



Sports/METRO

Packers, 49ers to Clash at Lambeau Field

(AP) — Brett Favre is the quintessential cold-weather quarterback. He has a perfect home record when the flakes fall, the winds howl, the temperatures plummet and the opponents chatter.

But the Green Bay Packers aren't counting on the cold to bother San Francisco 49ers quarterback Jeff Garcia, a veteran of the Canadian Football League.

"I'm sure they had a cold day once or twice up there," Packers coach Mike Sherman said. "So, I don't envision that to be a heck of an advantage. Because of his upbringing in football, I don't think that will bother him at all. Maybe it will affect some other guys."

Both the 49ers and Packers are returning to the playoffs after a two-year drought with a wild-card game Sunday at Lambeau Field between two 12-4 teams.

After unseasonable warmth during the week, the long-range forecast calls for temperatures between 19 and 32 degrees with snow showers Sunday, slightly above the normal range.

The Packers have never lost in 12 home playoff games, including 10 at Lambeau Field, and Favre is 29-0 at home when the temperature at kickoff is 34 or below.

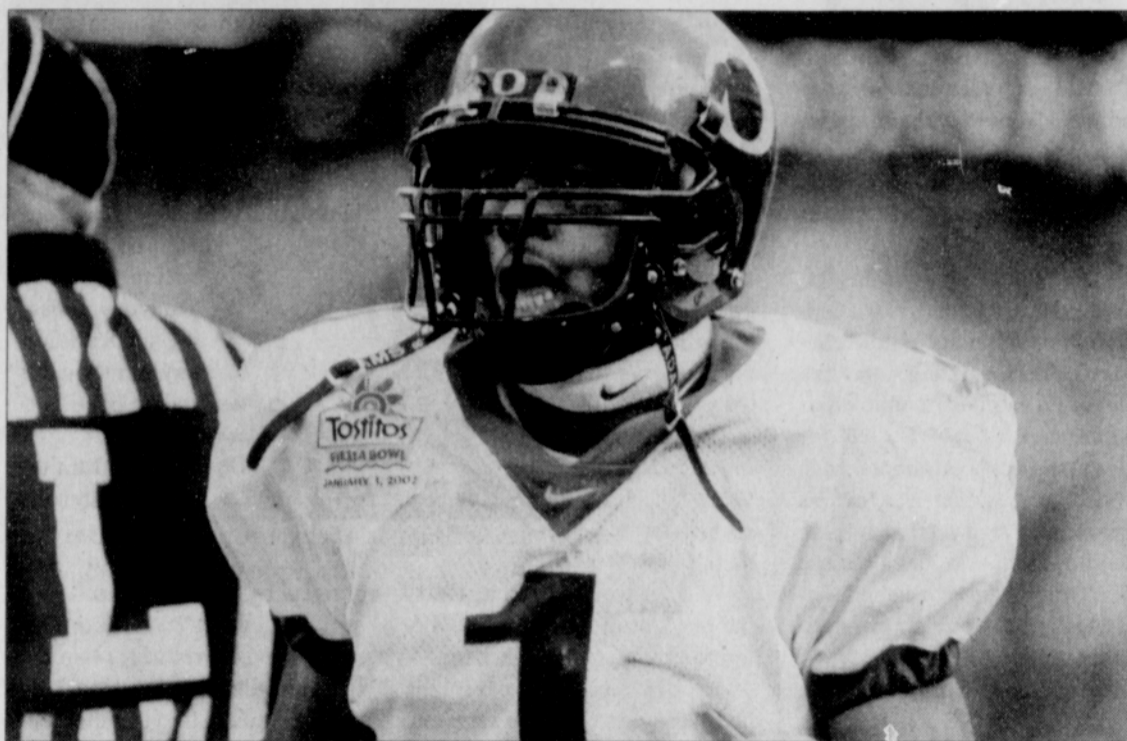
That's why the Packers were ecstatic to beat the New York Giants on Sunday, ensuring them a playoff game at Lambeau instead of Candlestick.

But the matchup isn't great for Green Bay.

The 49ers have an offense that could exploit the Packers' plethora of injuries and a defense that has three shutouts in its last six games.

