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SPORTS

Super Bowl XIX

Niners got the show, but bet on Marino

CHAREAN WILLIAMS

Asst. Sports Editor

Sunday is the day when the madness will end. The Super Bowl champion will be decided and America will get a deserved rest from the hoopla.

The media is devulging us with facts, figures, profiles and predictions on the big game.

Since everyone has predicted who will win the game, I thought I might jump in the "school" and make my pick.

Obviously the two best teams are in the championship, which hasn't always been the case. The 49ers (15-1) and Dolphins (14-2) won .906 of their games, the best combined regular-season record of all time coming into a Super Bowl.

A quick analysis of the teams will make my prediction easier.

QUARTERBACKS — Miami wonderboy Dan Marino is the talk of sports, period. He's the only quarterback to ever pass for more than 5,000 yards in a season. That leaves 49er quarterback Joe Montana in a strange position — being the second best quarterback in the league. Montana has an edge in experience in big games and that could make a differ-

ence. However, I just can't bet against Jackie Sherrill's protege from Pitt, Edge: Marino.

RUNNING BACKS — Woody Bennett, Tony Nathan and Joe Carter share the bulk of Miami's attack. Wendell "Fumble" Tyler led the Niners in rushing with 1,262 yards. The Dolphins ranked last in the NFL in yardage allowed per rushing attempt. If Tyler holds onto the ball, the 49er will grind it out, keeping the ball out of Marino's hands. Edge: Niners.

WIDE RECEIVERS — Miami's receivers have the edge in numbers and San Francisco the edge in experience. Dolphin Mark Clayton caught 73-for-1,389 and a record 18 touchdowns, while teammate Mark "Super" Dupe added 71-for-1,306. Both are in their second season, while the 49ers have 10-year pro Freddie Solomon and 6-year man

Dwight Clark. Edge: Miami's Mark's Brothers.

OFFENSIVE LINE — With Marino at the helm, you don't need an offensive line. Marino was sacked only 14 times this season, but the 49ers will threaten that. The Niners, who allowed only 27 sacks, have more experience and more All-Pro. Edge: Niners.

DEFENSIVE LINE — The 49ers "Gold Rush" alternate seven men, keeping them fresh at all times. The Dolphins "Killer Bees" have had problems all season. Edge: Niners.

LINEBACKERS — The 49ers are anchored by 15-year veteran Jack "Hacksaw" Reynolds and Pro Bowler Keena Turner. The "Killer Bees" start rookie Jay Brophy along with second-year players Mark Brown and Charles Bowser. A.J. Duhe, perhaps the best defensive Dolphin has been injured most of the year. Edge: Niners by 13 years.

DEFENSIVE BACKS — The Dolphin defensive backs have led the team in recovering 23 fumbles and intercepting 24 passes. The 49ers start four players who have been All-NFC and All-Pro. Edge: Niners.

SPECIAL TEAMS — Miami punter Reggie Roby, with his 44.7 average, is the best in the league, but kicker Uwe Van Schamann (66-of-70 PATs and only 9-of-19 field goals) is perhaps the worst. The 49ers' Ray Wersching hit 25-of-33 field goals. Both teams have excellent kick returners (remember Miami's Fulton Walker ran a kickoff back for a TD in Super Bowl XVIII). Edge: Miami — Why do they need a field goal kicker?

In the final analysis, it appears that San Francisco has a big advantage on defense and are only slightly behind Miami in offense. Just taking that into account, one would have to say San Francisco will win. However, the Super Bowl isn't played on paper. This year, it's grass.

Miami will win. Why? Because Miami's Don Shula is coaching in his sixth Super Bowl, the AFC has won 12 of the previous 18 Super Bowls. Miami has never lost to the 49ers and I just can't bet against Mr. Marino.

Besides, any team that beats the Dallas Cowboys will surely get my vote to win the Super Bowl.

Football recruiting a costly ritual

Associated Press

Texas high school football must have been much simpler back in Paul Tyson's day in the early 1930s.

His Waco High Tigers didn't have the fancy uniforms or the stadiums with artificial turf like they do now, but they must have enjoyed being the scourge of Texas schoolboy football without modern hassles.

The pressure of recruiting and the commercialism of football were still in their infancy, the lack of money being what it was in the post-Depression days.

Competition for the sake of competing, that's what it was, with the root of all evil a distant second.

No more.

Heavy bread is spent recruiting the Texas schoolboy football harvest these winter days. Big bucks. And

some say not all of it is on the up-and-up.

The high school hoopla begins now in early January and breaks the fever on national signing day, Feb. 13.

The cream of Texa players have been getting a heated rush from Southwest Conference and other schools with telephone calls, visits, and big promises.

The bigger the name like running back Bill Jones of Corsicana, the more furious the pursuit. Recruiters will down many achicken fried steak and soda pop in Corsicana on the Bill Jones stake out.

Bring back a Bill Jones and a university's program gets an instant star for the 1985 recruiting campaign.

Land a wide receiver like Bart Lee Dykes at Bay City and the

alumni goes wild with donations.

It's a million-dollar business in Texas every year, spending money in pursuit of high school football players. It's a pearl-diving crap shoot. It's a wildcatter drilling for dollars.

Only the prizes in the cases of Mr. Jones and Mr. Dykes run like cheetahs and can win conference titles and national recognition.

Newspapers tally daily logs on the progress of the recruiting run. There are blue-chip lists and oral commitments.

One newspaper is running a dairy by a prospective recruit.

Another has headlines like "Bay City's Dykes tops the most-wanted list" or "Texas supermarket draws shoppers from all over."

There are analysis stories and speculative pieces.

It's enough to drive any sane young high school footballer and his parents into soccer.

In football-berserk Texas, it's a ritual that even to the Pagans might seem downright Pagan.

It's a ritual all right. Something that nobody, neither the player nor the school, really enjoys. Texas Darrell Royal and Arkansas' Frank Broyles got out of coaching because of the rigors of recruiting.

And recruiting budgets resemble some of the ones we have in Austin when the Legislature convenes.

Maybe kids would be better off if schools were only allowed to write letters.

But that's not the sell, sell, sell American way.

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