Pedro Taylor (left) talks with Rev. Jesse Jackson outside Pharmed Arena prior to the funeral service for his son, Washington Redskins' Sean Taylor at the Florida International University Campus in Miami on Monday.

Funeral

(Continued from Page 1)

Mitchell, Venjah Hunte, Charles Wardlow and Eric Rivera Jr. were charged with felony murder, home invasion and armed robbery. They are being held without bond.

According to reports, police say they have more than one confession in the killing that snuffed out the vibrant young life.

"God, take care of Sean until we get home," said Redskins coach Joe Gibbs. "He had an excitement for life that is going to live forever."

According to police, Taylor, 24, and his fiancée, Jackie, were sleeping with their 18-month-old daughter when they heard a noise in the house, located in the upscale Palmetto Bay suburb. Taylor grabbed a machete or knife that he kept by the bed, his fiancée said, and locked the bedroom door.

But the intruder kicked the door in and fired twice, striking Taylor in his leg in the femoral artery, a major blood vessel. The fiancée and the child were uninjured as Taylor bled to death.

Taylor's fiancée told police she tried to call 911 from the house line, but it had been cut, said Vinny Cerrato, Redskins vice president of football operations. She used her cellular phone to call for emergency assistance, which delayed the response time. By the time medics arrived, Taylor, the Redskins' top draft choice in 2004, had lost a massive amount of blood.

The shooting occurred just eight days after Taylor reported another break-in to his home. Someone pried open a front window and went through drawers and a safe, Taylor reported. The intruder left a knife on a bed, according to a Nov. 18 police report.

Consequently, some have questioned the nature of the last attack.

Cerrato of the Redskins had already made up his mind. "This was a deliberate attack," he said.

Redskins teammates and officials expressed their dismay following his death.

For all of us here, we're obviously in shock," a shaken Coach Joe Gibbs told reporters. "I know I can't put it into words."

Redskins owner Daniel Snyder voiced similar sentiments.

"This is the worst imaginable tragedy," he said on the team's website. "Our thoughts and prayers are with Sean's family."

D.C. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton also expressed her condolences.

"The Taylor family has my deepest sympathy," she said. "May the tragic loss of another young man who was on his way up personally and professionally alert his young fans to the life he was building and the necessity to control guns in our city and in the nation."

Taylor, who was selected to the Pro Bowl for the first time last year, was having his best season as a professional before suffering a knee injury on Nov. 11 that forced him to miss the past two games.

Taylor has had several brushes with the law and National Football League rules since joining the Redskins.

In his first year, Gibbs suspended him for a game after he was arrested for driving under the influence. The charges were later dropped.

A year later, he pleaded guilty after being charged with felony of aggravated assault with a firearm for allegedly brandishing a gun in a Miami neighborhood. To avoid jail time, he reached a plea agreement. He was fined $71,764 by the NFL for violating the personal conduct clause of his contract.

The NFL also has fined Taylor for illegal hits, uniform violations and spitting on Tampa Bay running back Michael Pittman during a playoff game in January 2006.

In the past two years, however, Taylor has earned praise from coaches and teammates for maturing and better work habits. Redskins running back Clinton Portis, a former University of Miami teammate, said Taylor had grown up considerably since the birth of his daughter in May 2006.

Those who came to the funeral and the millions who watched it on television, reflected sadly on his youth and what he might have become.

"Professional athletes have never known this level of endangerment," Jackson said in a statement. "This is the struggle of this generation. We will be praying for new laws that will protect lives and the well-being of all."

Heisman

(Continued from Page 11)

pass to lead the Razorbacks to a 50-48 triple overtime victory over then-No. 1 LSU.

McFadden could become the fifth player to win the Heisman the year after being the runner-up, joining Tom Harmon of Michigan, Glenn Davis of Army, O.J. Simpson of USC and Herschel Walker of Georgia.

Daniel was one of six quarterbacks to reach 4,000 yards passing this season. He threw for 4,170 yards and 33 TDs to get the surprising Tigers within a victory of reaching the BCS national championship game.

Brennan led Hawaii (12-0) to the only perfect regular season in major college football and its first BCS appearance, but his numbers were down from last year because he lost some time to injuries. Running the Warriors' run-n-shoot offense, Brennan passed for 4,174 and 38 touchdowns. He also set the major college record for career touchdown passes with 131.

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