

## SPORTS

# L.A. Rams may very well be best team this year

Who is the best team in the NFL this year? Ask this question and you get a variety of responses. Some people will name their favorite teams, some name well-known teams and still others ask you what the NFL is.

Well, after the first five games of the season I have a few ideas about which teams will make the playoffs and which teams will not.

The Los Angeles Rams (5-0) might very well be the best team in the NFL. Jim Everett is a good passer with skilled and experienced veterans at his disposal as

wide receivers. Henry Ellard averages 18 yards per catch and has 4 touchdowns. Everett is rated as the second best quarterback in the NFC with 1352 total yards passing and 9 touchdowns.

However, the Rams can still run the ball well. Running Back Greg Bell is second among NFC runners with 512 yards and 5 touchdowns. Los Angeles boasts a balanced offensive attack and a strong defense. Two necessary ingredients for any team that is playoff-bound.

Although the Rams defeated San Francisco earlier in the

year you can never count out Joe Montana. The 49ers are still just as strong as they were last year and they have many offensive weapons. Jerry Rice is a potent deep threat and Roger Craig can run over or around any defense in the league.

The big question mark for the 49ers will be their ability to overcome the jinx of being the Super Bowl Champs from last year. Teams that repeat these days are few and far between.

Mike Ditka wants to get back in the Super Bowl and he has a pretty good chance. Mike Tomczak has proven himself capable of winning and running back Neal Anderson reminds some

people of Mr. Chicago Bears, Walter Payton. The Bears will need to stay injury-free to keep their chances alive.

The Eagles, Redskins, and Giants all have a shot at it but have played inconsistent football so far.

Moving to the AFC we have a much more evenly matched group of teams. The Denver Broncos and the Cincinnati Bengals are both strong teams with post-season experience. The Bengals and Broncos are rated third and fourth respectively in team defense and both teams have excellent quarterbacks.

Cleveland also is strong again this year and just might be able to break their string of post-season failures in pressure games.

In the AFC East it is a toss-up. Buffalo lost Jim Kelly for a few weeks and that could possibly signal the end of the road for the Bills. The only other team worth talking about in this hapless division is the Indianapolis Colts.

The Colts have one of the best running backs in the league in Eric Dickerson and maybe, just maybe they will be able to make the playoffs.

Perhaps the biggest surprise of the season is the comeback of the Green Bay Packers. After years of futility the Packers appear to be headed in the right direction and in a few years they will be able to make a serious run at Chicago if all goes well.

## COMMENTARY by John Keating

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