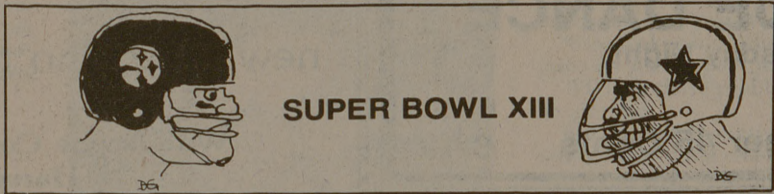


Hollywood' creates showcase

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — Thomas Henderson is turning Super Bowl III into his personal showcase. Henderson, who will start at outside linebacker for Dallas against the Pittsburgh Steelers in today's NFL title game at the Orange Bowl, has shattered the whoys' conservative image with recent verbal barrages. Henderson had the Los Angeles Rams fuming before their NFC title game two weeks ago, claiming they didn't have enough class to make Super Bowl. Tuesday he turned guns on the Steelers, but most of a response so far has been laughter.

"I think the Steelers are more than they are putting out to Henderson, who appeared in the Cowboys' photo session with several gold chains and pendants on his uniform shirt. "I think they know they're in for a handful Sunday. Let's face it — Pittsburgh isn't have any depth. I guess I with Monday say I respect Pittsburgh more in the Rams — they have been Super Bowl champions twice — I still think we're going to shut them out on defense. And they can take that any way they want to. They can't intimidate



us. The Steelers will be laying back, trying to figure out what we're going to do. I wonder if they can think. We are the reigning World Champions. The score of Sunday's game will be a whole little to a whole lot and we're going to be the whole lot."

Henderson bills himself as "my own P.R. man." He adds quickly, "but I have to back it up. When I can't back it up, then I'm in trouble. But it's going to be just like the L.A. game. They lack depth. We'll shut them out on defense and Hollywood will have the final word again."

Henderson, who bestowed the Hollywood title on himself, was referring to a 68-yard touchdown run with an interception against Los Angeles that clinched the Cowboys' 28-0 title game victory over the Rams.

But while the Rams fumed and fussed about Henderson's taunts, the Steelers only laugh and smile. "Yeah, I saw what he's been say-

ing," said Jack Lambert, the Steelers' All-Pro middle linebacker. "I thought it was humorous. I've always felt Thomas Henderson was the Muhammad Ali type. We haven't dwelt on it at all. I think he's just a lot of talk. I think it's more of a show than anything else. He just likes to see his name in the paper."

"He's quite a character," said tight end Randy Grossman. "This is a sport and everything, but when you get to the professional level, it's big entertainment. Tickets are going for \$150-200. He serves a purpose for the whole thing. What if everybody said, 'it's going to be a great game,' and all that kind of stuff. It doesn't make any difference to me what he says. What it comes down to is the game. That's when I'll be serious."

"We don't have anyone like that," said defensive tackle Steve Furness. "It's not indicative of our style. If it makes him play better, he should keep it up. I don't see how he can

say we lack depth. We're not fazed by that type of talk. Elvin Bethea (Houston defensive end) guaranteed a victory over the Steelers too. He'll (Henderson) have enough trouble containing our offensive line."

"Gorgeous George had his thing, Muhammad Ali had his," said tackle Jon Kolb. "You can't blame a guy if he wants a little recognition."

"If anything, it's a little mental boost for us," said guard Gerry Mullins. "It gives you incentive to try and shut his mouth. He's a good football player and I guess he has the right to say what he wants but I know a lot of good football players who don't shoot off their mouth. If it helps him get ready, fine, but it's just got to be fuel for our fire."

Most of Henderson's teammates were supportive of his vocal outburst.

"We've never really had anyone that outspoken," said All-Pro safety Cliff Harris. "In the past, when he's talked, he's always backed it up. I'm glad to see it. I know he won't let me down."

"He has strong personal opinions. When Thomas says things like we're going to shut out the Steelers, he puts pressure on himself and he seems to play better with more pressure."



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