February I, 2006

The Hortland Observer Black History Month

Super Bowl XL Seahawks, Steelers

Face Off Sunday

Pittaburgh Steelers

The Steelers, in the playoffs four of the last five years, will play in their Super Bowl since 1995.

Seattle Seahawks Winners of a franchise-best 13 games this season, the Seattle Seahawks will represent the NFC in this year's

Super Bowl for the first time.

Last game: Beat the Carolina Panthers, 34-14, at home for the NFC title.

Momentum meter: The Seahawks kept their momentum going after a first

Last Super Bowl: The Seahawks will be playing in the first Super Bowl

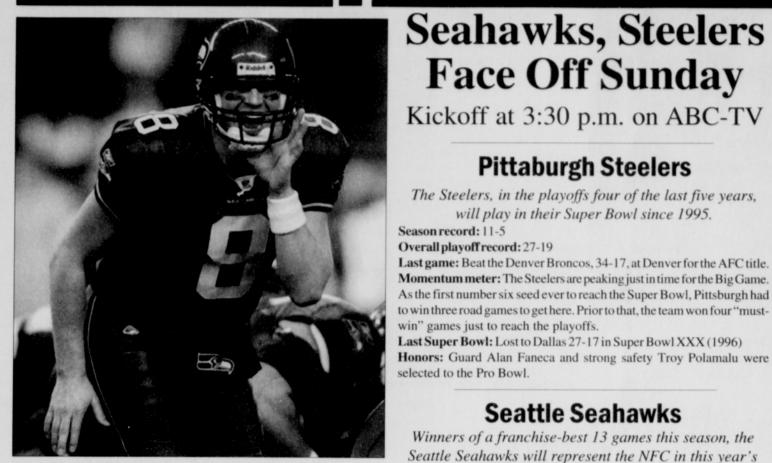
Honors: Five players were selected for the Pro Bowl this year; running

back Shaun Alexander, quarterback Matt Hasselbeck, fullback Mack Strong, guard Steve Hutchinson, and tackle Walter Jones will all start on

round-bye, picking-up two big wins at home to earn a trip to Detroit.

Season record: 13-3 Overall playoff record: 5-7

in their franchise's history.



Seattle Quarterback — Matt Hasselbeck

The NFC's Pro Bowl starting quarterback, Matt Hasselbeck finished the year with a 98.2 passer rating, good for fourth in the NFL. Yet nobody talks about just how good Matt Hasselbeck is. It's not as if he's a rookie, or that he's come out of nowhere; Hasselbeck has been starting for five years now, and the last four he's thrown for more than 3,000 yards and had a passer rating of at least 80.

2005 Season Stats: Passing - 294-of-449 for 3,459 yards; 24 touchdowns; nine interceptions; 24 sacks; 98.2 rating

Seakhawk Backfield Profile - Shaun Alexander

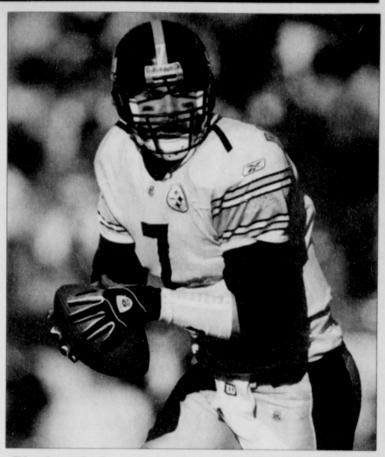
Shaun Alexander set an NFL record with 28 touchdowns and led the league in rushing with 1,880 yards. The six-year veteran has averaged more than 17 rushing touchdowns per season as a starter the last five years. He said he considered winning the MVP Award a group effort, further endearing him to fans and teammates.

2005 Season Stats: Rushing

370 carries for 1,880 yards; 5.1 yard average carry; longest-88 yards; 28 TDs; Receiving - 15 catches for 78 yards; 1 TD.

offense for the NFC. Alexander was named NFL Most Valuable Player and Offensive Player if the Year in 2005. Queen of Soul to **Reign Supreme** Aretha Franklin will sing the National Anthem at the Super Bowl XL being held in Detroit on Sunday, Feb. 5 at

3 pm (PST). "The Queen of Soul" will be joined by one of New Orleans' "favorite sons," Aaron Neville. The Grammy-Award winning twosome will team up to perform live in front of an estimated worldwide audience of over 130 million viewers.



Pittsburgh Quarterback — Ben Roethlisaberger

In his second season, Big Ben is 26-4 as an NFL starter, including the playoffs. He doesn't do it with big numbers; only twice in his career has he passed for 300 yards in a game. Instead, he does it with great accuracy. His career regular season completion percentage is a lofty 64.7 percent.

2005 Season Stats: Passing - 198-of-268 for 2,385 yards; 17 touchdowns; interception; 23 sacks; 98.6 rating



Steeler Defensive Profile -

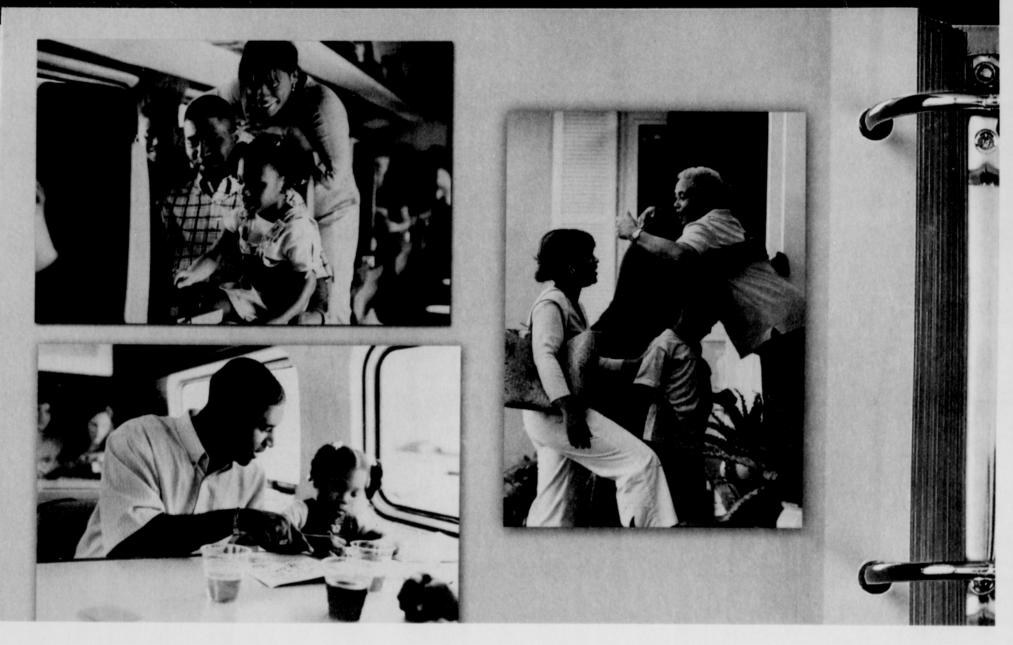
ing about the Colts and their plays, Porter recorded 1.5

sacks in the AFC Divisional Playoffs as Pittsburgh knocked Indianapolis out of the playoffs. Named to the All-Pro team in 2005. Porter tied career highs with 10.5 sacks and four forced fumbles. The Steelers had the AFCs top-ranked defense in 2005, allowing a paltry 284.0 yards of offense per game and just 4.6 yards of offense per play to their opponents.

Joey Porter Linebacker Joey Porter talks a big game at times, but he can back it up, too. After jaw-

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