

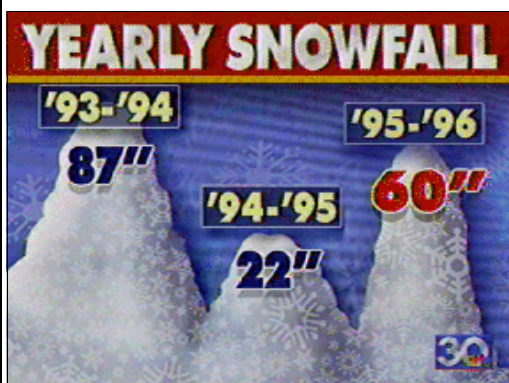
# The Living Room Times

All the Nose that's fit to print... weekly!

271st overall edition — Twelfth regular weekly edition of 1995-1996 season

Tuesday, January 9, 1996

## Blizzard paralyzes east coast Blizzard Ginger's snow totals measured in feet



*A Busy Winter? You Bet! We're already closing in on '93-'94's all-time snowfall record, and it's only January!*

More on the blizzard, pages 3 and 4

A massive winter storm comparable to similar blizzards in 1978, 1984, and 1993 buried much of the eastern United States Sunday and Monday in snow as deep as two to three feet.

The storm—named Blizzard Ginger by Connecticut TV station WFSB, Channel 3, but more commonly known across the region as “the Blizzard of '96”—arrived in Connecticut late Sunday morning, and did not leave the state until Monday evening. By the time the storm finally exited, as much as 28 inches of snow had accumulated.

School systems throughout the state shut down Monday, including Newington, traditionally one of the towns most reluctant to close schools. Most businesses closed as well. Governor John Rowland, despite not declaring a State of Emergency, closed all state offices.

## UConn women stun Tennessee at home Vols' 69-game home streak ends

**KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) --** Tennessee's NCAA record 69-game home winning streak ended Saturday when Jennifer Rizzotti scored 18 points and added five assists to lead No. 2 Connecticut to a 59-53 victory over fourth-ranked Lady Vols.

Tennessee had not lost a home game since Jan. 28, 1991. The Huskies (12-2) beat the Lady Vols (11-2) for the third straight time, including last spring's NCAA championship game.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Blizzard postpones UConn men's game Will play Villanova tonight

Huskies may be snow-loving dogs, but the UConn variety couldn't withstand the Blizzard of '96.

The UConn Huskies were supposed to play the Villanova Wildcats last night in a matchup of the two top teams in the Big East, but the game was delayed for 24 hours because of the blizzard.

The game will be played tonight at 7:30 PM at Gampel Pavillion in Storrs. It will be televised on ESPN2 and CPTV (Public Television).

“Battle of the Sexes” nearly over, page 2

NFL Playoffs, page 6

Don Shula retires, page 7

# It's "Target: Colpitts" as Battle of the Sexes nears its conclusion

With less than two weeks left until midterms, time is running out for "Great Male Hope" Todd Stigliano and "Secondary Great Hope of the Male Race" Brendan Loy to catch "Great Female Hope" Sara Colpitts in the race for "class genius" in Lou Ruggiero's fourth-period geometry class Battle of the Sexes.

But as the clock ticks on male students' hopes to take over the top spot currently occupied by the



*Above:* A "Target: Colpitts" picture given to Mr. Ruggiero as a Christmas present from Brendan Loy on Dec. 22. *Below:* Mr. Ruggiero tapes the Colpitts target on his classroom bulletin board.



quiz on Wednesday.

This quiz is worth more than the first four quizzes of the term—worth 30, 40, 35, and 35 points, respectively—because it is sort of a hybrid between a quiz and a test. It covers all of Chapter Six, which is a very short chapter. Because the chapter is so short, Mr. Ruggiero decided to give the one 50-point quiz rather than the traditional two or three shorter quizzes and a 100-point chapter test.

The problem for Stigs, Loy, and all the class males: Colpitts is perfect on quizzes this term. She hasn't missed a single problem on any of the four quizzes.

There is at least some reason to believe, however. Since this particular quiz is more like a half-quiz-half-test, there will presumably be more material covered than on

*(Continued on page 3)*

Great Female Hope and "Great Male Nemesis," it now seems like only a matter of time until Colpitts finishes her successful defense of the "class genius" title she earned in the first term.

In other words, barring a miracle, Colpitts is gonna win.

But despite the odds, 'the Stigmeister' and 'the Loymeister' have no plans to give up the Battle, at least not yet.

