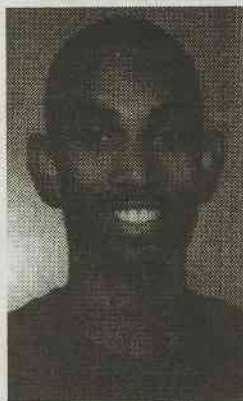


The Crystal Football Says

By: Courtney Slaughter



Despite the failure of both teams, the Minnesota Vikings and the New Orleans Saints, to end with a perfect season, this year's NFL season has still been one of many surprises. All the excitement, anxiety and uncertainty Super Bowl XLIV (44) will be held on February 7, 2010 with kickoff beginning

at 6:30pm in Florida, Miami at the Dolphins Stadium. With only a couple of weeks left until the anticipated 2010 NFL Super Bowl XLIV (44), fans are already trying to decide and predict who will be in the match-up for the title and who will come out on top as this year's Super Bowl Champions.

Considering that Drew Brees is surpassing the remaining teams left in the postseason in total of passing yards, with 247 yards against the Cardinals, and Reggie Bush running over his opponents averaging 16.8 yards per carry,

the New Orleans Saints future to win the Super bowl appears to be secure. Without a doubt, the same can be said for the Minnesota Vikings after smashing the Dallas Cowboys with 4 touchdown passes and 316 yards from Brett Favre and Sidney Rice receiving 141 catching yards and 3 touchdown catches. Surprisingly enough both teams scored 31 more points than their opponent's last game. Coincidence? No. Both teams are evenly talented and equipped to win the Super Bowl making the game between the two all the more anticipated. What about the Colts and Jets? Well the New York Jets rookie quarterback Mark Sanchez has been getting the job done and their running back, Shonn Greene averaging 5.6 yards a carry. Defensively, the Jets have had the intimidating corner back Darrelle Revis to shut down his wide receivers. As for the Colts offensive machine Payton Manning giving the Raven 246 passing yards last game and the fact that he has played in a series of playoff games gives him and his team the upper hand in this matchup.

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If one were to look at all aspects of these teams, they would recognize or come to understand that the real concern should not be who's better or skill vs. skill, but experience vs. talent. For example, Bret Favre and Peyton Manning have been to too many playoff games in their time and both are Super Bowl Champions. The chances of them going head to head may be highly possible considering both quarterbacks history of NFL excellence. Still, others may feel the need to use the stats, the record of who the team lost and won to in the regular season and a comparative match-up with the roster of two teams to support their decision on which team can bring the 2010 NFL Championship Trophy back home. Charles Livingston, a FSU Senior Majoring in Communications believes that the final match up will be between the

Indianapolis Colts and the New Orleans Saints. His reason being was that "The Vikings have good offense and defense, but they will not be able to stop Reggie Bush's running game. As far as the Colts... considering the Jets performance in the San Diego game the Jets have room for improvement. Peyton Manning

doesn't miss so many passes when it comes to throwing. Few dropped passes and interceptions. Don't get me wrong the Jets are good at a Zone Defense for passing. However, there QB tends to fold sometimes and that causes a lot of mistakes. That's why I believe the Super Bowl will be against the Colts and the Saints."

However, there have been many upsetting moments in previous Super Bowls that NFL fans could never forget. Last year's Super Bowl XLIII (43) featured the Arizona Cardinals and the Pittsburgh Steelers. It appeared as if the Arizona Cardinals for the first time in NFL history were going to be Super Bowl Champs with the lead in the last minute of the Super Bowl game where the Pittsburgh Steelers created an uproar for its Arizona Cardinal fans and a reason to celebrate for its Steelers fans with a touchdown to seal the deal as the NFL 2008 Super Bowl Champs. According to the NFL's Game Fan Rating, the most unforgettable Super Bowl upset may have been in Super Bowl XLII (42) where the New

England Patriots achieved a perfect record of 16-0 in the regular season and lost to the New York Giants in the Super Bowl who were 10-6 in the regular season. This upcoming Super Bowl will be one to remember with the surviving teams to live up to their expectations and to play as if there was no tomorrow.

