

# Sports Books Will Need Month To Recover

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Just when the sports books thought they were having their way with bettors, teams like USC, Nebraska, Florida State, Penn State, Wisconsin and Colorado decided they should play to their potential.

"It's been an overwhelming as far as the success of the books this football season," says D. Wayne Mauldin, Stardust Race and Sports Book Supervisor.

Unfortunately for sports books though, it was a day for the bettors on January 2, as the favorites dominated and according to Mauldin, "surpassed

a few years back when the favorites did the same thing."

Apparently, many of the large betting groups in town had tapered their bets quite a bit toward the end of the season, yet came on strong when the bowls commenced.

"Whenever you put up lines one month in advance, it becomes a volatile number," explains Mauldin. "If you have a month, you'll find an angle."

And how do the books counter all the action? "You don't," says Mauldin. "Those days, you just let 'em all play."

Mauldin concedes that when something like last Monday's loss occurs, it could take the whole month - the NFL Playoffs - just to get even.

And then comes the Super Bowl.

• **TEAM TO BEAT** - Mauldin says, without a doubt, the 49ers are the team to beat in the NFL Playoffs. "Anything short of San Francisco being in the Super Bowl, representing the NFC, would be shocking," says Mauldin.

• **AND A LEGITIMATE LONGSHOT** - Mauldin leans toward the Cleveland Browns. He says with one playoff win under their belt, the Browns haven't missed a beat. Pittsburgh, on the other hand,

ended the season with a loss, has had a week off and finally, will have a tough time beating a team for third time in one year.

After all, the Vikings couldn't topple the Bears a third time last week.

• **ODDS TO WIN IT ALL** - The consensus odds, around Las Vegas, find the 49ers as an 8-5 favorite; Dallas is 2-1; Pittsburgh is at 6-1; Green Bay is a 10-1 longshot; Cleveland and San Diego are both 12-1; Miami is 15-1; and the Chicago Bears are anywhere from 30 or 50-1.

• **PROPS** - Mauldin says the Stardust will put up proposition bets late in the week.

## Clinic

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"Many coaches, from this area, will have to pay out of their own pockets if they want to attend. In the past, many of the schools subsidized for the coaches. We are expecting about a 10-15% decline from Orange County alone."

Along with both Coury brothers, Dick Gorrie and Bob Gaughran, Rancho Santiago Junior College's athletic director and swimming coach respectively, are the four directors that put the clinic on.

At the 1994 clinic, former Runnin' Rebel Head Coach Jerry Tarkanian was honored for his

many accomplishments as a college basketball coach, according to Coury. Tarkanian has appeared at several of the Stovall events, and says he has a great respect for the clinic.

"It is well organized and covers all aspects," says Tarkanian. "They were one of the first to get into the sports clinic business. They're good honest people and I have a lot of respect for them."

Tarkanian says that when he first started coaching, he went to as many clinics as possible and encourages all young coaches to do the same.

Several local high school

coaches have attended Stovall's clinic, and agree it is one of the best in the country.

"They always had great speakers, I remember that," says Cimarron-Memorial boys basketball coach Hank Girardi, whose Spartans won the state title last season. Girardi attended while he was an assistant coach at Bishop Gorman in the early 80's.

"It's a pretty unique place," says Rancho teacher Clemente Vargas, who used to coach soccer for the Rams. "There are a lot more ways of learning and a lot of small unit training sessions."

Western High School football coach Joe Blockovich, who has been a coach in the community for 28 years, says that when he first began his career, Stovall's Clinic was a yearly stop for him.

"I've been there many times and I've heard 'em all," says Blockovich. "When I first started coaching, I went all the time."

Blockovich remembers prior to Stovall's clinic, he attended the Coach of the Year Clinic, in Santa Monica, Calif., which was put on by Duffy Doherty and Bud Wilkinson.

"The first coach I ever heard was the greatest of all time - Eddie Robinson," concedes

Blockovich. "I still have certificates for attending, and even have one for being there 10 years in a row. That is where high school coaches can learn to become great coaches."

Blockovich also says that in this day and age, there is more to coaching than X's and O's.

"It's a completely different ball game," explains the hard-nosed gridiron coach. "In the 90's, you must be aware of the problems with kids off the field as well as on it. You have to understand what they go through day-to-day off the field."

You must know how to handle a kid with a father in jail; or a kid with a mother with three kids

from three different fathers; or simply a kid that knows nothing but the criminal element. You have to know how to motivate the kids on the field and also how to succeed in the classroom."

Other areas, besides football, that will be covered include: baseball, tennis, volleyball, weight training, basketball, soccer, golf, softball, sports medicine and equipment care.

Runnin' Rebels assistant coach Howie Landa is scheduled to appear on Saturday morning, before he flies to Las Cruces for a UNLV's meeting with New Mexico State on Monday night.