After all, the two Great Hopes of the male race will have one last chance to catch Colpitts when they take a 50-point

# Vols' record home streak ends at 69 Huskies win at Tennessee

**"Tennessee ice-cold down the stretch. Stuck on 51 points forever." —CBS Announcer Sean McDonough after Tennessee, trailing 55-51, missed a shot with 40 seconds left.**

*(Continued from page 1)*

Kara Wolters added 12 points and 10 rebounds for the Huskies. Tennessee was led by Chamique Holdsclaw with 15 points, Tiffany Johnson with 12 and Michelle Marciniak with 10.

The Huskies won with defense and rebounding down the stretch.



Tennessee led 51-47 with 6:41 left on Latina Davis' pullup 10-footer, but those were the last meaningful points Tennessee would score. In the meantime UConn ran off 10 straight to pull away.



After Davis' basket, neither team scored on its next five possessions covering 3 1/2 minutes. Connecticut's Amy Duran finally broke the ice with a 3-pointer from the left corner, her

first basket of the game, to make it 51-50 with 3:05 remaining.

After a Tennessee miss, Rizzotti drove the lane and sent a backhand feed to Elliott, wide open under the basket. Elliott scored, was fouled, and converted the three-point play for a 53-51 UConn lead with 2:18 to go.

Duran's two free throws with 48.7 seconds left made it 55-51. Two more by Elliott with 36 seconds left made it 57-51, completing the 10-point run, and finishing the Lady Vols.

Johnson finally scored for Tennessee with 22 seconds remaining.

During its six-minute, 19-second scoring drought, Tennessee had nine possessions. The Lady Vols did not turn it over on any of them, but got just one shot each trip down as Connecticut did a tremendous job on the defensive board.

Connecticut scored the first seven points of the second half to erase Tennessee's 31-27 halftime lead. Tennessee scored the next eight and held the lead until Elliott's three-point play put the Huskies up to stay.

# Time running out for Loy, Stigman to catch Colpitts

## “Battle of the Sexes” nearly over with males still behind

(Continued from page 2)

shorter quizzes. And since Colpitts has missed seven points on two chapter tests, perhaps she won't be perfect on this quiz/test either.

Stigliano and Loy had better hope so. In fact, they'd better hope she is far less than perfect. Assuming Loy and Stigs both get 100%, Colpitts must get four wrong for Brendan to tie her, five wrong for Brendan to take the lead and for Todd to tie her, and six wrong for Todd to take the lead. And for the “class genius,” whose lowest grade this term is a 95% and who has an average of over 98%, those grades—an A- or B+—seem unthinkable.



Above: Todd Stigliano and Brendan Loy hold up their “lucky shoes.”

The Stigmeister and Loymeister may have to hope that a miracle — or their lucky plastic green toy shoes—will help them get perfect scores on Wednesday's quiz, and help keep Colpitts's grade down. If not, it may be a lost cause.

So unless the shoes perform unprecedented magic, next week's edition of the *Living Room Times* may have a headline stating, “Colpitts Wins Battle of the Sexes.”

<b>“FAB FIVE”</b>	<u>Chap. 4 quizzes</u>	<u>Chap. 4 test</u>	<u>Chap. 5 quizzes</u>	<u>Chap. 5 test</u>	<u>Home-work</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<b>Sara Colpitts</b>	70/70	95/100	70/70	98/100	24/24	<b>357/364</b> <b>98.08%</b>
<b>Brendan Loy</b>	66/70	96/100	69/70	98/100	24/24	<b>353/364</b> <b>96.98%</b>
<b>Todd Stigliano</b>	66/70	96/100	68/70	98/100	24/24	<b>352/364</b> <b>96.70%</b>
<b>Claudio Gualtieri</b>	70/70	88/100	69/70	98/100	24/24	<b>349/364</b> <b>95.88%</b>
<b>Chris Banach</b>	70/70	91/100	64/70	90/100	24/24	<b>339/364</b> <b>93.13%</b>

# Entire east coast feels wrath of “Blizzard of '96”

*Associated Press*

One of the biggest blizzards in U.S. history paralyzed the East on Monday, piling up 20-foot drifts on airport runways and stopping thousands of travelers in their tracks. At least 23 deaths were blamed on the weather.

"The snow in some places was thigh high. You had no idea whether you were stepping onto a curb or a snow-covered sinkhole. I did both," said lawyer Ron Kuby in New York City.

