

Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes, Sports Editor

In the NFL final the Skins were super and the San Francisco Forty-Niners, too. But I can't say as much for the officiating.

With the score tied 21-21 late in the fourth period, two very bad calls were made, both against the Niners, enabling Washington to maintain the ball and further kill the clock. First there was a 27-yard pass interference call on Eric Wright that was horrendous. Wright and Art Monk, 5-7 receiver for the Skins, were speeding down the sidelines step for step. Joe Theismann unleashed a prayer that sailed 10 feet beyond the outstretched hands of Monk. At the same time S.F. cornerback Wright was putting on a tackle. The NFL rules state that no penalty will be evoked if there's absolutely no chance of the ball being caught. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar on a pogo stick could not have reached that ball, and surely not the 5-7 Monk. That call virtually assured the Redskins a field goal and, too, put them in four-down territory. While Lott's call for holding was bad it didn't have nearly the impact on the game as the one against Wright. The Redskins were already on the 13-yard-line of San Francisco when the foul was whistled on Ronnie, thus giving Washington an automatic first on the 5-yard-line. From there it was only a chip shot to victory for Coach Joe Gibbs and the Skins. It is the belief here that the game should be controlled by officiating, not decided by it.

Neither foul was flagrant and the athletes should decide the outcome of a game and not the boys in stripes. But, still, it was a game right down to the end. One does have to wonder, without taking anything away from the Skins, just what the outcome would have been had Montana not missed so much in the first half. San Francisco did do itself proud but was beaten by the best team on this day. And though they probably won't admit it, I do believe the Niners were in awe of the powerful Skins at the beginning, thus leading to their dismal first half.

Once they saw that the Redskins were no better than the other good teams, they settled down, went to work and almost pulled it out. Remember the Niners were 10-point underdogs and those of you that took the odds must feel pretty good right now.

And didn't my favorite columnist say "Take the points and run?"

The Seahawks did themselves proud in their AFL showdown. They, too, were awed and it showed in the first-half ineffectiveness of QB Dave Krieg. Krieg couldn't hit the side of a barn and had to give way to Jim Zorn. Before leaving Krieg was intercepted three times. One must remember in Krieg's case that he has just come too far, too soon. It's a long way from quarterbacking Milton College to the championship game of the NFL. Krieg has not put himself on another plateau. He now has tasted the big time. He has the experience of dealing with all the hoopla that precedes these big playoff games. To be successful, you must reach each plateau, but they must be one at a time.

Rookie running back Curt Warner put the Seattle thing in the proper perspective when he said, "Wait until next year." Seattle should be proud of their team for they have served notice to the world that they have arrived. A 30-14 loss to the Raiders is no disgrace.

Duncan blows it

It's still a mystery here how Verne Duncan, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, could rule Lisa Ellis ineligible to play basketball at Reynolds High School. Lisa Ellis, daughter of former Trailblazer Leroy Ellis, and one of the top high school players in the country, recently left Parkrose and was seeking to play for Reynolds. Duncan defied Bill 351, a bill he signed into law last summer, that would give a high school player the right to compete in athletics no matter which district they happen to live in. In essence under Bill 351 Lisa should have been



Oh Brother! San Antonio's No. 4 John Paxson shoots past his older brother, Portland's No. 4 Jim Paxson, (no basket) in the Jan. 10th Blazer-Spurs game. The results were: Jim, 16 points, 3 assists; John, 6 points, 6 assists; Portland 133, San Antonio 120.

(Photo: Dan Long)

eligible to play wherever. There are still many pieces missing from the puzzle as to why Lisa transferred. A personality conflict has been mentioned between Lisa and her coach. A reliable source tells me it's much deeper. It has been alleged that the coach put added pressures on Lisa because of her famous dad. It was also rumored that Parkrose School District offered Leroy an assistant coaching job, only to have Lisa's

coach reject the offer.

Mike Rozier, Nebraska's Heisman winner, is supposedly signed, sealed and delivered to the USFL. Rozier would then become the second successive Heisman winner to go with the new league. Herschel Walker being the other. Here's some trivia concerning the news-catching USFL... Who were the two teams that played for the 1983 USFL Championship?



Washington Hot Line

by Congressman Ron Wyden

For the last seven months, this Administration has been waging an undaunted war on the independence of the Civil Rights Commission. In the latest round, President Reagan has won the right to appoint four of the eight commissioners to the panel as well as its staff director.

Exercising that right, the President has appointed 36-year-old Linda Chavez as the CRC's new staff director. If her early pronouncements are any indication, her appointment could result in the commission being turned upside down.

In the short time that she has been at the commission, Chavez has announced plans to ask the commission to cancel publication of a study that shows that Blacks in Alabama earn less, are less educated and have poorer housing than whites.

The reason? Chavez has concluded that "economic and social disadvantages among minorities are not necessarily the result of discrimination."

In addition to wanting to cancel the publication of this study, the new staff director wants to cancel a study of the effects of student aid cuts on minority students. The reason? Government has no obligation to "make college affordable for minority students," Chavez says.

Future plans of the new CRC di-

rector also include having the commission adopt a statement opposing an affirmative action plan adopted by the Detroit Police Department and conducting a study on the "general decline of academic standards" that Chavez is attributable to affirmative action in higher education.

These actions make it evident that the Administration wants to change the commission's function as a watchdog over the implementation of civil rights laws.

It is ironic that the commission is now filled with, and run by, people who do not really think that discrimination exists and who believe civil rights legislation has done more harm than good.

Arthur S. Flemming, the chairman of the commission from 1972-1980, summed it up well when he said in a recent newspaper interview that, "I get the feeling that what she [Chavez] is advocating in her work is in direct conflict with the guarantees of the Constitution as seen by the courts."

This should be a call for Congress to reconsider the "compromise" it made with the President on the make-up of the commission. I think we will all lose something precious if the commission continues to have its independence eroded and its purpose diluted.

Jesse Jackson

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