

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Hope for better outcome

Saints to play Jets tonight

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — It has been three years since Monday night football came to the Louisiana Superdome and after that less-than-memorable evening there were those who thought it might never return.

the same stadium. The Superdome had never housed so much futility in such a short period of time.

"At the end of the 1980 season I was ready to say the hell with it," said defensive lineman Derland Moore, who has spent all 11 of his NFL years with the Saints. "It was more than I could take. I thought that digging a ditch would beat going out and having people laugh at me and being ashamed of being called a

New Orleans Saint."

But a month after the 1980 season ended coach Bum Phillips came to New Orleans and things have become steadily brighter ever since.

That brightness will be displayed Monday evening when the Saints, trying for their first winning season ever and battling for a playoff berth as well, host the New York Jets. New Orleans will be trying for its first win on Monday night, the Saints

being the only team in the league not to have at least one Monday night victory.

The Saints (6-5) entered the weekend one game behind Los Angeles and San Francisco in the race for the NFC West crown while the Jets have unexpectedly struggled and with a 4-7 record have only the faintest of hopes that their season can be salvaged to the point of making the playoffs.

Cincinnati bombs Oilers with first-half outburst

CINCINNATI (UPI) — The Cincinnati Bengals' main problem is they can't schedule the Houston Oilers often enough. Two weeks ago, Cincinnati routed Houston 55-14. On Sunday, the Bengals whipped the Oilers again, this time 38-10. It would have been worse, but Cincinnati sat on the ball the entire second half and didn't score.

The Cincinnati-Houston two-game total: Bengals 93, Oilers 24.

"We were completely outclassed, completely outplayed and completely humiliated in both games," said Houston coach Chuck Studley. "Cincinnati is thoroughly a better football team in every respect — they're just too good for us."

After the blowout two weeks ago, Cincinnati coach Forrest Gregg was worried about an emotional flip-flop Sunday.

"I never thought this would happen twice in a row," said Gregg. "But, you never know." The game was decided by halftime, when Cincinnati built a 38-3 lead.

"In the second half, we sat on the ball," said Gregg. "It was no pressing matter with that big lead."

The Bengals built their gigantic first half lead thanks to Ken Anderson's passing and Pete Johnson's running.

Anderson fired three touchdown passes the first half and Johnson ran for a pair of touchdowns. Johnson, a 270-pound

fullback, also enjoyed the second best rushing day of his career — piling up 137 yards in 30 carries.

"I felt better this week than I ever have this year," said Johnson, who has been steadily rebuilding his strength and reputation after sitting out the first four games of the year on suspension.

"The Oiler linemen were telling me, 'Pete, come this way,'" chuckled Johnson. "That happens to me a lot and it's a challenge for me."

Cincinnati, 5-7, has won four of its last five games while Houston, 1-11, has lost 18 of its last 19.

Anderson, who completed 10-of-15 passes for 177 yards, threw touchdown strikes of 45 yards to Cris Collinsworth and 16 yards and 1 yard to Dan Ross.

Johnson, who got his 137 yards on 30 carries, scored on runs of 12 and 10 yards in the first half. Johnson's only better rushing day was 160 yards in 1978 against Cleveland.

Jim Breech completed Cincinnati's scoring with a 26-yard field goal.

The only scores Houston managed were a 14-yard pass from Oliver Luck to Walt Arnold in the final quarter and a 34-yard field goal by Florian Kempf in the opening period.

Cincinnati took advantage of back-to-back Houston pass interference penalties to jump to a 7-0 lead just two minutes into the game. Interference calls of 47 yards against Steve Brown and

four yards against Gregg Bingham set up a 16-yard TD pass from Anderson to Ross.

The Oilers then made the score 7-3 midway through the opening period on a 34-yard field goal by Kempf. Cincinnati scored 10 points in less than three minutes late in the first period to hike its lead to 17-3.

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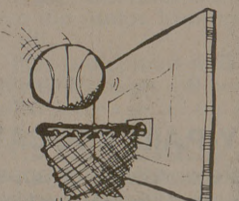
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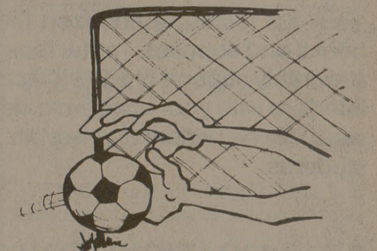
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