

★ 1994 NFL Playoffs ★

Will third meeting with Pittsburgh be a 'charm' for Cleveland Browns?

Sentinei-Voice wire reports

Fro the second time in less than a month, and for the third time this season, the Cleveland Browns will battle the Pittsburgh Steelers with each team fighting for a berth in the AFC Championship game.

The Browns, who have already lost to the Steelers twice this season, will try to break Pittsburgh and gain a date with the winner of Sunday's Miami-San Diego game in the conference title game next week.

The Steelers (12-4) have had a week off to rest after clinching the Central Division with a 17-7 win over the Browns on December 18th at home.

Neil O'Donnell passed for 175 yards and a touchdown and Barry Foster ran for 107 yards and a score as the Steelers won their seventh in a row at Three Rivers Stadium.

Foster had 32 carries en route to his first 100-vard effort since October 3rd against Houston. He had 31 carries for 84 yards

and a touchdown in a 17-10 triumph at Cleveland on September 11th.

The Browns got to Saturday's game with a 20-13 win over the New England Patriots last Sunday as quarterback Vinny Testaverde threw for 268 yards and the Browns' swarming defense intercepted three Drew Bledsoe

Cleveland snapped a 10-10 halftime tie by driving 79 yards to Leroy Hoard's 10-yard touchdown run with 2:21 left in the third quarter.

Safety Eric Turner intercepted a pass from Bledsoe and returned it 28 yards, setting up Matt Stover's 21-yard field goal

NFL PLAYOFFS (Totals in parenthesis) Line courtesy (at press time) of The Stardust Race and Sports Book

Saturday January 7, 1995 Cleveland (+160) SF 49ERS (No Money Line) -17 (46) Chicago

Sunday January 8, 1995 SAN DIEGO (-160) SAN DIEGO (-160) -2' (46) DALLAS (No Money Line) -10 (43') Green Bay

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with 3:36 left to make it 20-10.

The Patriots got a field goal and recovered an onsides kick,

but could not pierce the Cleveland's stingy defense for the tying score.

Sentinel-Voice wire reports

The Dallas Cowboys face off with the Green Bay Packers Sunday as the two-time defending champions begin the postseason in search of an unprecedented third straight title.

No team has ever won the Super Bowl three years in a row, but the Cowboys, who won the NFC East, can move within one win of returning to the league's championship game with a triumph over the Packers Sun-

The Cowboys finished with a 12-4 record this season, including a 42-31 defeat of the Packers on Thanksgiving.

Third-string quarterback Jason Garrett directed the offense to 36 second-half points in the win, subbing for injured starter Troy Aikman and regular backup Rodney Peete.

Emmitt Smith rushed for 133 yards and two touchdowns for Dallas, which overcame a 24-13 third-quarter deficit.

Brett Favre was 27-for-40 for 257 yards and four touchdowns for the Packers. All four touchdowns went to Sterling Sharpe, the Packers' all-pro receiver

they'll miss for the remainder of the season due to nerve damage in his neck and shoulder. His condition requires surgery and Sharpe needs at least eight months to recover.

The absence of Green Bay's superstar, who caught nine passes for 122 yards on Thanksgiving, didn't seem to effect the outcome of last Saturday's meeting with Detroit.

Behind placekicker Chris Jacke's three field goals, the Packers overcame a late scare when the Lions' Herman Moore was ruled out of the end zone on a catch that would have put Detroit ahead with less than a minute to play.

Green Bay's defense was stellar, holding the league's top running back, Barry Sanders, to minus-one yard for the game. It was a team-record breaking day as Green Bay held Detroit's rushing game to minus-four

The Packers and Cowboys met in the 1994 NFL Playoffs, a 27-17 ousting for Green Bay. Aikman was good for 302 yards and three touchdowns, as the Cowboys scored 24 unanswered points en route to an NFC Championship berth.

Sunday's winner meets the winner of Saturday's Chicago-San Francisco game for a berth into the Super Bowl.

Takes Place Sunday In San Diego

Sentinel-Voice wire reports

The Miami Dolphins take to the road on Sunday as they face San Diego in an AFC Divisional playoff game, reuniting a classic matchup for the AFC Playoffs.

Miami (10-6) won last Saturday's wild card matchup, 27-17, over the Kansas City Chiefs. San Diego (11-5) has had a week off, earning the second-best record in the AFC and the Western Division.

The Dolphins' Dan Marino passed for 257 yards and two touchdowns, outdueling Joe Montana to lead Miami to victory. The Dolphins got two key tumovers in the fourth quarter to preserve the win.

Marino completed 22-of-30 passes, including touchdown strikes of one yard to Ronnie Williams late in the second quarter and seven yards to Irving Fryar to put Miami ahead to stay early

(See AFC, Page 20)

Renewal Of Classic AFC Playoff Rivalry



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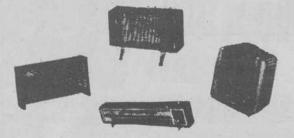
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OVER THE CANDLESTICK

BEARS TRY TO GET

Sentinel-Voice wire reports

The San Francisco 49ers try to make their third straight NFC Championship game appearance and their fourth in five years on Saturday, with the Chicago Bears standing in their way.

The 49ers, who have lost to Dallas in the last two conference championship games, posted the best record in the league this season and want to dispatch the Bears en route to a chance of gaining their record fifth Super Bowl victory.

The Niners have had a week off and will welcome the Bears to Candlestick Park, where they have won their last five games.

San Francisco lost to the Minnesota Vikings in its last game on December 26th, but many starters were pulled early in the contest to prevent injury. Prior to that game, the Niners had won 10 straight.

San Francisco's high-powered offense, led by quarterback Steve Young, figures to give Chicago all it can handle, as the all-pro put up the best rating in football while throwing 35 touchdowns to only 10 interceptions.

Future Hall of Famer Jerry Rice and Jerry Taylor provide the deep threats, while tight end Brent Jones and running back Ricky Watters each are formidable weapons in San Francisco's multi-faceted attack.

The Bears are coming off an upset of the Vikings in Minnesota on Sunday. Chicago pinned a 35-18 loss on their arch-rivals avoiding being beaten by them for the third time this season.

Steve Walsh threw two touchdown passes to lift the Bears, who won a postseason game for the first time since 1990.

> Walsh completed 15-of-23 (See NFC, Page 20)