

San Diego predicted champion

Editor's Note: This is the last part of Mike Carlson's column examining NFL teams and their outlooks for this season.

AFC West: 1. San Diego 2. Denver 3. Seattle 4. Oakland 5. Kansas City

San Diego returns QB Dan Fouts and his aerial show, which includes wide receiver John Jefferson and Charlie Joiner. The Chargers also return a competent defense which allowed only 11 touchdown passes a year ago. Still, more improvement could be used in light of the fact that the Chargers could only win three out of the six games in which Fouts threw for over 300 yards. And, with Coach Don Coryell, don't be surprised if that number of 300-yard games goes up.

Denver acquired a quality QB in young Matt Robinson to pep up their sagging offense. Their Orange Crush defense will be strong again, and if the Bronco offense slips into a higher gear, Denver could pass San Diego in this wild division scramble.

The Seattle Seahawks boast the NFL's leading receiver in Steve Largent, and will promise an exciting passing

game as long as QB Jim Zorn is calling the shots. But being burdened by a very weak defense and the NFL's toughest schedule will force the Seahawks to ride the fortunes of Zorn's arm and their excellent kicking game, which consists of punter Herman Weaver and kicker Efen Herrera.

Oakland and Kansas City will battle for the division cellar even though the Raiders acquired QB Don Pastorini and Chiefs' Coach Marv Levy has promised to open up his offense and phase out the wing-T. Pastorini will provide Coach Tom Flores with a deeper passing tendency, which should also please Commissioner Pete Rozelle's favorite nemesis, Al Davis. Both Kansas City and Oakland field excellent punters in Bob Grupp and Ray Guy, respectively, which will give both defenses much needed help.

Both teams will need time before a serious run is made for a play-off berth, and the Chiefs especially need to eliminate one glaring stat from their offensive attack of

last year: of six games that rookie QB Steve Fuller started, the Chiefs won five of them only when Fuller threw less than twenty times.

K-State attitude, quality improved this year—coach

By Tad Stryker

Kansas State Head Football Coach Jim Dickey said a "better overall team attitude" is the most important step his team has taken so far towards improving on last year's 3-8 record.

Most coaches would agree that a good attitude, coupled with a fine crop of athletes, gives a team a good start towards a winning year. K-State has the attitude, it is to have its first winning season since 1970, it needs the athletes. Dickey said that the number of players out for football at K-State has increased over the last few years and that he "would like to think" the quality is improving also.

Defensive end James Walker, a 6-2, 241-pound senior, is a high-quality player, Dickey said. Walker was named to the All-Big Eight defensive team by one poll.

Last year, Walker made 42 unassisted tackles. He tackled opposing backs for a total of 64 yards in losses. Two fumble recoveries and a 33-yard interception return for a touchdown round out his defensive record.

The name "Dickey" has been of historical importance to the K-State passing game. From 1968 through 1970, Lynn Dickey passed for over 6,000 yards and set several Big Eight records.

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