

SAN FRANCISCO 26, CINCINNATI 21

Montana leads Rogers to championship

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — It was a victory born in the fertile football mind of head coach Bill Walsh, carried out with cool efficiency by quarterback Joe Montana and a defense determined to win.

San Francisco 49ers are champions of the National Football League, 29-21 winners Sunday over Cincinnati Bengals in the Super Bowl.

Yes, the 49ers, that same old franchise that limped through consecutive 2-14 seasons a couple of years ago, now the route, hoisted to the top of the mountain, the creative coach and his talented quarterback.

"The difference is simple: Bill Walsh," said 49er flanker Freddie Solomon. "Every week, he keeps coming up with some more X's and O's."

The San Francisco playbook is full of options for Montana. Most teams have 20 or 25 pass plays in their arsenal.

"Bill's offense has 60 or 70," Montana said. "Bill is way ahead of everyone in making game plans."

"One game last year, we had over 100 passing plays. And there's a formation for every play."

The 49ers remember the 1980 season well. They were 6-10 also-rawns then and glumly watched their Bay Area neighbors, Oakland Raiders, win the Super Bowl.

"We couldn't think of the Super Bowl after that," Montana said. "We had to concentrate on improving our record."

FAITH IN ROOKIES
Which was not afraid to turn his secondary over to rookie Ron

nie Lett, Eric Wright and Carlton Williamson, and he certainly was not concerned about giving the football to Montana.

"Joe will be the great quarterback of the future," said Walsh after Montana was named the game's most valuable player.

"He is one of the coolest competitors of all time and he has just started."

Montana completed 14 of 22 passes for 157 yards and played the Super Bowl as if it were just another day at the office.

All Montana's magic, though, might have been wasted but for the defense that refused to bend even a yard late in the third

quarter. Three times the Bengals attempted to score from the one-yard line. Three times — twice with 10 players on the field because of a mixup caused by the noise and

confusion — the 49ers stopped them.

Cincinnati tight end Dan Ross said his team was tense, and blowing three scoring opportunities from inside the 10-yard line certainly didn't help the condition.

"It was just like stage fright," Ross said. "We were cringing at Super Bowl-record 11 passes, two of them for touchdowns from Ken Anderson. 'I was in awe of everything.'"

The big difference was they played loose and we didn't. They didn't let it get to them."

The problems started early for the Bengals. After recovering a fumble on the opening kickoff, Cincinnati had a golden opportunity, moving to a first down at the San Francisco five-yard line. But the Bengals came so short when Dwight Hicks in-

tercepted an Anderson pass and returned it to the 32.

Really for the Bengals was a 49er march to the game's first touchdown. It was a 49-yard drive, climaxed by Montana's one-yard plunge. Thirteen of these yards came on a flea-flicker, of all things, Montana handed off to Ricky Pickett, who turned the ball over to Solomon, who returned it to Montana, who then ran for 13 yards to Charlie Young.

"We keep surprises in our back pocket," said running back Earl Cooper, the only man in the backfield who didn't think the ball on that play.

For their next trick, the 49ers halted Cincinnati at the San Francisco eight-yard line as rookie Eric Wright stripped a completed pass from Chris Collinsworth and rookie Lynn

Thomas recovered the ball.

After launching a 49-yard drive, the longest in Super Bowl history, for the touchdown, Montana threw an 11-yard pass to Cooper.

Now it was 14-0 and things began looking no better for the Bengals.

Starting from their own 34 on the 11, the Bengals drove to the Cincinnati five, where they won on 18 seconds left until the 49ers drove to the Cincinnati 22-yard field goal for a 17-0 lead.

That would have been a perfectly fine halftime lead, but the Bengals got-wrapped three more points. Archie Griffin fumbled the kickoff and Milt McQuinn recovered for the 49ers at the four. Werschling returned for a 29-yard field goal and the serious Super Bowl was turning

into a laugher for the 49ers.

Before the 49ers knew what they had done, Cincinnati's second drive, in the third period, scored back with a nine-play, 83-yard drive to win the final five and now it was 20-7.

Then, with just under seven minutes left in the period, the Bengals came back for more. Anderson's 49-yard pass to Collinsworth drove them to the San Francisco 14 and on fourth-and-one from the five, Pete Johnson smashed into the middle of the line for a first down at the three.

DEFENSE HELD
Cincinnati had four cracks to gain three yards. A touchdown would put them six points away from the lead.

Twice, Johnson barged into the middle of the line, managing two yards on the first carry and none on the second. On third down,

Anderson passed to Charles Alexander, but Dan Bunz stopped the play for no gain.

Now it was fourth down and the Bengals tried Johnson again. Nothing.

"The 49ers raise up at the snap of the ball," the 26-pound punter said. "I figured I could go under them."

"I just didn't work. There just wasn't anything."

"We just had to stop him," said 49ers linebacker Jack Reynolds. "We knew he would get the ball."

"He's like a Mack truck," Cincinnati coach Forrest Gregg did not regret the play call.

"It was the first time we've been stopped on this play this season," he said. "If I had it to do all over again, I'd still give it to the fullback."

TO 15 POINTS
Rockets increase lead over Lakers

Vernon Lakers saw their hopes of catching third-place Revolt Rockets increase Sunday night.