## Rancho

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dorado, it may be time to recognize the newest battle between a pair of Sunrise Division teams.

"Ever since we beat them at Rancho by one point, its blown up," says Perkins, who was a sophomore when the thriller took place. "All the meetings since then have been real tight and competitive."

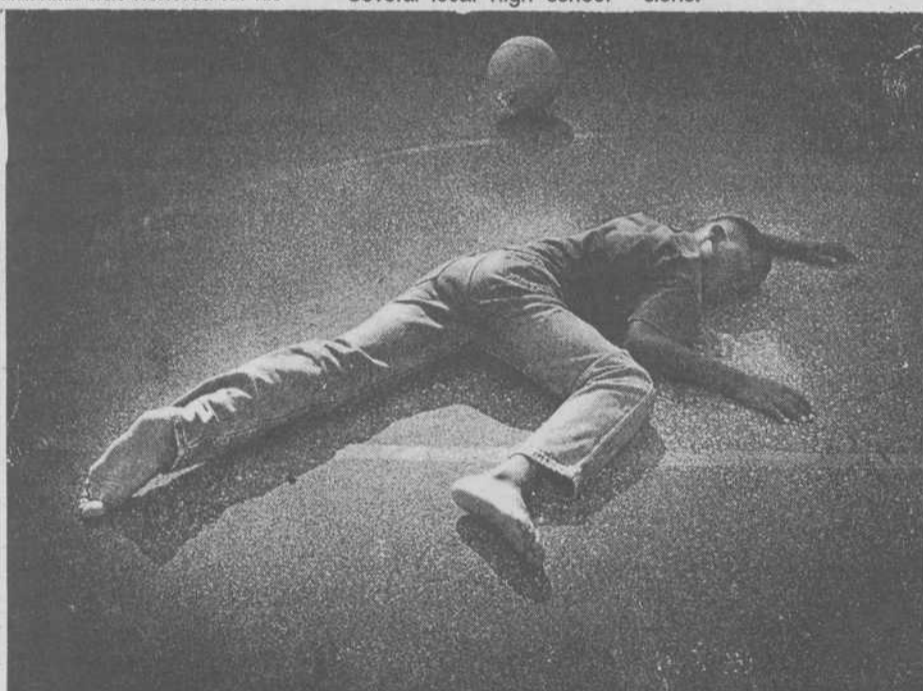
This past Wednesday, prior to an intense Rancho practice, both Hopkins and Johnson reit-

erated that there was a fresh rivalry brewing between the North Las Vegas school and Henderson-based Green Valley. Hopkins mentioned that he is continually telling his players to also realize that the Gators aren't the only team gunning for them.

"The majority of the ball games that we go into, we know that nine times out of ten we're gonna be the favorite anyway," said Hopkins. "What we have to do is stay focused. ... Up to this

point we've done a fairly good job of going out and playing the opponent we have in front of us, whether its the Green Valley's or the Vo-Tech's. We have to look at each and every game as the biggest game we've played all season because up to that point it is.

"There is a whole lot of room for growth on this basketball team and we just have to continue to work hard to achieve what we want to achieve."



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## NFC

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passes for 221 yards and threw touchdown passes of nine yards to Keith Jennings and 21 yards to Jeff Graham. The Bears also scored on a one-yard run by Lewis Tillman and a 29-yard run by Raymont Harris, and safety Kevin Miniefield's 59-yard fumble return with 3:05 left. The Bears and Niners haven't met since

December 22nd, 1991, when San Francisco slammed Chicago 52-14.

They last met in the postseason in the NFC Championship game in 1989, when the 49ers went into Chicago's Soldier Field to claim a 28-3 victory.

San Francisco moved on for a 20-16 win over the Cincinnati Bengals in Super Bowl XXIII.

## AFC

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in third period.

San Diego won its final two regular season games, including a 37-34 triumph over the Pittsburgh Steelers, when John Carney kicked a 29-yard field goal with three seconds left.

Chargers quarterback Stan Humphries left the game in the fourth quarter with a sprained right thumb after banging it on the helmet of one of his linemen,

but said he expects to play.

The Dolphins and Chargers met in the playoffs two seasons ago, with Miami routing San Diego, 31-0 in an AFC Divisional playoff game.

Marino tossed three touchdown passes, two to Keith Jackson, while Troy Vincent picked off Humphries twice.

Miami beat San Diego in the second round of the 1983 playoffs, 34-13, intercepting Hall of

Famer Dan Fouts five times.

The Chargers won one of the most memorable playoff games in NFL history in 1982, taking a 41-38 overtime victory at Miami.

The Dolphins rallied from a 24-0 and 31-24 deficits to take a 38-31 lead, but the Chargers scored to tie the game with 58 seconds left and won it on a 29-yard field goal from Rolf Benirschke with over 13 minutes expired in the overtime period.