

COWBOYS LOOK TO CAPTURE FIRST SUPER BOWL SINCE 1978



BUFFALO BILLS HOPE TO BREAK TWO-YEAR JINX IN THE SUPER BOWL

Memories of '78 Could Produce Cowboy Victory

DALLAS DEFENSE MAY ONCE AGAIN SPELL DOOMSDAY; ONLY THIS TIME FOR THE BUFFALO BILLS

By W.G. Ramirez

As a completely different Dallas Cowboy squad prepares for the Buffalo Bills, memories of a group of players - named Doomsday - just may result in a Super Bowl XXVII victory.

The date was January 15, 1978. Dallas was set for Super Bowl XII against the Denver Broncos in what was supposed to be a matchup of quarterback greats. Roger Staubach would run the Cowboys offense while Craig Morton would call the signals for Denver. Instead, Dallas' Doomsday Defense crushed the upstart Denver Broncos 27-10, mainly as a result of eight turnovers - four fumbles and four interceptions. Dallas' defensive linemen Randy White and Harvey Martin were co-winners of the MVP trophy.

Here we are in 1993, and Dallas DE Charles Haley will be the one to reminisce the Doomsday effect with a supporting cast of players that are very strong - Russell Maryland, Tony Casillas and Tony Tolbert.

The Buffalo Bills boast the most consistent all-around running back in the game in Thurman Thomas, who is just as good a receiver as he is a rusher. Thomas led the AFC in rushing with 312 carries for 1487 yards and nine touchdowns. His backup Kenneth Davis, has excellent straight ahead speed and averaged 4.4 yards on 139

attempts while scoring six touchdowns. Both runners will experience the wrath of the No. 1-ranked Dallas defense. Its ability to stop opponents in short-yardage situations will frustrate Buffalo all day long.

If Thomas or Davis manages to squirt by "Doomsday '92-'93,"

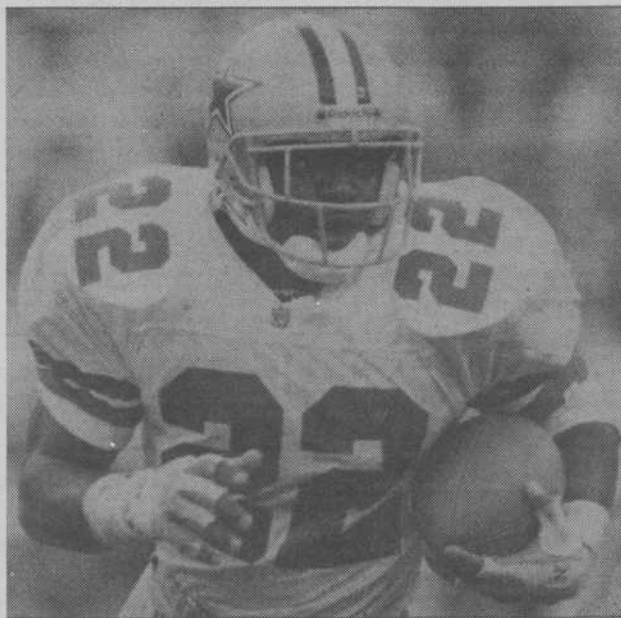


Dallas DE Charles Haley

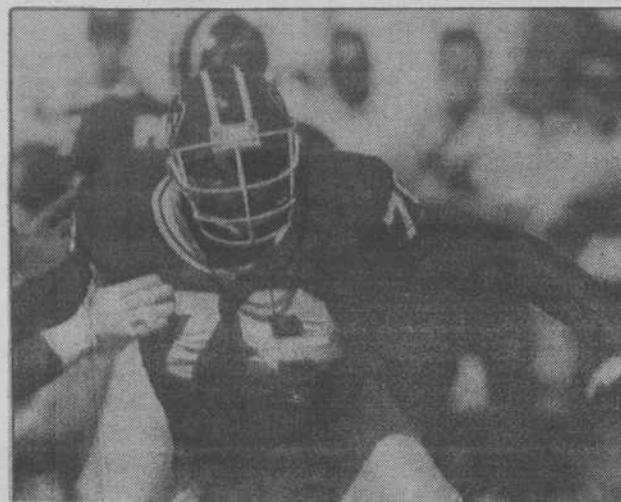
they'll meet linebackers Ken Norton, Vinson Smith and rookie Robert Jones. Norton and Jones led the Cowboys in tackles during the regular season with a combined 228 tackles.

Buffalo's main key on offense, unfortunately, could be their biggest problem - quarterback Jim Kelly.

Kelly, in some ways, can remind you of Washington's Mark Rypien or the 49ers' Joe Montana; He just can't come through like either one. All three



Emmitt Smith has been waiting for this particular game. His 'Eye of the Tiger' could carry the Cowboys to the NFL title.



