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# Redskins sign K Novak in wake of Hall's latest injury

Associated Press  
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**ASHBURN, Va. (AP) - Nick Novak is taking over from John Hall as the Washington Redskins' kicker for the second time in as many years.**

The Redskins signed Novak on Tuesday after the former University of Maryland kicker won a four-way competition among available free agents. He'll handle the kicking duties in Sunday's game against Tennessee.

Hall was placed on injured reserve, ending his season, after the Redskins were forced for the third straight year to find a midseason replacement. Hall had four leg injuries in 2004 and missed eight games. He sat out six games last year with a strained quad.

This year, Hall has two injuries in his kicking leg: a strained groin and a strained quadriceps. He complained of a tired leg late last week, and the leg became sore during Sunday's 19-3 loss to the New York Giants.

Novak was 5-of-7 on field-goal attempts in five games during Hall's absence last year, including a winning kick in overtime against Seattle. Both of his misses were blocked.

Novak later kicked in five games for the Arizona Cardinals after Neil Rackers was injured. Novak made all three of his attempts and was invited back to the Cardinals camp this year, but was cut after Rackers returned healthy.

Hall was supposed to solve the Redskins' decade-long kicking woes when he signed a five-year, \$7.1 million contract as a free agent in 2003. He missed only one game in six years with the New York Jets, but his only healthy year in Washington was his first.

The Redskins also signed offensive lineman Nick Steitz to the practice squad and released offensive lineman CJ Brooks.



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