Only emergency vehicles were allowed on many highways and New York City streets -- Hoboken, N.J., even set up roadblocks -- and all major airports were closed from Washington to Boston. Bus lines shut down, and passengers from one Amtrak train were stuck in a West Virginia hotel.

Hundreds of tuckers and other travelers were stuck in truck stops, restaurants and highway service areas.

"It's better to be stuck somewhere comfortable rather than in the truck," said William Bedell, a trucker from Aiken, S.C., stopped along the New Jersey Turnpike. "The load is not worth your life. You can always get another truck, not another me."

It was the third worst snowstorm on record for New York City, where 20.1 inches piled up in skyscraper-surrounded Central Park. Outlying Staten Island got more, with 27 inches.

"It reminds me of when I was growing up in Iceland," said Olos Haggerty, trying to get a cab to work in New York City.

The city's worst blizzard was the day after Christmas in 1947, when 26.4 inches fell. But there was little wind, unlike the blizzard of March 12, 1888, when 21 inches got heaped into drifts that reached second-story windows. The 1888 storm killed more than 300 people on the East Coast.

The Northeast also got heavy snow in 1983, when Philadelphia received a record 21.3 inches. That city got more this time: 30.3 inches.

The Baltimore region got 23 inches, just short of the 24.7-inch record set in the big blizzard of January 1922.

The most snow was in the Appalachians, with 43 inches in West Virginia's Webster County, and 30 in parts of Virginia and Tennessee. Far to the south, Georgia got a foot and Alabama highways were iced.

Mail delivery was halted in Washington and New York

(Continued on page 4)



# BLIZZARD OF '96



*(Continued from page 3)*

City, and hundreds of schools were closed from Georgia to New Hampshire. New York City's 1 million schoolchildren enjoyed their first snow day since 1978.

Much of the federal government was shut down, and Phil Gramm and Bob Dole had to cancel New Hampshire campaign treks because they couldn't get out of Washington. The United Nations also closed.

The New York, American and Nasdaq stock exchanges opened late for abbreviated sessions. But the storm shut down the New York Mercantile Exchange and the New York Commodity Exchange, among others.

The statue of George Washington in front of the NYSE "looks more like 'Frosty' today," said brokerage clerk Chris Betts.

Even using cross-country skis was dangerous. Vivian Toan ran into trouble using her skis on New York's Brooklyn Bridge. "I almost got blown off," she said. "I had to hang on to some of the cables."

Philadelphia city crews had trucked away about 500 tons of snow and dumped it in the Schuylkill River, but the nation's fifth-largest city still resembled a ghost town with drifts up to 6 feet high.

Major airports for Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Newark, N.J., Boston and New York City shut down, and waiting



areas turned into shelters. Drifts at New York's airports were as high as 20 feet, said Port Authority executive director George Marlin.

And that backed up flights elsewhere. Between 700 and 900 TWA passengers bound for the East Coast were stranded overnight at St. Louis. Hundreds of people flying in from Europe to New York had to spend the night at Bangor, Maine.

"I don't know what we're going to do. We don't want to spend another night here," Ana Costa said at New York's Kennedy Airport. She and her husband drove from Boston to meet relatives flying in from Spain. The relatives got diverted to Montreal and the Costas were stuck at the airport, where most people spent the night on the cold floor or in chairs.

The Pennsylvania Turnpike was closed the length of the state and nonessential travel was banned from the New Jersey Turnpike. Roads were closed in half of Pennsylvania until Tuesday.

"You plow and 10 minutes later it looks like nothing's been done," said Jim Robinson, spokesman for the New Jersey Turnpike.

Some 1,500 exhibitors and others had to spend the night at the Pennsylvania Farm Show complex in Harrisburg. "Everywhere you look, there's a kid curled up in a corner," said farm show director Dennis Grumbine.

Subscribers to The Philadelphia Inquirer and Daily News couldn't even read about the weather because delivery trucks were considered nonessential.

Essential travel included a maternity patient who made it to Methodist Hospital in South Philadelphia.

"I think she said six men put her on a sled and took her out on the main street, where fire rescue picked her up," said nursing supervisor Joan Miguez. It turned out to be a false alarm.

# LATE SHOW TOP TEN

The Living Room Times would like to make a special edition filled with Top Ten lists in the next few weeks, but we need your help!