And they have Garcia, who threw for 3,568 yards and 32 touchdowns, half of them to Terrell Owens, whose dramatic last-second TD catch beat the Packers 30-27 the last time these teams met in the playoffs three years ago.

DUCKS WIN FIESTA, FINISH 2ND IN NATION



Oregon's Samie Parker celebrates after scoring the Duck's first touchdown in a 38-16 Fiesta Bowl victory over Colorado. PHOTO BY DAVID GIEZYNG/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

(AP) - The dazzling Ducks of Oregon made their case for a share of the national championship - and then some with an impressive Fiesta Bowl victory on New Year's Day.

But a Miami win in the Bowl Champion Series Title game two days later, clinched the top spot for the Hurricanes.

Miami beat Nebraska 37-14 in the Rose Bowl Thursday.

Oregon beat No. 3 Colorado 38-16 in the Fiesta Bowl and finished second in the Associated Press poll of sports writers and

broadcasters. The Ducks were hoping for a Nebraska win to claim a share of the title.

The Fiesta Bowl victory was an impressive end to the college career of Duck quarterback Joey Harrington who threw for 350 yards and four touchdowns.

Samie Parker caught nine passes for 162 yards, including a perfect 79-yarder for a touchdown that put Oregon ahead for good in the second quarter, when the Ducks outgained the Buffaloes 198 yards to 53.

Oregon's Steve Smith set a Fi-

esta Bowl record with three interceptions, and the Ducks' defense - ranked 81st in NCAA Division I - shut down Colorado's running game and forced the Buffs to throw.

Maurice Morris ran 49 yards for another Oregon score, landing on top of a Colorado defender at the Buffaloes 21. He got back on his feet and ran into the end zone to make it 28-7 early in the third quarter.

The Pac-10 champions had a 500-328 advantage in total yards, 150-49 on the ground.

Wins Give Blazers Needed Bounce

(AP) - Scottie Pippen says the Portland Trail Blazers are starting to make up for lost time.

"We have a long way to go," Pippen said after Dale Davis scored 20 points and grabbed 15 rebounds to lead the Portland past the Cleveland Cavaliers 98-72 Monday night.

After losing six straight games to drop to 13-18, the Blazers have won two in a row for the first time since Dec. 15-18. The Blazers have had only two three-game winning streaks all season.

"We got ourselves behind the 8-ball the last couple months and know we have a lot of making up to do," Pippen said. "We are a potent team now."

Pippen said the Blazers were not particularly set on gaining revenge against the Cavs - but did. When the Blazers were at Gund Arena last Jan. 22, they scored a franchise-low 58 points and lost by 26.

"We know things like that happen," Pippen said. "I don't think we were thinking about last year."

Damon Stoudamire, who scored 19 points, said he had other motivation.

"All we really wanted was to start our road trip on the right track," Stoudamire said.

Davis' hustle put Portland on track. Seven of his rebounds came at the offensive end as the Blazers won the first of four road games in five nights. Portland had lost seven of its last eight on the road.

"Dale was great," Blazers coach Maurice Cheeks said. "He set the tone."

Olympic Torch to Arrive Jan. 22

The Oregon Sports Authority will host a 2002 Olympic Torch Relay Celebration at Portland's Pioneer Courthouse Square Tuesday, Jan. 22 from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The event will feature Oregon Olympians, Olympic torchbearers, city officials and Olympic dignitaries.

The relay will begin at OMSI and travel about 8 miles through the streets of Portland to Pioneer Courthouse Square.

Michael Jordan, Wife to Divorce

(AP) — Michael Jordan's wife has filed for divorce, citing "irreconcilable differences" with the basketball superstar after 12 years of marriage.

Juanita Jordan is seeking permanent custody of the couple's three children, their 25,000-square-foot house in Highland Park, north of the city, and half the couple's property. Michael

Jordan, who is playing this year for the Washington Wizards, was paid more than \$30 million in his final season with the Bulls and is one of the world's richest athletes.

Juanita Jordan filed the petition Friday in suburban Waukegan, the Chicago Sun-Times and the Chicago Tribune reported Tuesday.

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