

Official word from the crazy man: Parity

This isn't exactly by public demand nobody in his/her right mind would demand more of this — but we're back with the crazy man. Every year about this time, we check in with him to see what's what in college basketball. He pretends to know. So what's up, crazy man?

My blood pressure. This season has made me crazier still. Nothing makes sense. That's my opening statement. I'll entertain questions.

Start with an easy one. Who's No. 1? Easy? I vote in the AP poll. In 10 weeks, I've voted seven different teams No. 1 - Syracuse, Florida (I'm real proud of

that one), Kentucky, Arizona, Oklahoma, Temple and now Purdue. But that's not the worst part. The worst is that I don't think any one of the seven are much good. So who is? Nobody. Nobody's good. Around the end of January, I customarily pick one team that I think should win the NCAA championship. I'm wrong a lot — two years

ago I tabbed Georgia Tech, last year North Carolina — but at least this gives me a yardstick. All through February, I measure everybody else by asking, "Can these guys beat my January guys?" Inevitably, I answer yes. Come March, I pick somebody else — Louisville two years back (right), Vegas last year (wrong, just).

And your belabored point is . . . what? That I can't find anybody to deem worthy of even a preliminary finding. Arizona's too soft. North Carolina's too slow. Kentucky's feuding with itself. Oklahoma gets mad when somebody tries to guard it. Dick Vitale will grow hair before Pitt and Michigan win a big tournament game. Syracuse and Indiana have great talent and have lost 11 games between them. Wyoming's a fraud. BYU? Get real. I sorta like the way Purdue, Duke and maybe Vegas are playing, but I don't see any of them as national champs. Purdue will have a poor shooting game and lose. Duke will run across a more athletic team and lose. Vegas will lose because it's playing too many freshmen.

Back up a bit. Everybody else seems to have settled on Arizona as top gun. What's your problem?

So Arizona was great in December. Big deal. Kentucky's always great in December, and how many NCAAs has it won lately? Arizona hasn't the heft to win six straight tournament games; Syracuse would pummel these Cats into so many balls of fur. Besides, the Pac-10 is so wretched that, once past tepid Illinois this weekend, Arizona won't get anything resembling a test until the NCAA. Champions come from stout leagues.

Speaking of which . . . who wins the glamour conferences?

I like Duke's defense in the ACC. Operating on the theory that Florida will foul up somewhere, Kentucky should win the SEC. Purdue is too sound to lose the Big Ten. The Big East will end in a tie, Pitt and somebody. Southern Miss, a pretty good little team that should be near the Top 10 but just made the Top 20 for the first time, will win the Metro. But you doubtless know that none of the above is the nation's most competitive league.

We'll bite. Which is?

Which are. The WAC and the Big Eight stand together. New Mexico whipped Arizona and Wyoming, then lost three of its next four WAC games. Wyoming was a top five team before it started playing in the conference; the Cowboys are 2-4 in the league. The WAC could send five teams — BYU, UTEP, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming — to the NCAA. The Big Eight definitely will. To gauge that conference's balance, you need only note that the famous Danny Manning and Derrick Chievous are having only the fourth- and fifth-best seasons in their league. Iowa State's Jeff Grayer, Oklahoma's Harvey Grant and Mitch Richmond of Kansas State have all been better.

Before we go, tell us about the locals.

Are Georgia Tech and Georgia any good? Tech's decent. Its wins over Auburn, LSU and Louisville were big-time. Since then, though, Tech has lost two games it needed: To N.C. State because it couldn't rebound, to Virginia for no other reason than that Tech always loses to Virginia. Georgia is a puzzlement. It has twice as much talent as last year yet is half the team. With eight losses already, the Dawgs look NIT-bound.

Walt a second. Didn't you coach Georgia in a preseason scrimmage? Isn't it possible you fouled up the team beyond redemption?

To the contrary. It's like I told the players that night: Without me, you're nothing. Just kidding, of course.

Hawks' Willis likely to start against Celtics

Fratello: Rivers should be a star, Page 2-D Celtics' scouting report, Page 8-D

> By Jeff Denberg Staff Writer

Kevin Willis says he knows there has been confusion surrounding his identity recently. For a month, people have watched this tall, angular fellow in a Hawks' No. 42 skivvy shirt and asked, "Who is he?"

