



Sports Talk

by Ron Sykes, Sports Editor

The Huskies No. 1 in '82?

In an article appearing last Monday in the *Columbian*, University of Washington coach Don James says there's "a good chance" the Huskies will be the top-ranked college football team in the nation next year. James is a super recruiter and is taking advantage of his being in Southern California by using his evenings, after Husky practices, to recruit the always plentiful southern California area.

The 1982 squad is the one James has built toward. That will be the eighth year of his program and with his redshirts and quality seniors 1982 should be a dandy for the purple and gold. The Huskies, this year's PAC-10 Rose Bowl rep, only lose three other starters next year.

For example, All-American defensive tackle Fletcher Jenkins, 6-7, 270 pounds, will leave but can

amply be replaced by Dean Brownning, 6-8, 275, and a host of others. Another factor will be an unusually favorable schedule, one that does not include the University of Southern California.

Bowl Games

Liberty Bowl—Dec. 30th

Ohio State vs. Navy

"I knew this was a bad idea." Navy doesn't belong on the same football field with a team like Ohio State. The Meddies will be hard-pressed to score. The Buckeyes should be able to do anything they want. Ohio State by a landslide.

Peach Bowl—Dec. 31

Florida vs. West Virginia

The Florida Seminoles are very explosive. Should score points by the bundle. Take Florida by 10.

Blue Bonnet Bowl—Dec. 31

Michigan vs. UCLA

This one is for real. Probably should have been for the Roses. Both are solid, well-coached teams. The early line says Michigan by 3. We like the Bruins and pick them by the same margin.

Fiesta Bowl—Jan. 1

USC vs. Penn State

John Robinson, Joe Paterno, what else needs to be said. Look for USC to run Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Allen everytime the Trojans have possession. USC will seldom put it up. Penn State again will have an excellent line backing corps. USC by 1.

Cotton Bowl—Jan. 1.

Alabama vs. Texas

Cotton Bowl selection committee considered USC but chose Bear Bryant. SC would have been better choice. 'Bama had a lackluster sea-

son at 6-4. Take Texas by 2.

Rose Bowl—Jan 1

Iowa vs. Washington

Two look alike teams. Both are strong defensively with mammoth offensive lines. Will be better game than most people think.

Rain or not the Huskies will beat USC. We like Washington by 1.

Sugar Bowl—Jan. 1

Georgia vs. Pittsburgh

A real donnybrook. Herschel will get stern test from Panther defense. When smoke clears it will be Pitt by 1.

Orange Bowl—Jan. 1

Nebraska vs. Clemson

Clemson is ranked No. 1 but Cornhuskers should have little trouble here. Nebraska can be awesome when well. There are no major Cornhusker injuries and we see them by 7.



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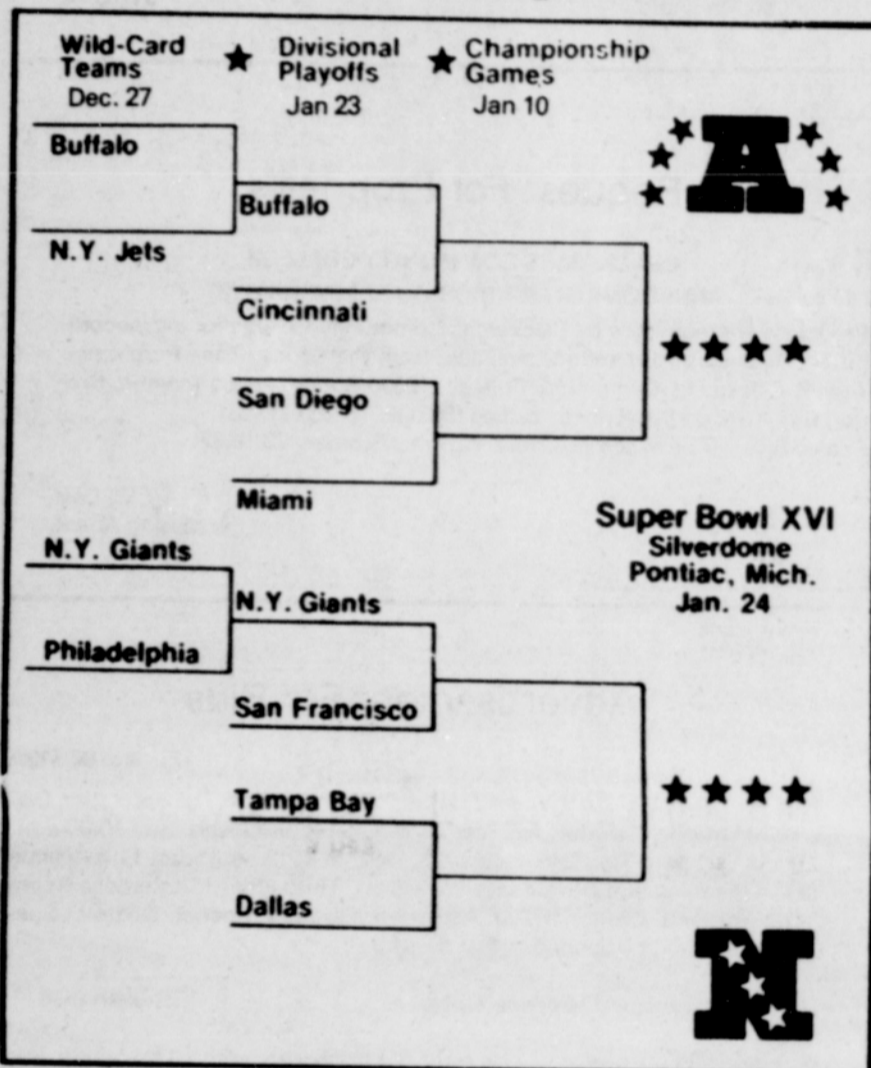
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As we see it NFL Playoff

