

Super Bowl winner?

NFL scout says flip a coin

By MILTON RICHMAN
UPI Sports Editor

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — The most impartial witnesses you can find in football are the scouts. They have no ax to grind. When their teams are not involved, they don't care who wins. Jim Royer is a man like that. He's strictly neutral. His team isn't involved in Super Bowl XIII.

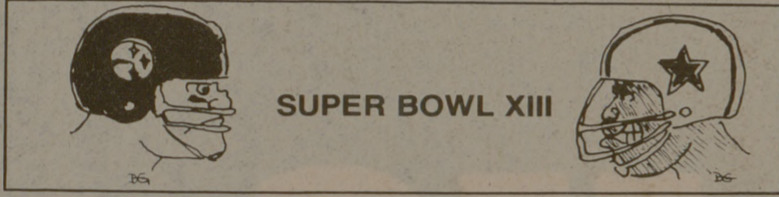
Royer is chief scout and pro personnel coordinator with the New York Jets, one of five teams in the NFL who met both Dallas and Pittsburgh this season, and he followed and scouted both the Cowboys and Steelers.

When it comes to evaluating next Sunday's Super Bowl competitors, Royer says you can flip a coin, they're that close. And if you're going to the game or plan to watch it on TV, he adds, keep an eye on Pittsburgh's offense.

"That could be the key to the game," Royer says. "The determining factor I think will be how well Pittsburgh can run the football. If Dallas can limit Pittsburgh's rush, that will force the Steelers to throw the ball more, and that would play right into the Cowboys' hands because one of their greatest strengths is their pass rush."

The basic difference in the teams, says Royer, is their style of attack.

"Pittsburgh is more physical, offensively and defensively," he reminds. "Dallas goes in more for finesse. The Cowboys try to finesse you by shifting so much. They try for a mismatch right there at the line of scrimmage, feeling if you miss by half a step they have that much of an edge on you. Otherwise, most of the



SUPER BOWL XIII

matchups are pretty even. If the two teams lined up shoe to shoe and there were no other outside factors involved, the end result probably would be nothing-nothing.

But it can't possibly wind up that way even if the Cowboys and Steelers have to keep hammering away at each other all day and all night in the Orange Bowl, where it could boil down to which of the two quarterbacks has the better game.

"That's one I don't think anyone could call in advance," says Royer, who coached at Navy under Wayne Hardin and first ran into Roger Staubach there 15 years ago.

"He hasn't changed much since I first met him, except to get better," says Royer. "From the first day he came out for football, he had a strong arm and good velocity when he threw. You could see the leadership qualities in him when he was at Navy and they have carried into professional football."

Terry Bradshaw is more physical than Staubach, Royer says.

"On occasion, he'll still challenge the tackler. Roger doesn't, but that isn't a negative point against him. He's smart. He'll go for the sideline more often than Terry will, preferring to lose the battle but win the war. That doesn't mean Roger won't run the ball if he gets the chance or feels he has to. If push comes to

something to confuse the offensive blocking patterns. They have a way of forcing the other teams to do something it doesn't want to do.

"The quarterback sees something like that and he has to change the play. That causes indecision, and you know what that does."

I asked Royer if he'd pick a winner, and he laughed and said no because the Cowboys and Steelers are too evenly matched.

The bookmakers, who have made Pittsburgh a slight favorite, feel pretty much the same way. Bear in mind, though, they made the Steelers only seven-point choices over the Oilers last week and you remember how that one came out.

Super profit

United Press International
A one minute commercial on Super Bowl XIII cost a sponsor \$370,000. Super Sunday will be super profitable for NBC, which stands to gross about \$7.5 million for the one-game World Series of football.

Closed circuit possible for Tech-A&M

The Texas Tech-Texas A&M basketball game will be televised on closed circuit television Saturday night in Rudder Auditorium in the event that all student tickets are distributed, according to Wally Groff,

assistant athletic director for business affairs.

Two thousand seats will be available on a first-come-first-serve basis only to basketball season pass holders. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday and the game begins at 7:30 p.m.

Groff also said that Monday night's Texas A&M-Texas game in Austin is completely sold out.

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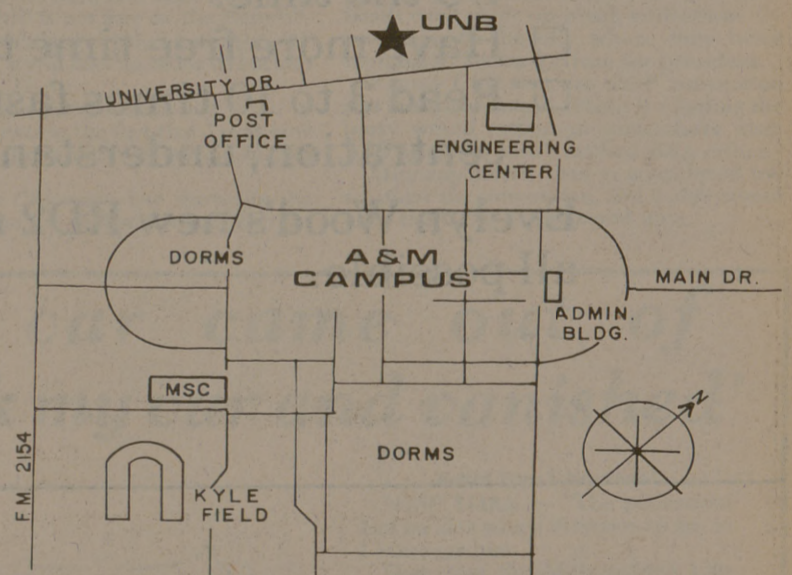
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