"They weren't seeing Kevin Willis," Willis said Monday.

He looked, talked and walked like the player who once inspired comparisons to Kevin McHale. Trouble is, No. 42 did not play like McHale or Willis, but more like such forgettable Hawks as Eddie Mast and John Pinone.

The No. 42 who scored 17 points and took 10 rebounds Sunday against New Jer-

sey ... "that was Kevin Willis," Willis said.

Coach Mike Fratello noticed. He said Monday that Willis, who has been bothered by a left knee sprain since Dec. 18, will return to the starting lineup "if he feels up to it" tonight at 7:30 when the Boston Celtics come to The Omni. Willis says he feels up to it; he'll thank Cliff Levingston for taking good care of his old slot in the lineup and resume his career as a starting power forward. He hasn't started since the Dec. 18 game in Milwaukee.

He is back just in time. Levingston scored in double figures in nine of 13 starts and had six double-figure rebound games. But the Hawks need Willis on their front line.

The untenable matchup was glaringly clear Friday at Boston Garden with Levingston and Dominique Wilkins, both 6 feet , starting alongside 7-foot Jon Koncak

against McHale, Larry Bird and Robert Parish. Levingston had only one rebound against the 6-10 McHale, which was part and parcel to a 124-106 Hawks defeat.

The results may be entirely different tonight at The Omni, where the Hawks have won four straight over Boston. Certainly having Willis in the lineup is a start. He averaged 14.8 points and 10.1 rebounds against the Celtics last season.

Willis hinted Friday with 10 points, five rebounds in Boston Garden that he was on the threshold of a comeback. He said Sunday's game confirmed it.

"I got it all going again," he said. "I feel good. The knee's not 100 percent yet,

but it feels good." Willis missed seven games and since has appeared in 12.

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Hawks vs. Celtics

■ When: Tonight, 7:30 p.m.

