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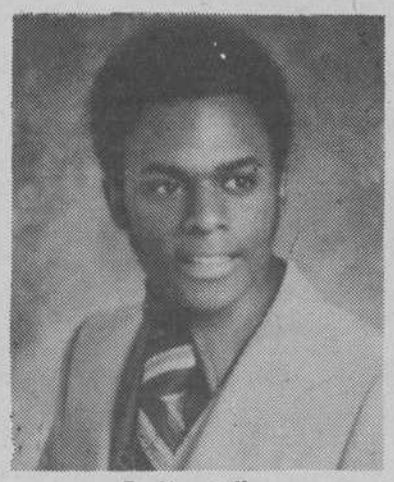
JANUARY 17, 1985

KEN'S COMMENTS



By Ken Wilson

As the countdown to Super Bowl XIX nears, both the San Francisco 49ers and the Miami Dolphins are busy making final preparations for a clash that should be one of the most memorable in recent years.

Blessed with incredible talent on each side, the contest is a matching of great coaching minds in addition to an old style of winning tradition plus a new one.

Unlike the Raiders' 38-9 thrashing of the Redskins, observers and fans each are anticipating a tough exciting contest with a stellar effort needed to capture the league title.

San Francisco coach Bill Walsh, who guided the 49ers to the NFL's best record at 15-1, has become known for his innovations and is sure to create some new wrinkles just to deal with the explosive Dolphins.

Meanwhile, the AFC Champion Dolphins enter the game owning a 14-2 regular season mark, and feature a 22-year coaching veteran in Don Shula at the helm.

Strategy will play a major role in determining the outcome of Super Bowl XIX as the Dolphins must find a way to stop the 49ers' complex offense, while, in turn, San Francisco will just try to contain Dan Marino, the League's top quarterback.

However, experts agree that to capture a Super Bowl, a team must rely on luck to create that one true big play, the one instance that breaks the back of the opponent while turning things around for the eventual victors.

Here's a brief look at how the teams shape up:

Quarterback: Leading the NFL in touchdown passes, Dan Marino owns a strong arm and a quick release. San Francisco's Joe Montana is the highest rated career passer in the NFL, and he can throw short or long, run and read defense well.

Runningback: Balance is the key here as 49er Wendell Tyler is tough and elusive, while backfield mate Roger Craig is a good receiver and runner. After fullback Andra Franklin went down early on with a bad knee, Miami became a passing team almost toally; however, back Tony Nathan is a threat as a runner and receiver.

Receivers: Miami's game-breaks Mark Clayton and Mark Duper have jumping ability and can beat defenders with blazing speed. Montana's favorite target is Dwight Clark, while Freddie Solomon and Renaldo Nehemiah are the deep threats.

GLOBETROTTERS AT THOMAS AND MACK JAN. 22

The world-renowned Harlem Globetrotters bring their legendary style of basketball magic to Thomas and Mack Center for one show only on Tuesday, Jan. 22.

The fun and excitment starts at 7:30 p.m.

This will be the Globetrotters' only appearance in Las Vegas in 1985. They'll play, as usual, the Washington Generals.

The Globetrotters will be bringing in their full complement of stars, including Fred (Curly) Neal, Hubert (Geese) Ausbie, Larry (Gator) Rivers and (Sweet) Lou Dunbar.

Tickets—priced at $6.50, $8.50 and $9.50 — are on sale at five convenient locations in Southern Nevada: Garehimes Music Plus, Nellis Air Force Base, Omni Video, Sports Fever and at Thomas and Mack. The Thomas and Mack Ticket Office is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A portion of the proceeds benefits the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Museum of Natural History.

This is the 59th season for these "Magicians of Basketball," and in that time they've compiled the unprecedented record of 15,740 wins against only 31 losses.

The Globetrotters are more than just great entertainers; they're great athletes. Former Globetrotters include the likes of Connie Hawkins, Wilt Chamberlain and St. Louis Cardinal Hall of Fame pitcher Bob Gibson.

And there's more to a Globetrotter game than just razzle-dazzle and zany antics. Watch their play and you'll see why the Globetrotters are generally acknowledged as the team that revolutionized the sport of basketball and helped it become the fast-paced game it is today.

