

RAIDERS PROTEST L.A. WIN

49ers Beat Rams, Gain 3-Way Tie For Lead

Title Up To Team, Says Red

By WALLY WILLIS
Every piece of the pattern fell into place and now it is strictly up to the 49ers to keep themselves on top of the Western Conference of the National Football League.

They climbed into a three-way tie with Baltimore and Green Bay when they knocked over the Rams in Los Angeles 23-7 after the defending champion Colts had been upended by Detroit and the Packers had walloped the Chicago Bears.

Only two games remain on the 49er schedule—the Packers Saturday afternoon and the Colts a week from Sunday, both in Kezar Stadium.

With those three standing deadlocked with 6-4 records, two 49er wins would send Coach Howard (Red) Hickey's surprising club into its first NFL championship game.

That would pit them against Coach Buck Shaw's Philadelphia Eagles in Franklin Field Dec. 26. Shaw, after many years of trying, finally won his first divisional title yesterday when the Eagles beat St. Louis and clinched the Eastern Conference crown.

In 10 previous NFL campaigns, the 49ers have never won a divisional title, although tying for one and then losing a heart-breaking playoff game to Detroit in 1957.

Hickey summarized the situation moments after his team had scored its fourth straight league win over the Rams. While shouts of "Yeah, Yeah, Yeah," followed every sentence, Hickey told his battered warriors:

"Next Saturday you have a real big one coming up. You're on top now. Right from here it's up to us."

It was apparent on the plane, which returned the club to a rousing reception by several thousand at San Francisco International Airport last night, that the club has been moulded in recent weeks into a dedicated group.

"If we go down now it won't be from lack of effort," commented Capt. Bob St. Clair, putting into words the feelings of a team that, until three weeks ago, gave no signs of being a contender, let alone a divisional leader.

But there were plenty of signs of this new team effort visible for the 77,254 who watched in person in the Los Angeles Coliseum and the vast audience which took in the televised version in the Bay Area.

It was such a tremendous team effort that only the fact he set a new 49er individual game mark with four interceptions and tied the seasonal high of nine that Dave Baker could be singled out for award of the game ball.

All of Baker's interceptions have come in the last three games, tying him with a mark Lowell Wagner set in 1951. Wagner's single game record of three, which Baker had tied, also came that year.

These interceptions by Baker cut off potential Rams drives as well as set up two of three field goals by Tommy Davis.

But just as instrumental from a tactical standpoint was the "new" shotgun offense, with a new wrinkle added by Hickey and his staff



RAIDERS' JACK LARSCHIED RACES TO FIRST DOWN AGAINST LOS ANGELES CHARGERS AT CANDESTICK PARK IN FIRST QUARTER OF GAME
Oakland ran out of gas in final quarter of American Football League contest, after leading Los Angeles team. New park proved great success

49ers Add New Twists To Spread

Another new twist has been added to the shotgun attack of the 49ers, and there may be more in the offing for the Green Bay Packers and the Baltimore Colts.

It could be the force that leads the 49ers to their first divisional title in 11 years of trying in the National Football League.

"I don't feel there is any limit to what we can develop off this offense," declared coach Howard (Red) Hickey after a more radical spread of all backs but the passer to the right or left side had helped pave the way to a 23-7 victory over the Rams in Los Angeles.

"The spread was a contributing factor in this victory," he conceded on the plane returning the squad to San Francisco. "That long pass (65 yards from John Brodie to Clyde Conner for a touchdown) came because the quarterback had more time to throw."

"We haven't had time to throw in the past. And I was also surprised the Rams were caught by that pass. It was a long passing situation (third and 17 on the 49er 35) and I don't know why their man covered the short pattern."

Brodie and Conner had been setting up that particular play from the first period when Conner told Brodie he could "beat that man deep" whenever the right time came.

Conner had been running a sideline pattern, with the Rams' Vernon Valdez moving in closer and closer on him.

With the need for something big in the third period, Brodie finally unloaded to Clyde from the 35. Conner caught it on the Rams 34, slipped out of a grasp by Valdez on the nine and stepped on in.

"I was scared to death they would catch me," declared Clyde, who is no slowpoke but not quite as fast as the Rams defenders.

Dave Baker, the individual 49er hero if there was one in this big win, was a modest young man about his four interceptions, setting a new 49er individual one game mark.

"If I hadn't gotten the first one, Eddie Dove would have, and on the last one Hawg (Bob Harrison) tipped it into my hands just as he did one

Sports Section

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A.L. Gets OK --If Play in Rose Bowl

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 5—The American League has been given the green light to go to Los Angeles next year . . . If the big if is that the league's 10th club must play its home games in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena.

