

Bears fear big play, Dickerson

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP) — Mike Singletary rated the Chicago Bears performance an eight on a scale of 10 against the New York Giants, but says they'll have to do better against the Los Angeles Rams.

"No ifs, ands or buts about it," said the Bears' all-pro middle linebacker. "We did a good job overall against the Giants, but the Rams will be fired up."

"We'll have to play the best game we've played all year."

It's hard to imagine the Bears playing much better than they did last Sunday, when they eliminated the Giants 21-0 in the National Football Conference semifinals. They registered six quarterback sacks and held the Giants to a net 181 yards while limiting running back Joe Morris — sidelined for most of the game with a slight concussion — to 32 yards.

The Bears' objectives this week will be running back Eric Dickerson and quarterback Dieter Brock. Although the Rams were last in the NFL in passing, the Bears fear the possibility of the big passing play and the devastating rushing of Dickerson.

Dickerson rushed for a playoff-record 248 yards and two touchdowns Saturday, when the Rams blanked the Dallas Cowboys 20-0 to advance to the NFC title game.

Brock doesn't move around a lot but he doesn't have to," said Singletary. "He throws well, is accurate and has a great line in front of him."

The difference between the Giants and the Rams is the offensive line," he said. "The Rams' line is dominating. They are big, physical and experienced. They have been together a long time."

The difference in the running game is Dickerson.

The guy we're going against this week is bigger, has more speed and is powerful," said Singletary.

You can bring Morris down with one arm. That won't happen this week. The more yards Dickerson gets, the better the offensive line gets and the better he runs."

Brooks shuffles staff, Ducks tab Schuler

Denny Schuler, a 1969 Oregon graduate, has been named defensive coordinator for the Oregon football team, head coach Rich Brooks announced Tuesday.

Schuler's hiring culminates a re-shuffling of Brooks' staff as former defensive coordinator Joe Schaffeld, an Oregon assistant for the past twelve years, moves to defensive line coach and will also coach the defense in running situations.

Bill Maskill, Oregon's secondary coach for the past three years, will take over as outside linebacker coach for the Ducks.

Bob Toledo who took over as offensive coordinator three seasons ago will keep that responsibility as well as become assistant head coach in 1986.

The 39-year-old Schuler brings with him some impressive credentials.

He served as California's defensive coordinator for two years and worked in that same capacity at Utah State for the last six of an eight-year tenure before taking the California post in 1983.

During the past season Schuler served as a volunteer coach for the Los Angeles Rams, analyzing defenses of other National Football League teams for the Rams offensive staff.

California forced 61 turnovers in Schuler's two years at the defensive helm.

Schuler is a Snohomish, Wash. native and he was a starter for the Ducks in 1967 and '68 as a wide receiver.

He was fifth in Pac-8 in receiving in 1968 with 30 catches.

Schuler's coaching career began at Idaho State where he was receivers coach. He stayed two years at Idaho State.

Schuler also coached defensive backs at Washington in 1975.

He takes the place of Dave Walker on the Oregon staff. Walker resigned after the 1985 season when he coached the outside linebackers.

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Two greats to clash Sunday

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Although they may find the going rough, two National Football League history-making runners will be showcased Sunday when the Los Angeles Rams and the Bears collide in Chicago.

The Bears are led by Walter Payton, the league's all-time leading career rusher who shows no sign of slowing despite being in his 11th NFL campaign.

The Rams feature Eric Dickerson, whose first three seasons in the NFL have been unparalleled.

Rams Coach John Robinson,

asked to compare Payton and Dickerson, said: "To me, Walter Payton epitomizes competitiveness. He's to football what Pete Rose is to baseball. The dynamic energy Payton brings to a game is fascinating to watch."

"He's not as big as Eric (Payton's 5-foot-11, 202 pounds; Dickerson is 6-3, 218), but they both physically attack tacklers. Payton has that quick, side-to-side ability, while Eric tends to go right by you," the Rams coach said.

"I think it's been great for Eric to watch Payton, to be com-

pared to him. It makes him say, 'Wow, if I'm in a class with that guy, I've gotta really be a runner.'"

Payton last year shattered the career rushing mark held by Jim Brown, and ran his record total to 14,680 yards with 1,551 this season.

Dickerson set an NFL rookie rushing record of 1,808 yards in 1983, then obliterated O.J. Simpson's NFL single-season rushing record by gaining 2,105 yards in 1984.

Last Saturday, Dickerson also turned in the best playoff performance in NFL history,

Patriots look to change history

BOSTON (AP) — Several of the New England Patriots gathered Tuesday near the spot where organizers of the American Revolution once plotted strategies, but the players bound for the AFC championship game wanted no part of the past.

Tackle Brian Holloway and linebackers Steve Nelson, Don Blackmon and Andre Tippett, meeting at a tavern in historic Faneuil Hall, said history would not enter the picture in the conference title game against the Miami Dolphins Sunday.

"We don't care about that. Forget the jinx," Tippett said, referring to the team's 18-game losing streak in Miami's Orange

Bowl. "We're coming to play, and that's all that counts."

"We don't even concern ourselves with that because we weren't around when all those things happened," said Blackmon, referring to the Miami games, not the revolution. "All we are dealing with now is just maintain what we have started now."

"We are really excited about the way we've come together. And we've still got the best football ahead of us, and now is the time to do it," said Holloway, the mammoth All-Pro tackle, between bites on a hamburger as he signed autographs for a long line of fans at Houlihan's Old Place.

The team members had

gathered there for a promotional appearance for a radio station.

"We're going down there to avenge our tough loss on Monday Night Football, and we are not going to hold anything back," he said.

Nelson, who has spent 13 seasons in a Patriots' uniform, would say only that he welcomes another opportunity to face the Dolphins after the teams split their two regular-season games — the Patriots won in Foxboro, 17-13, and lost in the Orange Bowl, 30-27.

"It's the big game of the year for us right now," he said. "We had the opportunity to beat them earlier this year. But very seldom do you get a second opportunity."

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