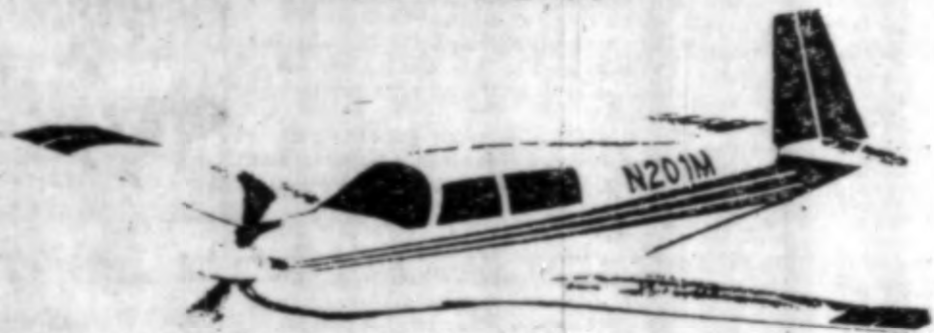


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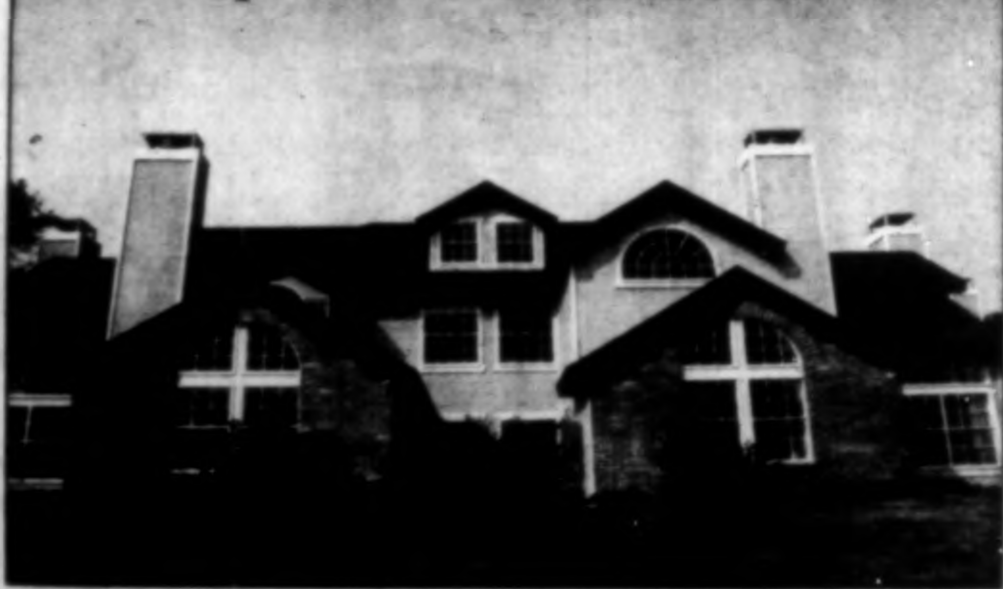
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# Los Angeles still AFC's best

United Press International

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — After the Los Angeles Raiders' 38-9 pasting of Washington in the Super Bowl last January, Raiders owner Al Davis was heard talking dynasty.

And why not? Back-to-back championships are all that's left for Davis' team, which already owns three Super Bowl titles and a court victory against the whole league.

The 1984 Raiders are certainly good enough to repeat, putting them in the class of the Green Bay Packers of the late 1960s, the Miami Dolphins of the early 70s and the Pittsburgh Steelers of the late 70s.

"The success of the Raiders lies in the future," Davis said.

The Raiders' defense will be stronger with the cornerback tandem of Lester Hayes and Mike Haynes intact for a whole season. Offensively, running back Marcus Allen figures to have a better regular season behind the deepest line in football and strong-armed Marc Wilson could be ready to take over for erratic 36-year-old Jim Plunkett.

Replacing retired outside linebacker Ted Hendricks at linebacker should be the only problem for Raiders Coach Tom Flores.

"The only thing you can do to be successful is to repeat," Flores said. "There are only two ways to go, repeat or go down. That's a tremendous amount of pressure, no doubt about that."

Los Angeles' top competition in the AFC will come from San Diego in its own division, Miami and improved New England in the East and stubborn Pittsburgh in the Central.

The Chargers have added muscle and experience this year, acquiring bulldozer fullback Pete Johnson, defensive linemen Abdul Salaam and linebacker Brian Kelley. Dan Fouts continued to rack up passing yard-

*Los Angeles' top competition in the AFC will come from San Diego in its own division, Miami and improved New England in the East and stubborn Pittsburgh in the Central.*

age when healthy last year and Air Coryell should fly high again with Fouts looking to tight end Kellen Winslow and wide receivers Wes Chandler and Charlie Joiner.

Coach Chuck Knox and rookie running back Curt Warner turned Seattle around last year, unexpectedly taking the Seahawks to the conference title game. The Seahawks must fill some holes in the secondary due to USFL defections and open their passing game more behind Jim Krieg to repeat as a playoff team. Steve Largent (72 catches last year) has a 91-game receiving streak alive.

