



# SUPER BOWL XXVIII

## "Haven't We Met Before?"



# BILLS TRY TO ECLIPSE "GOOSE-EGG" IN SUPER BOWL WIN COLUMN

**W.G. Ramirez**

They say that the third time is always the charm, but as far as the Buffalo Bills are concerned, the fourth time will work. After getting dumped three years in a row in the NFL's championship game by NFC East teams (N.Y. Giants, Washington and Dallas) the Bills will attempt to finally erase the goose egg that sits in the win column for their Super Bowl appearances.

The past three years Buffalo has been labeled with adjectives such as "hungry," "due," or "experienced." Unfortunately for them, the experience hasn't been exactly pleasant, and won't be on Sunday when the Bills take the field against the Cowboys for Super Bowl XXVIII.

Dallas brings in a team that has been there, just as well, and will be able to match forces effectively.

Buffalo earned the right to

make an NFL record fourth straight Super Bowl appearance by defeating the Kansas City Chiefs 30-13 in the AFC Championship Game. The victory marked the sixth straight win for the AFC East Champions, who began their winning skein when they defeated the Philadelphia Eagles during Week 15 of the regular season. It also marks the longest winning streak that Buffalo has carried into Super Bowl play the past four years.

Buffalo will be looking towards All-Pro running back Thurman Thomas for a duplicate performance, of last week against the Chiefs, when he gained a club playoff record 186 yards on 33 carries and three TDs. Last year against the Cowboys in Super Bowl XXVII, Thomas could only manage 19 yards on 11 carries. If the Bills expect to stake claim to a league championship, Thomas will have



**Buffalo's Thurman Thomas will need to have a big day if he plans on raising his hands to celebrate.**

to produce similar numbers to last week. His rushing skills are dynamic and possess a unique finesse that baffles defensive units. The one thing that Thomas will need is support from his offensive line and also 250lb.-6'7" tight end Pete Metzelaars.

When Thomas is looking to cut back from a sweep around end, Metzelaars will be depended on to block any one of Dallas' monsters on D.

The offensive line will also play a key role the Bills' passing attack. Jim Kelly will need plenty

of time to set-up and find his receivers in order to shy away from forcing his passes. If Kelly is forced out of the pocket, it will be a big day for the Dallas secondary. One thing that Offensive Line Coach Walt Corey will need to do is show his line last year's game film. This will provide his men with what to expect from Dallas' defenders.

One thing that Buffalo's defense will have an advantage over is Dallas quarterback Troy Aikman's conscious. Aikman was taken out of last week's NFC Championship Game against San Francisco with a concussion. Aikman did not have a clear head until late Monday, and this could have a psychological effect on him. If defensive end Bruce Smith and linebackers Cornelius Bennett and Darryl Talley can penetrate the line early in the game, it could play with Aikman's head and he

may just force a few passes of his own. Cornerbacks Mickey Washington and Nate Odomes will have their hands full guarding Michael Irvin and Alvin Harper, but will need to concentrate on how well their defensive line is doing.

As mentioned, if the line is penetrated effectively Aikman will be forcing his passes. In this case, the cornerbacks will be able to play off of Aikman's mistakes. If Dallas' line does well and provides enough time for Aikman, Washington and Odomes will need to concentrate directly in the center of Irvin and Harper's chests. This strategy lets you know exactly which way the receiver is going.

Many cornerbacks try to study the receivers' feet, but that proves to be ineffective. Once the CB looks down and away from the upper body, the re-

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# DALLAS COWBOYS LOOK FOR "REPEAT AND REVENGE"

**W.G. Ramirez**

When Riddick Bowe and Evander Holyfield met for a second time last November, the bout was billed "Repeat or Revenge." Well in the NFL's version of the Heavyweight title fight, the Dallas Cowboys will be looking to do both - repeat as Super Bowl Champions, and also get revenge for a 13-10 regular season home defeat to the Buffalo Bills on September 12.

Sunday's Super Bowl XXVIII will see the identical teams from last year's version meet once again, this time in Atlanta's Georgia Dome.

The defending World Champions finished the 1993 regular season with a 12-4 record and an NFC East title. They won their seventh NFC title by defeating the San Francisco 49ers 38-21 last Sunday.

If Dallas is able to conquer the Bills on Sunday, it would give them their fourth World Championship.

The Cowboys will be led by their high-powered offensive attack that includes the league's leading rusher Emmitt Smith.

Smith recorded 1,466 rushing yards during the regular season and earned his third straight rushing title while missing the season's first two games because of a contract dispute.

Also sparking the offense is quarterback Troy Aikman who guided his team to 5,615 total offensive yards during the season, including 3,454 passing yards.

Aikman was shaken up last week against the 'Niners, when he was kneed in the head and suffered a concussion. Aikman did not have a clear head until late Monday, and is expected to be 100% by Sunday.



**Emmitt Smith must protect his bad shoulder Sunday.**

One thing that Dallas Head Coach Jimmy Johnson is going to have to stress, is how much support Aikman will need for an effective passing game. Aikman can throw bullets, and has the ability to survive a pass rush and throw under pressure. But for Aikman to be mentally prepared, he must know that there will be knock concussion in this game.

Smith, who has been suffering from a shoulder injury since January 2 when he was knocked out of the final game of the sea-

son against the N.Y. Giants, is also going to need a lot of protection. One solid hit can end Dallas' running game instantly, especially if received from Buffalo's fierce Bruce Smith.

The person you may see excel on offense for Dallas this year is tight end Jay Novacek. If Buffalo's defense is persistent early, Aikman should look to

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**Willie Will's BEST BETS**

**THIS WEEK'S BEST BET:**  
 Buffalo +10' v. Dallas  
**OVER/UNDER:**  
 OVER 50  
**PREDICTED SCORE:**  
 Dallas 31 Buffalo 26

**OVERALL: 55-62-3 - .470%      LAST WEEK: 2-2-.500%**

Dallas -3' v. S.F. 49ers  
 K.C. Chiefs +3 v. Buffalo  
 Dallas v. 'Frisc  
**OVER 46'**  
 K.C. Chiefs v. 'Buffalo  
**UNDER 38**