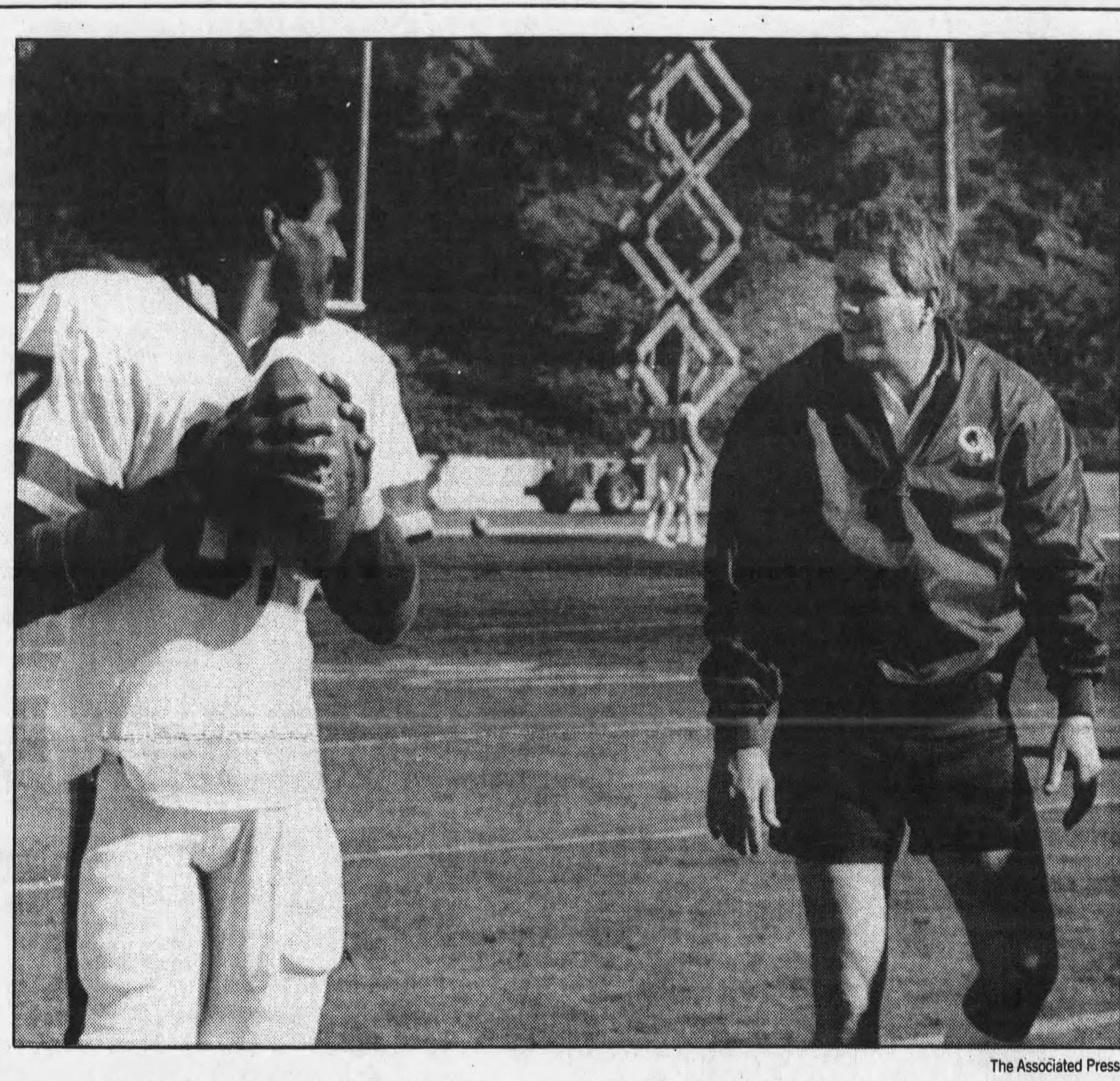
■ Where: The Omni

■ Tickets: Sold out.

TV/Radio: Pay-per-view TV. Call Prime Cable for cost and hookup information; WGST 920 AM

Records: The Hawks (29-11) and the Celtics (28-11) have the top two records in the Eastern Conference.

■ This season: In Boston — Celtics, 117-102 and 124-106; In Atlanta — Hawks, 120-106. Hawks have won 16 straight games at home longest streak in the league.



The Associated Press

Former Atlanta Falcons head coach Dan Henning, now an offensive assistant for the Washington Redskins, con-

fers with Redskins receiver Art Monk during practice in San Diego for Sunday's Super Bowl against Denver.

Henning quickly returns to top

As a respected assistant with the Redskins, the fired Falcons coach looks back from a Super summit

Super Bowl Notebook, Page 6-D

By Chris Mortensen

SAN DIEGO — He still has his Paul Newman good looks, even if his image is a little tarnished. Dan Henning, a survivor, is back in a Super Bowl, again as an assistant coach with the Washington

Some would call him lucky. Others call him a vital member of what is widely considered the NFL's finest coaching staff. Washington Redskins owner Jack Kent Cooke, who sees himself as patriarch of a perfect family, regards Henning as a favorite son.

"There are lot of reasons a team gets to the Super Bowl," said Cooke. "We missed Dan Henning. He's a part of the Super Bowl XXII

■ Who: Washington vs. Denver.

■ What: NFC champion vs. AFC champion.

■ Where: Jack Murphy Stadium, San Diego.

■ When: Sunday, 6 p.m.

TV/Radio: Channel 2 (ABC-TV); 920 AM.

chemistry that has made our coaching staff the best in the league. I was one of the happiest men in the world when he returned. I didn't wish it on him, but

was happy." Henning, the Redskins' assistant head coach on offense in 1981-82, rejoined the Redskins after a four-year stint as head coach of the Atlanta Falcons. The Falcons fired Henning at the end of the 1986 season when they went 7-8-1, his fourth losing season, and Cooke created a position especially for

If this season has done anything for Henning, it has helped diminish some of the losing stigma he picked up in Atlanta, where his record was 22-41-1. Only Henning never perceived himself as a loser, and still does not lack in selfesteem.

"I never felt like there was a socalled losing stigma," said Henning. "I have a different perspective of that experience. I felt like we did a good job, and we were getting better at it.