*If you want to contribute a list to the edition, please give your list to Brendan Loy and he will include it!*

## TOP TEN PRINCE CHARLES PICK-UP LINES

10. "Wanna hold the royal scepter?"
9. "Put a flag over my head and do it for England"
8. "Ever done it with an outdated historical anachronism?"
7. "If you think my ears are big..."
6. "Come upstairs with me and I'll make you the Princess of Wails"
5. "Care to join a family of inbred freaks?"
4. "Would you like to sit in a giant bowl of eggnog with me?"
3. "Why don't you lose that hayseed you're with, Hillary?"
2. "Let's put the bucking in Buckingham Palace"
1. "I've got Big Ben in my pants"

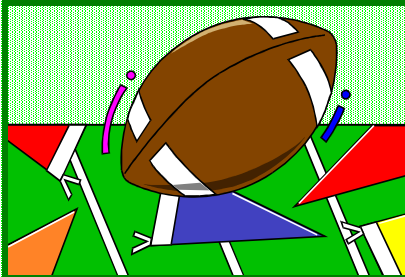
*Late Show With David Letterman  
Thursday, December 21, 1995  
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## TOP TEN LEAST POPULAR CHRISTMAS CAROLS

*(as sung by the Late Show Carolers)*

10. "I Saw Mommy Marry Larry King"
9. "Boris The Red-Nosed Yeltsin Had An 86-Proof Nose"
8. "I'm Searching For The Real Killers With Every Round Of Golf I Play"
7. "Oh, Hillary, Oh, Hillary, You're Going To Jail For One-To-Three"
6. "Influenza, Influenza, Influenza"
5. "O Little Network CBS How Still We See Thee Lie"
4. "Frosty The Crackhead Had A Crack Pipe Full Of Crack"
3. "I Have An Irregular Heartbeat Pa-Rum-Pum-Pum-Pum"
2. "O.J. Is Free Although He's Prob'ly Guilty"
1. "Good King Clinton Dropped His Pants In A Cheap Hotel Room"

*Late Show With David Letterman  
Tuesday, December 26, 1995  
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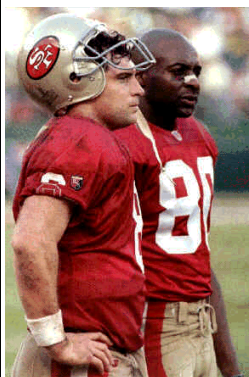


# NFL Playoffs

NFC Championship Game:  
Packers at Cowboys

AFC Championship Game:  
Colts at Steelers

## Packers dethrone champion 49ers San Fransisco stunned, eliminated by 27-17 loss



**SAN FRANCISCO (AP) --** Some San Franciscans wondered why Brett Favre was the NFL's MVP this year instead of Jerry Rice. Favre showed them Saturday.

Favre moved the Green Bay Packers within a victory of their first Super Bowl appearance since 1967. He completed 21 of 28 passes for 299 yards and two touchdowns Saturday, leading Green Bay to a 27-17 victory over

the defending Super Bowl champion 49ers.

That last title game was back in the days when Vince Lombardi was their coach and titles were as routine as they have been for the 49ers in the last 15 years.

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Upstart Colts shock Chiefs NFL's top team eliminated



**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) --** The odds were stacked against the Colts.

They were playing without their star, Marshall Faulk; Kansas City was the NFL's only team to go undefeated at home; and the Chiefs simply had the best record in the league at 13-3.

But Indianapolis had Lamont Warren, Zack Crockett and Eugene Daniel.

The Chiefs were no match as the surprise team of the playoffs knocked off Kansas City 10-7 with a bunch of no-names. On Sunday, the Colts will play at Pittsburgh for the AFC championship and a berth in the Super Bowl.

"As a team we are very focused," said Crockett, who

*(Continued on page 10)*

## Familiar territory Cowboys return to NFC title game for fourth year in a row



**IRVING, Texas (AP) --** The Dallas Cowboys finally got their \$35 million worth out of Deion Sanders and danced right into their fourth straight NFC championship game.

Sanders, despite his \$250,000 per quarter salary, had little impact until Sunday, when he took a

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Steelers stop Bills Pittsburgh will return to AFC championship game



**PITTSBURGH (AP) --** The Pittsburgh Steelers played like it was the Super Bowl. Ultimately, so did the Buffalo Bills.

All-Pro Bruce Smith stayed at home with the flu, and the Bills' offense didn't show up until Pittsburgh led by 20 points, sending the Steelers to a 40-21 victory Saturday and their second consecutive trip to the AFC championship game.