That is the stipulation Dodge owner Walter O'Malley and National League President Warren Giles gave to a committee to present to the American League at today's meeting.

A counter proposal that would allow the new Los Angeles club to play its home games either in the Coliseum or in Wrigley Field was rejected by O'Malley.

"We thought enough of the



C. R. ROBERTS OF 49ERS LEAPS TO FIRST DOWN AGAINST RAMS
Rams' Vernon Valdez (47) misses tackle on fleet 49er back in game at Los Angeles

Ray Haywood

It was the day of the football experiments known as: "Operation Find A Home."

This operation was necessary because in professional football, as in any other business, home is where the profit is.

Oakland Raiders, who must capture a few more thousand ticket buyers—in the next two years if not this year—intended to determine if customers would find Candlestick Park, home of the baseball Giants, more captivating than Kezar Stadium, home of the football 49ers.

Exactly 12,061 fans, all allegedly paid, were present to watch the Raiders lose the fourth quarter and thus the game, 41-17, to the Los Angeles Chargers in the first football game ever played in the concrete money-making machine San Francisco was kind enough to build for Sir Horace Stoncham.

It was the largest home attendance in the Raiders' brief history. We use the word "alleged" in the crowd count because it was announced once earlier in the year that 10,500 had attended at Kezar.

This, of course, might have been correct. However, we strolled around that day and found that apparently we

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Colts Again Stunned as Detroit Wins

BALTIMORE, Dec. 5—The Detroit Lions piled the unbelievable atop the incredible yesterday by going 65 yards for a touchdown on the last play of the game and snatching a 20-15 victory from the Baltimore Colts.

The Colts had scored with only 14 seconds to play on a fantastic catch of a 34-yard pass by Lenny Moore to go ahead 15-13.

Several fights among the players and a crowd of fans on the field then had to be cleared up before play could be resumed.

Quarterback Earl Morrall, on the first play after the kickoff, passed over mid-field to end Jim Gibbons and he rambled all the way to the end zone.

It was the second touchdown pass of the quarter thrown by Morrall, who had sat on the bench for the first three defense-dominated periods. His first of 40 yards put the Lions ahead 10-8 and Jim Martin hiked the lead to 13-8 with his second field goal with only 1:15 to play.

The defeat dropped the Colts back to a first place deadlock in the Western Division of the National Football League with two games to go. Green Bay pulled up even with the Colts at 6-4 records by defeating the Chicago Bears, 41-13, and the 49ers made it a three-way tie.

Detroit, which lost its first three games, improved its record to 5-5 with its second triumph over the Colts. Detroit and the 49ers, already a victor over the 1960 Colts with another game against them left, were the last teams to beat Baltimore twice, in 1956.

Until Moore made his sensational last-minute catch, quarterback John Unitas of the Colts was given a rough time by the Lions. Moore also had managed to sneak away

Duke Grid Coach Tops League Vote

RALEIGH, N.C., Dec. 5—Duke coach Bill Murray, whose Blue Devils won the Atlantic Coast Conference championship and a Cotton Bowl bid, was named ACC Coach of the Year yesterday.

Murray was selected for the honor by 72 members of the Atlantic Coast Sports Writers Association who took part in the annual poll. He won in a landslide.

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Forfeit Sought By Soda

By SCOTTY STIRLING
Oakland's Raiders today are pressing for an American Football League decision which would forfeit a 41-17 victory scored by the Los Angeles Chargers over the Raiders yesterday at Candlestick Park.

Basis for the forfeiture would be the appearance in the game of linebacker Al Bansavage, a Raider draftee who reportedly refused to play for Oakland and was activated by the Chargers Saturday after being a member of the Los Angeles "taxi" or work-out team.

Raider president and general manager Y. C. (Chet) Soda formally protested the activation of Bansavage on Friday and Saturday was assured by league commissioner Joe Foss that the protest was valid.

Early today Soda shot another wire to Foss at league headquarters in Dallas, Tex., protesting the Chargers' use of Bansavage yesterday.

Foss, called out of the AFL draft meeting in Dallas this morning, said he was in no position to make a statement on the matter at this time.

He said he would take it up at the earliest possible time, probably tomorrow after conclusion of the draft and the league executive session.

Foss said that he would, at that time, confer with Oakland and Los Angeles officials.

Soda reported that Sid Gillman, the Los Angeles coach,

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