High Court to Review Key Abortion Case

By RICHARD CARELLI Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court, acting in an appeal urging reversal of its 1973 decision that legalized abortion nationwide, agreed today to review a Missouri law regulating abortions.

The justices said they will study a federal appeals court ruling that struck down key provisions of the state law.

Even before today's action in the appeal filed by

Missouri officials, the case had become the mostwatched battleground in the continuing political war over abortion. Justice Department lawyers also are urging the high court to use the case as a means of undoing its 1973 ruling, Roe vs. Wade.

But nothing in the brief order issued today suggested that the justices will reconsider Roe vs. Wade.

The court's eventual decision, expected by July, could resolve the Missouri controversy without significantly changing the 1973 decision or other past rulings on abortion.

The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals July 13 struck down these provisions of the Missouri law:

A ban on using public hospitals or other government-run facilities for abortions not necessary to save a woman's life.

□ A ban prohibiting any public employee from performing or assisting an abortion.

A ban on using taxpayer money for "encouraging or counseling" women to have abortions.

A requirement that doctors planning to abort a fetus believed to be older than 19 weeks test for

weight and lung capacity to determine whether the fetus is capable of surviving outside the womb.

☐ A declaration that "the life of each human being begins at conception."

The appeals court upheld a provision in the state law that bans the use of taxpayer money for performing or assisting an abortion. But it said use of a public facility or the services of a public employee cannot be banned if all such costs are reimbursed by

See Court: Page A-6, Column 5

COLD

Scattered flurries this evening, then partly cloudy overnight. Partly sunny Tuesday. (COMPLETE DETAILS ON PAGE A-2)

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35 Cents

Final Reagan Budget Trims Deficit

Program Cuts in \$1.15 Trillion Package Yield \$92.5 Billion Gap

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Reagan today sent Congress a \$1.15 trillion farewell budget that attacked his biggest economic failure, the federal deficit, by reprising some of his cherished ideas about reducing the size of government.

The president's ninth and final spending plan called for reducing the budget deficit to \$92.5 billion in the 1990 fiscal year, its lowest level since the beginning of his presidency.

the deficit is possible without raising taxes," Reagan loan institutions and cleaning up contaminated nusaid in his budget message. "It can be done in a clear weapons plants. AIDS research and space exreasonable, responsible way — with discipline and ploration would also receive increases. fairness. New taxes are not required."

, 1989, Reagan advocated terminating a total of 82 government programs, slashing spending on farm subsidies and holding down the growth in Medicare and Medicaid, the giant health programs.

The budget would provide increased spending for

"This budget shows that a gradual elimination of lems, bailing out hundreds of insolvent savings and

Reagan will leave office with a budget that pro-In his proposals for the fiscal year that starts Oct. poses collecting \$1.059 trillion in revenues and spending \$1.152 trillion, leaving a budget deficit of \$92.5 billion.

The deficit, if realized, would be the lowest since a \$73.7 billion imbalance between spending and revenues in 1981, the year Reagan took office with a two of the government's most pressing new prob- pledge to balance the budget by 1984. Reagan saw

that promise swamped by a tide of red ink that has almost tripled the national debt.

In his budget message, Reagan blamed the huge deficits on the severe 1981-82 recession, which reduced government revenues, and on the refusal of Congress to go along with his spending cuts. But he predicted that the deficit could be totally eliminated by 1993 if Congress adopts his spending cuts. Similar predictions of future budget deficits in past Reagan budgets have proved wildly optimistic, however.

See Budget: Page A-8, Column 1

The Sun Has Set On Bills' Hopes For Super Bowl

By GENE WARNER News Staff Reporter

CINCINNATI — Unpack the sun-tan lotion.

Put the bathing suit back in the bottom drawer. We're not going to Miami, at least not for

Super Bowl XXIII. The Buffalo Bills' glorious season - and it was a great one - ended Sunday after

■ Complete game coverage / D1

■ Full page of pictures / C16

noon in Riverfront Stadium, as Ickey Woods shuffled into the end zone twice and the Bengals ran through the Bills, 21-10.

The young Bills didn't take the loss light-

A key personal-foul penalty against cornerback Derrick Burroughs indirectly sparked a post-game verbal battle between Joe Devlin and Erroll Tucker in the Bills locker

"I have a very disappointed team in that room," coach Marv Levy told reporters. "Win or lose, I told them, 'I still love you.' "

This was an old-time, nose-to-nose football game, and on this day, the Bengals were the better team, out-rushing the Bills, 175 to 45 yards, and whipping them in first downs, 23-10.

"To win, you have to run and stop the run," Levy said. "They ran and stopped the

Roger Pasquarella, 42, of Hamburg had much the same view, from the field-level, end-zone seats where the largest concentration of Buffalo fans could be found at River-

"The Bengals played a good game and deserved to win," he said. "We had bad field position and lack of offense all day. We just never got out of the hole. But if this was in Buffalo, it would have been a different sto-

The game seemed to turn on a decisive third quarter, thanks to a Cincinnati punt downed inside the Bills 1-yard line, a successful fake punt by the Bengals, the personal foul against Burroughs and a total Bills offense of a minus 12 yards for the quarter.

Four seconds into the fourth quarter. Woods' second touchdown made it 21-10 and sealed the win, setting off a stadiumwide Ickey Shuffle.

See Bills: Page A-6, Column 1



Bills tight end Pete Metzelaars greets his wife, Barbara, and one of their sons on his return from Cincinnati Sunday night.

Fans Brave Cold to Give Bills a Warm Homecoming

By BARBARA O'BRIEN News Staff Reporter

It started with a few vocal fans late Sunday afternoon and grew into a respectable homecoming outside Prior Aviation for the downcast Buffalo Bills.

"They did a great job. We're here to welcome them," said Pam Biesik of Buffalo.

She, her husband, Rick, and 18-monthold son Ryan joined more than 300 fans on Wehrle Drive at North Airport Drive to welcome home the Buffalo Bills after Sunday's disappointing loss to Cincinnati.

Citing insurance worries, Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority police blocked the entrance to the Prior Aviation Inc. terminal about 4:30 p.m., forcing the fans to wait in the numbing cold for their heroes to come home.

"We're proud of our Bills. They played an excellent game. They put us on the map," said Kelly Lisowski of Cheektowaga.

She and her sister Kerry brought red and white pompons and joined in with the other red, white and blue at the impromptu rally.

"Do they come out this way? I hope so," Kelly Lisowski said hopefully.

"Thank you, Bills!" was the cry from the fans as the players began driving out the winding driveway about 7:40 p.m.

Police held up traffic on Wehrle Drive. one last tribute to the home team. Players and coaches, driving four-wheel-drive vehicles, sports cars and sedans, filed out in motorcade-style, greeted by cheering fans lining either side of the drive.

Coach Mary Levy accepted the applause with a gracious yet wistful smile. Some players grinned and waved as fans crowded around their cars, and one Bill rolled down his window to shake hands as he drove by.

Some had solemn faces, keeping their eyes straight ahead. It was impossible to see others because of tinted car windows.

For many of the fans, greeting the team was the least they could do, and probably one of the last things they could do to show their appreciation for the team that provided some amazing moments this season.

"I'd like to shake all their hands," said John Eich of Buffalo. "They were our team all through the season, so we've got to stick with them."

See Fans: Page A-6, Column 1

Budget May Serve As Steppingstone In Bush Transition

By TOM RAUM Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The \$1.15 trillion budget President Reagan submitted today will pave the way smoothly for George Bush, who must submit his own proposal soon after taking office, Reagan administration and Bush transition officials said.

Outgoing budget director Joseph R. Wright Jr. said Sunday the final Reagan budget was designed with a "dual purpose" in mind, summing up Reagan's philosophy while providing Bush "with a good base to begin negotiations with Congress."

Bush has said he won't submit a completely new plan of his own but will outline what he will "add here and take off there," much of it to be spelled out in an address to a joint session of Congress in early February.

"President Reagan's final budget is really irrelevant at this point," Rep. William Gray, D-Pa., former chairman of the House Budget Committee, said today on "CBS This Morning."

"It is a farewell gesture that every president is required to do. It only becomes relevant if George Bush today, tomorrow or this week says, 'That's my budget.' don't expect him to do that."

In two key respects, the two

budgets will be alike. Both men pledged to cut the deficit, which is projected to climb this year to \$161.5 billion, without resorting to new taxes and without touching Social Security.

But Bush is expected to seek a smaller increase in defense spending while allocating more money in such areas as child care, cleaning up the environment and housing the homeless.

Congressional Democratic leaders have indicated they would like to get Bush's final budget plan by no later than Feb. 20 so Congress can begin work on its own budget and meet the goal of finishing work on spending bills before the August recess.

And leaders are indicating they are giving Bush the benefit of the doubt on his much-touted concept of a "flexible freeze" to hold overall spending increases generally to the rate of inflation — but without a tax increase.

"My own view is that is very difficult," Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, said Sunday on NBC-TV's "Meet the

But, he continued: "(Bush) has said it can be done and that he will do it. ... My feeling is let's give him a chance to see if he

See Bush Page A-8, Column 2

Archdiocese to Close 30 Churches in Detroit

By GRETEL WIKLE Associated Press

DETROIT - Cardinal Edmund Szoka announced Sunday that 30 city Catholic churches would close and 25 others had one year to improve their status, the biggest such retrenchment in U.S. Catholic history.

His decision slightly softened a task force recommendation in September that 43 churches be closed and a handful of others merged into parishes with more members and greater resources.

The decision concludes more

than five years of study begun to shore up parishes in neighborhoods that lost large numbers of Catholics to the suburbs over the last 20 years and to deal with the shortage of priests and cost of maintaining underused buildings.

"The church, especially the church in the City of Detroit. finds itself in much different circumstances in 1989 than those that existed in '69, or '59, or '29. or 1909," Cardinal Szoka said. "It cannot act as though nothing has

See Detroit Page A-7, Column 4

Engine Failure Seen in Jet Crash Fatal to 44

By ROBERT BARR Associated Press

KEGWORTH, England -Both engines on a brand-new Boe- Firefighters pumped foam onto ing 737 apparently failed before the crumpled jet to prevent seepthe plane crashed along a highway, ing aviation fuel from catching killing at least 44 people and in- fire. juring 82, officials said today. Avi-10 million to one.

by no means conclusive, is consis- land on Sunday night. tent with the right engine having Sion.

flight recorders from the wreckage today, hoping they might shed light on what caused the accident.

The Belfast-bound British Midation experts said the chances of land Airways jet carrying 126 peodouble-engine failure were about ple broke into three pieces on the edge of Britain's main north-south crash, which came less than three "So far the evidence, although highway, the M1, in central Eng-

The twin-engine Boeing stopped before impact, and there 737-400 narrowly missed the are also signs of fire in the left small town of Kegworth and engine," Transport Minister Paul plowed into an embankment just a Channon said in an interview with few hundred yards short of the make an emergency landing at rule out nothing. We simply can't.

Investigators recovered the East Midland Airport, 100 miles north of London.

Ham radio operator Mervyn Solloway said he heard "not a shouted message, but a bit of a frantic one to say, 'We've got problems with the other engine. That was the last I heard from the aircraft."

British Midland Airways said sabotage was not suspected in the weeks after a bomb blew apart Pan Am Flight 103 over the Scottish village of Lockerbie, killing all 259 people on board and 11 on the ground.

But Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who flew to the scene British Broadcasting Corp. televi- runway as the pilot struggled to and visited survivors, said: "We

There will be a lot of speculation. but until we have the facts it is unsafe for me to speculate." William Tench, retired head of

Britain's Air Accident Investigation Board, said the odds against both engines failing on a Boeing 737 were 10 million to one. "I would look for some inadvertent technical mistake such as

something incorrect being done to the engines during turnaround, either inadvertently or deliberately," Tench said. British Midland said the jet was delivered just 12 weeks ago and

grounded its other 737-400 for in-See Crash Page A-7, Column 1

had flown less than 500 hours. It

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Today's Numbers Are on Page A-15.

End of the Season

Pack Windswept Bleachers on Frontyard Line

Fans' Zeal Is Great as All Outdoors

By ANTHONY CARDINALE News Staff Reporter

Glenn Dombrowski of North Tonawanda was host to 50 Buffalo Bills fans Sunday in his front yard, where he'd set up wooden bleachers facing a 48-inch television set in the doorway of his garage.

From the admission charges and a football pool on the Bills-Bengals game, Dombrowski and his brothers, Paul and Rick, raised about \$400 for the Tonawanda News Retarded Children's Fund.

Those retreating into the garage or into the house to warm up found television sets blaring in nearly all the rooms, including the bathroom. In the bleachers they huddled in blankets against near-freezing temperatures and 40 mph gusts of wind that blew off hats and knocked over the goalposts the Dombrowskis had built of plastic plumbing.

Many of the fans were employees of markets that buy vegetables from Boulevard Produce, the Dombrowski family business in the City of Tonawanda. The family had removed a forced-air heater from their warehouse and set it up facing the bleachers. Barbecued chicken sizzled on the grill over a large pit in the yard.

"The wind kind of put a damper on everything," Glenn Dombrowski said. "But, can you tell me that anybody in their house is having this much fun?"

Nobody disagreed. Not even his wife, really. "He's nuts anyway," said Lorita Dombrowski, who was inside the house with a few of the wives and many, many children. "He enjoys himself. If I wasn't married to him, it would be boring. There's a couple out there that I don't know where they came from. But I don't care."

Up in the bleachers, Paul Dombrowski tipped a beer pitcher for his father, Fred, who was standing on the ground with an empty

"This is great," the elder Dombrowski said proudly. "They always put on a good party. They've always loved football, too. I used to coach them in Little League."

The fans were buoyant during the first half. even a bit cocky. Vinny DiGiovancarlo of Cheektowaga was saying that the Cincinnati coach must have been desperate to call Bills Coach Mary Levy that morning and agree to discard his no-huddle offense.

"He's shaking." DiGiovancarlo said. "They're all shaking."

After the sunny first half, in which the Bills held their own against Cincinnati, the fans in North Tonawanda danced during halftime. rocking the wooden bleachers Dombrowski had borrowed from the North Tonawanda Recreation Department.

No one seemed to have second thoughts about forsaking a warm TV room for a threehour bout with the elements. Gretchen Grzybowski of Ransomville had come to the game

Continued from Page 1

tions for Bills fans, ranging from

owner Ralph C. Wilson to the har-

dy who drove almost 900 miles

round trip and paid inflated ticket

"It's been a great, exciting

year," Wilson said after emerging

from a closed meeting with the

team. "I'm really proud, I told

them, of the way they played and

the way the coaches coached them

(all year). Today just wasn't their

Everybody is. But we have to look

on the positive side. Twenty-four

months ago, we were 2-14, and

today we played in a champion-

fans, like Lisa Cenname, 22, a

Buffalo Jill cheerleader from

year we had," Ms. Cenname said

in her end-zone seat shortly before

the final gun. "It's really been a

banner year. I think the Bills real-

appointment to lose today, espe-

cially being here, leaving the stadi-

um and being harassed by the

Bengals fans. I really wanted to go

to Joe Robbie Stadium (for the

played in typical Rich Stadium

weather - blustery and overcast,

with a 31-degree temperature and

a 7-degree wind-chill factor — not

nearly as comfortable as last

week's sunny, windless afternoon

that the much-heralded Jungle -

more enclosed than Rich Stadium

- didn't produce as much of a

field-level din as Buffalo's House

Sideline observers also noted

This championship game was

"But secondly, it's a bitter dis-

"First, you've got to look at the

ship game."

Cheektowaga, felt.

ly proved themselves.

Super Bowl)."

