

Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes, Sports Editor

And then there were four. But who are these Seattle Seahawks and why are they sitting up there among the NFL's elite? Just in case you've been on a secret mission to Lebanon this past week and haven't heard the latest sports news... the Seattle Seahawks invaded Miami and came out 27-20 winners over the mighty Dolphins. In the NFL the San Francisco 49ers prayers were answered when the Lions missed a 43-yard field goal with seconds remaining that enabled Bill Walsh and the Niners to advance to the final four. The fact that Seattle, winners of 4 straight, their longest win streak in the club's history, is a tribute to Chuck Knox. These Seahawks are a team of destiny and under Knox they are destined to win. Many NFL observers thought that the Seahawk destiny wouldn't be realized for a couple of years.

Knox is a winner and he's instilled this attitude in his players. This is no longer a rag tag bunch from the Pacific Northwest. These Hawks are a well-oiled machine. And first-year man Curt Warner has made them so. Warner's brilliant running has made life easier for quarterback

Dave Krieg. Against the Dolphins Krieg was magnificent hitting 12 of 13 passes for 263 yards, while Warner was rushing for 129 yards on 23 carries. And when Miami went ahead 20-13 it was Mr. Warner who sucked it in and denied the Dolphins by scoring on a tough two-yard jaunt into the end zone, providing Seattle with the winning score. This Seattle team has both character and leadership. The leadership supplied by the veteran Reggie McKenzie, Harold Jackson and Charles Young, all winners throughout their careers. Winning somehow has the tendency to build character. For some unknown reason they go hand in hand.

Portland's '76-'77 championship team led by Bill Walton, Maurice Lucas and Lionel Hollins, had character.

Seattle is now sucking it way to that same plateau. Knox, in only one year, has molded a winner. The final four can attest to that.

San Francisco vs. Washington
Miracles still happen and it will take just that to get the Forty-Niners into the Super Bowl.

That is if Theismann and Company is as awesome as they were last Sunday in destroying the L.A. Rams 58-10. The Niners are a good football team and can put points on the board. If the Redskins are not ready, then the Forty-Niners could win. Bill Walsh's crew, when right, could conceivably beat any team in the NFL.

San Francisco's secondary led by all-pro cornerback Ronnie Lott is the best in the game. Washington's quarterback, Joe Theismann, is also the best in the game. It will be the unstoppable force against the im-

movable object. Theismann vs. Lott & Co. Washington is favored by ten. Take the points and run.

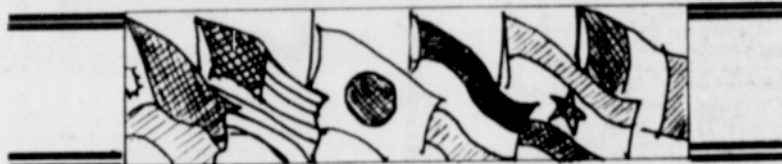
Remember that this cinderella Seahawk team's chances of going to the Big Bowl are very good.

The Seahawks have dominated the Raiders this year, while losing by only six points to the Skins. It's really not out of the realm of possibility that Seattle could take down the \$30,000 per player that goes to the Super Bowl champs.

Keep Curt Warner healthy and anything could happen. Seattle, 20, Raiders, 19.



Moses muscles for the ball: Philadelphia's Moses Malone edges past Portland's Calvin Natt in the Blazers' New Year's Day game. The score: Sixers 115, Blazers 10. (Photo: Dan Long)



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Bob Bailey

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