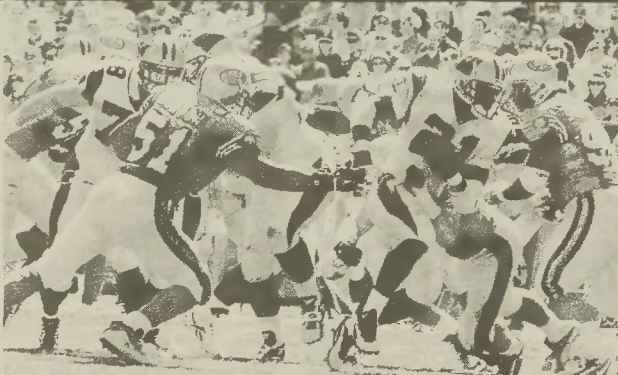


# HEADLINERS/NEWS & NOTES

SPORTS Reviews cont.d from pg. 5



Rookie Running Back #21 Biakabutuka runs pass Ken Norton, Jr. PHOTO: C. Wong

actions taken by the corporation's employees, and offered a settlement.

Coming home to the Carolina's Rural areas, playing football in Baltimore and learning to become "metropolitan" helped to mold Richardson's dreams of bringing home an NFL franchise. In April of 1987, he met with the Nation's Bank chairman, Hugh McColl. When the 1988 US Olympic teams, boxing, basketball and gymnastics, participated in the '87 Carolina Invationals in Charlotte, Jerry Richardson was there. It was there that the Carolina "Kick-off" began! Richardson incorporated people and personnel who possessed positive, successful attitudes. Richardson first hired Mick McCormack, an experienced man with the Expansion Seattle

Seahawks. McCormack brought new NFL Expansion ideas to the table - things he learned while building the Seahawks to a contender and marketable team. Then the Panthers hired Bill Polin as General Manager. Polin was successful in leading the

Buffalo Bills to three consecutive Superbowls.

In January of 1995, the Panthers hired it's first coach, Dom Capers of the Pittsburgh Steelers. Capers ranked first in defense. He first developed New Orleans Saints defensive schemes and was later hired by the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Capers started in the expansion draft by taking and training known NFL veterans, linebackers Sam Mills, Carlton Baily, Lamar Lathon, and Superbowl experienced all pro, Kevin Greene.

There were several more important and noteworthy additions to the team. The drafting of Right Corner back Tyrone Poole was another gem added to the team.

The offense is another story. It was made up of individuals similar to that of the defense. The Front line - Mark Dennis, Greg Skepenak, Frank Garcia - all veteran wide receivers Willie Green and Mark Carrier. The number one pick last year, however, was Tshimanga

Biakabutuka, a power running back who proved to be a strong candidate for "Rookie of the year", were it not for the severe knee injury suffered at the hands of the Jacksonville Jaguars.

This is how Capers' team is built. Defensive key veterans pulling together to make a team of winners. And in their teachings of these facets of the game, people like Kevin Greene and Eric Davis eventually become "Great" players under Capers.

back Biakabutuka, and Muhammad Mushsin.

So can we say about the Panthers? They want to win and model themselves after the S.F. Niners in their development. After winning five Superbowls and setting the tone as footballs best, Eddie DeBartolo, Jr., and Jerry Richardson have things in common. they both are hard workers with excellent management skills. So, for the Carolina Panthers there is no such thing as an Expansion team now. Free agency and salary cap is good for football! So, what can we say about the team who wants to model after the 49'ers? Well, Huel Washington, editor of *Bayview News*, an African American Community paper similar to the *PHOENIX*, has written the history there! Rodney Knox, the long-time African American director of media relations gave me the inside scoop on why three VIP's arrive on the charter to the game against the Panthers.

"Mayor Brown's office sent Jack Davis (Mayor's campaign manager), Jim Wunderman, and supervisor Quentin Kopp. They were here in Charlotte to study the Panthers state of the art stadium. They intend to build a stadium just like it in downtown San Francisco - right next to the Giant's new baseball stadium," said Knox.

It took a big city like San Francisco to realize that North Carolinians can support a stadium on it's own. Now San Francisco plans to call their stadium PEP instead of PSL! The PEP stands for Permanent Equity Position. This fancy name is different in that PEP is Permanent and the rightful owner can will it, or sell it. The PSL has a ten-year statute of limitations, like season tickets must be renewed!

These three VIP's were impressed with the view; every seat in the house was a front-row seat.

SO - what can we say about Panther football? The team is a contender and there is no such thing as Expansion teams now! The Panthers set a record for seven wins in the first year and will do better. Either you're a good team or a very bad one, it's just that simple. As for Jerry Richardson - "You can go home again! Your homecoming dream of going home came true!

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