



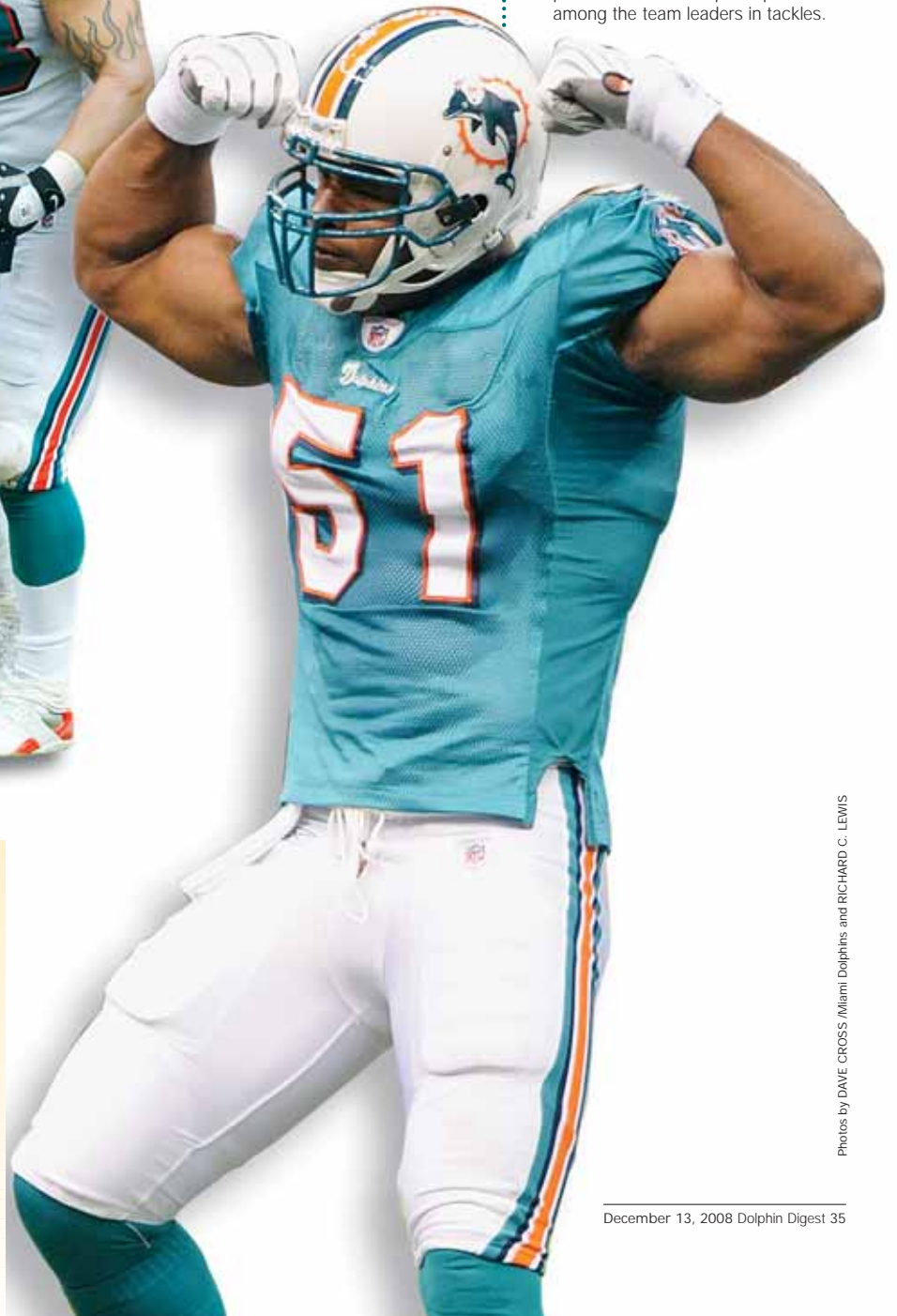
mattROTH

His sack numbers haven't been impressive, but Coach Tony Sparano said his role in the team's success at stopping the run shouldn't be underestimated.



akinAYODELE

Even though he's been more quiet than Crowder or Porter, Ayodele has proved to be a nice pick-up and he's among the team leaders in tackles.



Bottom Line:

Joey Porter has stolen most of the headlines at linebacker, but the whole group has contributed to a defense that has been stout against the run and pretty effective overall.



channingCROWDER

Given a bigger role after the departure of Zach Thomas, Crowder started off rather slowly but he has made himself a major factor in the last several games.

The others:

Reggie Torbor: After starting six games for the Giants last season, Torbor has seen little playing time on defense but he has contributed on special teams.

Charlie Anderson: Like Torbor, his playing time has come mostly in the kicking game and he's among the leaders in special teams tackles.

Quentin Moses: A third-round pick of the Raiders just a year ago, Moses has had to make the adjustment to a new position. He has contributed as a backup.

Erik Walden: Claimed off waivers from Kansas City, the rookie from Middle Tennessee was brought in to try to help out on special teams.

Photos by DAVE CROSS /Miami Dolphins and RICHARD C. LEWIS