

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 1989

49ers edge Bengals Montana keys dramatic win

MIAMI (AP) — Joe Montana hit John Taylor with a 10-yard touchdown pass with 34 seconds left as San Francisco staked its claim as the Team of the '80s Sunday with a 20-16 victory over Cincinnati in the most dramatic Super Bowl ever.

The winning score came at the end of a 92-yard drive, engineered by Montana, whose touchdown pass gave him a Super Bowl record with 357 yards passing. Twelve of his completions were to Rice, who finished with 12 catches for 222 yards, both also records.

The victory gave Coach Bill Walsh his third Super Bowl win in 10 seasons as the 49ers coach. It would be a fitting climax to a career that may end this week when the 57-year-old Walsh could announce that he will step down as San Francisco's coach.

The winning drive began after Jim Breech had kicked his third field goal of the game, a 40-yarder with 3:20 left, to give the Bengals a 16-13 lead. A holding call on the kickoff forced the

49ers to start from their own 8 with a little more than three minutes left.

But Montana, who was 23 of 36, made himself the quarterback of the decade on the winning drive. He passed for 8 yards to Rice, 9 yards to tight end John Frank and 17 more to Rice. Then, he hit Roger Craig for 13 yards and hit Rice 27 yards over the middle on a second-and-20 play.

After an 8-yard pass to Craig, he hit Rice for 10 yards to set up the winning score to Taylor.

The game that was supposed to be a shootout went 44 minutes and 26 seconds without a touchdown.

After Mike Cofer's 32-yard field goal tied the game 6-6 for San Francisco with 50 seconds left in the third quarter, Stanford Jennings took the kickoff 93 yards for a score. San Francisco answered with a 14-yard pass from Montana to Rice to end a four-play, 85-yard march and tied the score at 13-13.

Aggies have mixed results at Rice

From Staff and Wire Reports

Guard David Willie sunk a pair of free throws with four seconds remaining Saturday to lift the Rice Owls to a 79-77 victory over the Texas A&M Aggies in a Southwest Conference basketball game at Astry Court in Houston.

Willie's free throws ended a three-game losing streak for the Owls (7-9; 2-4) and dropped A&M to 8-9 overall, 1-4 in the SWC.

The Aggies were unable to get off a shot following the free throws.

Two tall freshman forwards were critical to the Owls' success as they effectively compensated for the loss of starting center Andy Gilchrist. Gilchrist missed the game with the flu.

Kevin Rourke (16 points and eight rebounds) and Dana Hardy (18 points, 7 assists) played a crucial role for Rice as the Owls overcame the Aggies late in the game.

With A&M trailing 73-70, Aggie forward Donald Thompson (15 points, 8 rebounds) hit a three-point play with one minute, 44 seconds to play in the game.

After the Owls moved ahead 75-73, A&M's David Williams tied it with a follow shot at the 41 second

mark. A&M's Freddie Ricks fouled Hardy and sent him to the line. Hardy connected on both shots to give Rice a 77-75 advantage.

With 19 seconds to go, Thompson tied it again at 77 to set up the dramatic ending.

04105402Willie got the ball for Rice and drove down the court. As Willie reached the baseline, he was fouled by A&M's Doug Dennis with four seconds remaining. Willie made good on the free throws and ended the game.

Willie said he was confident he would make the game winning free throws.

"I didn't feel any pressure on the free throws," Willie said. "We shoot 100 free throws a day without having any pressure on us and we make them in practice so there was no reason I could not make them in a game."

"Their shots went tonight. They are the same shots they get all the time but on their road trip they didn't hit them. Tonight they were falling," Metcalf said.

A&M returns home to G. Rollie White coliseum to continue SWC action Wednesday evening as Houston visits for a 7:30 p.m. tipoff.

Lady Ags slam Rice, 71-65

Donna Roper scored 14 points to lead the Lady Aggies to a 71-65 victory and hand Rice its fourth consecutive defeat.

Nette Garrett added 12 points and had 12 rebounds for Texas A&M, which improved its season record to 12-4. The Lady Aggies are 4-1 in Southwest Conference play.

Rice is 9-6 overall and 1-5 in conference action.

Rice's Amelia Cooper and Charity Shira scored 18 and 17, respectively, in the losing effort.

The Lady Aggies trailed for almost the entire first half and trailed 38-35 at halftime.

