still have yet to lose consecutive games this season, following up Friday's road loss to the Orlando Magic with a decisive bounce-back performance to extend their franchise record to 36 games without repeat defeats.

"I think our group has a competitive nature to it and a humility after losses, to be able to own it and correct it," coach

See **HEAT, 4C**

FAU FOOTBALL

Taggart looking to build on momentum Kiffin left behind

New coach already has pieces in place to keep Owls rolling

BY KHOBI PRICE

BOCA RATON — With 2019 — and the 2010s — in the rearview mirror, Florida Atlantic is fully entrenched in the Willie Taggart era.

After a decade that had more downs than ups in the beginning stages, former coach Lane Kiffin led the Owls to their most successful run in program history to close out the 2010s.

Now, it's on Taggart to build on the momentum from the Kiffin's three seasons at the helm, which included two Conference USA titles and two Boca Raton Bowl victories.

The Owls have the pieces in place for Taggart to have his most successful run as a



Willie Taggart has made several hires to his FAU staff since the close of 2019.

head coach. He's brought in a staff that has a solid mix of proven winners and younger coaches looking to establish themselves.

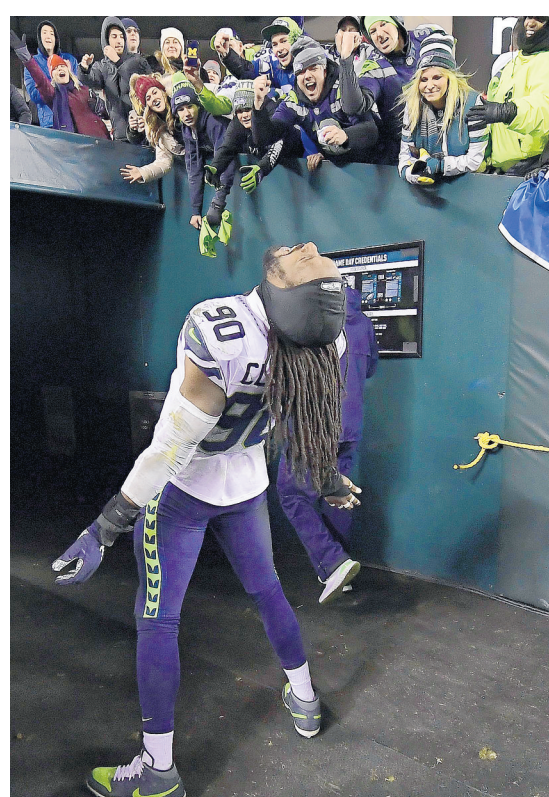
Taggart will have the chance to develop many of the underclassmen that Kiffin recruited who didn't receive a significant amount of playing time yet.

And, almost as important as anything else, he'll inherit a stable quarter-

back situation for at least the next two years.

Here are five things to keep an eye on as Taggart prepares for his first season as the

See **FAU, 3C**



NFL PLAYOFFS

Stage is set for divisional round

Seahawks defensive end Jadeveon Clowney celebrates after winning the NFC Wild Card game 17-9 over the Eagles on Sunday. Earlier in the day, the Vikings stunned the Saints 26-20 in overtime. **Coverage, 6C**

WILD-CARD WEEKEND

Saturday

Texans 22, Bills 19 (OT)

Titans 20, Patriots 13

Sunday

Vikings 26, Saints 20 (OT)

Seahawks 17, Eagles 9

Divisional Round

Saturday

Vikings at 49ers, 4:35 p.m.

Titans at Ravens, 8:15 p.m.

Sunday

Texans at Chiefs, 3:05 p.m.

Seahawks at Packers, 6:40

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