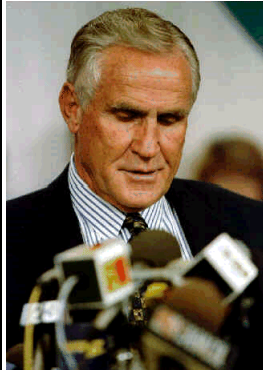
*(Continued on page 10)*





# Don Shula Retires

## Dolphins coach retires after 33 years coaching



*DAVIE, Fla. (AP) --* Don Shula said Friday he spent a "soul-searching, gut-wrenching" week before deciding to retire rather than extend his contract or scramble for new assistant coaches.

"This is the day that you thought was never going to happen. Now it's here, now it has happened," said Shula, the winningest coach in NFL

history.

The list of possible successors as coach of the Miami Dolphins is headed by former Cowboys coach Jimmy Johnson, although Dolphins owner H. Wayne Huizenga said he had not spoken with Johnson or any other candidate about the position.

Shula's familiar jutting jaw and easy manner were on display throughout his news conference at the Dolphins' training camp, but he admitted that his decision to retire after 33 years as a head coach was painful.

"I'm putting on a helluva front," a smiling Shula said when asked if he was happy.

"We're going to make this a happy time. When you make a decision, you do everything in your power to make that decision work," he said.

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Jimmy Johnson to replace Shula? Former Cowboys coach seems obvious choice

*MIAMI (AP) --* For the first time in 26 years, the job Jimmy Johnson wants most is vacant -- and he is interested.

"I've got to sit down with Wayne Huizenga," Johnson said Saturday on Fox, referring to the owner of the Miami Dolphins. "Obviously I'm interested. Obviously I love living in South Florida. But until you sit down, you can't say what you might do."

It may take someone of Johnson's stature to succeed Don Shula as coach of the Dolphins.

Johnson tops Huizenga's list of candidates and often has said that if he returns to the NFL, he'd prefer to do it in Miami. Opportunity knocked Friday when Shula resigned, ending his record-setting reign with the Dolphins that began in 1970.

Johnson said he had yet to visit with Huizenga about the job.

"I have talked to Tampa Bay and some other teams," Johnson said. "Until I talk to everybody, I don't know what I might do."

According to a source close to the Dolphins, other candidates include Florida coach Steve Spurrier, Kansas City Chiefs coach Marty Schottenheimer and Pittsburgh Steelers coach Bill Cowher.

The biggest obstacle to prevent the Dolphins from hiring Johnson was removed when Shula -- who will remain with the team in a figurehead position -- pledged to support owner Wayne Huizenga's choice. The

*(Continued on page 9)*

## 49ers ousted



*(Cont. from p. 6)*

It was Favre's game in all ways, a hot quarterback having a torrid day. In the first half alone, as the Packers took a 21-3

lead, Favre was 15 of 17 for 222 yards. He was so hot that he completed a 28-yard pass to Keith Jackson after slipping down as he was dropping back.

But Favre was aided by near-perfect defensive schemes devised by a coaching staff headed by former 49ers offensive coordinator Mike Holmgren.

"We're gonna win it all," Holmgren said after the Packers beat Atlanta last week. So far, so good.

It was a reversal of fortune for the two teams, Green Bay, which will play Philadelphia at home or at Dallas in the NFC title game next Sunday, had lost two straight at this stage of the playoffs. San Francisco had won six straight, going to the NFC title game in six of the past seven seasons.

The Packers (13-5) did to the 49ers (11-6) what the Niners have done so often, producing a quick score on a turnover -- Craig Newsome's 31-yard fumble return -- and running off to a 21-0 lead in the first 19 minutes.

The 49ers hardly looked like the machine they've so often been. Their best play in the first half, a Dexter Carter kickoff return that would have started them at the Packers 34, was negated by an illegal block by Anthony Peterson.

## Cowboys in title game for fourth straight year



*(Continued from page 6)*

reverse 21 yards for a touchdown that broke a 3-3 tie at 4:35 of the second quarter. The Cowboys went on to beat the Philadelphia Eagles 30-11 and will try for their third Super Bowl trip in four years when they play Green Bay at home next Sunday.

The Eagles, who split regular-season games with the Cowboys, lost their spark early in the second quarter

after quarterback Rodney Peete was knocked out of the game with a concussion. He was replaced by an ineffective Randall Cunningham.