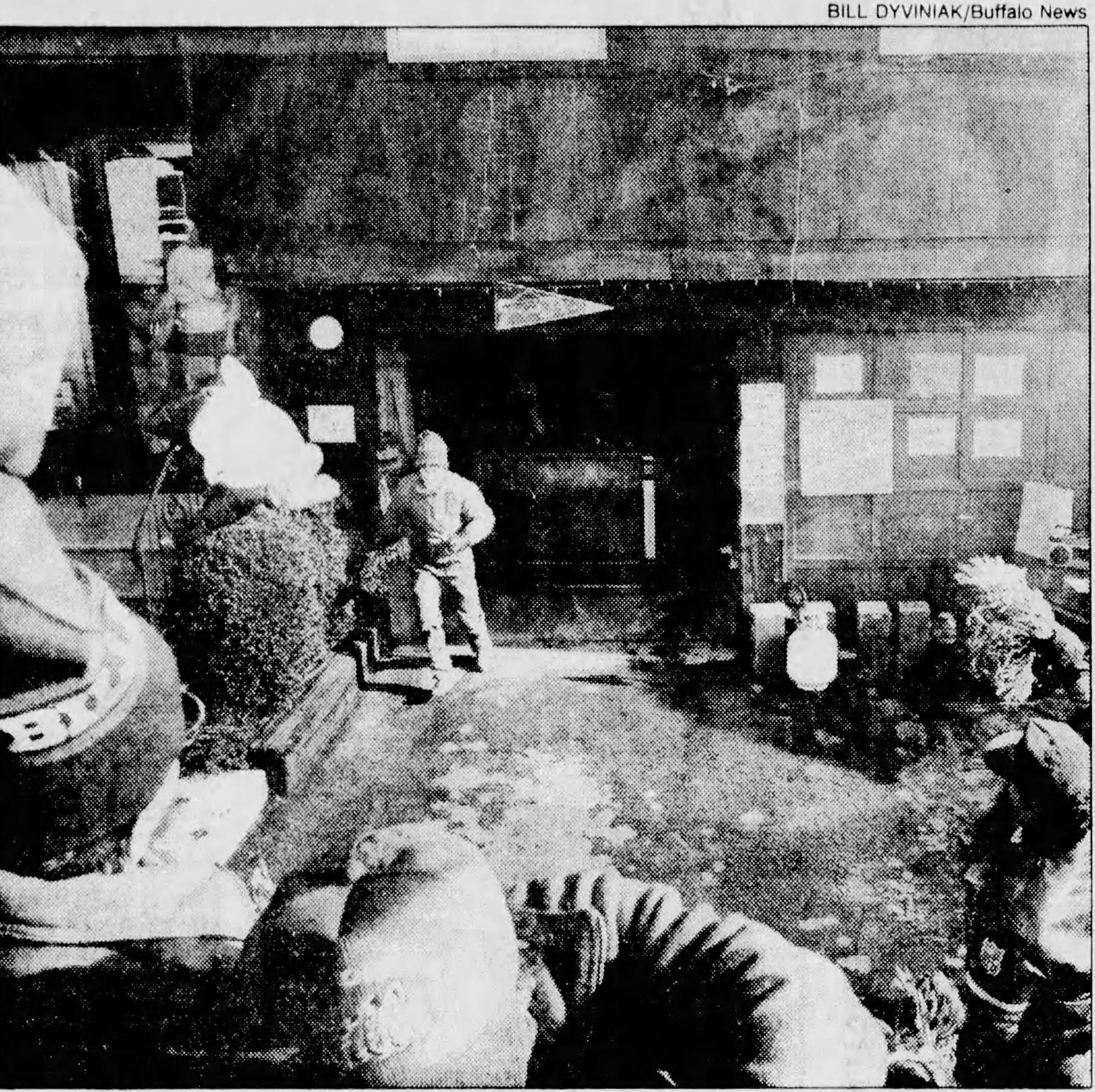
in Orchard Park.

"Am I disappointed? Certainly.

prices to back their team.

This was a day of mixed emo-

Bills



The view from the stands is the big-screen television in the garage.

with her friends. Teresa Toenniessen and Cindy Stanton, who work at Lakeside Market in Wilson, a 40-minute drive away.

"I'll tell you, when I first heard about this I was a little skeptical," said Elizabeth Lee of North Buffalo. "But then I'd gone to all the games with my friends here, and I could not miss today."

Cincinnati," said Tom Wright, who works at had turned. BJ's Wholesale Club on Young Street, Tonawanda. "Better, in fact - you're with true Buffalo fans. We'll be back here in two weeks if offense during the second half, the half when we win.

But it was not meant to be.

They started to realize it after Derrick Burroughs was thrown out of the game for taking a swing at a Bengals player. But even after the Fans. Bengals lead soared to 21-10, there were still 16 diehards in the bleachers, while the rest toughed it out in front of a regular TV set inside the garage.

"The refs are killing us," was the familiar cry. Especially after the game clock malfunctioned and kept running precious seconds off the board for the losing Bills, touching off near pandemonium on the Dombrowski property.

Even when it started to snow during the second half, some greeted it as a good omen for the Bills. Then Boomer Esiason was sacked "This is the next best thing to being in by the Bills' Art Still, and they were sure things

> But the Bills continued to slide. Everyone wanted to know what had become of Buffalo's Cincinnati usually runs out of steam.

> Toward the end of the game, Rick Dombrowski's wife, Karen, set out a birthday cake. The frosting said, "Happy Birthday, Bills

> It was really for Glenn Dombrowski, who turns 28 today.

"He's going to the Super Bowl," his sister-

in-law said. "Regardless."

they're intimidated here in the

Jungle, just like Bengals fans

That's one man's opinion any-

"Let's go down to Miami."

crowed Donald Jones, 37, from

January. I might as well stay down

ticked down, Coach Sam Wyche

and Bengals strong-safety David

Gatorade dunks, to celebrate the

Normally staid Cincinnati fans

honked their car horns for more

than an hour after the game. Two

On the field, as the seconds

there for the Super Bowl."

AFC Championship.

hour after the final gun.

Enough already.

and Robert Gingras.

"Who," one group yelled.

"Dey," screamed the other.

But the real epitaph for the

Bills was written long before the

foretold the Bills woes this day.

would be in Buffalo."

fans to gloat.

Court

a patient.

Continued from Page 1

In the appeal acted on today, Missouri Attorney General William L. Webster said the 8th Circuit Court's ruling "expands (Supreme Court) precedents in favor of abortion on demand, further contracts the state's compelling interest in the life of viable, unborn children and disregards this court's holdings that abortion is a private matter which government need in no way subsidize."

The 1973 decision "should itself be reconsidered" if it cannot said. be squared with the disputed Missouri law, Webster said.

William Bradford Reynolds, then-chief of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, wrote to Missouri officials last summer urging them to include a challenge of Roe vs. Wade in the state's appeal.

"I felt this was the best case on eration of Roe," Reynolds told the Wall Street Journal in a recent interview.

In a brief filed two days after the presidential election Nov. 8, Justice Department lawyers supported Missouri's appeal.

That sparked Molly Yard, president of the National Organization for Women, to accuse the Justice Department of "declaring war on the women of this country."

Eleanor Smeal, president of the Fund for the Feminist Majority, said there will be "no honeymoon on the issue of abortion" for President-elect Bush because of the Justice Department's involvement in the Missouri case.

In its 1973 ruling, the Supreme Court said women have a constitutional right of abortion, based on the right of privacy. The court most recently reaffirmed that rul-

ing in 1983. But today's court is viewed as deeply divided on the abortion is-

Justice Harry A. Blackmun told a law school audience last September that the 1973 decision he wrote could be overturned in the court's 1988-89 term.

"You can count the votes," he

While Blackmun and Justices William J. Brennan, Thurgood Marshall and John Paul Stevens have resisted attempts to reverse or greatly modify the 1973 decision, anti-abortion forces are hoping some day to attract five votes for such a result.

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justice Byron R. White the horizon to undertake reconsid- dissented from the 1973 ruling and several subsequent abortion decisions.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in past decisions has questioned the court's reasoning in its 1973

Justice Antonin Scalia, who has not yet voted in an abortion decision since being named to the high court by President Reagan in 1986, is thought to favor overturning or curtailing Roe vs. Wade.

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, who joined the court Feb. 18, likewise has not voted in an abortion decision. His views on abortion and the Roe vs. Wade decision are not known in any significant de-

Mother Hiding Child Loses High Court Plea

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A mother refusing to disclose the whereabouts of her daughter, who she says was sexually abused by the child's father, lost a Supreme Court appeal today.

The justices, without comment, let stand a contempt citation against Dr. Elizabeth Morgan, a plastic surgeon here.

Dr. Morgan, 41, was imprisoned in August 1987 for defying an order by District of Columbia Judge Herbert B. Dixon Jr. that she allow her daughter, Hilary, then 5, to spend a two-week unsupervised visit with Dr. Eric A. Foretich, Hilary's father and Dr. Morgan's former husband.

Dr. Morgan said she sent the child into hiding to protect her from sexual abuse by Foretich, I've seen are very quiet, very low- who has denied abusing his key, not very assertive. We think daughter.

The judge Dec. 15 refused to free Dr. Morgan after more than 15 months in jail, saying he is not convinced her imprisonment will fail to coerce her into disclosing But this was a day for Bengals

Hilary's whereabouts. Dr. Morgan has been held in civil contempt, imposed to coerce someone into complying with a his 40-yard-line seat, as the tide court order. The citation requires began turning against the Bills. imprisonment for an indefinite pe-

"I've got a meeting down there in riod. In her Supreme Court appeal, Dr. Morgan said her rights were violated because Dixon conducted much of the hearing that led to the contempt citation in private.

The judge said he was trying to Fulcher played a game of dueling protect Hilary from public disclosure of the details of her father's alleged sexual abuse.

Dixon ruled in 1986 that Dr. Morgan failed to prove Foretich had abused Hilary.

In other action today, the Supreme Court:

✓ Klan — In a case involving a black man's murder by Ku Klux Klan members, allowed criminal defendants to exclude potential jurors because of their race.

The court rejected arguments by Alabama prosecutors - supported by law enforcement officials nationwide — that defense lawyers unlawfully are seeking to impanel an all-white jury in the Klan case.

The Supreme Court ruled in 1986 that prosecutors may not disqualify potential jurors based on their race. The issue in today's case was whether the ban also applies to defendants.

✓ Phone porn — Agreed to decide by July whether Congress may outlaw all sexually explicit telephone dial-up message services, known as "dial-a-porn." The justices will rule on the validity of a 1988 law that sought to ban all obscene and indecent messages available through dial-a-porn ser-

Jury records — Refused to grant access to sealed grand jury records in the case of Owen J Lattimore, a China scholar accused in the 1950s of being a communist sympathizer.

Professor Robert P. Newman of the University of Pittsburgh, who is writing a Lattimore biography. appealed a ruling of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals here last April that the rule for preserving grand jury secrecy "makes no provision for disclosure of transcripts to a private party for historical research purposes."

✓ Jurors' names — Turned away, in a Missouri case, arguments that judges violate freespeech rights when keeping secret the names of people selected as

grand jury members. ✓ Bendectin — Refused to revive lawsuits seeking millions of dollars in additional damages in behalf of children with birth defects allegedly caused by the antinausea drug Bendectin.

✓ Revenue sharing — Barred local governments from receiving \$180 million in federal revenuesharing funds withheld by the Reagan administration.

Walsh Had Free Rein, kickoff, by two Bengals fans seated on the 40-yard line, Gail Lewin "Ode to the Cincinnati Ben-Thornburgh Asserts gals," it's called, and one section "To the (Bengals) Defense: On

By CHRISTOPHER CONNELL Associated Press

counsel Lawrence Walsh from faith." pursuing any avenue of inquiry in the Iran-contra affair.

two key charges against Oliver commented publicly on the mat-North, assured the attorney gener- ter. al that he had been dealt with "in cooperation from the intelligence community," Thornburgh said on ABC-TV's "This Week with David Brinkley." He was asked whether he real-

ized the administration's decision not to release certain classified evidence on national security grounds would force the prosecutor to drop some charges against the fired National Security Coun- crets.

Thornburgh replied that he was concerned about any impression said. "there was some kind of cover-up or stonewalling of the independent counsel's office."

In a meeting Wednesday, the day before Walsh moved to drop the charges, Thornburgh said he

asked for Walsh's personal assurance "that he had been able to follow every line of inquiry that WASHINGTON - Attorney was available, that he had had full General Richard Thornburgh said cooperation from the intelligence Sunday the Reagan administration community, and that ... everyone did not try to keep independent he dealt with had acted in good

Walsh "had no hesitation in satisfying my concerns on that Walsh, before moving to drop score," he said. Walsh has not

Thornburgh said it was "inhergood faith" and had gotten "full ent" that if the documents were withheld, it "would have an eroding effect on the quality of the government's case" against North. But "the decision was Judge Walsh's," he said.

On NBC-TV's "Meet the Press," Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell of Maine said the leaders of Congress will review the law governing disclosure of se-

"This administration wants to prevent a trial from occurring," he

But Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole, R-Kan., noting that Walsh already has spent \$12 million, said it is the independent counsel law that needs reviewing. "I say let's get on with it," he said.

Scalpers Score Outside Jungle

By GENE WARNER

CINCINNATI — A basic lesson straight out of ticket situation outside Riverfront Stadium before

When the demand is as great as the supply, excessive prices stay high, and that's

what happened before kickoff.

15 minutes before the game. Dozens of people outside Riverfront — also called the

number of fingers signifying how many seats they needed. "Three Texans in Search of Tickets. Reward Offered," said

"It's going up," licensed peddler Lamont Harris said of the market for tickets. "Look at

He was asking for — and

were asking for \$150-\$250 each

Bills fans made their own small

racket here Sunday, but they were

outnumbered about 30-1 in the

crowd of 59,747, and it's difficult

competing with the ever-present

air horns, which were supposed to

have been banned from the stadi-

louder than Buffalo's House of

Noise," said Mark Mitchell, 33, of

Getzville, who was dressed up as

Wild Bill Cody. "Without the

horns. Buffalo's louder, no ques-

multitiered stadium, which does

boast one big advantage over Rich

Stadium: its scoreboard. A huge-

screen SONY flashed terrific re-

Peaceful coexistence was the

"Who Dey?" Bengals fans

shouted ad nauseam, chanting the

shortened form of "Who Dey

Think Gonna Beat Dem Bengals?"

plays of most plays.

story in the stands.

Bills fans seemed to enjoy the

"With those horns, they're

That's just how diehard Bills of Noise did for an opposing quar-

terback last week.

tion about it."

News Staff Reporter Jungle — held up signs or the

Economics 101 summed up the Sunday's big game.

People with \$30-\$50 tickets

one sign.

the demand." getting — \$175 per ticket.

The good-natured feelings were summed up with 2:42 left, when a fans to begin his striptease.

"We Dey," Bills fans respond-

First went his coat, then his black "Buck Buffalo" sweat shirt. Holwadel then pointed to his remaining sweat shirt and screamed its message: "Miami Bound, that's

He then exchanged high fives with three sullen Bills fans.

buddy, John Schock. "We'll take them over Cleveland fans any

Buffalo jokes to the Bills faithful. "Why don't they make ice cubes in Buffalo?" asked Lindon Kelley, 34.

quickly added. "We welcome the

groups of about 100 fans each lined both sides of East Fifth Street, near Fountain Square, an

character named Rick Holwadel, 28, of Cincinnati, ran through the predominantly Buffalo section of

"They're good fans," said his

One Bengals fan enjoyed telling

"Because the lady with the recipe died," he answered.

"This is all in fun," Kelley

the 8th day of the first month in the year 1989 A.D., Apollo, god of light, shall bestow upon the Bengal linebackers sight so clear and penetrating that the Bills running backs will be held to 50 yards of total offense." The Bills rushed for only 45. Buffalo fans to the city. The ones Wait till next year. JAMES P. McCOY/Buffalo News

Fans

Continued from Page 1

Many fans were disappointed the NFTA left them standing in the road to welcome the team.

"It's a shame they didn't let people in," said Rick Biesik of Buffalo. "All the positive views they gave of the City of Buffalo --it's a shame they didn't do something to welcome them."

