

# Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes, Sports Editor



Okay, sure I know all about hindsight always being 20/20. But after viewing all season long the prowess of one Marcus Allen of the L.A. Raiders, it's hard to imagine how any NFL team needing a good running back could pass on Allen.

The Minnesota Vikings, who had so much success during the Chuck Foreman days, drafted the first running back in the 1981 draft and opted to go with Darrin Nelson, 5-9, 185-pound speedster from Stanford.

Minnesota supposedly was interested in Nelson because he was considered to be more versatile. Twice during his career on "the farm" Darrin was the only collegiate back to gain a thousand yards both rushing and pass receiving.

Pro scouts are usually a very knowledgeable lot. They usually look for the little hidden things that will determine whether a player can play and usually can know at what level. They all missed on Allen.

Some considered him as having questionable speed, his forte was durability and intelligence. And some wondered how much influence that massive USC line had on his running ability.

If some of those pro scouts had bothered to attend just one USC practice and had gotten out early they could have seen the 6-2, 210 pound Allen not only catching passes but also throwing them; you see Marcus was a brilliant prep QB before coming to SC. And now that I'm the proud possessor of hindsight I can easily see that Mr. Allen can do all those wonderful things that Mr. Nelson was noted for, plus a little more.

If the Raiders are to advance in the playoffs, and I believe they are, Marcus Allen will have to play a big role.

In last Sunday's big win over San Diego, Marcus rushed for 120 yards on 16 carries and scored two touchdowns.

## NFL Picks

### New York Jets at Cincinnati

The Jets coming off a season closing 37-17 loss to the KC Chiefs won't find it any easier this week when they meet the Bengals.

Cincinnati, last year's runner-up in the Super Bowl, should have little trouble overcoming N.Y. But, one should remember that this is the playoffs and strange things have been known to happen in post-season play. The Jets' strong point is their passing game where they rely on the speed of wide-receivers Wesley Walker and Lou Jones. The Jet weakness is the secondary, and that's sad when you're confronting a QB the caliber of Ken Anderson. Anderson will pick them apart if given the time. Pressure on Anderson is the key for N.Y. Without it it will be a long afternoon for Jet fans.

The Bengals combine the passing of Anderson, with the rushing of 260 pound running back Pete Johnson to form a very formidable team. Bengals 27, Jets 13.

### New England at Miami

Miami, 7-2, tied the Bengals for second place in the AFC behind the Raiders 8-1.



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Coach Don Shula's teams are always well coached and his current one is no exception. New England's game is sporadic. The team doesn't know from one day to the other just who will be their quarterback. Miami 21, New England 10.

### Detroit at Washington

The Lions, 4-5, claimed the 8th and last NFL spot on the heels of defending Super Bowl champ SF's loss to the lowly Rams.

Detroit, sorry to say, is not a worthy contender for the 8-1 Redskins.

Washington is my pick to meet the Raiders at Pasadena. The Redskins are solid both offensive and defensive. QB Joe Theisman is having a super year. Redskins 24, Detroit 7.

### St. Louis at Green Bay

The Cardinals 5-4 and the Packers 5-3-1 could very well be the best matchup of the opening round. St. Louis QB Neil Lomax is still in a learning pattern, but does show steady improvement.

Roy Green is better than most wide-receivers and O.J. Anderson is

more than potent as a power runner.

The pack is back. This slogan has cascaded down the streets of Green Bay ever since the irrepressible Vince Lombardi departed Lambeau field. No time in the past has it been more true than today. "The pack is back." Green Bay fields the best two wide-receivers in the game today in James Lofton and John Jefferson. This will be a good show. The prediction: Pick 'em!

### Tampa Bay at Dallas

This is the playoffs and all the marbles are on the line. So wouldn't it be really un-American not to pick America's team. . . . Right. Okay, so we'll take the Cowboys to prevail at Texas Stadium.

QB Doug Williams and the Bucs fought Dallas even-up in the regular season only to give it up in the closing minutes of the fourth quarter. Danny White and Tony Dorsett should rebound from Monday's sad showing. Dallas 21, Tampa 20. Or maybe the other way around.

## AFL Picks

### San Diego vs. Pittsburgh

The Steelers just won't be able to put enough points on the board to hold off the aerial crazy chargers.

Dan Fouts just may be the best passer in the game today. He's certainly the most productive. On the other side, Pittsburgh's Terry Bradshaw has been on a roller coaster ride. Sometimes up and sometimes down.

Bradshaw started the season like a house afire, but cooled off considerably as of late. Since this will undoubtedly be an offensive show, because neither team is really strong defensively, we must go with the best offensive QB and that's Dan Fouts. Charger, 34, Steelers 24.

