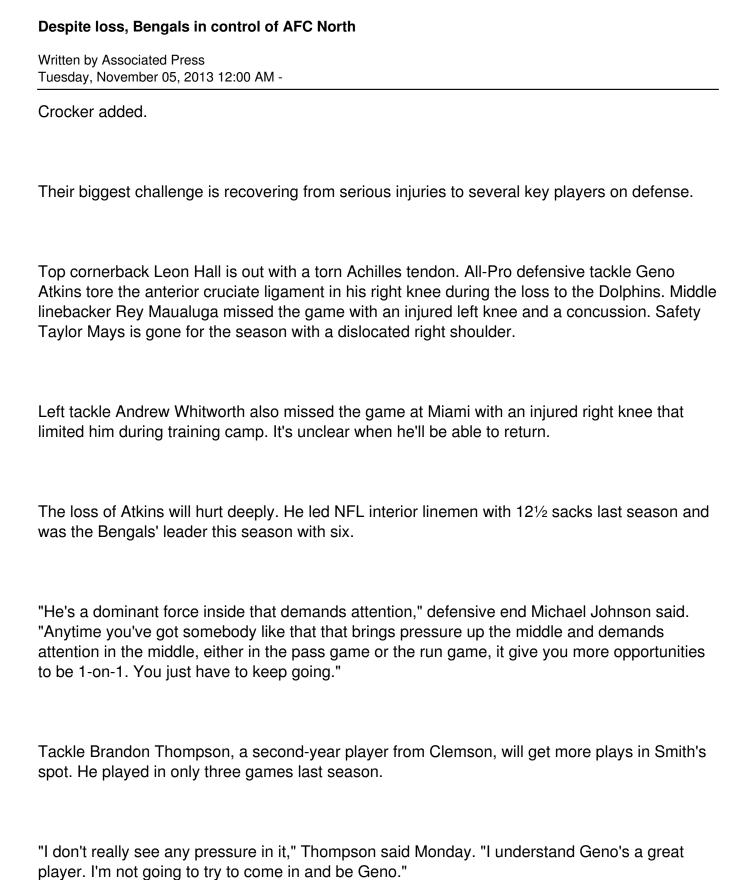
Despite loss, Bengals in control of AFC North

Written by Associated Press Tuesday, November 05, 2013 12:00 AM -By JOE KAY **Associated Press** CINCINNATI — The Bengals returned from their weekend off in better spirits and still in very good shape in the AFC North, thanks to everything that happened while they were away. Cincinnati's four-game winning streak was snapped last Thursday in Miami with a 22-20 overtime loss set up by turnovers. They got a weekend off and returned on Monday still holding a 2-game lead in their division. Not bad at all. "We are still sitting in a good situation," safety Chris Crocker said Monday. The Bengals (6-3) are in control of a division going through an uncharacteristic down year. The defending Super Bowl champion Ravens fell to 3-5 with a 24-18 loss in Cleveland on Sunday. The Browns (4-5) moved ahead into second place, while Pittsburgh (2-6) is in last coming off a 55-31 loss to New England. The Bengals can open significant ground between themselves and the Ravens with a win on Sunday in Baltimore.

"For me, I want to win out because that means a lot for us going forward toward the playoffs,"



The Bengals have one of their deepest teams in years. They had fewer injuries than average in the opening weeks, when they moved ahead in the division. Now they've got to try to maintain the lead without Atkins and others.

Despite loss, Bengals in control of AFC North

Written by Associated Press Tuesday, November 05, 2013 12:00 AM -

"It's another loss of a significant player on our football team," Whitworth said. "He's a very good football player and somebody that helps this team win. The truth is you go out there each week with a group of 40-plus guys, they have to win the game together. So this game will never change that way. That's why football is great.

"We still have a chance to go out with 40-plus guys and try and win games, and we still have a lot of great football players."

NOTES: The Bengals put Atkins on injured reserve Monday and thought they had filled his spot when they signed second-year defensive tackle Christo Bilukidi, a sixth-round pick of the Raiders last year. Bilukidi played in the first five games with Oakland and was waived. The NFL voided his deal with the Bengals later Monday because his work permit from Canada was no longer valid when his job with the Raiders ended. He has to reapply for a permit. ... The Bengals filled their open spot on their practice squad by signing rookie linebacker Bruce Taylor, who played all four preseason games in Cincinnati and was waived.