Emmitt Smith made it 17-3 with a 1-yard TD run with 3:42 left in the half and the Eagles never recovered. Chris Boniol kicked three field goals and Troy Aikman hit Michael Irvin with a 9-yard TD pass in the fourth quarter.

The Cowboys have defeated the Packers six consecutive times, including two playoff games. The Packers beat Dallas 21-17 in that 1967 "Ice Bowl" game at Lambeau Field.

For the Eagles, 14-point underdogs, it was the end to an amazing year under coach of the year Ray Rhodes, who guided Philadelphia to a 10-6 regular season and a 58-37 rout of Detroit in the wild-card round.

The win served as sweet vindication for Dallas coach Barry Switzer, who was criticized from coast-to-coast for his abortive fourth-and-1 call from his own 29 in a Dec. 10 loss to the Eagles.

Switzer didn't have any tough calls this time except for fourth down at the Eagles 1 and he called for the field goal. Dallas is 13-4 in Switzer's second season.

Sanders finally made a dramatic play for the Cowboys -- and it came on offense. He got the ball from Aikman on a flanker reverse but discovered end Mike Mamula waiting.

Sanders, the fastest player in the NFL at 4.1 in the 40, quickly changed directions and got a block from Irvin and scored standing up. Sanders then gave the chilled fans a hot rendition of one of his old time Prime Time prances.

It was his 14th NFL touchdown and the first time in his seven-year career he scored on a run from the line of scrimmage. It was the kind of play owner Jerry Jones dreamed about when he gave Sanders a \$13 million bonus to leave the 49ers.

For the day, Sanders ran for a touchdown, caught a pass, and intercepted a pass.

Until Sunday, Sanders had two interceptions but hadn't contributed much on offense. He also showed he can still play defense, intercepting a Cunningham pass late in the fourth period and returning it 12 yards.

Sanders, who said he was "bored" just playing defense for San Francisco, was promised a chance to play offense for the Cowboys. Sanders also caught a 13-yard pass.

The second-quarter touchdown came after the clubs traded field goals, a 24-yarder by Boniol, and a 26-yarder by Gary Anderson.

*(Continued on page 9)*



## Cowboys back in NFC championship game



*(Cont. from page 8)*

Dallas made it 17-3 on a 79-yard drive in which Aikman completed a 37-yard pass to Kevin Williams and a 26-yarder to Daryl Johnston. Smith then scored from a yard out.

Peete, who had the flu to start with, was knocked woozy in a second-quarter collision with safety Darren Woodson. Cunningham missed practice all week because he was in Las Vegas, where he wife had a son.

Peete, who led the Eagles to a 20-17 win over Dallas

on Dec. 10 after trailing 17-6 at halftime, never returned to the game.

Cunningham, who was sacked four times, scored on a 4-yard run with 2:36 to play. He hit 11 of 26 passes for 161 yards. Peete was 3 of 5 for 28 yards.

The Eagles also lost tackle Moe Elewonibi with a torn left tendon in the second quarter.

Boniol hit field goals of 23 and a career-long of 51 in the second half. He has kicked 28 consecutive field goals.

The Cowboys finished their scoring in the fourth quarter on Aikman's TD pass to Irvin. It was his only catch of the day as he was shadowed closely by rookie Bobby Taylor.

Smith rushed 21 times for 99 yards while Ricky Watters gained only 39 yards on 13 carries.

Aikman hit 17 of 24 passes for 253 yards, including six to Williams for 124 yards.

## Jimmy Johnson could replace Don Shula

*(Continued from page 7)*

relationship between Shula and Johnson has been strained for several years.

Huizenga will try to have someone in the job by Feb. 8, when the NFL scouting combine begins in Indianapolis. The free-agent signing period starts the following week.

There's no question that Johnson is up to the task of following a great coach, because he's done it before. Johnson succeeded Tom Landry with the Dallas Cowboys in 1989, revamped their roster and delivered consecutive NFL championships in 1992 and 1993.

Now it's the Dolphins who need rebuilding. Hampered by dissension, the AFC preseason favorites struggled to a 9-7 record and were beaten by Buffalo in the first round of the playoffs. Shula faced unprecedented criticism and pressure to resign.

Nonetheless, Miami's new coach will be measured against an unmatched standard of success set by Shula, a likely Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee next year. Shula set NFL records with 347 victories and six Super Bowl appearances while posting only two losing seasons in a 33-year career.

"I don't know who is going to follow the legend," Huizenga said. "Don is a special guy. Even the people who take shots at him realize he's a special guy."

