



San Francisco shoots for fifth title

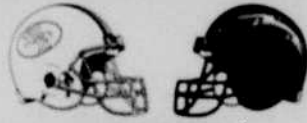
MIAMI (AP) — The idea was simple and quite lofty: Build a champion. Build it now. Do it despite salary cap limitations. And don't slip up.

So far, so good for the San Francisco 49ers, who stand at the edge of achieving the unprecedented. If they beat San Diego on Sunday, the 49ers will be the first NFL team with five Super Bowl titles. They are 19-point favorites to get it.

With all those lofty expectations and accompanying pressures, the 49ers should be wound as tight as the laces on a football. So why are they so loose, so relaxed, so carefree?

"We're one of those teams that right at the beginning of the season, we say, 'We want to win the

SUPER BOWL



49ers vs. Chargers
JANUARY 29, 1995

Super Bowl," running back Ricky Watters said. "That places a tremendous amount of pressure on us.

"But we want it and we like it. We respond to it," he said.

"Pressure is just something we've been dealing with all

year," linebacker Ken Norton added. "Ever since the ownership put this team together and brought the type of players we have here, everyone has expected us to go all the way. That is pressure in itself.

"The pressure is part of the game and something we've been able to play with. It's been something we've been able to use to our advantage."

Everything seems to be to San Francisco's advantage this week. The NFC has won 10 straight Super Bowls, three by the 49ers. The Chargers are in their first Super Bowl, and they lost to the Niners 38-15 in December.

Nearly all the stars in this game wear 49ers red, gold and white. Steve Young, Jerry Rice,

Deion Sanders for starters. Watters, Tim McDonald, Norton, too. Ricky Jackson, John Taylor, Brent Jones ...

"Players like that know all about dealing with pressure," coach George Seifert said. "It behooves us to be at our best for the game. Do I have to talk a lot about it? No. Have we talked some about it? Certainly, we have."

While 12 San Francisco players, including eight offensive starters, have been to the Super Bowl, just five Chargers have gotten this far. Two of them, quarterback Stan Humphries and cornerback Darren Carrington, are starters, but neither had any kind of impact in their previous trips with other teams.



TREVOR KEARNEY

It's a tough road ahead for Oregon athletics

What is it that makes any particular week a little bit tougher? A midterm one day and a paper due the next? Three finals in one day? For some of us, I guess, it is just getting out of bed and going to class. But this week, several Oregon teams face possibly their toughest contests of the year, so let us just take a minute to look at a week in the life of Oregon athletics...

The men's and women's basketball teams are spending the early part of this week splitting up time at McArthur Court, working on everything from jump shots to free throws to posting up.

The wrestling team is spending its time in a small, stuffy gym at the Casanova Center, as some of the wrestlers work on attacking their opponents more aggressively and others concentrate on upcoming rivals.

The routine is no big deal. The teams are used to their practice schedule by now. But by Thursday, this week will prove to be one of the most important weeks in all three of the teams' seasons.

The men's basketball team hosts Arizona on Thursday and Arizona State on Saturday, and faces a must-win situation.

The men start their home standoff with No. 10 Arizona. The Wildcats, possibly in the last of their powerhouse years, bring a 13-4 record to Mac

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Overtime



"Return of the Jedi's" Brian Russel takes it to Mark Stone of "Hoop Dreams" in a grueling triple-overtime that saw "Hoop" squeak a 43-42 victory.

Capers set to take over Panthers

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Dom Capers brought his defensive expertise to the Carolina Panthers on Monday, but he said stopping opponents won't be his only target as he becomes the NFL expansion team's first coach.

"It's like going into a game," Capers told a news conference formally introducing him as the head coach. "You do extensive planning, you do your homework, and then you have to react."

"I believe that a head coach has to have knowledge and will know all phases of the game. I assure you that I will know as much about what's going on with the offense and the kicking game as I will with the defense."

Capers, the defensive coordinator for the Pittsburgh Steelers, will have a relatively long time to get his hands on all facets of the Panthers, who begin playing next September in the NFC West. He received a five-year contract, but financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

"I think it indicates the type of commitment," he said about the length of the contract. "When you start talking about free agency and putting together a top quality coaching staff ... it's important that you have a contract that gives you the ability to put together the kind of people you would like"

Getting back to his roots, however, Capers said he wants an attacking defense, one based on his reliance on the 3-4 scheme. He wants his offense to be balanced.

"I think that it's important that you can both run and throw the football," he said. "If you're one-dimensional, I think it becomes much easier for a team to defend you."

Then, Capers combined the notion of perfect execution on both offense and defense.

"The greatest correlation between winning and losing football games is the takeaway-giveaway

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Women's Top Twenty Five By The Associated Press

The Top Twenty Five teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, record through Jan. 22, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and last week's ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1 Connecticut(32)	15-0	800	1
2 Tennessee	17-1	767	2
3 North Carolina	18-0	730	3
4 Stanford	14-1	707	5
5 Colorado	15-2	640	6
6 W. Kentucky	15-0	616	9
7 Texas Tech	18-2	611	7
8 Louisiana Tech	14-3	590	4
9 Vanderbilt	15-4	564	8
10 PennSt.	13-3	505	10
11 Georgia	14-1	495	11
12 Virginia	13-3	442	12
13 Florida	14-3	403	17
14 Alabama	13-4	365	14
15 Washington	14-5	302	13
16 Mississippi	14-2	300	18
17 Kansas	13-4	201	15
18 Texas A&M	12-4	188	22
19 George Wash.	11-3	179	16
20 Southern Cal.	10-4	155	24
21 Duke	14-2	141	25
22 Purdue	11-6	115	19
23 Oklahoma St.	12-4	88	—
24. Oregon	11-3	79	—
25 Virginia Tech	13-4	67	—

Others receiving votes: DePaul 61, Wisconsin 52, Seton Hall 51, Arkansas 43, Southern Miss. 33, Old Dominion 29, Fla. International 20, Oregon St. 11, Oklahoma 10, Maine 7, Wichita St. 6, Arkansas St. 5, Tennessee St. 5, San Diego St. 4, Ohio U. 3, Clemson 2, Drake 2, Harvard 2, Ala.-Birmingham 1, New Mexico St. 1, St. John's 1, Wis.-Green Bay 1.

Men's Top Twenty Five By The Associated Press

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1 Massachusetts(44)	13-1	1,616	1
2 Connecticut(19)	14-0	1,594	2
3 North Carolina(2)	14-1	1,506	3
4 UCLA(1)	11-1	1,460	4
5 Kentucky	12-2	1,368	5
6 Syracuse	14-1	1,267	6
7 Kansas	13-2	1,258	7
8 Maryland	14-3	1,192	8
9 Arkansas	15-3	1,164	9
10 Michigan St.	12-2	1,028	12
11 Iowa St.	15-2	943	14
12 Arizona	13-4	896	11
13 Arizona St.	13-4	740	13
14 Georgetown	12-3	688	10
15 Virginia	11-4	662	18
16 Wake Forest	10-3	614	15
17 Stanford	12-2	514	21
18. Oregon	12-2	490	17
19 Cincinnati	14-5	443	23
20 Missouri	13-3	397	16
21 Michigan Tech	11-6	233	22
22 Villanova	11-5	213	—
23 Florida	9-5	197	24
24 New Mexico St.	13-4	162	19
25 Oklahoma	14-3	100	—