Kansas City improved its passing game greatly last year behind quarterback Bill Kenney and Pro Bowl receiver Carlos Carson. Now coach John Mackovic hopes running back Ken Lacy, plucked from the USFL, can fill a gap in the ground game. If he does, and defensive ends Mike Bell and Art Still both stay healthy to terrorize opposing passers, the Chiefs can improve on their 6-10 mark.

Denver's 9-7 record and playoff status was a mystery last year, since the Broncos gave up 25 more points than they scored. With Steve DeBerg gone, Coach Dan Reeves has little veteran insurance for John Elway's inconsistency. Perhaps Elway will flourish from not looking over his shoulder but the Broncos lost the heart of their defense when line-

backer Randy Gradishar retired. In the East, perennial-power Miami won nine of 10 games last year with Dan Marino as the starting quarterback en route to a division-leading 12-4 mark. Coach Don Shula can't wait to utilize Marino with a year under his belt and he hopes draft choices Jackie Shipp and Jay Brophy will alleviate his linebacking problem.

New England should be good enough to challenge the Dolphins. The Patriots hope top draft choice Irving Fryar will free Stanley Morgan from constant double-coverage and open up the passing game. Fryar will miss the start of the season, however, after suffering a rib injury.

Tony Eason may pressure Steve Grogan at quarterback, with Tony Collins leading an impressive group of running backs. Veteran linebacker Steve Nelson and Pro Bowl cornerback Raymond Clayborn lead an experienced defense.

After a house cleaning that included quarterback Richard Todd, New York Jets Coach Joe Walton will live or die with inexperienced quarterback Ken O'Brien. O'Brien will benefit from handing off to Freeman McNeil but the Jets' receiver situation is up in the air with Wesley Walker holding out and Lam Jones injured. Defensive end Mark Gastineau is a vicious pass rusher but will miss teammate Joe Klecko, who will miss 4-to-6 weeks with a hamstring injury.

The Colts hope to give Indianapolis fans a good show while getting their first up close look at pro football. The backfield of Curtis Dickey and Randy McMillan is the strength of the offense. Outside linebacker Vernon Maxwell had a strong rookie year, helping the young Colts to a 7-9 mark last year. Kicker Raul Allegre was the team's top scorer as a rookie.

# Consolidated hopes to contend for district title

By Dolores Hajovsky Reporter

The A&M Consolidated Tigers are depending on size and speed to lead district 11-AAAA this year, said George Losack, head coach for the Tigers.

"We are going to take one game at a time to find out who can get after it and who can't," Losack said. One thing that could become a problem is the number of players that do not have varsity experience, he said. Most of last year's junior varsity will comprise this year's varsity, Losack explained.

Returning letterman James Goforth, quarterback, said they are bigger than last year and it looks good. There is a lot of spirit among the players and everybody is trying, he said.

Losack said so far the front line will include: Regan Ljungdahl, six-foot-three-inch at 185 pounds, Hubie Hearne, six-foot-one-inch at 225 pounds and Rob Lezynski, six-foot-one-inch at 225 pounds. These players have the physical ability and determination to do well, he said. Losack is also counting on Melvin Christian, five-foot-ten-inch at 175-

pounds, as flanker and free safety, and Kevin Huddleston, six-foot at 190 pounds, as linebacker and fullback.

Returning letterman Layne Cole, center and defensive tackle, said the plays are running good and the defense is taking shape.

The nine returning lettermen are: Kevin Banks, cornerback and tailback; Dan Bowers, offensive line; Spencer Caldwell, strong safety and tailback; Layne Cole, center and defensive tackle; James Goforth, quarterback; Hubie Hearne, defensive and offensive tackle; Kevin Heritage, linebacker and tightend; Joe Kluszczybski, noseguard, and Sedrick Thompson, tightend and defensive end.

This year Consolidated added Brian Como from Brazosport and Mike Mullins from Angleton to the coaching staff.

The pre-season scrimmages will be on Aug. 23 against Waco High, and Aug. 30 against Belton. Losack said after the scrimmages the final team will be formed but throughout the year players will still be moved around. Last year Consolidated was 5-5.

"This year Waller and Tomball will be the teams to beat," Losack said.

Waller moved up to Class AAAA this year. The Bulldogs have been Class AAA leaders for the past five years with a winning record of 10-2-1 last year. Since 1980 they have a combined record of 48-9-7.

The Tomball Cougars took the lead with a 8-2-1 record last season. This year Tomball is solid again, Losack said. The Cougars took the lead with an 8-2-1 record last season. They have six returning offensive starters and two returning defensive starters.

The Tigers' district games begin on Oct. 5 against Conroe Oak Ridge. The War Eagles will begin their first varsity season this fall. They are in the same position as the Tigers with younger players.

Consolidated's season will begin on Sept. 9 against Hearne. They will play Navasota on Sept. 14, Taylor on Sept. 21 and Van Vleck on Sept. 28.

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