Succeeding a legend can be a losing proposition. Just ask Les Steckel or Phil Bengston.

Steckel went 3-13 the year after Bud Grant quit at Minnesota. Bengston went 6-7-1 the year after Vince Lombardi left Green Bay. John Driscoll was 7-7 in his first season as George Halas' successor at Chicago.

Johnson went 1-15 the year after Landry left but survived and became the NFL's hottest coaching commodity. Replacing Shula is the kind of challenge that could lure Johnson back into the business.

The two coaches had a falling out when Johnson fired Shula's son David as the Cowboys' offensive coordinator following the 1990 season. But Shula said he won't try to block Johnson from becoming his successor.

"It's a great opportunity here," Shula said. "The best guy available should be brought in to do the job. If he's the best guy, I would recommend that he be the guy."

## Colts advance



*(Continued from page 6)*

ran for 147 yards and two TDs last week in the Colts' 35-20 victory over San Diego. "We don't worry about who isn't here. We just do our jobs."

Faulk wasn't the only Colt missing, as defensive tackle and leader Tony Siragusa was out with the flu and guard Randy Dixon was limited with an elbow injury.

"We won this for Marshall," said Lamont Warren, who took Faulk's place and ran for 76 yards on 20 carries and also caught two passes for 18 yards on Sunday.

Faulk had arthroscopic surgery earlier in the week, and fullback Roosevelt Potts, out for the season, was replaced by Crockett.

"Everyone said it was going to be an easy game for the Chiefs," said Crockett. "We came and we conquered."

Added Warren: "I just felt like we didn't have anything to lose. We just wanted to come out and play our game. We felt if we did that we could win."

Coach Ted Marchibroda was proud of his young Colts.

"They earned this thing. Everybody else thinks we're lucky, fortunate," Marchibroda said. "There has been a lot of hard work put in by this football team in order to get to the point."

The Colts had three interceptions and a fumble recovery against a team that had the league's best turnover ratio of plus-12.

"We played with our hearts," said safety Jason Belser. "We put pressure on Steve Bono, forced him into situations that they had to throw the ball."

## Steelers eliminate Bills

*(Continued*

Pittsburgh, which hadn't been beaten Buffalo in the playoffs since their first Super Bowl season in 1974, plays the winner of



Sunday's Colts-Chiefs game in the Jan. 14 AFC title game. The Chiefs will stay at home Sunday if they win, but a Colts' victory returns the game to Pittsburgh.

For a while, it seemed the Steelers might be on the verge of a postseason calamity worse than last season's AFC championship game disaster, as a 20-0 lead evaporated to 26-21.

Confused initially without Smith's disruptive pass rushes and seemingly outsmarted by a Pittsburgh game plan that all but dared a team coming off a 341-yard rushing game to run, the Bills played like they did in their four Super Bowl losses with fumbles and bumbles.

They didn't adjust at first when the Steelers lined up in a six-defensive back set, or when they began running away from All-Pro defender Bryce Paup.

Jim Kelly looked just as confused as he did in the Steelers' 23-0 and 23-10 victories over Buffalo the last two seasons, finishing 14 of 29 for only 135 yards and two interceptions.

But one play after Kelly was shaken up and had to leave, Steve Tasker, playing only after receiving a pregame painkiller, set up Alex Van Pelt's 3-yard touchdown pass to Tony Cline with a 40-yard reverse. Tasker had earlier set up a Thurman Thomas 1-yard run with a 26-yard reception, and, suddenly, the lead was only five points.

Then the Steelers did what all of their Super Bowl teams did when in doubt: They rediscovered the run.

With Neil O'Donnell badly off his game -- he threw eight consecutive incompletions at one point in the second half -- the Steelers began working the clock and the tired Bills' defense with Bam Morris' running.

Morris, out of shape and on the bench when the season began, ran for two touchdowns in the final 6:16 to finish with 106 yards on 25 carries, and the Steelers were home free.

And the Bills were left to wonder once again what happens to their offense when they step on Three Rivers Stadium's frozen turf. For most of the game, they were just as clueless and defenseless as they were the last two seasons, as neither Kelly nor Thomas found their games. Thomas, who had rushed for 158 yards against Miami the week before, managed only 46 yards after spraining his right ankle on his third carry.

# Dolphins' veteran coach retires

*(Continued from page 7)*

Shula had earlier promised to coach the last year of his contract. But he said he decided to step down for the good of the Dolphins after the team's disappointing 9-7 season and lopsided loss to the Buffalo Bills in the first round of the playoffs.