The NFTA started blocking the entrance to Prior Aviation to football fans after the Bills lost in Cincinnati in November, due to a concern over property damage and other liabilities. Despite waiting in the 28-degree temperatures, with the wind gusting to 49 mph. the self-appointed welcoming committee on Wehrle Drive was vocal and loyal, if not "spirited." Breaking into cheers on a moment's notice, they were boisterous but wellbehaved.

A few briefly doffed their shirts. and one stood in his shorts while waiting for the team.

"The Bills are No. 1," Joe Tucholski of Buffalo said. Even though they lost Sunday?

"Next year the Super Bowl. We're going all the way. We're the best in the AFC," Eich said.

"Here's to some offensive picks. We've got the defense, we need the offense," one fan said.

Even though they lost Sunday?



Buffalo Bills fans wait near Prior Aviation for their team to return.

Sports Today, 2

NHL, 7

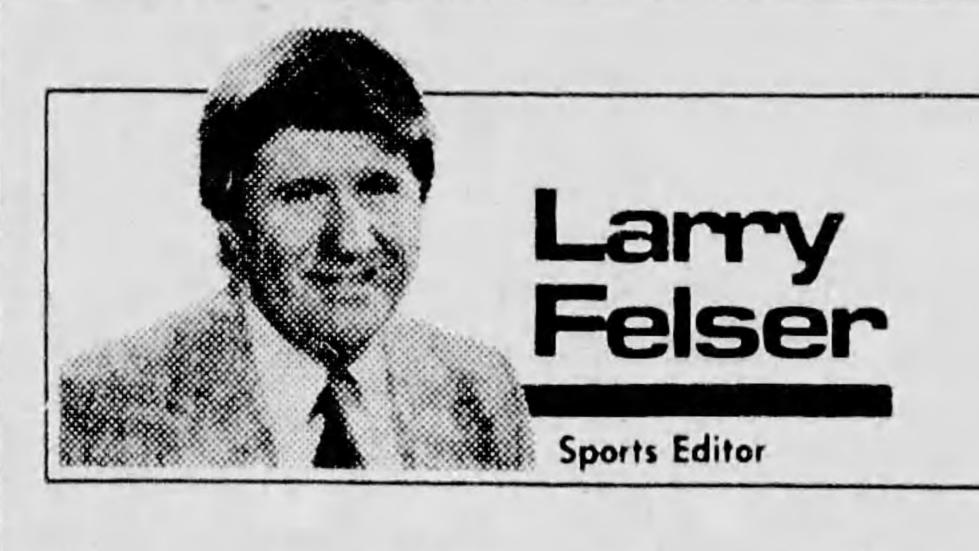
Racing, 8

Scoreboard, 8

RON MOSCATI/Buffalo News

College Basketball, 9

Bills bungle in bengals Jungle



Dumb Plays Derail Super Bowl Express

INCINNATI — Marv Levy has a slogan he hammers at his players from time to time. "Don't play dumb," the Bills' coach keeps repeating, "and don't play dirty."

The Bills should have listened to Mary Sunday afternoon in the American Football Conference Championship game with the Cincinnati Bengals. They might be preparing for the Super Bowl now if they had.

"I don't know about dirty," said quarterback Jim Kelly, "but there's no doubt we played dumb."

Cornerback Derrick Burroughs is wearing a custom-fashioned dunce cap today. So is Erroll Tucker, the little punt returner, except Tuck er's is radar-equipped.

Burroughs totally lost his composure on the second- to-last play of the third quarter. Consequently, the Bills lost an opportunity to keep the Bengals within arm's length, to keep the score close enough so that a sudden rally or a recovered fumble or some sort of break might bring them victory.

Linebacker Shane Conlan had just made one of the day's best defensive plays, a smashing tackle that dropped running back Ickey Woods for a 3-yard loss that created a third down, goal to go on the 8-yard line.

Or at least it would have created that pickle for the Bengals if Burroughs' composure hadn't cracked like a \$1.98 mirror.

Away from the Conlan-Woods play, Burroughs had shed his football player's identity and become a street thug. Burroughs and wide receiver Tim McGee of the Bengals had been rumbling for at least a half-dozen plays. Everyone could see it coming.

The finisher, for Burroughs and possibly the Bills, was a combination right cross and right elbow landed to McGee's jaw. The officials had a good view of it.

First down, Cincinnati, on the Buffalo 4yard line. If former sportscaster Don Meredith had been around, he would have been singing "Turn Out the Lights ..."

Ickey was in the end zone two plays later. and the score, considering the Bills' offensive malfunctions, was an unmanageable 21-10.

Levy refused to criticize Burroughs, or almost anyone else for that matter, because of his gratitude for their contributions to an otherwise excellent season.

But a league source said the officials on the field had warned Burroughs three times about his fighting with McGee, and Levy himself admitted that he had shouted to another Bill: "Tell Derrick to cool it!"

Derrick did not cool it, even after he had been banished to the Bills' sideline. He held an animated conversation with Levy that was caught fully by the network television cameras. The body language suggested insubordination.

It should have been low-profile time for Tucker from the middle of the third quarter onward.

Tucker misplayed a routine punt, one that should have given Buffalo possession somewhere around the Bills' 35, into a disaster. Tucker misjudged the ball, then allowed it to roll dead back on the Bills' 1.

"It was especially tough because we just had a big defensive stand," said Levy.

"The punt should have been ours at the 25 or 30," said Kelly. "Letting it roll to the should never have happened."

Another of Levy's adages violated was his insistence that there be equal contributions from the defense, offense and special teams. The Bills went one-for-three.

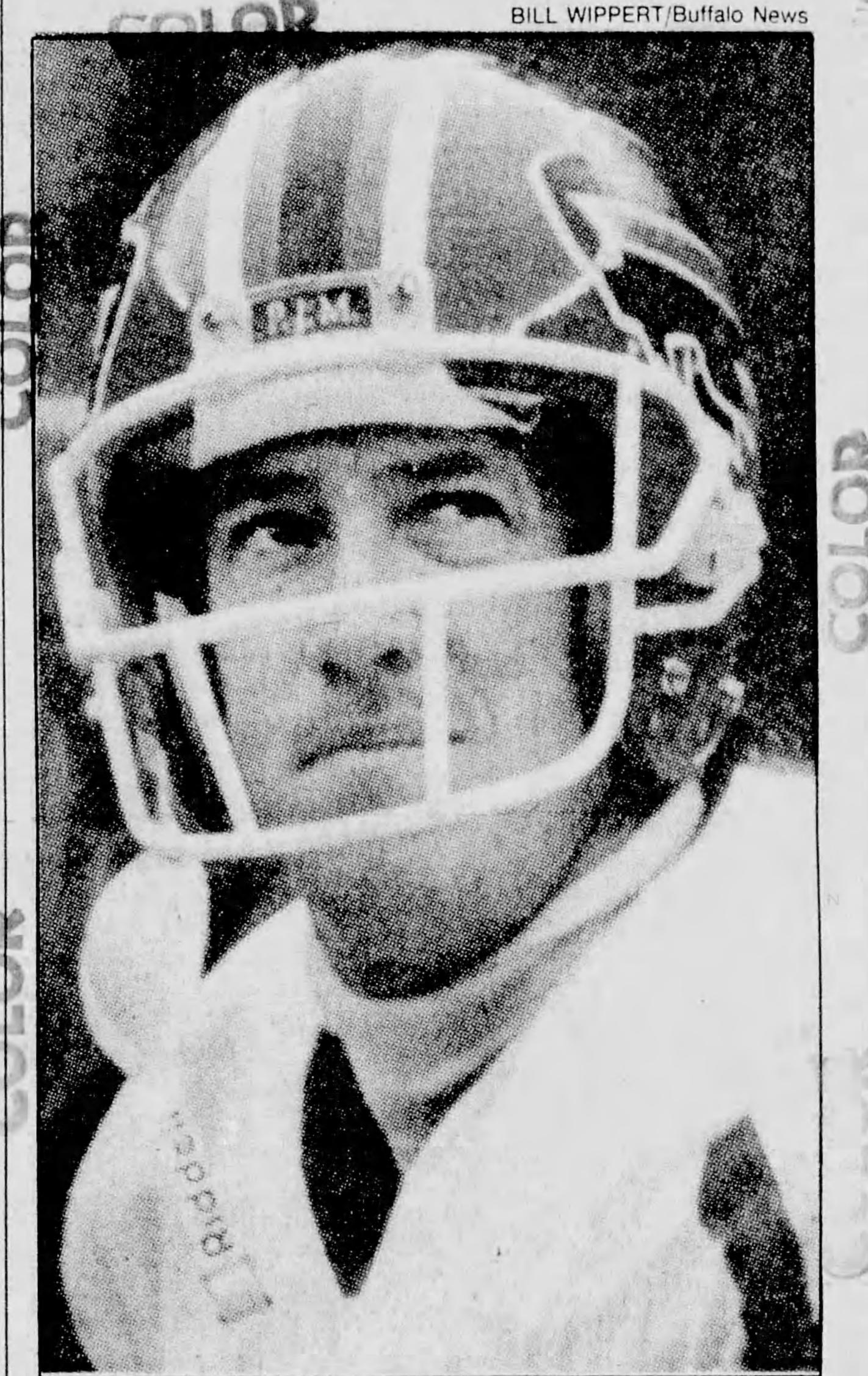
The defense played well enough, but the offense totaled only 181 yards, and in the third quarter it was minus 12. Kelly didn't complete his first pass of the second half until 20 minutes had expired.

The special teams, best in the NFL for 17 weeks, were less than ordinary Sunday. The

See Felser: Page D-5, Column 1



Defensive end Bruce Smith pulls down Bengals QB Boomer Esiason by his jersey, but received a face mask penalty. RON MOSCATI/Buffalo News



Jim Kelly takes a sad look at the scoreboard.



Derrick Burroughs ponders his mistake.

Despite Adversity, Defense Played It Tough

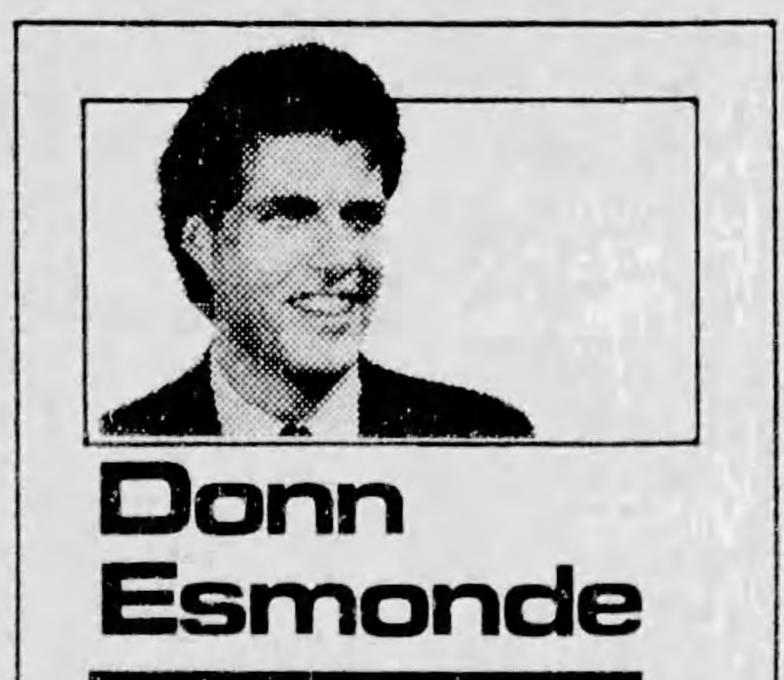
INCINNATI — It seemed like a cruel experiment, devised by some mad gridiron professor to test the emo-

tional and physical limits of a defense. They drop perfume into the eyes of captive rabbits, don't they? Why not assemble the AFC's premier defense, handicap it with injuries to key members, and make it play in unfavorable field position against football's most potent offense time and again?

Then log the results of the perverse research. How much abuse can the unit take? How long can it sustain before it buckles? Will it survive with spirit in-

For nearly 40 minutes — about twothirds of the game — Buffalo was probed by Boomer Esiason's passes, banged by Ickey Woods' power and battered by an offensive line that averages 281 pounds.

Those were the painful tests the Bills defense endured in Sunday's 21-10 loss sis is the image of defense that, in the



to Cincinnati in the AFC championship game. Amazingly, it was an Experiment in Terror it nearly emerged from unscathed.

There were precious few elements of this afternoon the Bills will remember fondly. But amid Buffalo's special teams bumbles and its offensive paraly-

most trying of circumstances, made a lasting impression.

Cincinnati, in Esiason, has the conference's Most Valuable Player. In Woods, it has one of the game's premier power backs. Eddie Brown and Cris Collinsworth are receivers of exceptional speed and guile, respectively. The home field Jungle was full of parti-

san fanatics. The scales were further unbalanced by a thigh bruise to Bruce Smith, Shane Conlan's chronically sore foot, an ankle injury to safety Mark Kelso just before halftime and bruises to several other starters.

How much did the hurts hurt? Consider: Smith nailed Esiason on three of the Bengals' first six passing attempts. After taking an elbow in the thigh late in the first quarter, Smith

See Donn: Page D-6, Column 3

never got within Booming distance of

Breakdowns, Weak Offense Doom Buffalo

By VIC CARUCCI News Sports Reporter



step away from a first-ever Super Bowl appear-

ance, the Buffalo Bills stubbed their collective toe Sunday at Riverfront Sta-They blundered their way to a 21-10

loss to the Cincinnati Bengals in the American Football Conference championship game, and the bitterness of the defeat lingered long after the final gun. "It's really disheartening," center Kent Hull said in the Bills' somber

Smerlas praises Bengals / D2 ■ The TV picture not pretty / D2

■ Monday Billboard / D3 ■ Bad day for Bills' offense / D4

dressing room. "We have played a long season, been together since July, and now it's all over."

"I'm very disappointed," defensive end Bruce Smith said. "The road to the Super Bowl went through The Jungle, and we didn't quite take the direct

Buffalo's journey to Super Bowl XXIII at Miami's Joe Robbie Stadium - where the Bengals will face San Francisco Jan. 22 — was detoured by a combination of offensive ineptitude, special-teams breakdowns and boneheaded penalties.

The only phase of the Bills' game that was championship quality was, as always, defense, which managed to hold its own despite a rash of injuries.

Typical of the way the rest of the team played was a series late in the third quarter, with Cincinnati holding the ball and a 14-10 lead. On fourth and four from the Bills' 33-yard line, they were fooled by a fake punt that resulted in a Bengal first down. Backup quarterback Turk Schonert moved from blocking back in punt formation to under center, and handed to Stanley Wilson, who ran for six yards.

Five plays later, on second and goal from the 5, linebacker Shane Conlan burst into the Cincinnati backfield and threw running back Ickey Woods for a three-yard loss. Meanwhile, in the end zone, cornerback Derrick Burroughs, who had spent several earlier downs scuffling with Tim McGee, smashed the receiver in the jaw with a forearm. He drew a personal-foul penalty and an ejection. And worst of all, instead of a third down at the 8-yard line, the Bengals had first and goal from the 4.

Two plays later, Woods ran for a 1-yard touchdown to make it 21-10.

"There are turning points in every game," Bengals coach Sam Wyche said. "Basically, the real good teams are one or two plays better than the teams with pretty good records, and they are one or two plays a game better than the teams with .500 records. That's how close this league is."

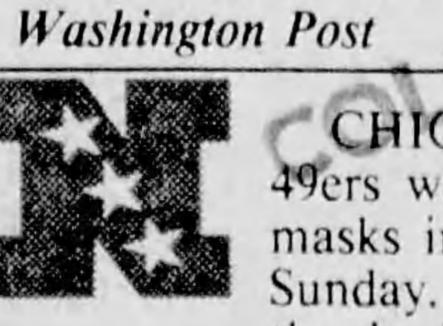
How inept was the Bills' offense? It held the ball 20:31 to the Bengals' 39:29. It was outgained, 249 yards to 181. It rushed for a mere 45 yards to the Bengals' 175. And quarterback Jim Kelly completed 14 of 30 passes for 163 yards, was intercepted three times and had three passes dropped (two by Ronnie Harmon, one by Thurman Thom-

The Bills failed to convert a single third down, missing on 10 tries. Their third-quarter output was minus-12

"I just don't think we did the things See Bills: Page D-5, Column 1.