"The (record) maybe didn't reflect it, but it did not diminish what we tried to do down there. We were making progress, and nobody could question our character, our motivational ability or how hard we played people. The fact we lost more games than we won was the negative we were hoping to overcome."

As the NFL world turns, Henning could land on his feet again as a head coach, though his record could always haunt him. Henning is on a list of owner Al Davis's candidates to replace Tom Flores with the Los Angeles Raiders.

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Heyward will try to join NFL

Case could set a precedent for college underclassmen

By Chris Mortensen

SAN DIEGO — The days of the National Football League keeping its hands off the nation's college underclassmen may be numbered if All-America running back Craig Heyward of Pittsburgh forces his way into the pros

this year. Heyward, frontrunner for the 1988 Heisman Troannounced Monday that he intends to bypass his senior season and will petition the NFL for the draft.

Heyward cited himself as a hardnancial commit-

ship case who has fi- Craig Heyward ments to a child, as well as to a family of

eight with a mother who is on welfare. The 6-foot, 280-pounder, a redshirt junior, is not eligible for the regular NFL draft in April because he has eligibility re-

maining. His only route is by petition. Heyward's announcement came shortly after Pitt suspended the running back for failing to attend classes, which began Jan. 6 for the winter semester. However, Pitt said Heyward had not yet jeopardized his

eligibility and encouraged him to return to class and obtain a degree. Heyward, who rushed for 1,655 yards last fall, told Pitt coach Mike Gottfried on Sunday that he wanted to play in the NFL

next season, one year before his class graduates. Heyward also asked Gottfried for his help in entering the pros, but the coach declined. "I couldn't do that," said Gottfried. "As much as I have enjoyed my relationship

with Craig, I believe that allowing him to go out early just becomes a monumental situation. It would open up a can of worms that would be detrimental first to the student-athlete, and also to the college football programs." Gottfried said he believes Arizona

agent Bruce Allen is responsible for Heyward's decision and has notified the NCAA and the FBI of his suspicions.

"If we find that Allen interfered, we'll go after him with everything we've got," said Gottfried. "This is another example of why the agent problem is the biggest problem facing college athletics today. What's happening with Craig is everything you fear in an agent/player relationship."

Agent Ralph Cindrich of Pittsburgh supported Gottfried's contention that Hey-

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NASCAR to drug-test drivers 'anywhere, anytime'

By Bill Robinson

Staff Writer

NASCAR on Monday unveiled a program that permits officials to test a driver for drugs "anywhere and at anytime."

"The key to our program is 'reasonable suspicion," said NASCAR vice president Jim Hunter, who touted the program as the toughest in professional sports. "They (the other major sports) don't have it. The policy of 'reasonable suspicion' gives us the authority to test a driver, crew member, mechanic or official of NASCAR anywhere

and at any time."

Hunter added that action against someone who tests positive can be swift. "Within 24 hours, a driver, say, can be

tested and suspended," he said. In addition, said Hunter, drivers, crewmen, mechanics and officials will be tested once a year when they apply for their an-

nual racing license. The first NASCAR race of the season is the Busch Clash Feb. 7 at Daytona

Speedway. NASCAR president Bill France Jr.,

who revealed the plan, said it has the blessings of drivers. Winston Cup champion Dale Earnhardt has already signed the consent form.

"I was the first one to sign because had asked Bill to let me be the first to sign up for it," said Earnhardt. "That's how important I think the (drug-testing) program is. I think NASCAR can now be a model in professional sports.'

As part of their routine, NASCAR officials will monitor individuals at the racetracks to determine whether a "reasonable

suspicion" exists to believe someone is using illegal drugs, France said. Anyone suspected of illegal drug use will be required to undergo an eye examination by a trained NASCAR official.

