

It's Redskins over Miami, 27-17

John Riggins powers 'Skins to 'upset' Super Bowl win

United Press International
PASADENA, Calif. — Led by a band of Hogs and Smurfs and an animalistic fullback, the Washington Redskins capped the Year of the Strike by making the Miami defense work overtime.

The NFC champions evened their Super Bowl record at 1-1 Sunday with a 27-17 upset of the Dolphins in a sold-out Rose Bowl and Washington's self-named "Hogs" of the offensive line made pigs of themselves by devouring the Dolphins' league-leading defense.

Operating behind that battering ram, 235-pound fullback John Riggins set a Super Bowl record with 166 yards and diminutive "Smurf" receivers Alvin Garrett and Charlie Brown each caught a touchdown pass from Joe Theismann. Riggins was named the game's Most Valuable Player.

The Washington defense entered the game lacking a nickname. The Dolphins left the field having a few four-letter ones to suggest.

"Some people underestimate us because we're a total team, tough and physical," said coach Joe Gibbs after guiding the Redskins to their 12th victory in 13 games during the strike-shortened season.

Riggins capped the greatest post-season running display in league history as the Redskins rumbled for an astounding 276 yards on the ground. The 11-year veteran provided the game's key play five minutes into the fourth period when he broke through an arm tackle by 192-pound cornerback Don McNeal on fourth-and-inches and dashed 43 yards to put Washington ahead 20-17.

"One of their guys fell down

and I guess McNeal couldn't hold on," said Riggins, who rushed for 610 yards and four touchdowns in a superb four-game playoff series.

Despite a 57-day players' strike that cost each club an estimated \$2 million, the Redskins won a record \$36,000 per player in capturing their eighth straight while the Dolphins, 10-3, settled for \$18,000 per man in the rematch of Super Bowl VII, which Miami won 14-7 to end the only perfect season in NFL history.

"Since the middle of last season, the Redskins have been the best team in pro football and they proved it today," said Miami Coach Don Shula, who made his fifth Super Bowl appearance. "You have to give a lot of credit to the Washington offense and John Riggins. He was a dominant force. And the Redskins' offensive line had a great surge in the second half."

The Dolphins took a 17-10 halftime advantage using a big-play attack, but the Washington defense held them to two first downs and no completions in the second half. Garrett, who caught a 4-yard TD pass from Theismann in the second period, helped pull the Redskins within 17-13 with a 44-yard flanker reverse early in the second half to set up Moseley's second field goal of the game, a 20-yarder. The Miami offense, meanwhile, was going nowhere under the shaky leadership of young David Woodley.

"I think they got a little conservative once they got the half-time lead," said Washington free safety and player representative Mark Murphy. "We felt the key was getting them into sure passing situations and we blitzed a lot on first down, not only to put

pressure on Woodley but to stop the running game."

Woodley hit just 4-of-14 passes for 97 yards, and 76 came on a TD pass to Jimmy Cefalo that gave the Dolphins a 7-0 lead at 6:49 of the opening quarter.

Dexter Manley's hit on Woodley and subsequent fumble recovery by fellow defensive lineman Dave Butz set up a 31-yard field goal by Moseley to make it 7-3 just 21 seconds into the second period, but Fulton Walker then uncorked two big kickoff returns to set up 10 Miami points.

Walker, whose best return during the regular season was 32 yards, ran 42 yards with the ensuing kickoff, setting up von Schamann's 20-yarder at the nine-minute mark. The Redskins responded with an 80-yard march in 11 plays, capped by Theismann's 4-yard flip to Garrett to make it 10-10.

Walker continued to press the Redskins' special teams to the limit on the following kickoff as he darted 98 yards for a touchdown, the first kickoff return for a score in Super Bowl history.

After Riggins' explosive run, the Dolphins couldn't manage a first down and Washington iced the game with a 41-yard, 12-play drive that culminated in Theismann's 6-yard TD flip to Brown.

The Redskins complained before the game about not receiving their due during an 8-1 regular season and Sunday's Super Bowl XVII marked the second straight week they were rated underdogs to a team with a poorer record. By sinking the Miami Dolphins 27-17, the Redskins earned their first Super Bowl victory and exorcised some private demons.

"I think some people have

underestimated us because we're a total team," said Gibbs, who guided the Redskins to their eighth straight triumph to finish at 12-1. "I want to thank God, (club owner) Mr. Jack Kent Cooke, (general manager) Mr. Bobby Beathard, my players and then our fans, in that order."

Cooke, beaming broadly in a houndstooth hat, accepted the Vince Lombardi Trophy from NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle in a raucous dressing room and had the composure to needle Rozelle.

"This magnificent team has the privilege of playing in front

of the most fabulous fans on the face of the earth," Cooke said. "I'd like to thank each of them personally. As for you, my dear Pete, you said we had the best record in the NFC. As a matter of fact, we had the best record in the NFL!"

President Reagan quickly jumped on the Washington bandwagon with a post-game phone call to Gibbs.

"I just want to say congratulations to that team of yours," Reagan said, "and I'd like to know if your team would now like to help me on Capitol Hill. Also, do you think Riggins would mind me changing the

spelling of my name to add an 'I' and a couple of 'G's? You really earned it out there."

Gibbs had been praising his team all week for its versatility and the self-named "Hogs" of the offensive line certainly did their part in controlling the line

of scrimmage — and it

body we've run the ball on and I think we were very offensively today," said Jeff Bostic. "We played skins' football today."

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Intramural softball is where the action is! Just ask Frankie Wright and Mike Maldonado!

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Entries will continue to be accepted through tomorrow, Tuesday, February 1. The entry fees are as follows: Classes A & B - \$15.40 (includes first three weeks of play and the first round of playoffs), Class C - \$23.00 (includes five weeks of play) and Shoes - 50¢. Four bowlers per team. CoRec team consists of two men and two women. Schedules must be picked up at the team manager's meeting on Thursday, February 3 at 5:15 PM in Room 164 E. Kyle. Entries will be limited due to lack of available time and facilities so get your entry in today!



IM GAMEPLAN

Racquetball Singles

ENTRIES CLOSE - RACQUETBALL SINGLES. Entries will be accepted through tomorrow, Tuesday, February 1. There is no entry fee but you must supply a new can of balls and your own racquet. There will be a Faculty/Staff/Grad Division available in this tournament. Schedules will be posted outside the IM-REC Sports Office on Thursday, February 3 after 2 PM.



Acknowledgements

McDonald's Intramural Highlights is sponsored each Monday in the Battalion by your local McDonald's Restaurants at University Drive, Manor East Mall and on Texas Avenue. Stories are provided by members of the Intramural-Recreational Sports Department Staff. Photos are by Tom Davies.



Free Throw Shoot

FREE THROW SHOOTING CONTEST: Entries will continue to be accepted at the IM-REC Sports Office through Tuesday, February 8 or at the contest location at G. Rollie White Coliseum (Main Floor) from 6:30 PM on the date of the event. The contest will be held on Tuesday, February 8 from 7 PM - 9 PM. For further information contact the IM-REC Sports Office, 159 E. Kyle, 845-7826.

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