49ers, Montana Make It Unbearable in Chicago

By MICHAEL WILBON



49ers wore thermal underwear and ski masks in the arctic air of Soldier Field Sunday. But when Joe Montana broke the huddle, fire shot from his right said. hand. Usually, Jerry Rice was there to catch it. Together with an intense defense, they sparked a

28-3 victory over the Chicago Bears in the National Football Conference championship game. Even the mighty Bears were defenseless against

Sunday's San Francisco onslaught, and all the missing Perrys, Dents, Wilsons and Marshalls in the world might not have helped. San Francisco coach Bill Walsh thought Montana was primed for one of his best performances, and the veteran quarterback didn't make a liar out of his coach.

Montana completed three touchdown passes, two to Rice, as San Francisco earned a trip to Super Bowl XXIII two weeks from Sunday in Miami. The 49ers, who had not won any kind of a road playoff game since 1970, became the first visiting team to win an NFC championship game since the Los Angeles Rams beat Tampa Bay at the turn of the decade. And now, they can get ready to face the AFC champion Cincinnati Bengals in a rematch of the January 1982 Super Bowland a bid for their third NFL title of the

"This is the greatest road victory the 49ers have being any colder than this." had in my 10 years," Walsh said.

But the one-time Notre Dame star took to the

CHICAGO — The San Francisco home defeats. It was no consolation to them that so pressure on him, even without injured defensive end many players watched from the sidelines in casts or Richard Dent. on crutches. "It's a bitter loss because this could have been a storybook year," Chicago coach Mike Ditka

For all the talk about who would start at quarterback for the Bears, it didn't amount to much. The rarely talked-about 49ers defense made it impossible for the Bears to pass or run with much efficiency, leaving Jim McMahon, and eventually Mike Tomczak, and company a shivering mass of frustration.

"We didn't have what it took today, and they did." Ditka said.

Above all else, the 49ers had Montana. Benched for a time this season, and having asked to be traded, the leader of those two past Super Bowl triumphs was considered by many to be finished, or at least past the point in his career where he could dominate a game.

Sunday, in teen-range temperature with the wind swirling at 30 mph and higher, Montana completed 17 of 27 passes for 288 yards and three touchdowns. He never yielded an interception and his team was never called for a penalty.

"It could have been his greatest game, under the conditions and under the pressure," Walsh said.

A shivering Montana said. "I can't imagine it

Conversely, it was one of the Bears' most bitter weather like a polar bear. The Bears managed to put

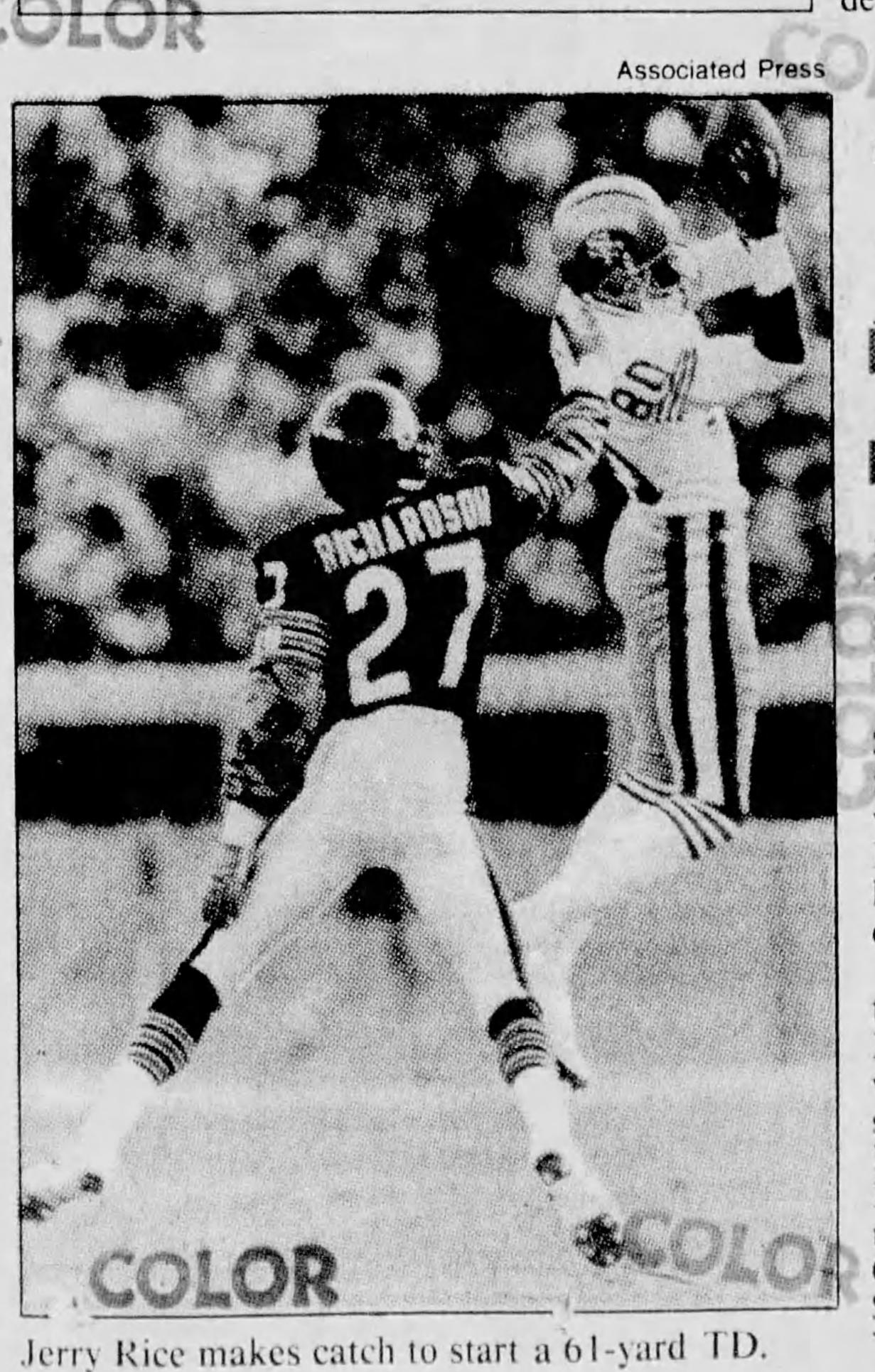
"The pass rush was there," Chicago linebacker Ron Rivera said. "(Montana) just stepped up in the pocket, held on to the ball and was patient. He didn't roll down to the ground or anything. He just took his shots and completed the big passes. He was courageous. I can't say enough about the way he played."

Neither could Walsh, who decided before the game that his team couldn't run the ball on the Bears, so it would simply protect Montana and take its chances with the wind. "I was concerned about the wind affecting our passing game," he said, "but Joe was able to throw."

Montana produced all the points San Francisco would need on the 49ers' third possession of the game. On third and nine at his 39, after the Bears had stuffed halfback Roger Craig twice, Montana decided to test the wind. McMahon hadn't thrown deep and neither had Montana, so nobody on the field knew what the gusting wind would do with a downfield pass.

Montana threw toward Rice, about 20 yards down field, and the pass sailed, "Jerry had to play a little pasketball, but he came down with it," the quarter-

See Niners: Page D-6, Column 1



Sports Today

Compiled by MAURY MAY

American Wins Slalom

Robert Ormsby of Tahoe City, Calif., defeated several World Cup rivals in winning a European Cup slalom race today at Pila, Italy.

race, was clocked in heat times of :42.90 and :44.36. Sweden's Lars Goran Halvarsson was second at 1:27.37, while Didier Bouvet of France edged Swede Mats Ericson for third with 1:27.46.

Meanwhile, Vreni Schneider, 24, of Austria won two World Cup giant slaloms and a slalom over the weekend and extended her World Cup victory string to eight, her season total to nine and her runaway lead in the overall standings to 232-118 points over second-place Ulrike Maier of Austria. At Mellau, Austria, Sunday, Schneider won her fourth slalom of the season by .28 seconds over Mateja Svet of Yugoslavia.

Rangers' Guante Signs

The Texas Rangers said that free agent pitcher Cecilio Guante has agreed to a one-year contract for \$425,000. Guante, 28, was 5-6 with a 2.82 ERA and 12 saves in 63 games with the New York Yankees and Rangers in

Cage Calendar

After sputtering to a pair of losses at the WLKF Classic in Lakeland, Fla., Canisius (2-7) will face the tall task of reversing its fortunes against Siena at 6 tonight in the Koessler Center (WECK).

The preseason favorite in the North Atlantic Conference, Siena (6-3 overall, 1-0 in the league) posted a shocking upset at Pittsburgh earlier this season and had a 16-point lead at Florida before falling, 71-67. Siena went 23-6 last season, winning the league's regular-season title and earning a National Invitation Tournament berth.

The Griffins, who scored only 16 points in the first half of losses to St. Peter's and Hofstra in Florida, defeated Colgate in their only previous league game.

Around Auto Racing

A fire has damaged an auto dealership owned by former NASCAR driver Cale Yarborough, according to fire officials in Florence, S. C. Yarborough, who recently retired from auto racing, said the damage may be more than \$1 million.

Meanwhile in Long Beach, Calif., a bomb threat forced police to clear the building which caused a 70-minute delay in a ceremony where Geoff Brabham was named Driver of the Year earning the Jerry Titus Award Ormsby capitalized on the for his domination of the 1988 million career earnings in a sin-

Around And About

Past Ages, ridden by Eddie Delahoussaye, posted a fivelength victory in the \$142,150 California Breeders' Champion Stakes for 3-year-olds at Santa Anita. The colt covered the seven furlongs in 1:20 4/5. ... At Aqueduct, High Brite, ridden by Angel Cordero Jr., scored his third straight stakes win, outlasting Vinnie The Viper by a nose in the \$85,200 Paumonok Handicap, covering six furlongs on the fast track in 1:09 1/5 to earn \$51,120. ... A crowd of 26,517 fans, the largest opening day crowd in Gulfstream Park's 50-year history, watched Halrose rally to win the \$57,950 Spectacular Bid Stakes, covering six furlongs in 1:12 and paid \$27.40. ... Seattle SuperSonics guard Dale Ellis was arrested on charges of domestic violence and resisting arrest Sunday after police received a telephone call from his Bellevue, Wash., home.

... The Pittsburgh Penguins today traded goalie Steve Guenette to the Calgary Flames for a sixth-round draft choice in the NHL's 1989 entry draft in June.

... Goalie Pete Peeters of the Washington Capitals, whose 3-0-1 won-lost-tied record included a pair of shutouts, was named the NHL Player of the Week today.

Television

BASKETBALL — Syracuse at Villanova, 7:30 p.m., ESPN; Indiana at Purdue, 9:30 p.m.,

HOCKEY — Soviet Central Red Army at Buffalo Sabres, 7:30 p.m., selected cable chan-

Radio BASKETBALL - Siena at

Canisius, 6 p.m., 1230. HOCKEY - Soviet Central

Red Army at Buffalo Sabres,

7:35 p.m., 930.

things at you. They have so many weapons. They have a huge but quick offensive line aggregate winning time of sociation Camel GT series. ... that can roll you out of there, and they have 1:27.26. The American, who had Second-generation NASCAR backs that can cut back and hit the holes hard. never before won a World Cup stock car driver Davey Allison is And they have a great quarterback in Boomer among 10 drivers who in 1988 Esiason. They do everything. joined the list of racing million-

fastest first heat to compile an International Motor Sports Asaires, tying the record for the most drivers to climb over \$1

We lost by 11 points, but it was a very close contest out there.

L were the Cincinnati Bengals.

I hope they win the Super Bowl.

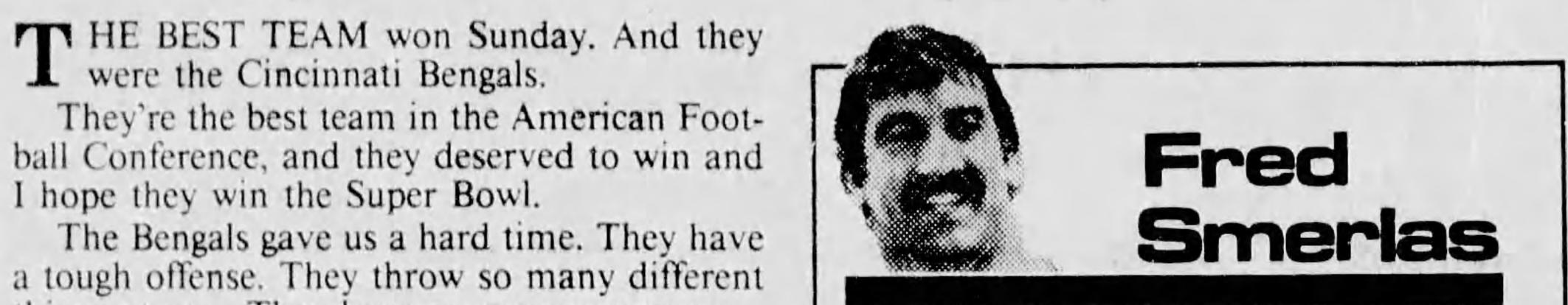
They were at home. They got some breaks. But, still, it was very close out there.

The Bengals got the big breaks. They came out in their no-huddle offense. They went to the hurry-up offense right off the bat to try to screw us up. They went to that fake punt on that fourth-down play in the third quarter. And they hit a few good first downs near the end of the game when we had to stop them.

I don't think it slipped away from us at any time. But they fought hard to keep it from us. Some of the guys on the Bills seemed angry

and frustrated after the game. That's understandable. But we have to remember that we came a long way. We had a good team, but unfortunately we just made a few mistakes and it cost us. We didn't do what we had to do.

I think everyone's a little bit aggravated. We fought all year. We thought we matched up pretty well with Cincinnati, and things just



Bengals Got the Win They Deserved

didn't go our way. I'm not disappointed, because we fought hard. We just didn't get in the right direction some times.

You have to build off your mistakes. You can't start fighting each other and getting aggravated, because that's what happens. You just have to console each other, pat each other and say, "Hey, you guys had a great year."

The Bengals are the best team in the AFC right now. We have to wait until next year and get one notch better.

The guys on the Bills worked all year to get in the position that we always dreamed of being in and, unfortunately, we didn't take that last step forward where we wanted to go.

Someone asked if our youth and playoff inexperience hurt us.

I don't think so. I think the guys really kept their heads pretty well. A couple of pushes and punches here and there, but there was nothing that outrageous.

This is a very, very good Cincinnati team. Super Bowl in New Orleans. It's very difficult to contain one thing because they'll throw another thing at you. They News sports reporter Robert J. Summers assisted

scheme that the guys out there were frustrated. But I think this is a very composed and very

mature Bills team, no matter how old they are. Now that our season's over, we want to thank the Buffalo fans for their great support. They were the reason we had a 9-0 season at home. We hope we can get that support and

enthusiasm back next year. It has been a great season. It's unfortunate that any time you're in the playoffs, when you don't win the whole thing, it's a sad thing.

We weren't the best team in the AFC this year. But hopefully next year, we'll be the best team in the AFC and the NFL.

Next year, it's going to take a little more concentration. We'll get one more year of maturity. We'll get an understanding of what it takes and, hopefully, we'll be one step closer to our goal.

The Bills management did a great job and it was a great year for me. I had a ball playing with some great, great guys and playing with a wonderful bunch of coaches.

The Buffalo Bills and the city of Buffalo made it enjoyable. The people in the streets made it enjoyable. The administration made it enjoyable. The players made it enjoyable.