Lakers dropped a 74 decision to Rockets, at the Civic Arena, and now trail Revolt by 15 points in the B.C. Junior Hockey League's Interior Division.

A couple defensive lapses and rebounding errors cost Lakers the game.

After trailing 30-40 at the end of the first period, Lakers took a 3-2 lead midway through the second period.

Swanson said Cougars will be a tough team to beat.

COSTLY LAPSES
Vernon Coach Gord MacBeth said he couldn't understand the defensive lapses by his team.

"I felt we should have won the game," MacBeth said, "but our goaltending let us down a little. Also, in the second period, we seemed to lose their composure because of Revolt's forechecking."

Randy Horvath gave Rockets a 1-0 lead, at 1:42 of the opening period. Les Trainor made the score 2-0 before the teams went to the dressing rooms.

Dale Reimer, Rod Kossan, and Mike Wiebe put Vernon in front, but the lead was short-lived. Lee Humphreys and Mike Fisher again put Rockets in front, before the second period ended.

Early in the third, Bob Morden tied the score 4-4. But, at that point, the puck belonged to Rockets as they shot, outskated, and outscored Vernon.

WINNING GOAL
Horvath got the winning follow-up by insurance goals from Wade Waters and Danny James.

Karl Landau made 35 saves in the Revolt net. His best stop was on a breakaway by Jeff Armitage. Armitage elected to back up to his backhand, but Landau neatly picked the puck away.

MacBeth said, "I thought he (Armitage) was too slow on the puck. He should have shot."

At the other end, the 19-year-old Dale Woods made 30 saves.

MacBeth said he considered making a goaltending change after his third goal.

"I should have made the change but I just outguessed myself. He (Woods) seemed to be playing a little casually."

I've seen him play much better. He's a good goalie."

Merritt Centennials by five points in the battle for the final playoff spot.

"When they (Merritt) hear we're losing to Revolt, it will make them set up to beat that much more," MacBeth said.

Vernon's only another tough weekend.

BUSY WEEKEND
Cents will be here Friday. Lakers visit Kwantlen, B.C. Buckaroos, Saturday, then Pentucket Knights, Sunday.

"If we can win two of those, we'll be okay," MacBeth said. "It's another tough weekend."

In other B.C.J.H.L. action Sunday, the 49ers will play the 49ers.

Three games are scheduled in Carling of Keele Basketball League action tonight. At Priest Valley Gymnasium, Wheelhouse Drywall meets Express-Competition, at 7:15 p.m.; and at National Hockey Centre, at 8:30 p.m. At VSSS, the 49ers will play the 49ers.

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On Saturday, Pentucket claimed a 6-1 home win over Revolt and Abbotsford beat the home-town Rockets 8-3 in Nanaimo.

Patrick Antonovanni and Paul Lalonde each scored twice for the Langley Sunday, while Rob Bird and George Waller added singles. Mike Fisher scored the Clippers with three goals.

TWO SCORE TWICE
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VERNON LAKERS' goalie Dale Woods, left, gets assistance from team-mates Gord Simpson (17) and Dennis O'Neil (15) during B.C.J.H.L. action Sunday, at the Civic Arena. The puck was steered behind the net on this play, but Revolt Rockets went on to defeat Lakers 7-4. The setback dropped Vernon 15 points behind the third-place Rockets. Lakers will host Merritt Centennials in a crucial game Friday. (Daily News Photo)

CROSS-COUNTRY SQUAD NAMED

British Columbia Winter Games zone two (Kanagan) cross-country ski trials were held recently at Telmar Trails, near Westbank.

The trials attracted 89 skiers, from throughout the valley. The trials will be held in Trail, March 4-5.

Four Vernon skiers are members of the Okanagan squad, as substitutes.

Jennifer Moncion (juvenile girls), Lisa Halsey (junior women), Paul Birzins (senior men), and Joan Moncion (masters women), are the local entrants who will ski if the designated qualifiers cannot compete.

The qualifiers were:

Juvenile girl: Rita Keskinen, Canoe. Junior girl: Anne Kesk-Salmi, Salmon Arm.

Juvenile boy: Tom Hansen, Salmon Arm. Junior boy: Tim Tullis, Peachland.

Juvenile women: Tenna Tuuli. Junior men: Don Crook, Midway.

Senior women: Michelle O'Flanagan, Kamloops. Senior men: Manfred Kirschner, Kamloops.

Nesters men: Phyllis Smith, Westbank. Masters men: Gerry Morrison, Kelowna.

Senior masters women: Joy Hart, Salmon Arm. Senior masters men: Roy Cowan, Westbank.

Cougars managed to average Saturday's loss with a 12-6 tie.

On Saturday, Reid, Stein, Caldwell, Thorkelson and Kashauba continued for Cougars.

Osmond and Kress had two for the Buccaneers while Brian Conrad, George, Randy McCulloch and Renner had singles.

The arrangement made with Buccaneers prior to the series was that they would be the first to go. However, Taber was upset with game attendance and again got upset at Swanson.

Swanson said he's glad the weekend is over and Buccaneers have left town.

"I'm tempted to let the Alberta Amateur Hockey Association know what kind of team was representing their province," representing their province, said Swanson. "With a team like that, they don't deserve to play."

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