Defensive End Bruce Smith will be looking to cause problems for Dallas' explosive backfield.

quarterbacks have top notch receivers to aim for and they have the talent to produce the victory, but, when forced into pressure - only Rypien and Montana have the most impelling way to float the ball directly into their receivers' arms. Kelly only thinks he can do the same. Due to Kelly's misconception, the result of interceptions could fall into Dallas' favor.

The 'turnover' is what will effect Buffalo's collapse. The Bills' turnover/takeaway ratio for the season was -3, 18th in the league. Dallas' was +7, good enough for a 7th place tie in the league. The Cowboys have yet to turn the ball over during the playoffs so far. Kelly has thrown an interception in seven consecutive starts, including two against the Dolphins in the AFC Championship.

Dallas' offense is at its pinnacle point, and should continue its barrage of excellency against Buffalo's relatively small defense, compared to Dallas' offensive line. OG Nate Newton will have the most important assignment, which will be to stop Bruce Smith. With the help of OT Mark Tuinei, Newton's job will come easy, as All-Pro running back Emmitt Smith will gain the bulk of his running yards off-guard.

Nate Odomes and James Williams will have the chore of containing receivers Michael Irvin and Alvin Harper. The more experienced Irvin will be expected to be the major threat, but watch for rookie sensation Harper to light up the Bills' secondary.

The three bright spots for Buffalo will be right in the middle

Willie's BEST BETS

PREDICTION: DALLAS 31 BUFFALO 13

SUPER BOWL XXVII

Sunday January 31, 1993

Dallas (-240)	-6, (44')	Buffalo (+200)
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Well this is it. The final game of the 1992-93 season, head-to-head competition at least, outside of the Pro Bowl, and it is time to make that big play. You haven't made a play all year, but this is the very one Sunday that you carry yourself to the window and make your "big bet."

Well lets talk about what exactly will happen.

The Dallas offense - Emmitt Smith is a modern day Tony Dorsett that has been hungry for this particular game since turning pro. Smith is definitely going to have an All-Pro game on Sunday. Troy Aikman and Michael Irvin will baffle Buffalo's secondary while rookie Alvin Harper will turn in a big time performance.

The Buffalo defense - With only three linemen near the ball, the Bills are going to need a lot of help from linebackers Cornelius Bennett and Shane Conlan. Bruce Smith will have his hands full with Nate Newton and Mark Tuinei. Smith will still be able to make his way into Dallas' backfield though.

The Buffalo offense - Thurman Thomas is arguably the league's best all-around back. He too will turn in an All-Pro game but will eventually be worn down by Dallas' DE Charles Haley and DT Russell Maryland. Jim Kelly will have to be right on target to Beebe and Co. Kelly's overconfidence tends to get him into trouble with the secondary.

The Dallas defense - Haley, as mentioned before, will key in on Thomas, as well as Kelly, and haunt Buffalo's backfield. Ken Norton, Vinson Smith and Robert Jones will all have to step up in case of broken tackles, with Thomas bursting through.

Good luck and don't let the "dogs" bite you.

with linebackers Shane Conlan, Darryl Talley and the destructive Cornelius Bennett. The 6-2, 238lb. Bennett could pose some problems, unless Dallas fullback Daryl Johnston is able to get in front of teammate Smith, in order to block whoever gets in the way.

As for the generals on the sidelines, Buffalo Head Coach Marv Levy is slowly reaching a

status that only few coaches have earned, but he still doesn't get the respect he actually deserves. Levy basically is the knowledge of the whole staff. In Dallas' case, head coach Jimmy Johnson arguably has the best staff overall. Defensive coordinator Dave Wannstedt should receive an award as "Assistant Coach of the Year," with the work he has done with his "D."

Five reasons that Dallas could win Super Bowl XXVII

1. Charles Haley and Russell Maryland will devour Will Wolford and Jim Richter on the line, leaving Jim Kelly with a face mask full of sod.

2. Alvin Harper's outstanding effort, thanks to his jumping ability, will baffle Nate Odomes.

3. This is what Emmitt Smith has been waiting for - and he is going to run wild - whether it be from the backfield or following a pass.

4. The Aikman-Irvin connection is deadly!!!

5. Finally, the Bills will lose their third straight Super Bowl to a third straight NFC East opponent: 1st-New York, 2nd-Washington, and 3rd-Dallas.

Five reasons that Buffalo could win Super Bowl XXVII

1. Although Thurman Thomas might have trouble running out of the backfield, he can still catch the ball downfield.

2. If Kelly can be patient when dropping back, he'll be able to place his passes correctly. He has talented receivers, its Kelly that needs to relax.

3. Bruce Smith will be the main man on the defensive line. He will need to keep a lot of pressure on Troy Aikman and Emmitt Smith.

4. Kenneth Davis will have to step up his game, and succeed in converting short-yardage situations

5. Finally, Buffalo should be hungry after dropping two straight Super Bowls. This could be their last chance for awhile.