

# How good are Steelers?

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Will the real Pittsburgh Steelers please stand up?

Are they the Steelers who have now won five games in a row?

Or are they the team which has stumbled to sloppy wins over mediocre teams and not beaten anyone with a winning record?

An answer may come Sunday when Pittsburgh travels to Cincinnati, for a date in the den of the 5-3 Bengals.

A Cincinnati loss would all but eliminate the Bengals from playoff contention. The Steelers, now 6-1-1, would be three games up in the loss column, and Cincinnati would trail far behind Buffalo, Miami and New England, in the American Conference wild card race.

Coach Chuck Noll said the Steelers were consistently excellent in Sunday's 27-0 win over suddenly mediocre Philadelphia.

"Another way to put it," he said, "is that we didn't make many mistakes."

For their fifth straight win, the Steelers played nearly perfectly, letting the Eagles cross the 50-yard line just once while it mattered. And quarterback Terry Bradshaw led a Steeler attack that blended hard running with pinpoint passing.

"Bradshaw called a good game," Noll said. "And he audibled well when we were close to the goal line."

In the first four games of their winning streak, the Steelers won by margins of 6, 10, 4 and 7 points over Houston, Kansas City, Cleveland and Atlanta, teams with a combined 10-22 record. If you add in Philadelphia and Baltimore, their first victim of the year, their six defeated foes have a combined 15-33 log.

Eagles coach Mike McCormack knows what the heady winning feeling — now being felt in Pittsburgh — is like.

"When you win, there's a euphoria," he said Monday.

"There are invitations to things and your grocer likes to talk to you."




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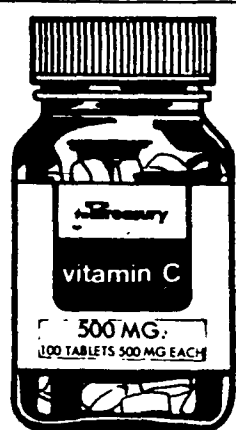
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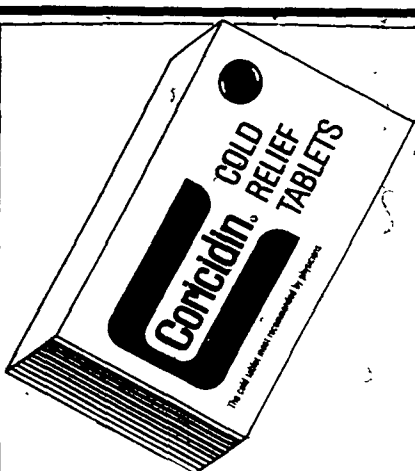
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