The eye exam was developed by Dr. Forest S. Tennant, an expert in the field of drug treatment and research who currently serves as an adviser to the National Football League, the Los Angeles Dodgers and the California Highway Patrol. Tennant,

See NASCAR, Back Page



SUPER BOWL REPORT

Monk returns

Washington Redskins wide receiver Art Monk, who has missed the last five games with a knee injury, will be able to play in the Super Bowl, Redskins coaches said Monday afternoon. "I don't have any question about Art," head coach Joe Gibbs said. "I think he's back 100 percent." Monk, who suffered a partially torn medial collateral ligament in his right knee Dec. 6 at St. Louis, is expected to wear a brace on his knee. Gibbs also said he has made up his mind and will stick with kicker Ali Haji-Sheikh, who has been inconsistent at times, in Sunday's game. The Redskins practiced for an hour and 45 minutes Monday afternoon. Gibbs said every player participated in the workout, including cornerback Darrell Green (rib cartilage) and defensive tackle Darryl Grant (sprained ankle). Gibbs said he anticipates both will play.

Security by the numbers

Gibbs ordered a change in jersey numbers for the Redskins' first onsite Super Bowl workout Monday and used extra men in offensive formations as a precaution against the possibility spies were watching practice. Gibbs did not mention his concern about spies during an evening press conference, but he told an NFL pool reporter after the short workout Monday that he had taken some precautionary measures during the session. "It was my idea to change the jersey numbers," Gibbs said. "We do that every now and then when we are practicing some place other than home. We do that just from a security standpoint."

An earthshaking event

The Denver Broncos missed out on one of California's phenomena early Monday morning. An earthquake, centered south of San Diego in Baja California (Mexico), registered 5.0 on the Richter Scale at approximately 5:30 a.m. Hall of Fame quarterback Sonny Jurgensen, now a Redskins broadcaster, was awakened with not-so-fond memories. "It shook my bed real good," said Jurgensen. "That's the first time I've experienced one of those. I've felt the shakes before, when I used to drink, but I haven't had a drink since last April."

Not a familiar 'ring'

Former Redskins quarterback Joe Theismann set out recently to discover the differences between the Super Bowl teams he quarterbacked in '82 and '83 and the one in San Diego for Super Bowl XXII. "I was standing at practice next to (assistant coach) Dan Henning, and three players walked up to him and asked him to hold their earrings," said Theismann. "That's when it hit me." It is a different team in numbers, as well. The Redskins have just 16 veterans left from the '83 Super Bowl team. Because so few players remain, Gibbs discounts any factor that the team wants to make up for its humiliating 38-9 loss to the Los Angeles Raiders in Super Bowl XVIII at Tampa, Fla. "Only 16 of our players here now experienced that flight back," said Gibbs. "That was the toughest flight I've ever been on. I think Denver has a slight edge here. They've got 40 players who remember flying home after losing to the Giants (39-20) last year."

Joining a common cause

In an unprecedented move, opposing Super Bowl XXII coaches Gibbs and Reeves are expected to host a Mass on Saturday night that could include an estimated 2,000 people. Reeves and Gibbs, both born-again Christians, have not disclosed details on the Mass.

The job of catching Elway

Gibbs, who likens Denver quarterback John Elway's escape and throwing talents to Randall Cunningham of Philadelphia, might put a "spy" player on Elway with the assignment of staying on the quarterback if he leaves the pocket. "But I don't think you're going to shut this guy down," said Gibbs. "I've seen some of the best chasing him. You watch (Giants linebacker) Lawrence Taylor try and 'spy' him and catch him and he still doesn't catch him."

Midnight curfew suits Butz

The Redskins have a midnight curfew, which began Monday night, Gibbs said. The players don't mind — and some actually like the idea. "I would curfew their butts from Sunday night on," said veteran defensive tackle Dave Butz, the oldest player in the NFL. "And I would double-check it. They're here for one reason, to play a game."

A scalpers' paradise

The buying and selling of tickets was continuing at a brisk pace as it usually does at Super Bowls. Because of the size of Jack Murphy Stadium — the listed capacity is 73,500 — tickets are at a premium. Sunday's attendance could be the fourth-smallest in Super Bowl history, topping only Super Bowls I (a less-than-sellout crowd of 61,946 in Los Angeles), VIII (71,882 in Houston) and XVIII (72,920 in Tampa). Scandalous scalped ticket prices are always rumored at Super Bowls, and this week's biggest rumor has been \$3,000 for a 50-yardline seat. The largest advertised asking price is \$1,500. More than 170 classified ads were placed in Monday's papers dealing with Super Bowl tickets. One of the ads said the would-be buyer would pay \$500 for an end-zone ticket but others left their purchase price open.

