

Super Bowl XIX

No umbrellas will be allowed into Stanford Stadium on Super Sunday

United Press International

SAN FRANCISCO — Into everyone's life a little rain must fall, decreed the wise man.

Into everyone's face and down the back of everyone's neck a little rain must fall, decreed the National Football League.

No umbrellas will be allowed inside Stanford Stadium next Sunday for Super Bowl XIX. All 85,000 fans entering the stadium will be searched. Anyone caught with a handgun, a pocket-sized hydrogen bomb or an umbrella will be turned away.

NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle made the ruling, citing two reasons. First, he doesn't want the fans' view of the field blocked by the canvas-covered metal rods.

And, for Reason No. 2, he revived every mother's frantic warning to their 10-year-old son, "Put that thing down Johnny, before you put your eye out."

Logically, if enough people got poked in the eyes by sharp-tipped umbrellas at the Super Bowl, it would then become OK to use umbrellas, since no one could see the field anyway.

The NFL cited precedent set at other Super Bowls when the anti-umbrella rule was invoked. They ar-

gued that no one complained about the rule last year at Super Bowl XVIII or the year before at Super Bowl XVII. Critics, however, pointed out that those games were played in Tampa, Fla., and Pasadena, Calif., where it rains about as often as Orson Welles eats cottage cheese.

Yeah? Well how about Super Bowl XV a few years back, the NFL retorted. That game was played in rainy Louisiana and not a single complaint was registered over the anti-umbrella rule. And the NFL would have a valid point in that case, except for the fact that the game was played in the Louisiana Superdome, with "dome" being the key word.

But we're talking Palo Alto this winter, San Francisco. Rain every third day in January. No dome. And no sun. And it's not a tropical rain. It's a cold rain, the kind that, upon reaching the skin, makes a person shake as if he'd just opened a two-month telephone bill.

The umbrella is as much a part of life in the City By The Bay as expensive foreign cars that no one can really afford in Los Angeles. San Francisco without umbrellas in the winter is like Vail, Colorado, without skis.

The game should be sponsored by the pneumonia ward of San Francisco General Hospital. The official snack of Super Bowl XIX might be the aspirin. Deep Throat will long be remembered as a crucial part of Watergate history, but Sore Throat could forever become a part of Super Bowl history.

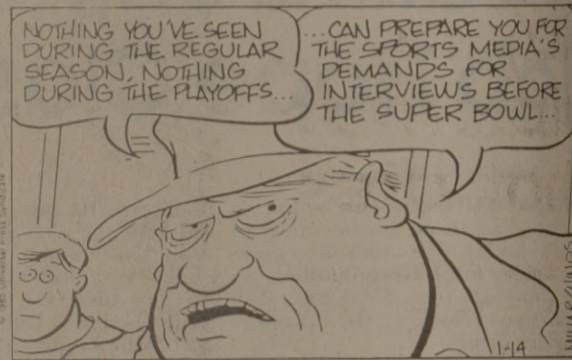
The roar of the crowd might be replaced by the sneeze of the crowd. Super Bowl IX in New Orleans brought out the Pittsburgh Steelers' Terrible Towels. Super Bowl XIX may mark the debut of Killer Kleenex.

A ticket to the game costs \$60. Many people in the crowd will have paid \$100, \$200, as much as \$800 for a prime, scalped ticket. You would think that for that kind of money people would be allowed to protect themselves from the rain, at the risk of having to occasionally look over or around the umbrellas in front of them or stay alert enough to keep the umbrellas out of their eyes.

You get the feeling that if the NFL had been in charge of old sayings, we would today be describing fools as people "who don't have enough sense to go out in the rain."

TANK MONAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Counterfeit Super Bowl ticket ring uncovered in San Francisco area

United Press International

SAN FRANCISCO — National Football League officials said Saturday the largest Super Bowl ticket counterfeiting ring ever had been uncovered in a nearby town and that as many as 500 bogus tickets to next weekend's game could be in circulation.

"It is a buyer beware situation," said the NFL's executive director, Don Weiss. "We will be inspecting tickets closely on the day of the game and those holding bogus tickets will not be accommodated."

Police in suburban Millbrae City broke the counterfeit ring Friday night, the NFL said. One man had been arrested and another was being sought.

The suspect, Dean Scott Foes, 26, of Honolulu, was charged with

grand theft and forgery for attempting to sell the fake tickets. Police confiscated 28 phony tickets.

"Police were made aware of this," said Weiss, "by a man who had bought some of the tickets. He paid \$225 and \$250 for them."

"He first bought four tickets in Millbrae City and then bought 10 more in a meeting at Fisherman's Wharf. After that purchase he became suspicious of the tickets and eventually went to the police."

"A third meeting was arranged, at which time an arrest was made."

Weiss said information gathered from the arrested man indicated that 500 more counterfeit tickets could have been sold, but that even more than that number might be on the market. He said he did not know whether the operation was locally

run or whether the tickets were printed in another state.

The NFL provided an example of a fake ticket at a Saturday news conference and while there were several minor differences between the real and phony tickets the most noticeable involved the coloring.

The legitimate Super Bowl tickets have a definite purple background tint to them while the fake tickets have a bluish background.

The paper stock on which the fake tickets were printed is also thinner than that of the real tickets and the size of the type used to identify the seat location is also different.

"This is really the first major incident of this kind we have had since Super Bowl X in Miami," said Weiss.

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