Unfortunately, we didn't win the whole thing, but we had a hell of a time playing. This is the most enjoyable season I have ever had and, hopefully next year, we'll be going to the

have so many weapons and such a good in preparation of this column.

NBC Camera Work Comes Up Short of Mark

ORGET "WHO DEY?" The appropriate tune Sunday for NBC was "Where Dey?"

Where Dey (NBC's cameras) when the Buffalo Bills' Scott Norwood lined up for a first-half field

Where Dey when the Cincinnati Bengals faked a punt on their clinching touchdown drive?

Where Dey when Cincinnati nailed a punt on the Bills' 1-yard

NBC performed about as well as the Bills in their 21-10 loss. NBC has much room for improvement as it prepares to cover Super Bowl XXIII.

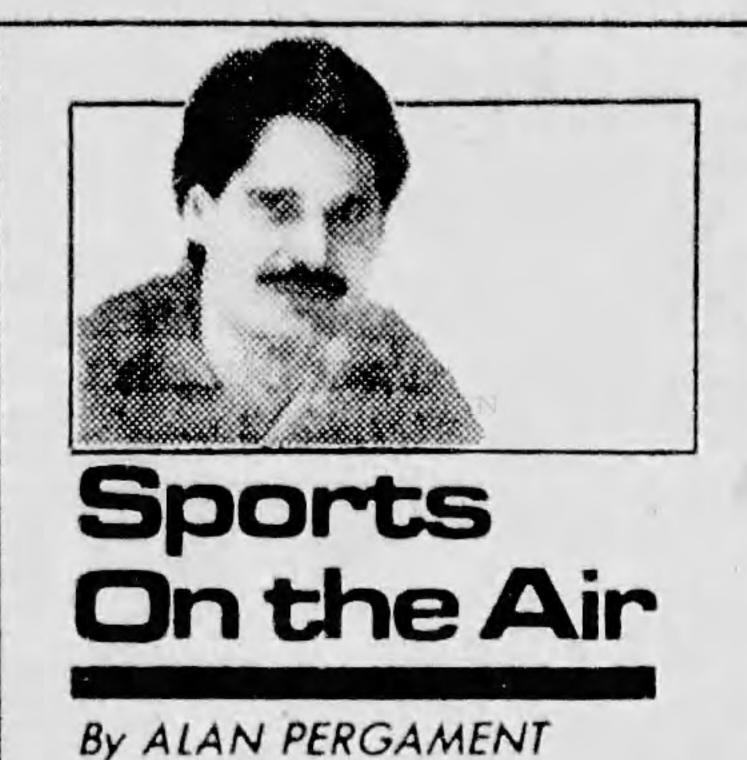
Some highlights and low-lights: Who Dey?: There was one big Who Dey question.

It is a good thing Channel 2 didn't pre-empt NBC's post-game coverage, as it did the previous NBC's Paul Maguire (of Eden),

assigned to cover the Bills' locker room, gets credit for reporting the fracas inside the locker room between veteran and younger play-"It got ugly in there," said Ma-

guire. He didn't name the participants, leaving viewers to wonder: Who Dey?

I've Got a Secret: Once Chan-rick Burroughs, got into a pushing nel 2 began its post-game show, and shoving match with Joe Dev- their goal line. I suspect Maguire "Jim Kelly Show."



Sports Director Ed Kilgore asked

Ray Bentley and Jim Ritcher about the fracas. "There's no way we can keep it

secret," Kilgore told Ritcher, almost apologetically. However, Kilgore kept us mostly in the dark. He should have described in detail what, if any-

thing, he saw or heard. Kilgore mentioned he heard Bills veteran tackle Joe Devlin talking. Later, he told punt returner Erroll Tucker he heard his

name mentioned. At halftime of the San Francisco-Chicago game, CBS' Brent Musburger cleared up the controversy. He said, "Erroll Tucker, a friend of (ejected cornerback) Der-

lin in the locker room."

By DeGeorge, He's Got It: Channel 2's Mike DeGeorge had the most revealing piece of information on the post-game show. He said teammates had warned Burroughs against retaliating against Cincinnati's Tim McGee several plays before the penalty.

You Asked for It: Channel 2's Ed Caldwell, covering the team's airport arrival live, asked linebacker Darryl Talley how he felt. Talley's reply isn't suitable for a family newspaper.

After that, Caldwell interviewed Kilgore, who said the Tucker-Devlin episode "got blown out of pro-

Thank You, Chuck Knox: Knox, the former Bills coach now coaching in Seattle, used some questionable "trick knee" strategy a week ago to stop the Bengals' speed offense. It led to a controversial rules interpretation change, which NBC covered very well in

its pregame show. As Knox Said, Hindsight Is 20-20: NBC's Dick Enberg and Merlin Olsen had a solid but un-

spectacular game. Olsen waited until after a commercial to second-guess the Bills' conservatism on one series near

would have been complaining during the series in question.

We Needed Instant Replay: NBC's cameras almost missed Norwood's first field goal attempt.

NBC said a problem with a camera led to the failure to see the attempt until the ball was well on the way. The blank picture beat the picture last week, when NBC caught a Bills fan flashing a halfvictory sign during a field goal.

The camera operators gave us a bad angle on a Bengals punt that landed on the 1-yard line and were confused by the Bengals' fake punt. However, the cameras caught Burroughs' punch for re-Where's Poppa?: NBC's camer-

pregame show. It misidentified Norman Esiason Sr., Boomer's father, before finding him later in the stands. The first "Norman" looked considerably younger. What Did He Say? NBC's cam-

amen obviously didn't watch its

eras caught Jim Kelly talking to Mary Levy after the predictable series near the goal line.

Was Kelly as upset as he appeared to be? We didn't find out on Channel 2's post-game show. He declined to talk to Kilgore, who hosts Channel 2's weekly



MONDAY BILLBOARD

• The Big Picture: That's all, folks. The party's over. The Buffalo Bills' dream season ended in a 21-10 nightmare in The Jungle of Riverfront Stadium on the banks of the Ohio. The Bengals move on to play the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl XXIII on Jan. 22 in Miami.

• Gruesome Details: Cincinnati owns the place and acted like it. The Bengals out-rushed Buffalo 175 yards to 45. Rookie Ickey Woods prowled at will, gaining 102 yards. The Bills went 0 for 10 on third-down plays. Cincinnati led the time-of-possession stats by almost 19 minutes.

• Play of the Game: Buffalo, trailing by four points, was caught with its pants down late in third quarter when Cincinnati lined up in punt formation and then Stanley Wilson ran for a first down to the Bills' 27. The drive produced a Cincy score that put the Bengals ahead by 11.

 Hit of the Game: Five plays after the fake punt, Bills cornerback Derrick Burroughs threw an illegal right forearm to the jaw of Cincy receiver Tim McGee in the end zone. Burroughs was ejected immediately by back judge Paul Baetz and the Bengals got a first and goal at the 4-yard line.

• More Ugly Numbers: 20, 13, 1, 3 and 23. The yard lines from which the Bills started their drives in the second half.

• Up Against the Wall: The Bills third quarter was so bad, John Kidd punted from his own end zone three times in the period.

• Unsung Hero: Kidd punted six times for 271 yards, an average of 45.1 yards per

• Big Flag: Stanley Wilson drew a



Bills quarterback Jim Kelly offers encouragement to running back Ronnie Harmon during the last seconds of the game.

15-yard personal foul after Cincy's first score. It led to a kickoff from the Bengals' 20, and an eventual Buffalo TD.

• Zebras: It wouldn't be a Jungle without them. Buffalo drew five flags for 50 yards. Cincinnati was penalized four times for 45.

 Quote of the Day: Bills coach Marv Levy: "The Bengals played well enough to win and deserved to win and I think will make a great representative team in the Super Bowl."

• Injuries: Bills defensive end Bruce Smith suffered a bruised right thigh with 3:58 to go in the first quarter. He returned soon after, but was obviously bothered. Mark Kelso suffered a sprained right ankle when he was tackled after intercepting a Boomer Esiason pass with just over a minute left in the first half. He also returned. Linebacker Hal Garner

RON MOSCATI/Buffalo News

 Lowering the Boomer: Bills defenders got to Bengals QB Boomer Esiason three times. Bruce Smith nailed him on the Bengals' first possession. Later in the quarter another Smith sack was nullified by a questionable face-mask penalty.

 Kelly's Killers: Reggie Williams. Jason Buck and David Grant each nailed Buffalo quarterback Jim Kelly for total losses of 27 yards.

Shane Comes Back: Bills

linebacker Shane Conlan, semi-recovered from a foot injury, started for the first time since Dec. 11 and played much of the game. He was credited with three tackles and an assist.

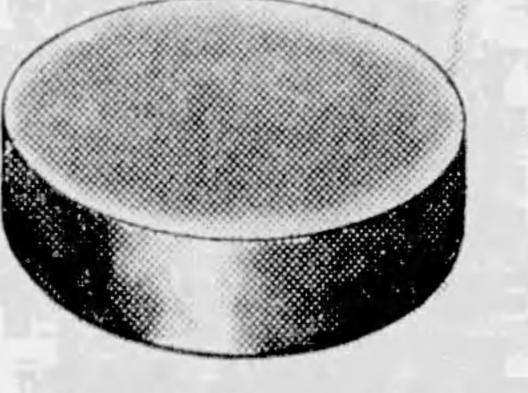
• Deja Vu: Four Bills — Joe Devlin, Jim Ritcher, Fred Smerlas and Robb Riddick — played in the Bills' previous playoff game in Cincinnati, a 28-21 loss in 1981. Buffalo is 4-6 in post-season play dating from the founding of the AFL in

• The Wyche/Levy Treaty: Before the game, the NFL office said coaches Levy and Sam Wyche agreed that:

"1. Neither team will feign injuries to allow for substitutions or other unfair acts. 2. Under the unsportsmanlike-conduct principles of NFL rules, an offensive play that occurs before the two-minute period of each half will be nullified and replayed if it is deemed by the game officials that the offense gained an unreasonable and unfair advantage by a quick snap of the ball, e.g., a quick snap which is intended to cause the defense to be penalized for too many players on the field. This does not prevent a team from running a 'hurry-up' offense at any time during the game, provided the violation described above does not occur."

• Quiet in The Jungle: Levy said, "The crowd didn't bother us. You could have heard a pin drop here compared to Rich Stadium last week."

When torward the DUCK and VOU torget



Athletic Injuries KENMORE MERCY HOSPITAL

879-6037

Burroughs' Big Punch Helps Knock Out Bills

By MARK GAUGHAN News Sports Reporter

CINCINNATI — Composure took a back seat to frustration on the Cincinnati Bengals' decisive touchdown drive Sunday.

The result was a costly penalty that helped the Bengals take command of the American Football Conference championship game.

Cornerback Derrick Burroughs violated Marv Levy's "Don't play dumb and don't play dirty" edict by being ejected late in the third quarter after throwing a forearm to the jaw of Cincinnati receiver Tim McGee.

It was one of four personal fouls called on the Bills, and it was the most damaging, leading to the Bengals' third touchdown.

On second and goal from the Bills' 5-yard line, the Bengals' Ickey Woods was dumped for a 3yard loss, bringing up an apparent third and goal from the 8. Burroughs, however, took a swing at McGee in the end zone. The Bengals were given a first down at the 4 and scored two plays later.

The penalty by no means cost the Bills the game. However, instead of settling for a field goal that would have made it 17-10, Cincinnati had a 21-10 lead.

Burroughs had some words with Levy as he came off the field before Joe Devlin stepped between

"He was upset about the whole thing," Levy said. "I said, 'You're out of the game. You don't swing back at somebody."

Burroughs, who hasn't talked to the media this season, declined to comment.

The four-year veteran, however, obviously had been frustrated by McGee for several minutes before the penalty.

"McGee was trying to cut him all day long, which is not illegal, but I guess it's kind of an unwritten rule," said free safety Mark Kelso, referring to the tactic of blocking the legs out from under the defender.

"They were going at it all day," Kelso said. "To their receivers' credit, they block well. Unfortunately, from a defensive back's standpoint, they like to cut, come

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down and take someone's legs out. Derrick said he (McGee) had given him an elbow, and then Derrick retaliated. Unfortunately, they always catch the second guy."

McGee said Burroughs lost his

"It's a lot of pressure," he said. "You come such a long way to see it dwindling down. Anyone would lose his cool when it reaches a certain point. As a professional, you have to take it upon yourself not to lose your cool.

"I thought if I kept blocking him, and we kept at him, maybe he would (retaliate). In the professional ranks, you don't really have too many guys who just outright go after you like that. It was an unfortunate event for him."

McGee denied he was going out of his way to aggravate Burroughs.

"We weren't talking any trash," McGee said. "I wasn't catching many balls. I didn't have any advantage whatsoever to rub something in on the guy.

"It's just the guy just got upset. Maybe it was the score. Maybe things weren't going his way. Maybe it was his (sprained) ankle. But all I know is it cost him."

Bills strong safety Leonard Smith said the officials should not have let the feud get to that point.

"They had been going at it and going at it. I could see if they threw both guys out, but not one out. He said he saw what was going on earlier, but he didn't throw anything earlier," Smith said, referring to back judge Paul Baetz.

"Why, at that crucial moment in the game, does he throw the penalty? The ref got between 'em several times and warned them

Levy said he tried to get word to Burroughs to calm down before the play. "I yelled to another player who was close to tell him to cool it," Levy said.

The Bills' other personal fouls went to Bruce Smith, for a questionable face-mask call; to Mark Pike, on a kickoff just before the first half ended, and to Robb Riddick, who said he retaliated after having his face mask pulled on the kickoff after the Bengals' final

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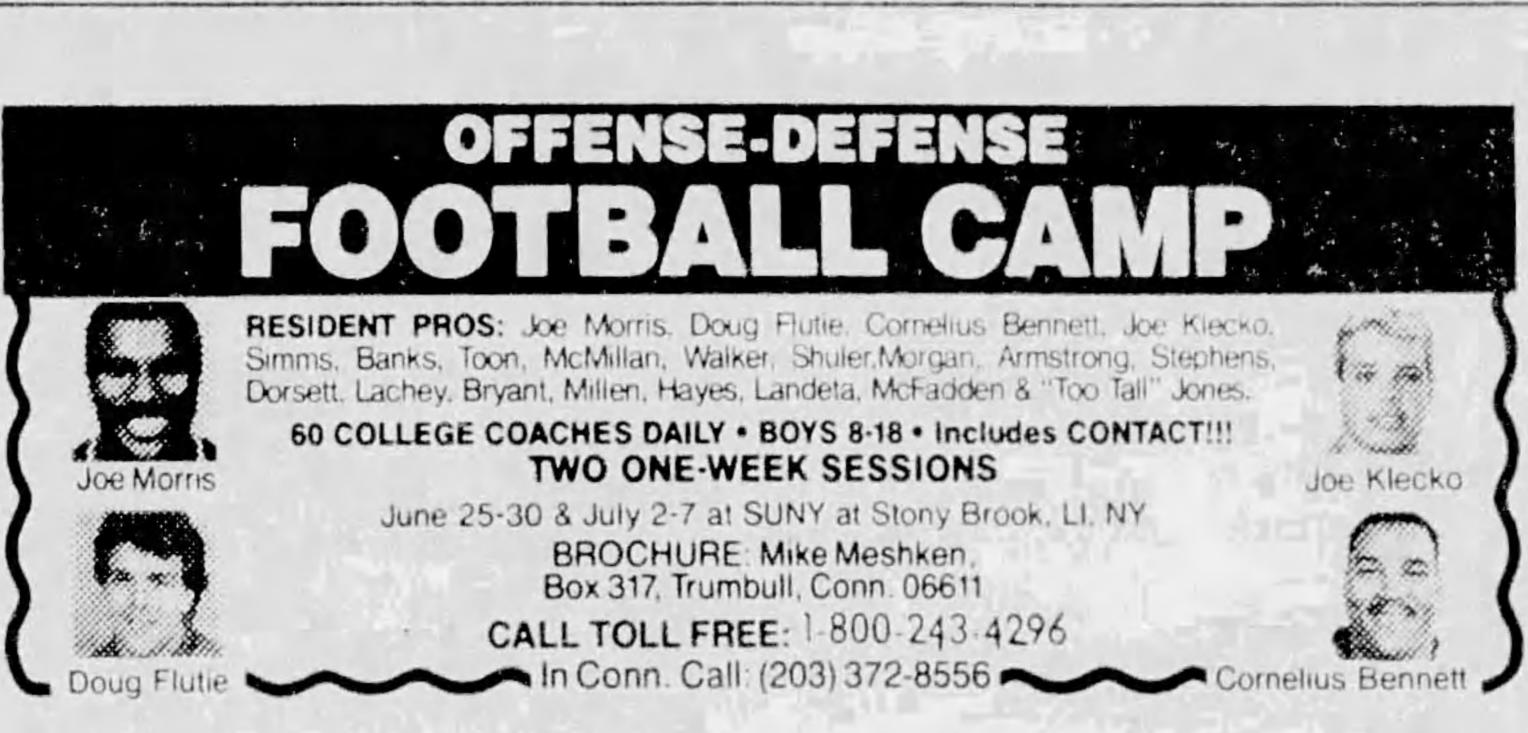
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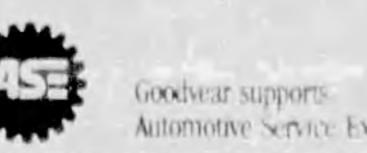
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'Tilted' Field Just a Part Of Bills' Offensive Woes

By MARK GAUGHAN News Staff Reporter

CINCINNATI - It didn't take a master's degree from Harvard to figure out what the Buffalo Bills' offense was lacking Sunday.