-From Staff and Wire Reports

Broncos leave naivete behind this time

By Glenn Sheeley Staff Writer

SAN DIEGO — Last year they gawked and stood saucer-eyed at it

Before the Denver Broncos knew it, they were remembered as Super Bowl XXI losers — 39-20 to the New York Giants — not as AFC champions.

"It's the ultimate game, but it's also the ultimate loss," Denver quarterback John Elway said Monday night as the Broncos hit town to begin preparations for Super Bowl XXII Sunday against the Washington Redskins. "It's something that stuck in our craws and the last thing we want to do is feel that again."

In other words, no more Mr. Naive Guys. The Broncos, who have twice been Super Bowl losers (the first time in 1977), want it all. Although now their muscle is measured more by Elway's arm, their reputation in the past has been Orange Crush. They vow this time their minds won't turn to Orange

"Dan (coach Dan Reeves) has mentioned (the Giants game) to us a couple of times, just to remind us what it was like to lose that game," Elway said. "Not that our memories need refreshing. I think we knew all year that our job wasn't done. As a game (loss), that was probably as traumatic as they come."

Denver wide receiver Vance Johnson, who missed the AFC title game with a groin injury and internal bleeding but vows he will play against the Redskins, could not agree more.

"I think last year we were just excited about being in the Super Bowl," said Johnson. "This year we didn't celebrate as much about getting here. I think it will go out on the field with us Sunday because we weren't satisfied with having lost last year.

"We realize now," said Elway, "that underneath all the hoopla and the hype, there's still a football



The Associated Press

Denver Broncos quarterback John Elway arrives in San Diego on Monday to prepare for Super Bowl.

"We know what we have in mind," said Johnson, the Broncos' leading receiver, who was replaced by rookie Ricky Nattiel against Cleveland. "This time we want to

Is there a danger then to being too businesslike with their approach? Can there be a concern about switching the button from blase on game day?

"I don't think you can be flat going into a Super Bowl," said defensive end Rulon Jones. "I think we've learned now what it's like going into this game. You want to be ready on Sunday, but you don't

want to be ready on Friday." Jones theorized that the Bron-

10-9 at halftime.

"We came out in that first half flying around," he said. "It looked like we had a good chance to be world champions. Maybe we upset ourselves. Now it's not all new to us. That's a plus for us. We know when to peak."

Reeves will not burden his players with a stringent curfew program, presuming them mature enough to handle their own business. The Broncos had no curfew Monday night, are able to stay out until 2 a.m. tonight and until midnight the remainder of the week.

Poking fun at the Broncos' image of being Elway and little more, cos failed to pace themselves last Reeves said, "Our curfew is very year, even when leading the Giants simple. We only have a one-man

team, so we just have to make sure Elway makes his curfew and everyone else can do what they want to

Elway, who is obviously the Broncos' most important man, spoke as though he will need no scrutiny in that department.

"Losing a game is like you've

never been there," he said. "You lose a football game like this, and you've got that bad taste the rest of the year."

The Broncos, unlike last year, come in as favorites by about four

"I don't think we look at a game as who's favored and who isn't favored," Elway said. "I don't care if it's 1-0, as long as we win."

Players on winning team will receive \$36,000

Q. How much does each player receive for being in the Super Bowl?

Marilyn Suchanek, Atlanta

A. Each player on the winning team will receive \$36,000, with \$18,000 going to the losing players. This is in addition to playoff money already earned. Super Bowl I paid \$15,000 to the winners and \$7,500 to the losers.

Q. Why do the players seem to tense up for a big game like this? It affects their performance and makes the game less exciting. Anthony Beardsworth, Atlanta

A. In the words of former Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Ron Jaworski, who played in Super Bowl XV, "No matter how you try to relax, you go to bed know

SUPER BOWL HOTLINE

Do you have a question about Super Bowl XXII that you'd like to ask of a player, coach or anyone els'e on the scene in San Diego? Call the Journal-Constitution's Super Bowl Hotline (526-5050) with X your questions, and our reporters in San Diego will attempt to get the answer for you. The best questions and answers will be published daily.

ing that 100 million people will be watching you. You're like a little kid on Christmas Eve."

