

Pro Football

by Ron Caldwell

(Ed. Note: Ron has a tendency to try hard. Last week, he just called scores. This week he makes up for it. What can I say but despite bombast of the forth degree, Ron is one of the most verbose people I have the pleasure of tolerating. Way to go, Ron. Another article this long and our fans will still be reading about week no. 7 during the Super Bowl!)

Record: 50-20

After two weeks of barely being over the .500 mark, I had a heart-to-transistor chat with my little IT 25,000 and we both agreed that he should gamely try one more week of predictions before blowing all of the upper tubes and going into some other line of work. After all of the upsets last week, I'm beginning to think that the only line of work easier than this is being head eunuch at the YWCA.

BUFFALO AT SEATTLE: Pickin's have been mighty slim for the upstate New York Bison in 1977 and everybody north of the Big Apple is wondering if the Good Lord blew it when He put two Buffalo on Noah's Ark. The Juice has been running like Molasses so far, but hopes to loosen the springs a bit when he and his plainsmates stampede into the Kingdome lookin' for some fresh grass to chew. Ken Patera's uncertain Seahawks could use a breather after their Florida nightmare, so look for Farmer Zorn to have the Astroturf as high as Buffalo's eye as the Hawks make the Buffs run circles around themselves—and pass the Alka-Seltzer. Call it SEATTLE.

HOUSTON AT CINCINNATI: After their collision with a runaway freight train in the Steel City area last week, Bum Phillips and his Texas Crude Boys ride a slick into Redtown to take on Bill Johnson's up'n'down Bengals. After being run through and through by the Denver Broncos, it'll be all the Cats can do to contain the flood when Dan Pastcini turns on the faucet and pollutes the Ohio River. Call it HOUSTON.

KANSAS CITY AT CLEVELAND: Paul Wiggins and the Kaycee Happiness Boys pulled one from their back pocket in San Diego and got themselves out of the AFC West basement. But how long they'll stay out depends on how well they can control the mob of Brownies that'll be comin' at them Sunday afternoon. If all flows accordin' to Hoyle (and yours truly), the AFC Central will resemble a logjam with Pittsburgh, the Brownies and Crude Boys leading the way as the Scouts play Massacre with the Chiefs as the massacre-ee. Call it CLEVELAND.

NEW YORK JETS AT NEW ENGLAND: Richard Todd and his Roger Ramjets almost camped under the sign of "Upset" against Oakland last Sunday, while Brogan's Boys not only set up camp again' Baltimore, but all but declared Squatter's Rights in the AFC East. With the thought of making the race with the Colts and Dolphins a little closer than either team would like it, Steve B. should send the Air Force back to the Big Apple with a tiger in their tanks. Call it NEW ENGLAND.

PITTSBURGH AT BALTIMORE: Ted Marchibroda and his Maryland Mustangs finally found out about the agony of defeat thanks to the Liberty Boys from Foxboro, while Chuck Noll's Iron Boys were flexing their collective muscle on some greasy kid stuff from the West. With the Colts still feeling the after-effects of their 40-14 loss to the Steel Kids in the play-offs last year, they might be more gun-shy than run-shy. Let's call it PITTSBURGH, just to help the Patriots out a little.

OAKLAND AT DENVER: If the Raiders think that their ears were ringing after their loss to Denver two weeks ago, that might explain why they had to play ketchup with the Ramjets last week. The ground around Oakland still hasn't stopped shaking since the Broncos did a collective two-step and stepped right into the AFC West Penthouse. But now the scene switches to the Mile-High City where the Broncos are tougher than shoe leather. I'm gonna get letters on this, but I think the Broncos have the stuff that champions are made of and will finally get a chance to prove it as they sink the Bucs in a sea of Coors. Call it DENVER in an UPSET!

SAN DIEGO AT MIAMI: Tommy Prothro and the South California Charge Plates had the rug pulled right out from under them thanks to the Kaycees. At about the same time, Don Shula's Sharks were making a mid-afternoon snack out of the Seattle Seagulls. A win for the Chargers would put them in great shape to catch the Bay Boys, but a Miami triumph would place the Dolphs in a Super Spot to start chompin' on the heels of the Colts. As anything's possible on any given Sunday, suppose we make this a co-upset of the week by calling it SAN DIEGO and crossing our fingers. What say ye?