The Aggies took the lead on a five-point run early in the second half and hung on to at least a two-point advantage the rest of the way.

Ag swimmers drown Cougars

Led by Suzanne Fiori and Susan Habermas, the Texas A&M women's swimming team defeated the University of Houston women 77-61 Saturday at the University of Houston Natatorium.

Fiori, a senior from Clearwater, Fla., collected wins in the 200-yard individual medley, the 500-yard freestyle and a second place in the 1000-yard freestyle.

Fiori swam a tactical race to edge out Houston swimmer Jennifer Melchior for second place in the 1000-yard free. Melchior tried in vain to overtake Fiori, an effort which left the Cougar swimmer tired and ineffective for the rest of the meet.

Habermas won the 200-yard freestyle and backstroke in addition to contributing to a win in the 200-yard medley relay and a second place in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

49ers have many weapons, but Montana's sharpest shooter

Finally! A Super Bowl that lived up to its name.

Super Bowl XXIII was the most dramatic Super Bowl game ever and lived up to the pre-game hoopla.

When the game was on the line all the talk about the coaches and the teams was proved meaningless. One man made the difference — Joe Montana.

This game was like a drama which started slow and gradually built to a climactic ending.

The first half was unusually boring relative to Super Bowls of years past.

The 49ers had dominated the game statistically but couldn't translate their dominance into points. San Francisco was the team with the experience.

After all, it was the 49ers, not the Bengals who had been to two Super Bowls in the 80s and won both of them.

It was the 49ers, not the Bengals, who had been in the playoffs each of the last six years.

And it was the Bengals, not the 49ers who had not been to the playoffs since the 1982 season.



Doug Walker
Sports editor

The Bengals were prohibitive underdogs. However, they gave the 49ers all they could handle and very possibly would have won had they not lost Tim Krumrie, a defensive lineman, to a broken leg early in the game.

Krumrie, one of the best defensive players in all of professional football, was the emotional leader of the Bengal defense. Without him, the Bengals had to rely on guts and emotion to contain the potent 49er attack.

They did a great job but couldn't stop the

49ers when it counted most.

Football is an emotional game. But emotion can only carry a team so far. With under three minutes remaining the 49ers found themselves backed up at their own 8 yard line trailing 16-13.

This is where experience and leadership made the difference.

San Francisco had both — Cincinnati didn't.

Joe Montana embodied both characteristics.

There is probably no better quarterback in pro football under pressure than Montana. Montana has been leading dramatic comebacks since his college days at Notre Dame in the late 1970s.

Montana used the weapons that got him there when it counted most — wide receiver Jerry Rice and running back Roger Craig.

Rice was voted the game's Most Valuable Player, but Montana would have been just as good a choice to take his third Super Bowl MVP Award.

Working in the two-minute offense, Montana showed why he's a future Hall-of-

Famer as he directed the 49ers on a 92-yard drive to glory.

He started by hitting Rice for eight yards. He then connected with tight end John Frank for nine yards and teamed with Rice for 17 more to enter Bengal territory.

Under two minutes remained now and Montana kept his cool.

The crowd was roaring, the excitement was building and Montana seemed oblivious to it all.

Play resumed with Montana throwing to Craig for 13 more. After losing 10 yards on a penalty, Montana made probably the biggest play of the game as he hit Rice for 27 yards on second-and-20. An eight-yarder to Craig and a 10-yarder to Rice set up the 49ers at the Cincinnati 10. Less than a minute remained in the game.

Everyone in the stadium and the millions watching on television probably expected the 49ers to continue going to Rice or Craig.

The Bengals aren't stupid. They double-teamed both Craig and Rice.

But Montana and the 49ers had a weapon the Bengals had forgotten — wide receiver John Taylor.

With the Bengals all over his two main weapons, Montana threw over the middle to Taylor for the winning touchdown. It was Taylor's first catch of the day.

You can chalk up the 49ers' win to many factors. The coaching of Bill Walsh, the versatility of Roger Craig, or the incredible ability and explosiveness of Jerry Rice.

A strong case can be made for each of them as being the difference in the game.

However, none of those factors would have mattered had it not been for the leadership and cool of Joe Montana.

With his three Super Bowl titles and his excellent career statistics, Montana is a shoe-in for the Hall of Fame. But the thing I'll always remember about Joe Montana is his ability to rise above all the pressure to come through in the biggest football game there is.

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