Q. How many times has Washington won the Super Bowl? Harry Farley, Atlanta

A. The Redskins have won once in three previous trips, beating Miami 27-17 in Super Bowl XVII. They lost Super Bowl VII 14-7 to Miami and Super Bowl XVIII 38-9 to the Los Angeles Q. What are the team colors? Emile Hart, Atlanta

A. The Redskins' are burgundy red, yellow and white. The Broncos' are orange, blue and

Q. What's the plan for Art Monk and Anthony Allen with the Washington Redskins? Ricky Hargrave, Smyrna

A. Monk's availability could affect Allen. Monk has been out with a knee injury, but Redskins coach Joe Gibbs reported Monday that he will play. That could put Allen, formerly with the Atlanta Falcons, on the inactive list for the game.

— Chris Mortensen

Henning

From Page 1-D

"I am not in a position to talk to anybody about a job until this week is over," said Henning. "But if I am simply being considered, then it is flattering. I have a great deal of respect for the Raiders' organization, and great respect for the organization's will to win."

Henning is listed simply as an "offensive assistant" with the Redskins. He is thoroughly involved with game preparation, a trademark of the Washington regime. Redskins coaches routinely work until 3 a.m. Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, back until midnight Wednesday, then until 9 p.m. Thursday and until midnight Friday. Those are the kind of hours Henning kept in Atlanta.

"Having Dan in the same room just feels right to me," said Washington head coach Joe Gibbs. " trust him. I trust him to tell me what's on his mind, and I trust his judgment. I don't know what happened in Atlanta, but Dan Henning knows what it takes to be successful."

Henning's influence was apparent when the Redskins opened the NFC championship game against the Minnesota Vikings with a 98yard scoring drive. The Redskins muscled their backs off the wall with a three-tight-end offense, humbling a Minnesota defense which had not yielded much rushing yardage in the playoffs.

"We had gotten away from some of our three-tight-end sets, and Dan got us back on track in the right situations," said Gibbs. "It's nice to have a mind like that on your side." Henning has always believed

that an offense must take advantage of its individual matchups, but should not hesitate to attack the defense's strengths.

"You do what's prudent in different situations," said Henning. "If you want to run the football and a defense is playing an eight-man front, you can't let that intimidate your game plan. You can't let them dictate to you, or you're through."

Henning will be at his usual spot in the press box Sunday when the Redskins meet the Denver Broncos Sunday at San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium. He will have a direct line to Gibbs.

"Joe's pretty good at listening to what his coaches have to say," said Henning. "But most of our work is done in preparing for the game. That's what the long hours are all

The Redskins were 3-0 as a replacement team, and four former Falcons recruited by Henning played a prominent role. The four wide receiver Anthony Allen, cornerback Dennis Woodberry, tight end Joe Caravello and defensive tackle Dan Benish — stuck with the team. Allen became something of a replacement sensation, and Woodberry is used in certain pass

coverages. "Regardless of anything, Dan Henning knows talent, and he knows how to find talent," said Redskins general manager Bobby

Only one player cast off by Henning from the Leeman Bennett regime in Atlanta became a starter for another NFL team. That player happens to be offensive guard R.C. Thielemann with the Redskins.

Henning traded Thielemann to Washington just prior to the 1985 season for wide receiver Charlie Brown. That deal has been criticized by several Falcons players, including former center Jeff Van

"The record should be straight on this: I did not want to trade R.C.," said Henning emphatically. "But R.C. was in a contract holdout. He had missed all of training camp. went to management and asked them if they felt their position would change in negotiations. They said they had hit the wall. Only then did I push for the trade, when it became clear that they were unwilling to meet R.C.'s price."

