

THE

## ARMCHAIR QUARTER BACK



One note of explanation before I get into my picks for this week; those of you who were expecting me to pick three UPSETS and three SURE BETS last week were probably disappointed, as I didn't follow that format. Here's why: due to deadline consideration, I have to submit this column before the oddsmakers' lines on that week's games are available to me. Thus, in a lot of close match-ups, it's difficult for me to decide which team should be favoured, and which should be the underdog. Sometimes (like two weeks ago), I end up picking a team as a sure bet, only to find out a day later that it was a decided underdog! So...seeing as I can't extend my deadline (they just won't hold the presses for me - honest!), I'm scrapping the practice of classifying particular games in the above mentioned manner. From here on, I'll just lump all my picks together, and make note of any games that I feel might have the potential to be upsets or washouts.

And here now, without further ado, are my peerless prognostications for this weekend's action (home team in CAPS):

**CINCINNATI** over Baltimore by 3 - the Bengals finally got untracked against Tampa last week, and with the return of Rees Browner to the defense, they should be able to overcome the young Colts.

**Dallas** over **MINNESOTA** by 2 - these two squads always play well against each other, and this should be no exception; with Manning still getting accustomed to the Vikings' system, give the edge to Landry's Lone Stars.

**CHICAGO** over Denver by 2 - the Bears have lost two heart-breakers in OT in their past two games, so they're due for a break; the Broncos got off to a quick start, but haven't shown much the past few weeks.

**L.A. RAMS** over Detroit by 5 - the Lions are wracked with management problems, and they're missing Billy Sims; the Rams have looked good, even in losing.

**PITTSBURGH** over Houston by 9 - the Steelers should have won last week, but they didn't; look for them to vent their rage on the hapless Oilers, who are in a rebuilding process. **Raiders** over **WASHINGTON** by 4 - the Raiders are one of two unbeaten teams in the NFL; and have looked better than Dallas the (the other 4-0 team) - look for Joe T. to have a long day against the silver and black.

**NEW ORLEANS** over Miami by 2 - the Saints are another team that should have won last week; the Dolphins have looked like anything but defending AFC champs, and will lose their second game in the past three weeks to a fired up Saints' squad.

**ATLANTA** over Philadelphia by 3 - the Falcons should rebound from last week's loss to the 49er's by downing the fallen Eagles.

**St. Louis** over **KANSAS CITY** by 2 - almost a 'PICK 'EM' situation; both teams are 1-3, and both have lost some close ball games; linebacker E.J. Junior's return should spark the Cards to victory over the Chiefs.

**NY GIANTS** over San Diego by 4 - we are witnessing the passing of an era (pardon the pun); the Giants' throttled the Pack-Attack last week, and will do the same this week as the disarming of Air Coryell continues - it looks like the Chargers may be finished as perennial AFC West champs.

**San Francisco** over **NEW ENGLAND** by 7 - enough is enough! Even though things happen in threes, the Pats will NOT make it three in a row over vastly superior opponents (did you hear me, Steve Grogan?)

**Seattle** over **CLEVELAND** by 4 - I'm still not convinced the Browns are for real; but I am a great believer in Chuck Knox, who has done in one year, what predecessor Jack Patera could not do in six years: give the 'hawks a running game and that gives them the edge.

**GREEN BAY** over Tampa Bay by 6 - Buffalo is 3-1, but they haven't beaten anyone with a winning record; their masquerade as contenders will end this Monday when the Jets come to town.

**RECORD:** last week - 8-6 (.671) overall - (.482); vs. the spread: 9-5 (.443)

## Fredericton Express

by MARK THOMPSON

Once again, the city of stately elms is honored with our very own American Hockey league franchise, The Fredericton Express.

The Express, whose parent club is the Quebec Nordiques, is looking for another chance at the Calder Cup. This is the Express' third season in the league. The

first was spent in the basement of the league, but, to the surprise of most, the Express lead the league in their second season. The lead lasted until the end of the season when the Express lost their momentum and were kicked out of the playoffs.

This year under new coach and general manager Earl Jessiman, the Express

will display a new image. It will be an image of youth and toughness.

Coach Jessiman, who coached the Brandon University Bobcats last year, will have a tough job to fill the shoes of Jacques Demers, last year's coach. Demers has been regarded as a major reason the Express did so well last year. He is now coaching the St. Louis Blues of the N.H.L., along with Richard David, once a major element of the Express club. Basil McRae, an ex-Express player, has also made it to the N.H.L., to play for the Maple Leafs.

Some of this year's line up will include Frank Caprice, Brian Ford, Michael Dufour, Tony Currie and Richard Turmel, one of the new players, is 6 feet, 4 inches, 220 lbs and will be an intimidating defenseman.

With a busy exhibition season the Express will open the regular season home against Sherbrooke of the Northern Division on October 8.

As the season kicks off this columnist would like to wish the Express good luck and hope their goal for the Calder Cup is successful.

## Athlete of the Week

**Margaret MacDonald** - The 21-year-old Moncton native set a course record in Orono Saturday (Sept. 24), running a 3.57 mile course in 20 minutes and 41 seconds as part of a meet between University of New Brunswick and University of Maine at Orono. In her first race of the year, Margaret finished a full minute ahead of her nearest competitor. 'Margaret ran a very strong race,' coach Joe Lehman said. 'She left all opposition far behind.'

**Larry Courvlosier** - Larry was the dominant defensive force last Wednesday (Sept. 21) for the undefeated soccer Red Shirts in their 3-0 road victory over the University of Moncton. The two-time CIAU all-star and three-time AUSA all-star is a native of North Bay, Ont.

A reminder about the two hockey games Friday and Saturday against McGill Redmen at the Aitken Centre. There will also be a meet the player reception Friday in the Colter Room following the game.

## Engineers.

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