CHICAGO AT GREEN BAY: This shapes up to be a battle of two teams caught between floors when Bart Starr and his Point-Stingy (only 54 allowed in six games) Packers host Walter Peyton and his Gentle Bens. If the Bens play like they did against Atlanta, the Pack should have this win nailed down in time to get out for a few beers before the bars close. Call it GREEN BAY.

TAMPA BAY AT SAN FRANCISCO: The Miners 49'ers haven't had a very good season in '77, but the Bucs haven't exactly had a picnic in their second season. At least the Niners have one win to their credit—the Tampas have lost 20 in a row. If twenty-one is supposed to be such a hot number, then why's John McKay telling the Tampa Bay faithful (both of them) that all is not lost? Buck up, John. Only seven more weeks. Call it SAN FRANCISCO.

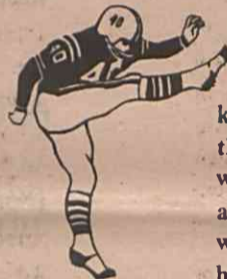
NEW YORK GIANTS AT ST. LOUIS: Monday Night Special. After being silent for more years than the Jersey faithful care to count, the Giants are at last making some noise in the NFC East. John McVay tied the Washington Medicine men in several dozen knots down at RFK last week. . .but the Cards pushed the Panic Button just in time to get out with their lives against New Orleans. I'll go with ST. LOUIS. Don't ask my why.

LOS ANGELES AT NEW ORLEANS: Chuck Knox and his Dodgertown Billies made monkeys out of the Twin Cities Norsemen day night without their star QB, Mr. Namath. Even without Jolly Joe at the controls, the Goats (No, not that Goat!) should make less than short work of the situation when they wander into the Louisiana Superdome to take on Hank Stram's unpredictable Saints. Les Saints played fairly even with the Cards in St. Louis, but still came up on the short end of the stick at the end. It might not be close, but it'll make the NFC West race a little more interesting for awhile. Call it LOS ANGELES.

MINNESOTA AT ATLANTA: The Norsemen got their collective keels hauled on the Cosell Comedy Hour on Monday and face a better than average test when they continue their trip through the NFC West with a stopover in the Falcons' lair in Atlanta. The Falcons got through a close one with the Bears as I predicted, but shouldn't really look forward to a rose bouquet after the game. . .especially if Frantic Fran is on his game. I'd like to pull for Atlanta, but I can't this week. Call it MINNESOTA.

PHILADELPHIA AT WASHINGTON: The Capital City Cherokee lost precious ground in the NFC East when the NY Giants did a Jump-Shout-Boogie number at the RFK theatre. If they lose this one, the rest of 1977'll be a long one for George Allen whose Skins would fall into the cellar along with the Liberty Buzzards. Call it WASHINGTON.

DETROIT AT DALLAS: The Battle of the "Dos" doesn't really shape up to be a very interesting one. Tom Landry already has his cowpokes ready to go prospecting for a Rose Garden in New Orleans come January while Tommy Hudspeth is just praying for enough time to keep within spitting distance of Bud Grant's Norsemen. The Pokes should put the game away early as Tony D. should make the Motor Towners feel like they've been hit with the AMC Seal of Approval. Call it DALLAS.



SOCCKER SEASON TALLY

UNC-W 3, UNC-A 0.	(Cecchini 21 saves)
UNC-A 2, UNC-Charlotte 1	(Ramsey 2 goals, McMahon 1 assist)
Liberty Baptist 2, UNCA 0	(Cecchini 11 saves)
Winthrop 4, UNCA 1	(Ramsey 1 goal, Linton 20 saves)
UNCA 6, Baptist College 1	(Ramsey 3, Blanton 2, McPeters 1 goals, Ramsey 2 assist)
Western Carolina 6, UNCA 0	(Cecchini 23 saves)
Coll. of Charleston 5, UNCA 0	(Cecchini 15 saves)
Belmont Abbey 2, UNCA 1	(McPeters 1 goal)
Winthrop 2, UNCA 1	(DeLuca 1 goal, Blanton 1 assist)
UNCA 3, Wofford 1	(Ramsey 2, Blanton 1 goals scored)
Emory 2, UNCA 0	(Cecchini 16 saves)
UNCA 4, Presbyterian 0	(McPeters 2, Blanton 1, McMahon 1 goals, DeLuca, Blanton 1 assist)
UNCA 1, Central Wesleyan 1	(Blanton 1 goal)