In the AFL "wild card" game last week the N.Y. Jets were a three-point favorite but succumbed to the opportunistic Bills.

In the NFL "wild card" the Philadelphia Eagles were solid 7 points, picks to beat the late charging N.Y. Giants but they too took advantage of Eagle mistakes to emerge the victors in a tough 27-21 encounter.

The Giants now must journey to Candlestick to take on the best team in football, the San Francisco 49ers. These teams met earlier in the season and the 'niners allowed the Giants only one field goal. It should again be a defensive struggle with Coach Bill Walsh's forty-niners winning. Take San Francisco by six.

Bills vs. Cincinnati should be a good one. The Bengals are a solid club. They are explosive on offense and good against the rush. Their secondary is a little suspect but not to a degree to cause concern. Buffalo started fast but struggled at the

season's end. The Bills' strong point is their running game and secondary.

Ex U. of Oregon cornerback Mario Clark has become the Bills' secondary leader. Take the Bengals by 10.

The AFC Divisional playoff game between Miami and San Diego should be a thriller. The Chargers are missing all-pro Fred Dean, traded to San Francisco and all-pro John Jefferson, traded to Green Bay, but should have enough firepower to win at Miami. Miami's passing game leaves something to be desired. The difference here should be the strong arm of Danny Fouts. Take San Diego by 3.

NFL Division playoffs puts Dallas against Tampa Bay. There's just no way we can see a Buc win here. Dallas is strong in every department. They will wear down Tampa and win easily at Texas Stadium. Take Cowboys by 12.

On OSU

by Ron Sykes, Jr.

It is fair to say that the Oregon State basketball team has, based on its performances over the past two years, achieved national notoriety of sorts. This mostly means that fans and other commentators are more concerned with the team's losses than with its wishes. A loss looms big, often bigger than it really is. And so Oregon State lost in the semi-finals of the Far West Classic to a surprisingly fine University of Idaho team. It was not a typical loss for the Beavers, it was a twenty-two point loss. As is always the case with such losses, shock waves reverberated, because of their national status, all across the country, and, of course, the loss looms larger than it really is. Even though the Beavers' record may indicate otherwise, Oregon State is in the process of what we like to call a rebuilding period. Such teams are characterized by new players and inexperienced players who it is hoped over time will help lead the team to its former heights. Oregon State's loss, then, should not be looked upon as a giant fallen,

but rather as a fallen giant's efforts to regain its footing hampered by yet another obstacle.

I do not mean to make light of Idaho's victory for they played hard and inspired basketball. But in the same light Oregon State did not play hard and inspired basketball, they truthfully hardly played basketball at all. This criticism, remember, does not stem from a comparison of the quality Oregon State teams of the past two years. That, we knew, would not be fair. Oregon State played badly in comparison to their performance the day before against Pittsburgh. On that day they played hard, the crisp passes were on target, and the full-court press was menacing enough for any team. In their loss there were no sharp passes, the timing was not there, and the press looked like it would scarcely have been menacing to a well-disciplined high school team. For the Beavers there will be more wins, some of them great, and, too, there will be the losses. But this is a rebuilding year and we cannot, and should not, expect much more.



Oregon State's Rob Holbrook reaches for a two pointer in Far West Classic thriller.

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