Shula, who turned 66 Thursday, will stay with the team as part owner and vice chairman of the board of directors, but it was not immediately clear what role he would play for Huizenga.

"I'll be available for how much or how little he would like me to contribute," Shula said.

He emphasized repeatedly that Huizenga had supported him and not forced him out. He said Huizenga even offered to extend his contract if it would help bring new assistant coaches in an expected staff shakeup.

Asked about his successor, Shula said he wanted the Dolphins to have "the best guy available brought in here to do the job." He said he would make recommendations to Huizenga.

The owner followed Shula to the microphones and was asked repeatedly about whether Johnson was a candidate.

"I've never spoken to Jimmy Johnson about this," Huizenga said. "Obviously he has to be one of the names on the list. When the time is right, he'll call us or we'll call him."

Johnson, who left the Cowboys in 1994 after winning back-to-back Super Bowl titles, has declined to comment on Shula's resignation, or his chances of becoming the Dolphins' new coach.

"This is a very sensitive issue," Johnson told The Dallas Morning News. "I have no comment. I have had no contact."

But Johnson, now a broadcaster for Fox Television, said he was "closer to returning to coaching this year than I was a year ago."

"I'm giving it stronger consideration," he said. "I've had some discussions with other teams, and I'm strongly considering it. But I haven't made up my mind yet whether I'm coming back."

Other possible candidates include Florida Gators coach Steve Spurrier and Kansas City Chiefs coach Marty Schottenheimer, a close friend of Shula's.

Huizenga hailed Shula's accomplishments and promised that he would continue to play an important role in the Dolphins. "Don has become the standard of excellence by which all others are measured," Huizenga said.

"I'm glad he will be a part of the Dolphins. Today was a tough day for him and (his wife) Mary Anne, but they put the team ahead of their own interests in classic Shula style," Huizenga said.

During the news conference, Shula made several references to the fan rebellion that certainly was a factor in his decision to step down.

"I'm certainly deserving of some of the criticism, as long as it's not mean, dirty criticism, which some of it was," he said.

"I think about the people out here today and this outpouring of support that has now come forward,"

Shula said. "I know there have been disgruntled fans. The expectations were so high, and the disappointment was that much greater.

"But there have been a lot of great successes," Shula said.

He recounted the difficult days leading up to his decision to give up coaching in the NFL after 33 years as a head coach.

"Needless to say, this week has been the most difficult -- soul-searching, gut-wrenching, all of those things," the coach said.

The Dolphins, a team with a high payroll and low morale, saved its worst game for last, a 37-22 collapse in the first round of the playoffs Saturday at Buffalo.

After that loss, Shula said he began calling close friends around the league, such as George Young and Bobby Beathard, in a search for possible new assistants. That's when he began to feel that 26 years as head of the Dolphins was enough.

"As I talked to these people, it became clear to me it would be difficult for anyone to come into a situation where it was a one-year situation and not knowing what the future held," Shula said.

The coach told Huizenga on Wednesday about the problems recruiting assistants for one year and he said the owner told him: "If that's a problem, why don't we extend your contract."

"The last thing I wanted to do was make a further commitment," Shula said. "I just celebrated 66th year of my life, if you call that celebrating."

But Shula admitted that leaving the sidelines will be excruciating.

"I'd be lying to you if I didn't say it's going to be gut-wrenching the first time a football is kicked off," Shula said. "This will be the first time in 43 years that I haven't been on the sideline in the National Football League."

Shula became the youngest head coach in league history when the Baltimore Colts hired him in 1963 at age 33. Thirty years later, he broke George Halas' NFL record of 324 victories.

But detractors dismissed his career record of 347-173-6, instead noting that he last won a Super Bowl 22 years ago. No coach has gone so long in one town without a championship.

The coach recalled the Dolphins' championship years in 1972 and 1973 as highlights and especially recalled his association with record-setting quarterback Dan Marino and three other great quarterbacks: Johnny Unitas, Earl Morrall and Bob Griese.

"What great players I've had the opportunity to coach," he said.

An endless stream of accolades poured in from throughout the league. But none were more heartfelt than the comments of Marino, the record-breaking quarterback who helped Shula keep a struggling franchise competitive for the last decade.

"Everybody should appreciate what this man has done for all of us in South Florida," said Marino, who embraced Shula after the news conference. "I've been very proud to have an opportunity to work with him for 13 years."