Field position. A running game. Big plays. First downs. Points. There weren't enough of any.

On a day when the Bills needed a good day - a three-touchdown day - from its offense, the unit could not fulfill its end of the bar-

The reasons? Start with the fact the field was tilted toward the Buffalo end all game. Consider that Cincinnati's defensive front seven outperformed Buffalo's offensive line, and that the Bills failed to take full advantage of the few chances they had.

"Our field position was very poor all the time," said Bills coach Mary Levy after the 21-10 loss at Riverfront Stadium.

"I think the story of the game is, to win you have to run and stop the run," Levy said. "We stopped the run for a while ... or well enough, but didn't run well enough, and that makes it awful tough to make your passing game

The Bills had three good drive starts in the first half and turned the chances into 10 points. But on their other nine possessions, their average drive start was their own 14-yard line.

you get the ball on the 2- and 3-yard line and come in with a two tight-end offense," said Jim Kelly. "I'm not saying anything about the play-calling. It's just that when you have field position like that, you can't open up your offense. We wanted to, but we never had the opportunity because they had us backed up the whole second half."

Cincinnati's defensive line isn't considered massive, but the Bengals held the Bills to 45 rushing vards on only 17 carries. Kelly hit 14 of 30 passes for 136 yards and one TD, and threw three intercep-

offense in the third quarter and ally put your finger on. They just gained just 53 yards in the second defensed us."

"We came out and we didn't throw as much as we thought we were going to, but you can't win with just throwing the ball," Kelly said. "Jim Kelly can only do one thing. You have to have an offense where you can run the ball and keep the defense off balance. We couldn't get the running game going today, period."

"I give them (Bengals) all the credit in the world. They played good defense," said Bills center Kent Hull. "If we had moved it right from the first time we had the ball, maybe the field position would have been different."

"You can't score points when Bills running back Thurman Thomas carried only four times for six yards.

"We just were passing more than usual," Levy said of Thomas' limited role. "A lot of times, we were putting him out as a flanker on the single back, and we weren't having much success running."

The Bills also didn't have the kind of success passing they did in the previous meeting at Riverfront, a 35-21 Bills loss. In part, it was due to the Bills' numerous obvious passing situations.

"They played a lot better than last time," said Robb Riddick.

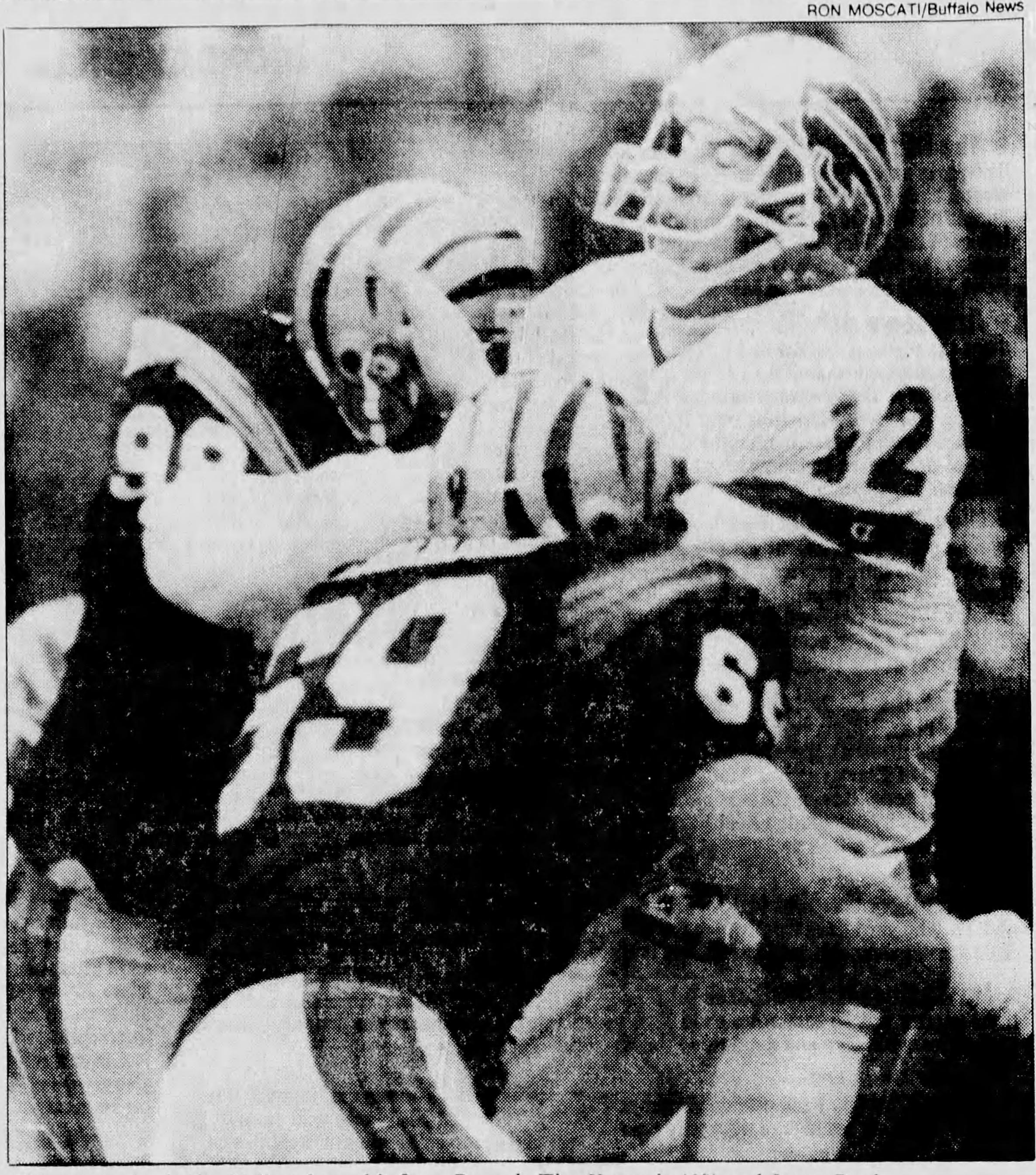
"They shut down our (shot) gun offense right from the begin-The Bills had minus-12 yards ning. There's nothing you can re-

> The Bills started three series inside their own 10. On two of those, they ran three times and

> "Maybe we were (too conservative) in that instance," said Levy, referring to a third-quarter drive that started on the 1.

> "We had first down on the halfyard line and we had to try to move the ball some to even get punting position. It can be argued that series was (conservative), but I don't think otherwise we were."

"The bottom line," Kelly said, "is the Bengals scored 21 points and we needed to score 22 and didn't."



Bills quarterback Jim Kelly takes a hit from Bengals Tim Krumrie (69) and Jason Buck.

Late Rule Change Didn't Empty Bengals' Bag of Tricks

By BOB DICESARE News Sports Reporter

CINCINNATI — Buffalo Bills coach Mary Levy spent the better part of the week preceding the American Football Conference championship game attacking the Cincinnati Bengals' attack offense.

Levy reasoned the Bengals' quick-snap approach to third-down situations violated the spirit of the rules because it did not allow the defense a fair opportunity to match personnel with the offense.

When the National Football League informed the Bengals fewer than two hours before kickoff Sunday that the no-huddle indeed had become a no-no, i appeared the Bills had alleviated a worry.

Instead, Bengals coach Sam Wyche was able to create a personnel mismatch within the framework of the rules and employed it to help vault Cincinnati to a 21-10 victory and a berth in Super Bowl XXIII.

Facing a fourth and four at the Buffalo 33 late in the third quarter, the Bengals had back-up quarterback Turk Schonert sneak onto the field with the got this guy and I got that guy,' something like that," punting team.

"Turk kind of slipped in there behind Brian Blados, at 315 pounds, and stood in there behind him it, so don't jump offsides and stuff like that. I think and called for the shift (from a punt to a running formation)," Wyche said. "The Bills were pointing to him, but at that point they already had their punting return team on the field, which involved a lot of defensive backs, wide receivers and no defensive lineman. So that was the advantage we had.

"We thought we could make a first down, continue the drive and basically it was like any other call you make. You attack the defense that's given you."

Schonert took the snap and handed off to Stanley their part." Wilson, who plowed for a 6-yard gain and the key first down on Cincinnati's drive toward the touchdown that put the Bills in a 21-10 hole.

One look at the Bills in disarray convinced Wilson against Cincinnati's no-huddle offense. the play was destined to succeed.

"They were kind of saying a few things, 'Well, you

"Somebody said, 'Well, they're not going to punt part of it was they thought we were going to draw them offside, that we weren't going to do anything."

Defensive end Mark Pike admitted the Bills were caught off guard. "We didn't get a timeout called and we should

have," Pike said. "They just took us by surprise. We had linebackers who had to go down and play lineman positions, and wide receivers lined up at cornerback. They confused us. It was a good call on

Wyche laced many of his post-game comments with sarcastic jabs at Levy in retaliation for the successful lobbying efforts the Bills coach staged

"A lot of teams do it," Wyche said of the fake punt. "There's nothing illegal or out of the spirit of

the rules. It's part of what are called strategies, and coaches ought to figure that one out sometime, too.

"I wanted to make sure that wasn't confusing, because all Marv Levy had to do was run 13, 14 guys on the field and claim it was unfair, not in the

Wyche denied he was reveling in the fact that the very situation Levy had argued against came back in a different form to haunt the Bills.

"I'm not chuckling," Wyche said. "Listen, Buffalo has a great team, they're well-coached. I'm disappointed in Mary Levy and his actions of this week, but I played for this guy. He was special teams coach of the Redskins when I was playing and he has a tremendous staff.

"These moments, and I guess they are hard feelings right now, soften as time passes.

"But again, we were very upset with the effort they were making, which we thought violated the spirit of the game, not the spirit of the rules."

Pregame Talkin' Sends Bengals Shufflin'

By BOB DICESARE News Sports Reporter

CINCINNATI — The Buffalo Bills may think the Ickey-Shufflin', high-steppin' Bengals are a cocky bunch, but Cincinnati made it clear after Sunday's American Football Conference championship victory that the feelings are

"I think what really made us want to play better was when we saw the HBO special and Bruce Smith was talking all that nonsense about what they were gonna do to us," said cornerback Lewis Billups.

"Plus the respect we didn't get defensive-wise this year. We just wanted to go out and prove a point."

The Bengals emphasized their point by taunting or assaulting the Bills at seemingly every opportu-Billups started it when he high-

stepped his way out of bounds in front of the Cincinnati bench after intercepting Bills quarterback Jim Kelly on Buffalo's third play from scrimmage. When Eric Thomas produced

another interception later in the quarter, All-Pro nose tackle Tim Krumrie slammed Kelly onto his back with a crunching block and pinned him to the ground.

"It wasn't intimidation or nothing," said Krumrie, who drew an unnecessary roughness penalty for

Bengals safety David Fulcher has words for Bills running back Thurman Thomas.

his efforts.

he was trying to pull me down and thing."

Smith Irate at Umpire's Face Mask Call

flip me over the top and make a "Any time you get an opportu- big move, but he forgot I was a nity to hit the quarterback, you go wrestler (in college). So he pulled after him. He's fair game on an me down and I laid on top of him. interception. I came into him, and It wasn't a cheap shot or any-

skin yet again when Ickey Woods finished the drive started by Thomas' interception with a 1yard touchdown plunge that opened the scoring. Running back Stanley Wilson, who helped spring Woods with a

The Bengals got under the Bills'

solid block on Bills cornerback Derrick Burroughs, was hit with an unsportsmanlike-conduct penalty after an end-zone tussle. "What happened was, I was driving Burroughs into the end

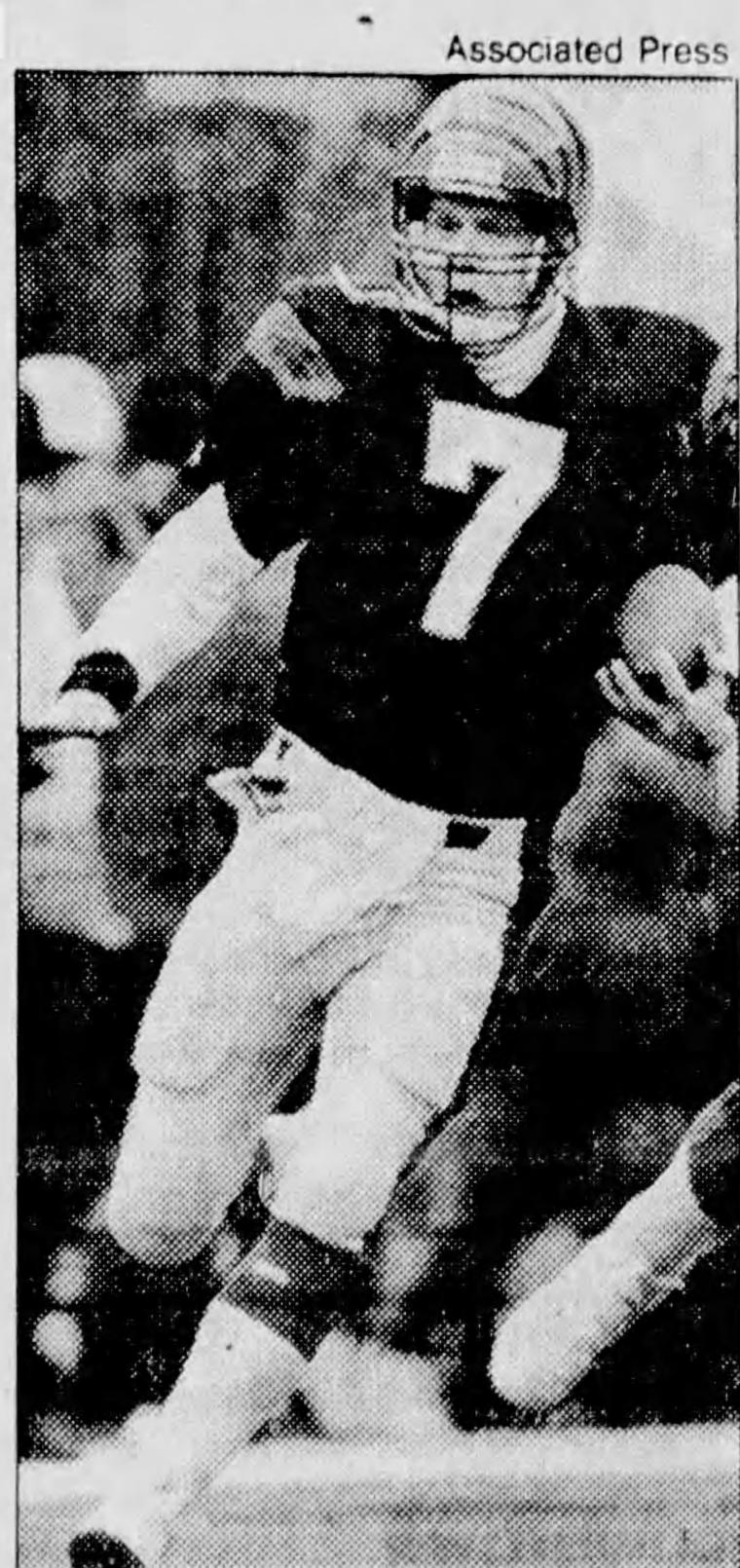
zone and he got upset about it and was trying to walk away," Wilson said. "He pushed me down and then (linebacker Ray) Bentley kind of kicked me and hit me, and just kind of kicked him in his chest and the referee saw the second part of it."

