

SPORTS BOARD

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September 10, 1987

Football Preview Continues

By William Ramirez

We continue our two-part preview of the 1987 football season (local high school, college and pro).

This week we'll preview the NFL season. We will look at the divisions, players to watch, and key matchups during the year.

American Football Conference

East---

The AFC East used to be ruled by the Miami Dolphins, in recent years the division has strengthened and Miami has had a run for their money. The New England Patriots and New York Jets have been the teams putting the pressure on. The Indianapolis Colts and Buffalo Bills have been no threat whatsoever. After having the sixth worst record in the AFC last year, Miami could rebound and once again make the playoffs. New England and New York will battle for second with the winner, most likely, receiving a wild-card berth. Buffalo and Indianapolis are still "rebuilding" (a phrase used to save the embarrassment of a hapless

team).

Central---

Cleveland may prove to be the team to beat in the AFC. The Browns and Cincinnati Bengals figure to duel it out once again for the Central Div. crown but Pittsburgh could surprise everyone and contend for the title. Cincinnati will hit a downfall this year and won't be able to recover. The Houston Oilers still have a long way to go before even thinking of being a contender.

West---

The AFC West will most likely be the best division in the AFC. The Denver Broncos and Seattle Seahawks will put up the best battle for a division championship. The Seahawks are probably the most improved team in the AFC and could challenge Cleveland for the title BEST. The Raiders are tough but they just can't hang tough anymore. Kansas City and San Diego both have problems—the Chiefs have an extremely tough schedule while the Chargers just aren't competitive with the rest of the division.

National Football Conference

East---

Hands down... the team to beat is the N.Y. Giants. The Giants will definitely win the NFC East and should repeat as Super Bowl champions in S.B. XXII. Washington and Dallas will try to challenge but... Washington is as good as most of the contenders in the other divisions if not better, its just that the 'Skins aren't better than the Giants.

Dallas, still recovering from last seasons nightmare, will improve as long as Danny White stays healthy. Philadelphia and St. Louis will bring up the rear in the East.

Central---

The most confused team in the NFL—the Chicago Bears, will defend their Central Division title and could have a hard time doing it with the Minnesota Vikings

showing tremendous improvement. Watch for the Vikings to be the darkhorse in the NFC. Detroit, Green Bay and Tampa Bay wont even reach .500. Vinny Testaverde, the NFL's no.1 pick, will need time to adjust to the NFL. Defenses will welcome him to the NFL with "open arms."

West---

San Francisco will win the division (again) with Los Angeles contending so much that they could earn a wild-card berth if they stay tough.

Both teams will depend on two certain players. San Francisco will be looking for Joe Montana's arm and the Rams will be hanging on to Eric Dickerson's thigh's. Atlanta and New Orleans are just going to drop out of the NFL and join a Pop Warner League or something.

Preseason Predictions

NFC		AFC	
East		East	
N.Y. Giants	14-2	Miami	10-6
Washington	11-5	New England	10-6*
Dallas	10-6	N.Y. Jets	9-7
Philadelphia	7-9	Indianapolis	5-11
St. Louis	7-9	Buffalo	3-13
Central		Central	
Minnesota	12-4	Cleveland	13-3
Chicago	11-5*	Pittsburgh	9-7
Detroit	5-11	Cincinnati	6-10
Green Bay	3-13	Houston	5-11
Tampa Bay	2-14	West	
West		Seattle	13-3
San Francisco	13-3	Denver	12-4*
L.A. Rams	11-5	Los Angeles	9-7
Atlanta	5-11	San Diego	6-10
New Orleans	2-14	Kansas City	4-12


*--wildcard

NFL MVP-Bernie Kosar
 NFC Rookie-D.J. Dozier
 AFC Rookie-Cornelius Bennett
 NFL's best
 QB- Tommy Kramer
 RB- Eric Dickerson
 WR- Mike Quick
 DB- Lester Hayes
 LB- Lawrence Taylor

WINFIELD WRITES BOOK ON DRUG ABUSE

Dave Winfield of the New York Yankees has written a drug education handbook that includes strategies for action aimed at students, parents, schools and communities. Entitled, *Turn It Around!* the book's message is particularly effective because it comes directly from Dave Winfield, a widely respected role model in the campaign against drugs and President of the Winfield Foundation. Since 1977 the Foundation has sponsored a variety of programs to im-

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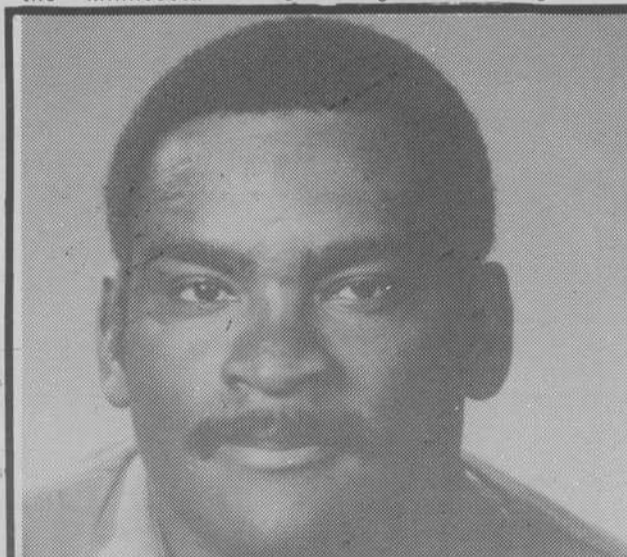


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NUNNELY BEGINS SECOND TERM — Wayne Nunnely begins his second season as head coach of the UNLV Rebels. A 1975 UNLV graduate, Nunnely was named UNLV's fifth head coach on April 23, 1986. This is his first head coaching position in Division I after several assistantships including Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State Fullerton, University of the Pacific, and UNLV. Also a standout running back for the Rebels from 1972-75, Nunnely was 6-5 in his inaugural season.

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