Over the years the Globetrotters have invented or honed numerous facets of basketball, including the positions of pivot man, power forward and point guard and plays like the fast break, the weave and, of course, the slam dunk.

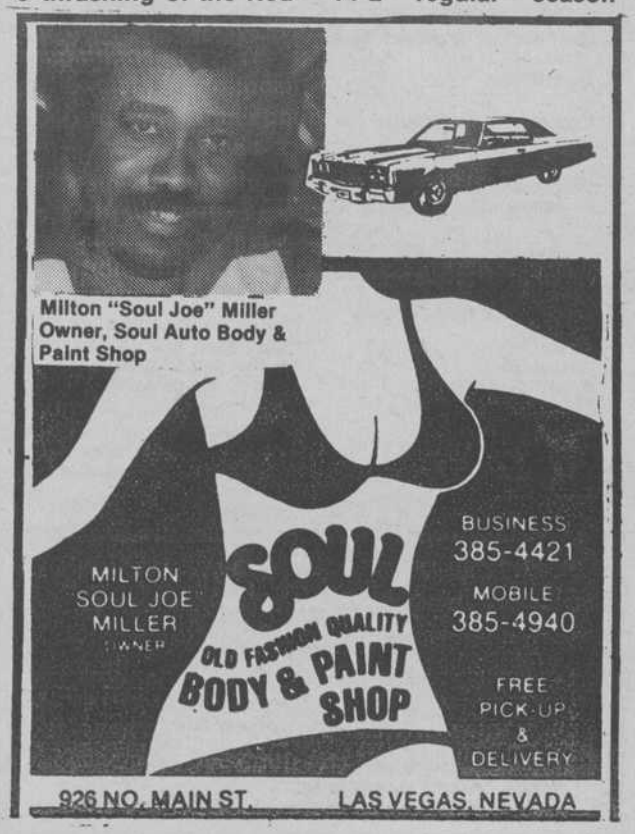
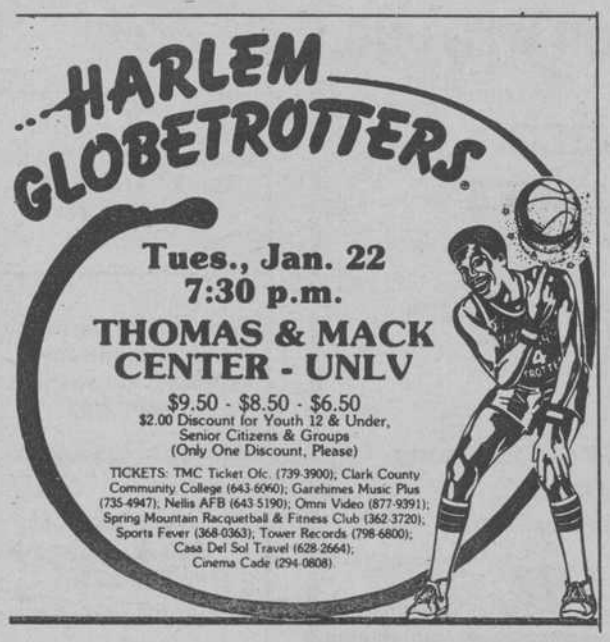
Cordova, Colome head Showboat Jan. 24 fights

Brawling Tommy Cordova faces slick boxing Herbie Bivalacqua for an interesting clash of styles in the ESPN main event Thursday, Jan. 24, at the Showboat Hotel, Casino, Country Club and Bowling Center.

The 10-round featherweight main event will be joined by two ESPN Championship Tournament bouts, both in the welterweight division.

And a special added attraction features the United States debut of Canadian heavyweight Willie de Wit, the former amateur world champion and Olympic silver medalist.

This diverse card, promoted by Bob Arum's Top Rank, Inc., in association with the Showboat, begins at 6 p.m. with doors to the Showboat Sports Pavilion opening at 5 p.m.

Tickets remain priced at $10 for general admission and $15 for ringside reserved. Tickets are on sale daily at the Showboat Sports Pavilion Ticket Office.

Four outstanding prospects are scheduled for the Championship Tournament bouts, which will be held throughout the year in various weight divisions.