

# SPORTS

## 1993 NFL PREVIEW

# TEAMS ON THE RISE COULD SPELL TROUBLE

By W.G. Ramirez

Ah yes, its that time again. Sunday afternoons. Monday nights with Al, Frank and Dan, college games on Thursday and allll-daayyy Saturday.

Well one thing can be assured, things will be different in the NFL this season. In the AFC, the Eastern Division could see a major shake-up in traditional powers. The Central Division looks to be catering to the traditional power of Steel. And in the West, Kansas City will be relying on an ol' pro. In the meantime, San Diego will be trying to prove that they have the best defense in the league, and Denver and L.A. will try to prove they're still contenders.

Over in the NFC, things don't look as peachy as they did in January for the Dallas Cowboys. The Redskins will try to muscle their way back to the top, and the Eagles will disappoint many. The Central Division is receiving much of the attention these days,

with the sudden surge of the Green Bay Packers and their battle with traditional powers Minnesota and Chicago. The Detroit Lions may surprise folk by creeping their way into the title chase. Finally, in the West, who else? Yes, those 49ers are back, and they just may be the

team to beat this season, with a healthy Steve Young. The New Orleans Saints might start tailing off and the Falcons and Rams - well anyway.

Here are a number of different things to watch for and keep in mind while enjoying the NFL - 1993.



San Francisco 49ers receiver Jerry Rice will try and help his team continue a winning tradition.

### Teams That Will Be There In January:

From the AFC, watch for Buffalo, Pittsburgh and San Diego to capture their divisions in wild divisional races that will come down to the end of the season. Wildcard shots could be headed to Miami, Houston and Kansas City, where Smilin' Joe will eventually turn it on. The Chargers will get the job done, count on it!

In the NFC, it is going to be much nuttier than the AFC, especially with the crazy notion that the Central is now the "toughest division."

Division winners will hail in Dallas, San Francisco, and Minnesota. While Frisco runs away with the West title, Dallas will need about 13 or 14 weeks to wrap up the East. In the Central though, its going to get nasty. Wildcard teams could be in any given city, but the likes of Washington, Green Bay and Chicago may find happiness.

The Teams That Will

## LOCAL LEAGUE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FALL COED VOLLEYBALL

Registration for fall coed volleyball league at the Baker Park Community School, 1100 E. St. Louis Ave., takes place through September 9. Competition begins the week of September 13, and includes three levels of play; beginners take the court Tuesdays, while intermediate players see action Wednesdays. The advanced beginner league plays Thursdays.

The cost is \$90 per team and \$5 per match.

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### YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE

A youth basketball league is now being organized at the Baker Park Community School, 1100 E. St. Louis Ave.. Registration takes place September 6-17, from 3-8:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and noon to 12 p.m.-6 p.m., Fridays. The cost is \$45 per team, which includes official's fees. This league is designed for ages 10-12 and begins play September 24. Play will continue Friday evenings and Saturday mornings through December 17.

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### RECREATION BASKETBALL LEAGUE

A recreation basketball league is now being organized by the City of Las Vegas Municipal Sports Unit. Registration for the adult league continues through September 7, at a cost of \$300 per team, plus a \$20 officials fee. Play will take place Mondays and Wednesdays beginning September 20. League play begins at 6:30 p.m. Call 229-2089 or 229-2362.

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### WOMENS 3-ON-3 BASKETBALL LEAGUE

A women's 3-on-3 basketball league is now being organized at the Chuck Minker Sports Complex, 275 N. Mojave Rd.

Play begins September 25, and continues each Saturday thereafter, at 12 noon. Registration continues through September 20 at a cost of \$125 per team, which does not include official's fees. The league is open to women 13 and older. Call 229-6563.

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### RACQUETBALL LESSONS

Racquetball lessons begin September 21 at the Chuck Minker Sports Complex, 275 N. Mojave Rd. Classes take place each Tuesday, through October 26 with various times available.

The cost is \$24 with registration continuing through September 20. Students must be at

least 13 years old.

Students will learn basic rules, equipment, safety precautions, and strategies. Classes will end with a mini-tournament. Call 229-6563.

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### COED VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

A coed volleyball tournament will be hosted Saturday, October 16 by the Chuck Minker Sports Complex, 275 N. Mojave Rd. The recreational competition begins at 8 a.m.

Registration takes place September 13-October 8, at a cost of \$90 per team, based on ten players per team roster. Payment must accompany registration.

Players must have competed on a winning City of Las Vegas team during 1993, prior to October 8, to qualify. Teams can consist of assembled qualifying players from various championship teams. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams.

The tournament is being sponsored by the City of Las Vegas, and is designed for teens and adults. Call 229-6563.

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These are City of Las Vegas sponsored leagues

### Struggle Getting There:

Miami's lack of consistency against the teams they should beat, will work against them toward the end of the season, leaving the Bills with the title. The same will go for Houston this season, as they will learn their lesson watching the Steel-

he had the proper staff, and a team that was 100% hungry, things might look bright.

The Packers will hope to get the job done, but could find trouble in Minnesota and Chicago, even possibly Detroit. The spoiler in this mess will be the Bears. David Wannstedt will

sis, while trying to build into an eventual contender. The one thing that the Vikings don't want to do is get caught up in the division race hype. Obviously they'll be in the middle of it, but if they keep their heads on straight, and concentrate, they'll be able to get by the flustered Bears, the still-to-young Packers and the erratic Lions, who'll need a rejuvenated Barry Sanders. As mentioned before, with a healthy Young, the 49ers cruise. The Saints may still contend, but they just don't seem like a threat anymore, only a slight obstacle. Dallas will get over their woes, and get back in the swing of things, don't you worry. The only thing is, they're going to have to watch their back. Arch-rival Washington may be creeping back towards the top, and you could even see Phoenix trying sneak in at third.

### The Up-and-Coming Teams:

In the AFC East, things are looking prosperous in Indianapolis and New York. The Colts have young fresh talent, while the Jets boast experience from a number of quality veterans (See Preview, Page 19)



Barry Sanders will have to put in an All-Pro performance this season, in order for the Detroit Lions to prevail.

ers take first. The West is going to be an absolute circus. John Elway can only bring a team back so much. The question is: When will he be able to spot Denver a sizable lead? As for the Raiders, "poor Art Shell." If

often be frustrated by the Bears' mistakes, but he will be able to turn his frustration into motivation for the team. Although they won't figure in the end, the Buccaneers just may have a few upsets for their division neme-

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