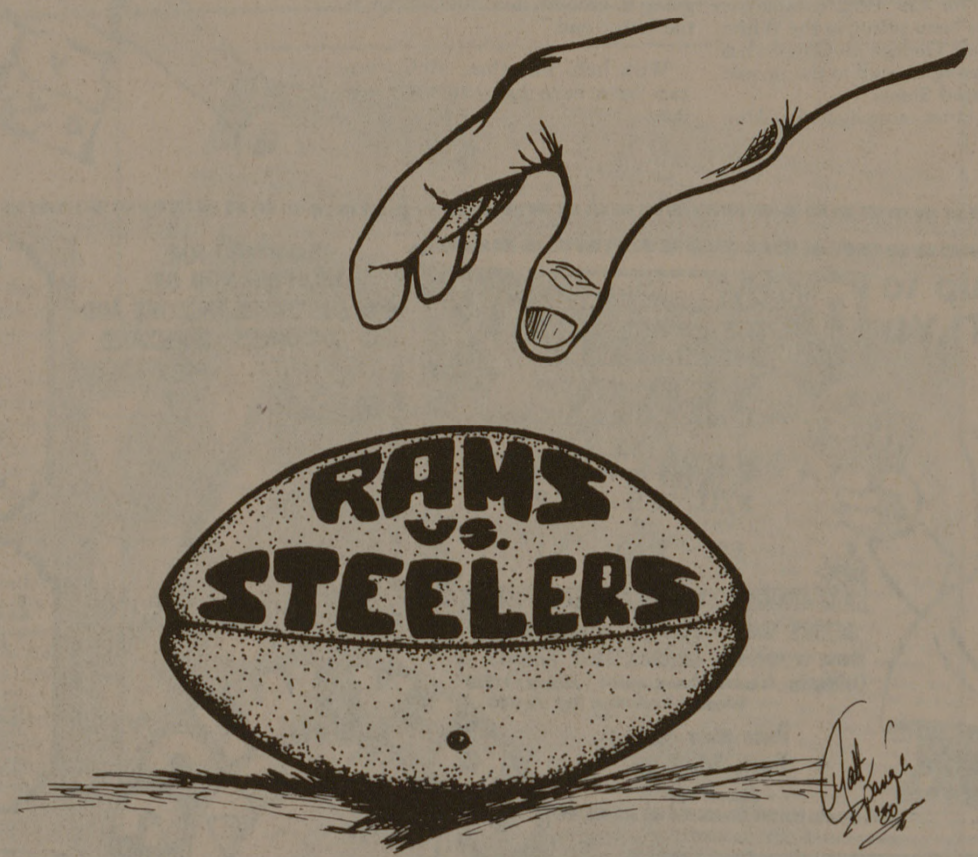


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# Rams say they can win despite odds

United Press International  
ANAHEIM, Calif. — By making the defending champion Pittsburgh Steelers 11-point favorites in Super Bowl XIV, the oddsmakers are conveying a message loud and clear. They're telling you there's practically no way the Los Angeles Rams can win Sunday's ballgame, and most people associated with professional football go along with that assessment. But Ray Malavasi, the Rams' coach, can tell you two ways his team can upset the mighty Steelers, one being their ability to control the football and run it, and the other being by getting off the kind of pass rush that would minimize the effectiveness of Pittsburgh quarterback Terry Bradshaw. As the man who not only leads their pass rush but the one the rest of the Rams look to for leadership and inspiration, Jack Youngblood, their veteran defensive end, emerges as the key to whatever meager chance they have of surprising the Steelers. Youngblood is something to see in action on a football field. He sacked enemy quarterbacks 16 times this past season to lead the team in that department and was credited with 51 tackles, 29 assists and three forced fumbles. Along with that, he was named All-Pro for the seventh consecutive year. There's only one rub. He's still not completely over a hairline fracture in his left leg suffered a couple of weeks ago in the Rams' playoff victory over Dallas. He's playing hurt, but he expects to be back against Tampa Bay nine days after he'll certainly play Sunday. "Right now, I feel real good. The injury doesn't bother me at all," he said yesterday. "All that stuff I've been hearing and reading about us not having a chance against the Steelers is a bunch of garbage. We deserve to be in the Super Bowl as much as they do. I think it'll be a low scoring game, but the keys to us winning will be if we can stop their running attack and ease some pressure on Terry Bradshaw."

we match up as well as anybody." One way or another, however, the discussion about the Rams' chances always seems to get back to Youngblood and his ability to perform at top efficiency. "I'm keeping my fingers crossed about him," said Malavasi following Monday's practice session. "He worked today and moved pretty good. Against Tampa Bay, he did a good job but not what he's capable of." Offensive guard Dennis Harrah knows what Youngblood is going through now with his leg because he broke the same bone, the fibula, in his own leg in a game with Denver early in the season and played two games on it. "It's terrible, and playing on it is very tough to do," Harrah said. "The fibula isn't a weight-bearing bone. Playing on it isn't very dangerous, but it's dangerous enough. All year long, he kidded me about my leg. Now he says, 'I'll never say anything to you again.'" Wendel Tyler was the Rams' leading rusher this year with over 1,000 yards. He led the NFL with an average of 5.1 yards per carry and says he'll feel like a circus performer because everybody will be watching him.



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