Wilson then revealed that Burroughs was one of the Bills the Bengals had targetted while preparing for the game.

"We kind of saw him as someone who taunted a lot and stuff like that," Wilson said. "We didn't particularly care for Bruce Smith, either. Those were a couple of guys we were trying to get to."

On the kickoff after the Bengals' final touchdown, Bills running back Robb Riddick was flagged for a personal foul and it appeared Buffalo was losing its composure. "They're real cocky," Billups

said. "When somebody's that cocky and things aren't going their way, that's what they do. And that's what they did today."



for a first down.

BY THE NUMBERS

BUFFALO...... 0 10 0 0—10 CINCINNATI.... 7 7 0 7-21

FIRST QUARTER

Touchdown run, 1 yard, by Woods at 13:09 (Breech kick). Drive of 19 yards in four plays following Thomas' interception and 26-yard return. Key gain: Esiason pass to Holman for 21 yards to Bills' 4. BENGALS LEAD, 7-0.

SECOND QUARTER

Touchdown pass, 9 yards, Kelly to Reed at 1:39 (Norwood kick). Drive of 56 yards in 6 plays after kickoff return of 22 yards by Harmon to Bills' 44. Key gains: Kelly passes to Reed for 18 to Bengals' 27 and to T. Johnson for 22 to Bengals' 9. GAME TIED,

Touchdown pass, 10 yards, Esiason to Brooks at 12:39 (Breech kick). Drive of 74 yards in 11 plays after Norwood missed

43-yard field goal. Key gains: Woods runs for 12 and 16 yards. BENGALS LEAD, 14-7.

Field goal, 39 yards, by Norwood at 14:38. Drive of 8 yards in four plays following 25-yard interception return by Kelso. BEN-GALS LEAD, 14-10.

THIRD QUARTER

No scoring.

FOURTH QUARTER

Touchdown run, I yard, by Woods at :04 (Breech kick). Drive of 39 yards in 11 plays after 15-yard punt return by Hillary. Key gains: Wilson's 6-yard run after shift from punt formation on fourth and 4 at Bills' 33, personal foul on Burroughs for forearming McGee after Conlan throws Woods for 3-yard loss on second and goal at the 5. BEN-

ATTENDANCE: 59,747 (256 no-

GALS LEAD, 21-10.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS CINCINNATI BUFFALO Rushing Avg Rushing Passing Att Com Yds TD Int Passing Att Com Yds TD Int 3 Esiason . Pass Receiving Pass Receiving Holman 4 Riddick 3 T. Johnson No Yds Avg Lng Punting 6 271 45.1 50 Johnson No Yds Avg Lng 6 221 36.8 58 Punting Punt Returns Kickoff Returns Lng Kickoff Returns **Defensive Stats** Defensive Stats Burroughs Billups

TEAM STATISTICS					
Buf.	Cin.	Buf.	Cin.		
Total First Downs 10	23	Punts-Avg 6-45	6-37		
By Rushing 2	15	Had Blocked 0	0		
By Passing 8	5	Total Return Yardage 84	77		
By Penalty 0	3	Punt Returns-Yards 1-2	3-24		
Third-Down Efficiency 0-10-0	7-15-46	Kickoff Returns-Yards 3-57	3-30		
Total Net Yards 181	249	Interceptions-Yards 2-25	3-23		
Total Offensive Plays 50	73	Penalties-Yards 5-50	4-45		
Avg. Gain Per Play 3.6	3.4	Fumbles-Lost 0-0	2-0		
Net Yards Rushing 45			3		
Total Rushing Plays 17 50		By Rushing 0			
Average Gain Per Play 2.6		By Passing1	1		
Net Yards Passing 136	74	By Returns 0	C		
Was Sacked - Yds. Lost 3-27	3-20	Extra Points Made-Att 1-1	3-3		
Gross Yards Passing 163	94	Field Goals Made-Att 1-2	0-0		
Passes-Completed-Int 14-30-3	11-20-2	Time of Possession 20:31	39:29		
Avg. Gain Per Pass Play 4.1	3.2				

CINCINNATI - Buffalo Bills Bills' Notebook

defensive end Bruce Smith was outraged Sunday by a blatantly incorrect face-mask call against him. as he pulled Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Boomer Esiason to the ground in the first quarter.

Television replays clearly showed Smith had Esiason by the jersey, not the face mask, and the Bills shouldn't have received a 15yard penalty.

"I thought that was one of the worst calls that was made in professional football," Smith said, "I saw one of the officials come over to the umpire and say, 'It wasn't a face mask; he grabbed all jersey.' The umpire said, 'Well, we have to let it go ... we have to let the play stand and keep going.' Ridic- him. ulous."

Four Bills suffered injuries during the game, but returned to action - Smith (bruised thigh), free safety Mark Kelso (sprained ankle), linebacker Shane Conlan (foot) and reserve linebacker Hal

Garner (fractured thumb).

Veteran Bills defensive end Art Still, who was credited with 12 kick. tackles in last week's divisionalround playoff victory over Hous-

ton, had nine stops Sunday.

Bills linebacker Ray Bentley, on the bitterness of the Buffalo-Cincinnati rivalry: "There's definitely bad blood between the teams now. They did a lot of cheap stuff. Stanley Wilson kicked me in the throat. I'd like to get my hands on

Bills place-kicker Scott Norwood was one for two on fieldgoal attempts Sunday. He was wide left on a 43-yarder with 8:40 left in the second quarter, and interceptions Sunday gave Jim connected on a 39-yarder just before halftime.

"On the first field goal, which I missed, it was pretty long and into the wind," Norwood said. "I guess might have tried to overkick it and I ended up pulling it left. I got a lot of power on it, but overkicking hurt the smoothness of the

"The next one was five-six yards closer, into the wind. I had good form and good direction on that one.

"The wind (which gusted to 29 mph) definitely was a big factor. You could tell from watching both kickers, especially on kickoffs."

Cincinnati's David Fulcher, on

his interception: He "saw a fat

coach on the Bills sideline, mouth-

ing 'post, post'." He positioned

himself accordingly.

ceptions for the season.

One touchdown pass and three Kelly 16 TD passes and 21 inter-

Boomer Esiason scrambles

Bills

Continued from Page D-1

necessary offensively to win the ballgame," said Smith, who suffered a bruised thigh late in the first quarter and hobbled through the rest of the game.

"The things we did to win 13 ballgames weren't the things we did today," said Hull.

After a sterling performance that was one of the major reasons for last week's divisional-round playoff victory over Houston, the Bills' special teams, except for the punting of John Kidd, were downright atrocious Sunday. Besides falling for the fake punt, they provided the Bills terrible field position — the average Buffalo drive began from its 24-yard line, while the average Cincinnati drive began from its 35.

One of the more bizarre mistakes by Buffalo's bomb-squadders was Erroll Tucker's decision to allow a third-quarter punt by Lee Johnson bounce past him at the Bills' 26. The ball made its way down to the 1, where it stopped cold and was downed by the Ben-

The Bills were able to pick up only four yards in three plays before having to punt.

Mary Levy said.

Buffalo's unraveling began with the first quarter.

over the middle and directly into yard Norwood field goal. the Bills' 19.

zone one play later to give the Fulcher. Bengals a 7-0 lead.

However, on the next posses- 8:07. sion, the Bills mounted a six-play, 56-yard drive that ended with a Andre Reed for a touchdown 1:39 4 for 4 for 58 yards in the series.

After Scott Norwood was wide left on a 43-yard field-goal atwas capped by a 10-yard Esiason heard the end of the Bills."

"Our field position was very TD pass to James Brooks to give poor all the time," Bills coach them a 14-7 lead 2:21 before half-

On the Bengals' next posses-Kelly being intercepted twice in sion, Esiason, throwing on first and 10 from the Cincinnati 35, The second one set up the Ben- was intercepted by Mark Kelso, gals' first touchdown. On the first whose 25-yard return put the Bills play after Cincinnati downed a at the Bengals' 29. The Bills punt at the Buffalo 9, Kelly threw moved to the 21, setting up a 39-

the hands of cornerback Eric With 10 minutes left on the Thomas, who returned the ball to clock, the Bills took one last crack at getting back into the game. Three plays later, a 21-yard Kelly completed five consecutive pass from Boomer Esiason (11 of passes to move them to the Cin-20 for 94 yards and a TD, and two cinnati 17. But then he went 0 for interceptions) to tight end Rodney 3, with Harmon dropping a first-Holman moved the Bengals to the down pass, and on fourth down Buffalo 5. From there, Woods ran Kelly was intercepted in the end to the I and plunged into the end zone by strong safety David

The Bengals killed off the final

"I don't think our playoff inexperience was a factor," Levy said. 9-yard rollout pass from Kelly to "We played a team, to tell you the truth, that was stronger. Someinto the second quarter. Kelly was body might disagree with me, but that's my honest opinion."

"We got beat by a very good Cincinnati team today," Kelly tempt, the Bengals, returning to said. "But we are a young club, the form that got them to the AFC and you should be seeing a lot title game, put together a run-ori- more of us in the playoffs in the ented, 11-play, 74-yard march that years to come. People haven't

Incidents in Locker Room Are Dismissed by the Bills

By VIC CARUCCI News Sports Reporter

CINCINNATI — The frustration of their 21-10 loss to Cincinnati in Sunday's American Football Conference Championship showdown resulted in heated exchanges in the Buffalo Bills' dressing room after the game.

According to the accounts of several Bills players, offensive tackle Joe Devlin and return-specialist Erroll Tucker were at the center of an altercation that subsided before most of the press corps was allowed inside the dressing room.

It all began, they said, when coach Mary Levy called the entire team together to deliver post-game remarks. Devlin apparently didn't think some players, including Tucker, were moving quickly enough, and told them so.

"We don't need that (bleep)," Tucker allegedly replied, referring to Levy's address. "When I tell you to do something, you do it," Devlin, a co-captain, allegedly snapped.

ing between the two, according to State."

witnesses, as well as other players. NBC's Paul Maguire told a national television audience that he

altercation.

was unable to provide live interviews with the Bills because of the

the game that punches were exchanged and that cornerback Derrick Burroughs - ejected from the game late in the third quarter after forearming wide receiver Tim McGee and then exchanging words with Levy and Devlin on

There were media reports after

However, other Bills players denied that and, along with Tucker, dismissed the incident.

the sidelines — was involved.

Devlin refused to comment. "I just think people were venting a little bit of steam." said nose tackle Fred Smerlas. "Guys worked all year to be in a position we all dreamed of being in and, unfortunately, we didn't take that one step further. It's really not go-

ing to mean anything." "Guys were just venting their frustrations," linebacker Shane Conlan said. "It's the same thing After that, there was loud argu- we used to have happen at Penn

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Felser

Continued from Page D-1

punt-return team committed one of the game's most damaging gaffes. Six plays before the Burroughs penalty, Cincy pulled off a startling fake punt to produce a first down at the Buffalo 27.

The Bengals sent a quarterback, Turk Schonert, to the field with the punt team. He quickly took position under center, the ball was snapped, Stanley Wilson took a handoff and ran six yards for a first down.

Didn't the Bills see Schonert's No. 15 on the field? Did they think he was going to block? Why didn't they call a timeout?

"We didn't have to call a timeout," said Levy. "We already had a punt-safe called. We weren't trying to block the kick."

Punt-safe or not, the Bills weren't ready for it.

"When we looked up and saw all those little defensive backs in front of us," said Bengal guard Max Montoya, "we couldn't snap the ball fast enough."

Levy, who graciously conceded that Cincinnati was a better team, refused to finger his offense and special teams.

"I want to stay away from segmenting," he said. "We just didn't do enough in all three departments." The saddest aspect is that it

was a messy end to one of the best seasons in the history of the Buffalo franchise. SUPER BOWL TICKETS

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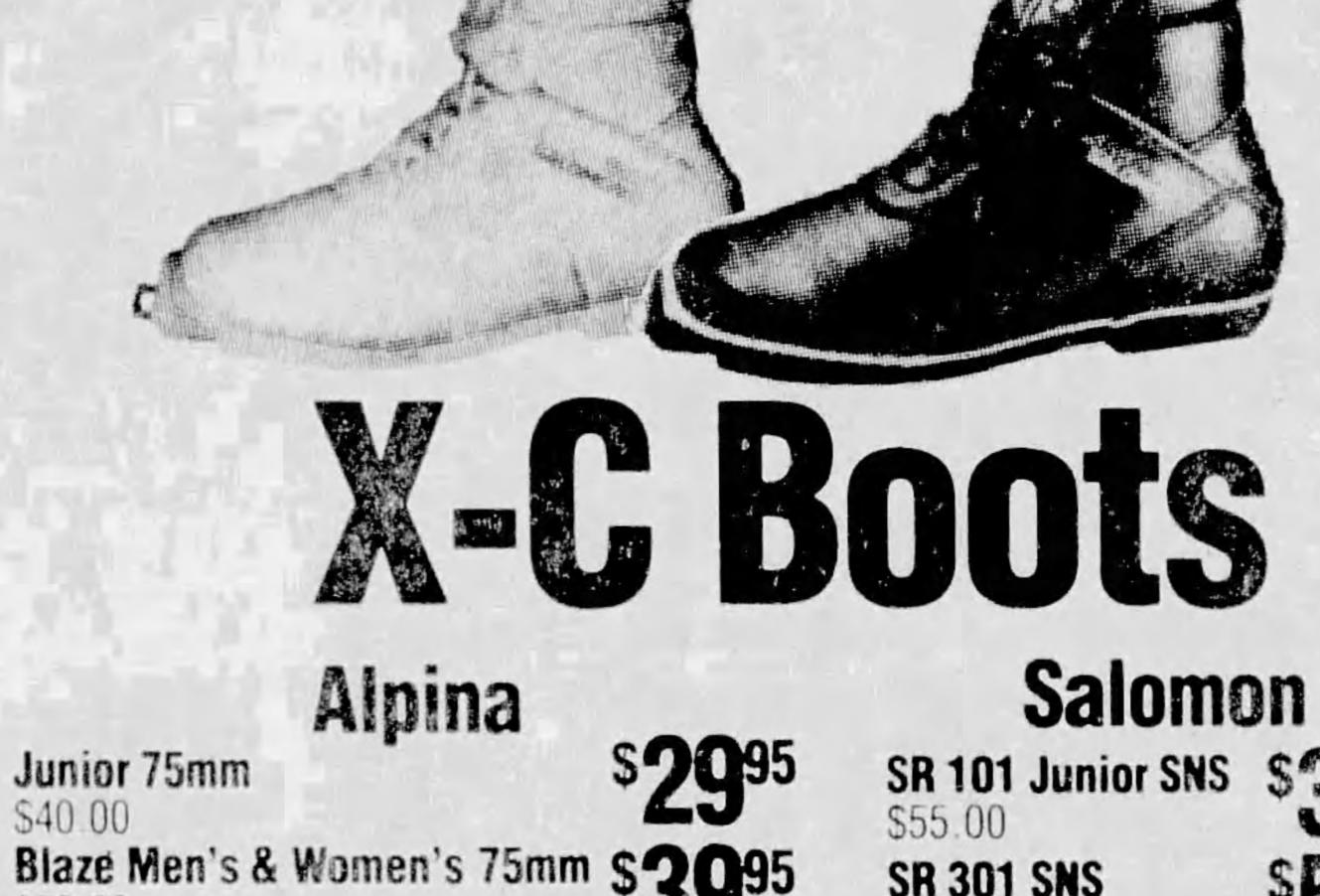
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Redemption for Rice: Big Play on Big Day

Associated Press

CHICAGO - For Jerry Rice, redemption came with a big play on a big day on a cold, hard field hundreds of miles from the warm Mississippi turf where he first ran wild.

