

PROFOOTBALL '87

Just a few things you can count on—absolutely

By Mike Conklin

You read it here first. The Cleveland Browns will win Super Bowl XXII this season by beating the Bears 27-24, thereby qualifying for the annual classic in England's Wembley Stadium.

This historic Super Bowl matchup of the Browns and Bears will be the first between Great Lakes' cities, and in a switch from past hype, NBC's

preview will consist of a two-hour environmental special. It will also be revealed that, in a secret side bet between the cities' mayors, the loser has to host the next America's Cup.

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Mr. T, U2, Mary Lou Retton, Jim and Tammy Bakker, Tina Turner, the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, Madonna, the Gatlin Brothers and Lt. Col. Oliver North will sing the National Anthem.

In the hectic Browns' locker

room, where boxing promoter Don King can be spotted standing behind Commissioner Pete Rozelle during the trophy presentation, six Browns will announce they already have written books about their Super Bowl experience, and three others will say they're coming out with videos in 10 minutes.

Frantic reporters will search in vain for winning quarterback Bernie Kosar. Later, it will be learned he was still on

the sidelines doing extra takes for cameramen filming the "I'm going to Disney World" commercial.

Kosar also will announce a new line of sporting goods called Strictly Kosar, but Bears QB Jim McMahon will upstage him. In the losers' locker room, McMahon will announce he is becoming part of a new hamburger campaign. The slogan, "It Takes One Big Mac to Tell Another," will be on his headband.

Meanwhile, all the sports experts who picked the Cleveland Indians to win the World Series will say they were confused by overlapping seasons.

Nationally, here are some other developments for the 1987 season:

- No National Football League general manager will appear on ABC-TV's Nightline with Ted Koppel;

- A player will sue his club because it did not make performance-enhancing drugs available, thereby denying him the right to test positive and sue the league for violation of his civil rights;

- The Los Angeles Raiders will be midseason leaders in new titles in book stores, but the Bears will be season-ending leaders in total book sales on the strength of sequels by Mike Ditka and McMahon;

- Tampa Bay quarterback Vinny Testaverde will be elected governor of Florida;

- Green Bay will have the worst NFL record, but coach Forrest Gregg will get a 10-year extension because no Packers were arrested;

- A team of barnstorming All-Stars will be formed from players who received money in college from agent **Norby Walters**;

- At season's end, the Indianapolis Colts will be the only team that hasn't been asked to do a video.

Locally, look for these developments:

- A group of angry Winnetka



Kosar: Big things ahead?

residents will picket Mayor Washington's home after he suggests a new stadium be built at the Plaza del Lago shopping center;

- Oprah Winfrey will buy the Bears merely to have access to their facilities for a new sitcom she's developing. Then, in a complicated stock deal, she will sell the club at a small profit to Walter Payton. Mike McCaskey will leave the organization to become co-producer of a new prime-time drama, "The Halases."

- WBBM-TV's Johnny Morris will reveal exclusively that Doug Flutie will be cut, then will find out the next day that the station has hired Flutie to replace him;

- Willie Gault will run in the Chicago marathon, qualify for the Olympics in kayaking, play the tuba during a Chicago Symphony Orchestra concert and catch two TD passes—all in the same day;

- William Perry will trim his weight to 300 pounds by the end of the season, when he will begin appearing with Cher in Chicago Health Club ads.

As the season unfolds, here is more to look for:

Week 1—The Bears will beat the defending champion Giants 35-28, and Otis Wilson will dump a barrel of Gatorade on New York linebacker Harry Carson. Ditka, whose \$30 tie is

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Pete Rozelle: A meeting with Don King?