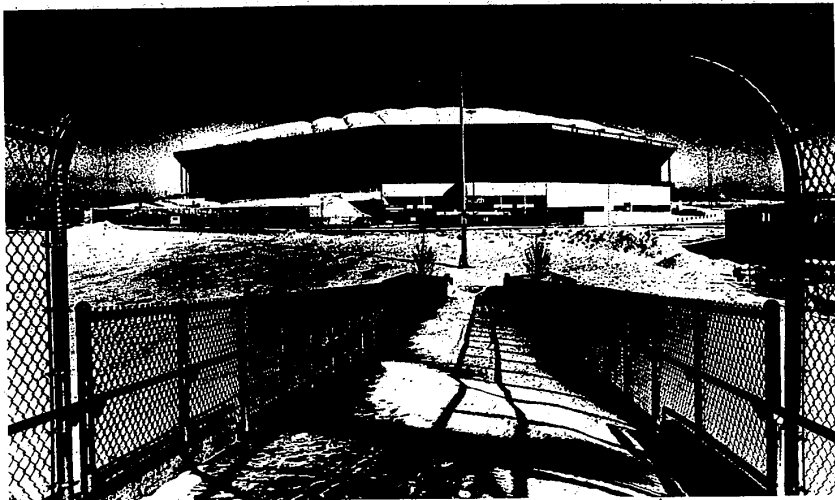




'We're on a business trip... a business trip to play for the world championship... I prefer to play in Detroit; it's an NFL city.'

—Bill Walsh  
San Francisco coach



The Pontiac Silverdome will attract more than 80,000 spectators Sunday afternoon when Super Bowl XVI kicks off at 4 p.m.



'I think you're going to see passing, and a lot of it. Both of us are basically passing teams. You're going to have to score more than 21 points to win this game.'

—Forrest Gregg  
Cincinnati coach

## Who will win?

### Former Lions render predictions on Super Bowl XVI

By C.J. Risak and Marty Budner staff writers

Cincinnati and San Francisco — two fresh teams in the hyped-up world of Supermania — will play for America's professional football championship Sunday at the Pontiac Silverdome.

The 49ers defeated the Bengals earlier this year in Cincinnati, and are rated slight favorites in Super Bowl XVI. Many experts are predicting this year's game — featuring two explosive of-

fenses — to be one of the most exciting ever.

Both head coaches met the press Monday. Cincinnati's Forrest Gregg and San Francisco's Bill Walsh.

"I think you're going to see passing, and a lot of it. Both of us are basically passing teams," said Gregg, a former player with the Green Bay Packers.

"You're going to have to score more than 21 points to win this game."

Said Walsh: "We're on a business trip... a business trip to play for the world championship. I prefer to play in

Detroit. It's an NFL city."

The Observer & Eccentric found three former Detroit Lions — Joe Schmidt, Mel Farr and Rick Forzano — who also had some interesting comments about the first Super Bowl hosted by the state of Michigan.

Here are their thoughts on the big game:

**JOE SCHMIDT**

Joe Schmidt is well versed in the ways of the National Football League.

The former All-Pro middle linebacker played on the Lions' last championship team in 1957. He also coached the Lions to their only playoff appearance in the last 25 years — against the Dallas Cowboys in 1970.

Someone with those credentials should be able to provide a firm analysis of the 1982 Super Bowl.

"I really don't have a strong feeling, but I'll take the Cincinnati Bengals," the former Lions star said.

Why? Because they've played more

on artificial turf? Or their quarterback Ken Anderson is more experienced?

Nope.

"A good friend of mine coaches for the Bengals," Schmidt answered with a laugh. He was referring to Dick LeBeau, the former Detroit Lions cornerback who now coaches the Bengals' defensive secondary.

Schmidt, who operates his own business in Southfield, was more enthused when asked about the Super Bowl's



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## Our 'experts' foretell outcome of Super Bowl

Cincinnati vs. San Francisco.

Tigers (Bengals) tangling with fortune-seekers (49ers).

The frigid Midwest against the mud-slick West Coast.

Who will be the Super Bowl winner? That answer is easy. But first, here are the predictions from the O&E sports staff.

C.J. RISAK — "Chuck Alug's got a good jump on the competition. By Sunday, he's promised to have hit every bar on all the Super Pub Crawls, and then some."

Not that game, CJ.

"Oh, you mean the football game. San Francisco beat the pants off the Bengals

earlier this year, 21-3. Why go against a winner?

"The 49ers flood the field with receivers, and Joe Montana can hit any of them at any time. Their young defensive backfield has jelled. That's where the game will be won or lost, in the secondary. And the 49ers are better."

"That's an easy one. Predictions like how much beer will be consumed or how many people don't show for the game because they're having such a great time in the city, those are tough."

Local bar owners' eyes gleam trying to score on that prediction.

San Francisco 1, Cincinnati 0.

**JIM HUGHES** — "The what?"

The Super Bowl, Jim. Who's going to win?

"I refuse to call it the Super Bowl, for no other reason than that the word 'super' has been totally exhausted."

"After hearing and reading about super parties, super pub crawls, super specials, super teams and super players, I'm sick of hearing the word. I'm contemplating a motion whereby the word would be stricken from the English language."

"Now, to the matter at hand. I believe San Francisco will win the Super, er, National Football League championship. I've watched Joe Montana pull out big games at Notre Dame. He's a major player who doesn't seem to know the meaning of pressure."

Neither team has been there before, but Montana has played in comparable games. He led Notre Dame to a national championship, and he'll do the same for the 49ers. He's a "super" quarterback."

And that's a "Super" prediction.

San Francisco 2, Cincinnati 0.

**MARTY BUDNER** — "Cincinnati has all the intangible advantages."

Like what, Marty?

"For instance, as a Midwestern team, the Bengals are acclimated to the frigid northern winters. The sun-starved 49ers are quartered for the week at the Southfield Sheraton. The 25-minute trip to the Pontiac Silverdome in biting arctic temperatures will be too much for the Californians to overcome."

"Cincinnati also has three former Ohio State players — Archie and Ray Griffin and Pete Johnson. You know how those Buckeyes hate to lose in Michigan."

"Don't forget, Cincinnati lost earlier this season to San Francisco. The Bengals haven't lost twice to anyone this season, so they're a cinch to win this time."

"And Cincinnati is designated as the home team under NFL guidelines. That gives the Bengals — who won all their playoff games at home — the super edge."

"The weather for an indoor game, three former OSU players, a pounding the Bengals took from the 49ers earlier this season and a mythical home advantage are reasons Cincinnati will win, huh Marty?"

Sound argument. As sound as any other, anyway.



MINDY SAUNDERS/staff photographer

A chilly San Francisco 49er and coach Bill Walsh head for a practice at the Silverdome.

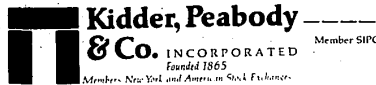
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