The Redskins' quarterback is Doug Williams, who said earlier this season that Atlanta was high on a list of preferred teams before he returned to the NFL from the USFL. Henning confirmed that he wanted Williams with the Falcons

"His asking price (\$485,000) was a great deal higher than they (the Smiths) were willing to pay," said Henning. "There were some questions about his knees being banged up. But, I felt we could have used

The one-back offense used by Henning with the Falcons was heavily criticized. It is the same offense that has taken the Redskins to the Super Bowl for the third time in six years.

"The mentality some people read into the one-back was disturbing," said Henning. "There are twoback looks, three tight ends, three wide receivers, motion, all kinds of variety in this so-called one-back. You do what you can do around the

"Now take the Redskins and take the Falcons when we were there. If anybody stops and looks at the numbers, they will see that we did some outstanding things on offense in Atlanta. We simply lacked the firepower, the knockout punch. We've got two strong-armed quarterbacks here, more big-play potential than we had in Atlanta. We did things out of necessity in Atlanta."

Henning's critics claim he can only blame himself for lacking the firepower. He ignored quarterbacks in the draft, passing over Dan Marino, Boomer Esiason and Jim Everett. In '86, he said he preferred to take Everett with the No. 2 pick in the first round, and wide receiver Ernest Givins with the No. 17 pick, but defensive coordinator Marion Campbell asked for help.

"Marion was absolutely sold on Tony Casillas and Tim Green," said Henning, referring to the first two players chosen by the Falcons in those spots. "My inclination was toward Everett and Givins. But we were on a one-year deal then, and the defensive players, based on Marion's evaluation, would have a greater impact that first year. It was a difficult position to be in, having to make a choice for that year rather than the longevity of the program, which is the way we had operated."

Henning finds an oddity this week as he looks back to the '83 draft. He encouraged the Falcons to trade for the rights to John Elway, who instead landed in Denver.

"John Elway was one player you could look at and see that he could make a difference, and our management thought we were right there with the deal," said Henning, a former quarterback.

"When I judge a quarterback I ask, 'Can he win the Super Bowl?' Boomer hasn't been in a Super Bowl yet. Marino hasn't been there since his rookie year, and the reason jells with what I have always said: Until you play defense in this league, you can't win. Defense keeps everything in perspective."

Some things never change with Dan Henning.

Heyward

From Page 1-D

ward could become the precedent for a hardship case going early to the NFL.

"It's the first time a guy has stepped forward and publicly stated that he will intentionally flunk out, or deal with an agent to make himself ineligible," said Cindrich. "A lot of people in football have been waiting for something like this to happen. The implications run pretty

Neither NFL officials nor Allen were unavailable for immediate reaction Monday night.

The NFL may have already stated its case when it allowed a supplemental draft in September for Ohio State wide receiver Cris Carter and Pitt running back Charles Gladman. Both players lost their eligibility because they had signed with agents Norby Walters and

However, in the cases of Carter and Gladman, neither player voluntarily made himself ineligible to enter the NFL early.

In allowing the supplemental draft for Carter and Gladman, the NFL cited the 1983 congressional antitrust hearings that focused on Herschel Walker's defection a year early from the University of Georgia to the United States Football League (USFL).

The USFL went out of business after the 1985 season, and the NFL has continued to honor its agreement with the nation's colleges not to draft any player who has yet to complete his eligibility. The NFL will allow a supplemental draft for college-eligible players who have graduated with their class.

'It's the first time a guy has stepped forward and publicly stated that he will intentionally flunk out, or deal with an agent to make himself ineligible. A lot of people in football have been waiting for something like this to

> - Raiph Cindrich, sports agent

Seattle Seahawks linebacker Brian Bosworth of Oklahoma and Cleveland Browns quarterback Bernie Kosar of Miami were the most recent players who fell under the graduation guidelines. Because both had earned their degrees, they were allowed to enter the NFL after their junior seasons of football.

Heyward may not reap the financial benefits he would receive with a healthy senior season. NFL scouts believe he could become a potential top-five pick in 1989, but may be a late first-rounder this

Of concern to scouts is his weight, which has fluctuated between 255 and 285 in the past year. Scouts say that if Heyward got his weight to 250, his ability could net him a fortune.

Washington Redskins general manager Bobby Beathard, who is seeking a physically capable runner to handle the one-back load, declined to comment on Heyward's decision.