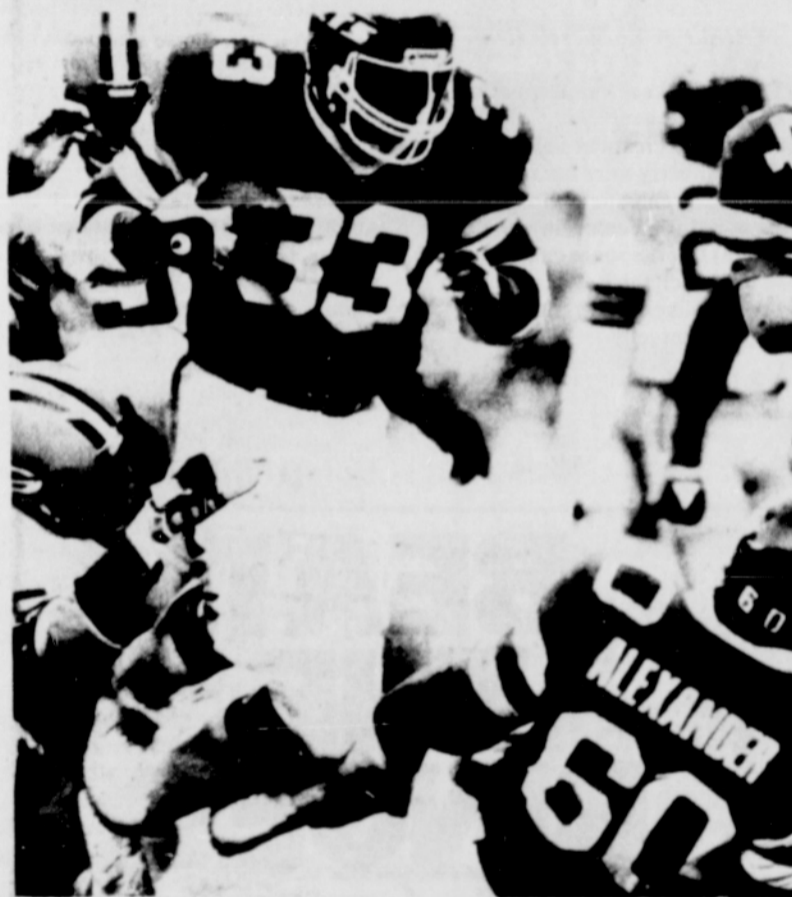
## USFL Draft

The USFL was scheduled to hold its first draft Tuesday. The League will play its first game on March 6. Armed with good TV money the USFL should get off to a good start. League officials are planning to play their championship game on July 3. Everything about this new league seems to be well thought out and in the best interest of all concerned.

Unlike the now defunct WFL, this new league will make no attempt to overshadow the NFL.

The new kids on the block are: The Los Angeles Express, Arizona Wranglers, New Jersey Generals, Washington Federals, Birmingham Stallions, Chicago Blitz, Oakland Invaders, Philadelphia Stars, Denver Gold, Michigan Panthers, Boston Breakers and Tampa Bay Bandits.

One can easily see that all are current NFL cities except for Birming-



Kevin Long of the Jets carries the ball.

ham and Arizona. Whereas the USFL teams are not competing against the NFL, they are latching on to the apron strings of the older league, and that probably is because of the T.V. market.

What I'm wondering now is with the renovation of Civic Stadium why couldn't Portland support a team at this level?

As you can see the Pacific Northwest is the one area that was completely left out.

Civic Stadium with a capacity of 40,000 would be ideal and the meter area of more than 2.5 million to draw from could be more than adequate. From March to July weather-wise wouldn't pose much of a problem. Civic does have artificial turf. Just have to believe it could really work here. Are there any investors around?

Our congratulations go out to black golfer Calvin Peete for all the successes he enjoyed during 1982. Peete won four tournaments for a total of \$318,470. The best ever by a man of color. At the ripe old age of 39, too.

Calvin Peete had to overcome numerous obstacles. He did, and we wish him success through '83.

Also congratulations to ex-U of O great Ahmad Rashad. Rashad ended his career with the Vikings and was immediately signed by CBS to do sports commentary.

It seems like only yesterday when I first met Rashad, then going by the name of Bobby Moore. Bobby was riding in the back seat of friend Henry Lewis' 1969 GTO, clad in tee shirt and blue jeans and hoping to make the starting lineup his second year at Oregon.



STU JACKSON

## Jackson Named

Stu Jackson, a player for the University of Oregon during the Dick Harter years has been named to Coach Jim Haney's staff as a full-time assistant.

Jackson played for three seasons at Oregon. He moves up from the part-time assistant post he held last year.

Jackson, who finished his basketball playing career at Seattle U. in 1978, averaged 13.2 points for the Ducks as a sophomore in 1974-75 and 11.3 the next year. He ranks No. 23 on Oregon's all-time scoring list with 861 points.

Jackson is one of 14 players in Duck history to score 30 or more points in one game, hitting 31 against Seattle Pacific in 1975.

Jackson, a native of Reading, Pa., will be active in recruiting and other administrative duties. Stu earned a Masters degree from Oregon last fall.

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