In three short seasons, the San Francisco 49ers' wide receiver established himself as one of the dominant offensive weapons in the National Football League.

But in the three post-season contests that followed, he performed one of the game's better disappearing acts - and each time the 49ers disappeared with him.

But not this time.

After managing just 10 catches for just 121 yards and no touchdowns in those three losses, Rice opened the first crack in the Chicago Bears' defense with a electrifying 61-yard touchdown catch and widened it with a second TD from 27 yards as the 49ers walked through to a 28-3 victory Sunday in the NFC Championship game.

"Jerry Rice," San Francisco coach Bill Walsh said, "is one of the very best of our time."

Perhaps unused to those kind of reviews this late in the season. Rice worked hard to take it in stride. He finished the day with five receptions for 133 yards — on the heels of a three-touchdown performance that helped bury the Minnesota Vikings the previous week — but was quick to pass the credit around.

"If I'm making the plays, it really boosts the team," he said. "But I think as a whole, we played

Beginning with a high school career near his Starkville, Miss., home, Rice was one of those athletes to whom success came easily.

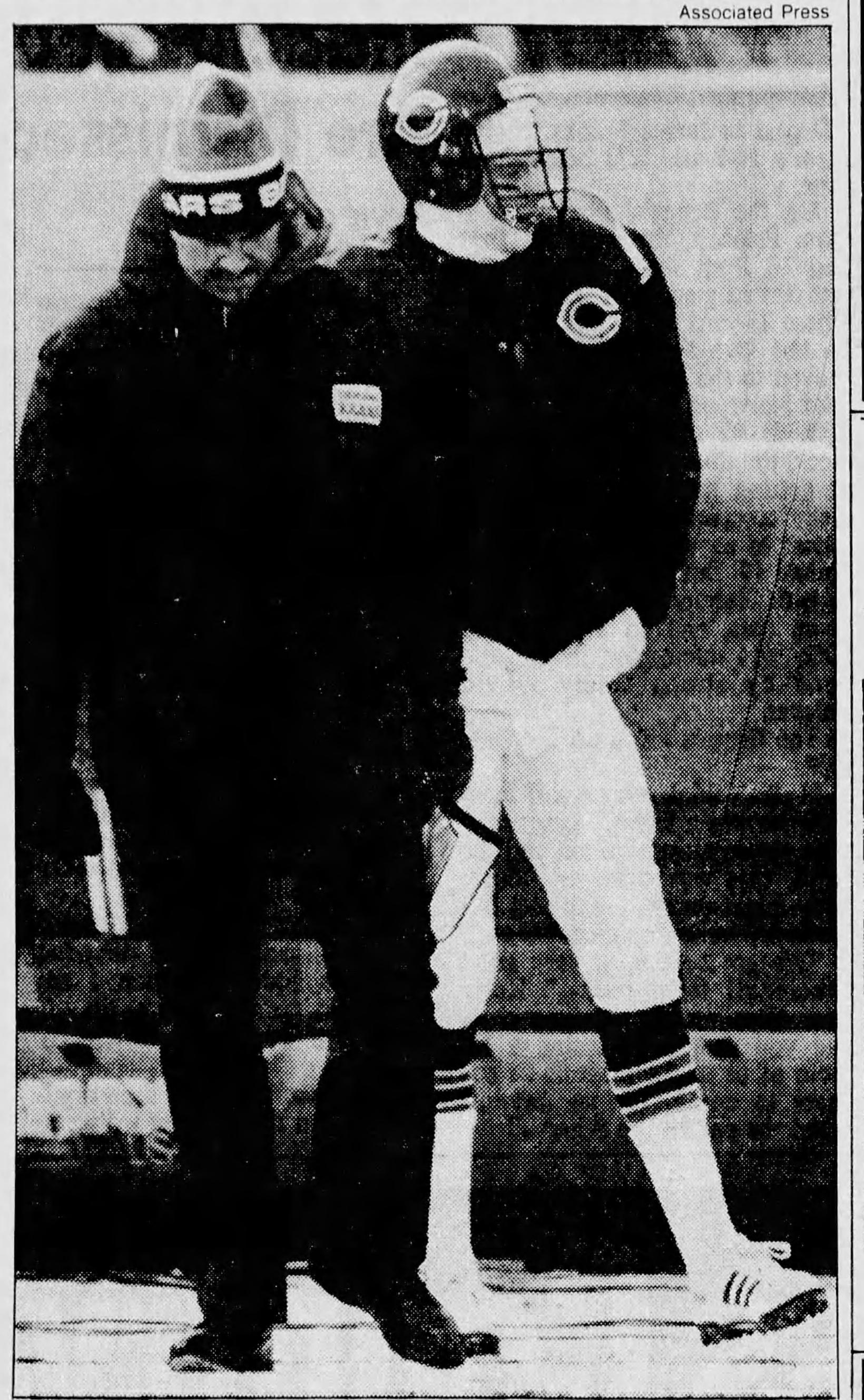
He set a handful of NCAA Division I-AA records at Mississippi Valley State, drawing enough attention to be selected in the first round of the 1985 draft. He promptly set several club records for rookie receivers, then turned his play up a notch, catching an NFL-record 22 touchdowns in 1987 and being named offensive player of the year.

But much of that changed this year. The well-dressed and oftenplayful Rice — his haircuts have earned him the nickname "Fifi" - found himself slowed by hip and ankle injuries and stung by the criticism that accompanied an unfamiliar 49ers losing streak that culminated in a nationally televised 10-9 loss to the Bears.

Rice caught a 23-yard touchdown pass early in that game, then was rendered ineffective the rest of the way as the Bears' rugged secondary bumped him early and often off the line. Hobbled by injuries, he was unable to get free.

"I remembered that when we first came here, they were bumping and knocking me all the time," he said. "This time, I felt like I could get away."

And so he did.



Bears coach Mike Ditka and Mike Tomczak await the end.

Niners

Continued from Page D-1

back said.

Chicago cornerback Mike Richardson went for the interception, and Rice had shaken him by the time he landed. Safety Todd Krumm overran the play, and Rice dashed the remaining 42 yards over the frozen dirt to the touchdown which made it 7-0.

If Ditka's decision to start Mc- not us at all." Mahon at quarterback after a two-

Fuller, on an ill-advised pass in formance. the second quarter, stopped a drive and gave the 49ers the ball on their 36. Montana didn't need long to find Rice, this time for 27 it 14-0 midway through the second

quarter. "All year long, we kept hearing mentum from a half-opening de-

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about Minnesota's defense and Chicago's defense, even though we were one of the best defenses in the league," 49ers nose tackle Michael Carter said. "I don't know if McMahon was rusty or not, but he wasn't comfortable back there."

Chicago center Jay Hilgenberg was more succinct: "We didn't make a play all day. We fell behind and had to throw, and that's

Ditka will be second-guessed month absence was a surprise, the for starting McMahon, who had fact that he couldn't move the been out since Week 9, first beteam was just as big a shock. He cause of a sprained knee and then completed only 14 of 29 passes for because Tomczak had beat him 121 yards before Mike Tomczak out. "If you have to blame anyrelieved him in the fourth quarter. body, I'm a good guy to blame," An interception by safety Jeff Ditka said, about his team's per-

The Bears did manage a 25yard Kevin Butler field goal toward the end of the first half, to get within 14-3. But Montana, beyards and a touchdown that made neath that baby-face and cleft chin, was too tough. He figured the Bears would gain a lot of mo-

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fensive stand, so he didn't let them have it.

He led a 70-yard drive that saw 5, then for the touchdown to tight ship. end John Frank. That made it 21-3. It also meant that all three

winning this rematch.

Tom Rathman added a fouryard touchdown run later to finish him throw 17 yards to Rice to the the scoring, and the champion-

The 49ers, with a third trip to players who were hobbled or ab- the Super Bowl, now have a sent from the 10-9 49ers loss here chance to win their third champiearlier this year — Montana, Rice onship of the 1980s, one more and Frank — had shown why San than the Washington Redskins, Francisco came in so confident of the only other team with two.

Donn

Continued from Page D-1

Smith played, said defensive coordinator Walt Corey, "On three-quarters of a leg."

Conlan's foot was not at a much higher percentage of effectiveness. He played with a plastic support in his shoe and left the game to have his foot re-taped late in the second quarter (the Bengals mounted a 74-yard touchdown drive during his absence).

"It (the foot) was killing me," Conlan said later.

It was more than he admitted during the game.

"Sometimes I took him out for a rest," said Corey, "because know he's never going to tell me

he's not OK." Despite it all, the Bengals managed just one drive of more than 51 yards on 13 possessions. Esiason threw for only 94 yards and was intercepted twice. An offense that averaged 379 net yards coming in was held to 249 on 73 plays - an average of 3.4 yards per

"We rose to the occasion," said linebacker Ray Bentley. "Nobody let up. We stopped the run other than a couple of drives and we got good pressure on Boomer."

The Experiment began in earnest in the third quarter.

Three times the Bengals, leading 14-10, started drives within a long punt of the Bills' goal line. The Cincy aids were a Bills' offense that would have been better off dropping to one knee in the third quarter and Erroll Tucker's reluctance to field a punt that rolled dead on the one.

It amounted to a full book of chances for the Bengals - the equivalent of waving a Ruth Roper doll in Mike Tyson's face or giving Liz Taylor the keys to the family bakery.

that area of the field, an offense pride. can use its whole repertoire." Unfortunately for the Bills,

The results? The Bengals went only a consolation.

just 15 yards and punted on the first possession, went backward six yards before punting on the second and managed six yards on the third before a special teams lapse allowed a faked punt to suc-

Entries into the Bills' highlight game film here include Art Still's deflected pass, Still's sack of Esiason and a near-interception by Darryl Talley on which Leonard Smith put Brown down for a 10count.

"We did as well as we could," said Kelso. "We left it all on the

"We tried and tried and fought and fought," said Fred Smerlas. "I'm proud of the guys." Unfortunately, the Bengals'

successful fake punt, on fourth-

and-4 at the Buffalo 33, will live in Bills infamy. "That had been a big stand for us," said Bentley. "I was sitting on

the bench thinking, 'Here we go, offense." The Bengals, however, were

thinking, "Here you go, Stanley Wilson." Wilson, who earlier this week

was arrested for urinating on a Cincinnati street, whizzed through the stunned Bills' punt coverage team for a first down.

Five plays later, after prolonged stress, one of the Bills' defensive parts cracked.

Cornerback Derrick Burroughs, who played slap-and-shove with receiver Tim McGee most of the game, raised the ante with an forearm to the jaw. Unfortunately, it came within the view of an official seconds after Conlan had dumped Woods for a 3-yard loss to the 8 on second down.

Woods' decisive touchdown was seconds away.

"You can hold them," said Bruce Smith, "but only for so

Bentley summed up the Bills' Time was up, the experiment treacherous flirtations: "If you over. The defense, all but humiligive up even one first down ated in a prior appearance here, they're in field goal range. And in had regained a full measure of

And not just any offense, mind who had not gone this far in 22 years, the defensive prowess was

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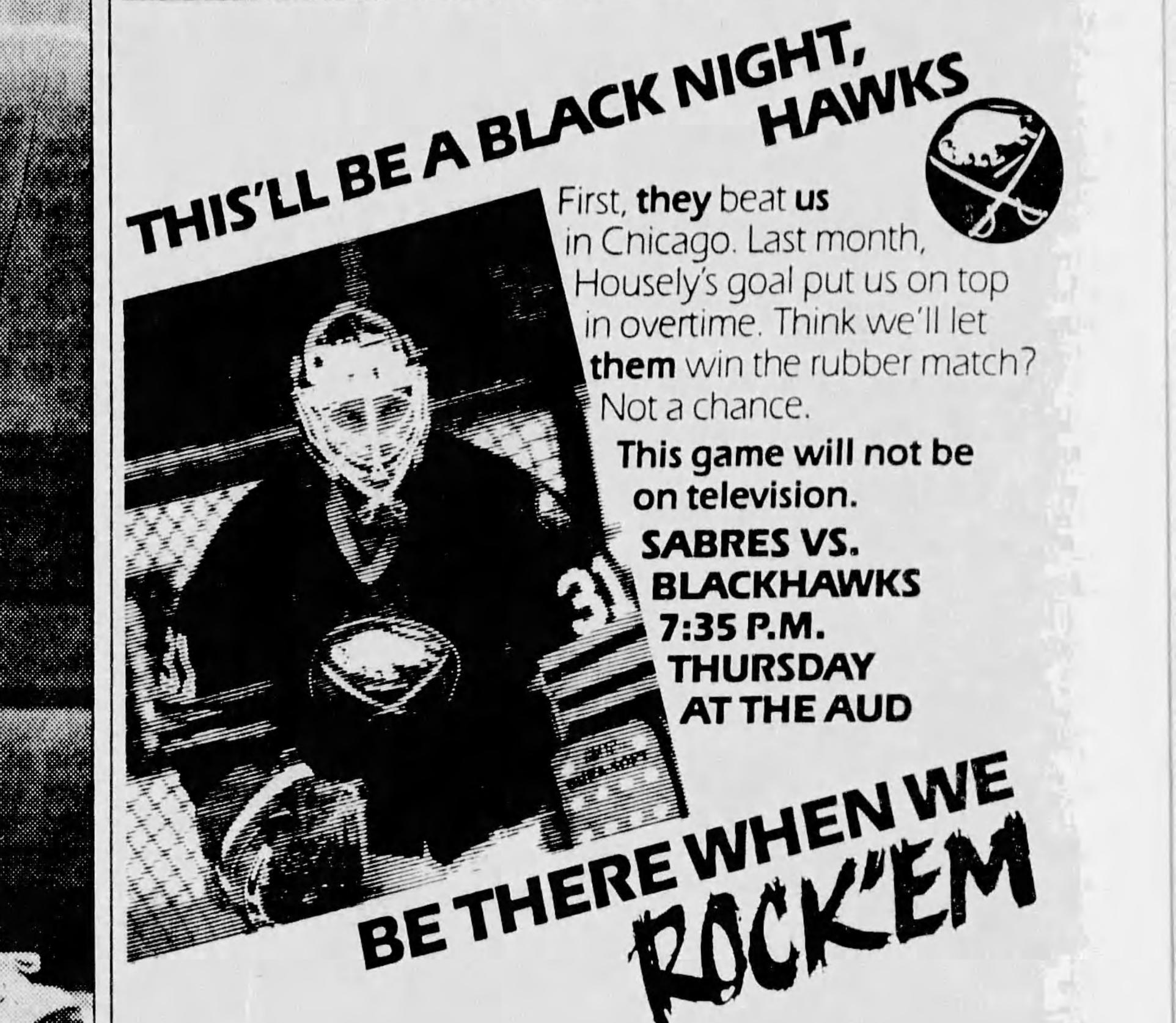
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