campaign '84

Ferraro raises war risk issue

By EVANS WITT
AP Political Writer

CAMDEN, N.J. — Geraldine Ferraro said yesterday that American voters should consider whether President Reagan would "heighten the risk of war" in a second term "unrestrained by the need for re-election."

Beginning a three-day swing through the Northeast and South, the Democratic vice presidential nominee said Vice President George Bush is "playing loose with the facts" with assertions that she and Walter F. Mondale oppose two U.S. weapons systems.

Painting a bleak picture of U.S. foreign policy in general, Ferraro told a crowd of about 1,500 at a city hall rally:

"In the last four years, tensions with Russia have risen. We have sent troops to Central America, and our young men have died in Beruit.

"The question is: Over the next four years what will happen to my son John and your children and grandchildren? Will this president, unrestrained by the need for re-election, heighten the risk of war?

"I don't want to take that chance," she said, adding that Mondale would trade "proposals, not insults" with the Soviets if elected president.

Later, Ferraro elaborated on her charges against Reagan in a Cleveland speech to the annual convention of the American Federal of Government Employees.

"This president never met an arms control agreement he likes," she told about 1,600 union members, listing agreements the GOP incumbent has opposed in the last 25 years. "And now he has presided over the total collapse of all arms control negotiations."

After her speech, the 225,000-member union unsurprisingly voted to endorse the Mondale-Ferraro ticket.

New Jersey — with 16 electoral votes — and the rest of the Northeast are crucial to the Democratic ticket's hopes for victory in November.

In her city hall rally, Ferraro painted the November election as a stark choice between two futures for the country.

"The choices in this election are profound," she said. "With the defeat of Ronald Reagan, we bring an end to the dangerous divisive course we are on and with the election of Walter F. Mondale rests our hope for a better America.

"We face a choice between prosperity and bankruptcy. Will we be a safer nation or not? Will we be a prosperous nation or not? Will the barriers come down and the doors open for all Americans or not? Will we be a caring compassionate people or not?"

Citing the work of several of the Democratic politicians who joined her on the platform, Ferraro attacked Reagan on issues ranging from the environment to urban development.

But the theme of yesterday's campaigning was the war and peace issue, on which Democrats believe Reagan is vulnerable.

At a brief news conference earlier in Philadelphia, Ferraro rejected Bush's contention that the Mondale-Ferraro ticket opposes both the Trident II missile and the deployment of cruise missiles in Europe.

"I'm going to have to correct the record, because again the Reagan-Bush peple are playing loose with the facts," she told the news conference.

"Both Fritz and I have supported the Trident II missile. As a matter of fact, if anyone had bthered to check my record, they would see I had voted for it consistently over the years," she said.

Questioned about the assertions Bush made Sunday, White House spokesman Larry Speakes said Monday that he believes Mondale now is for the Trident II and deployment of Pershing 2 missiles but he "has not been in the past."

AP Laserphoto

Democratic vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro signals to crowd gathered at yesterday's rally from the steps of Camden City Hall, Camden, N.J. as (right) Congressman James Fiorio (D-N.J.) looks on.

Anderson endorses Mondale

By DONALD M. ROTHBERG
AP Political Writer

URBANA, Ill. — John Anderson, whose independent presidential candidacy captured millions of votes in 1980, endorsed Democrat Walter F. Mondale yesterday and urged his followers "to walk with me now in support of the Mondale-Ferraro ticket."

Anderson announced his support for the Democratic presidential nominee at an outdoor rally in the North Quadrangle of the University of Illinois before a crowd estimated by the Secret Service at 10,000, mostly students.

After receiving Anderson's backing, Mondale was flying home to Minnesota to meet with the Rev. Jesse Jackson and other black leaders in an effort to energize their support for the Democratic ticket.

Mondale planned to meet alone with Jackson at his North Oaks home and then sit down with several other black leaders at a St. Paul hotel.

While Mondale was collecting Anderson's endorsement and moving to smooth over differences with black leaders, his running mate, Geraldine Ferraro, was in New Jersey raising questions about President Reagan's ability to keep the peace in a second term.

"The question is: Over the next four years what will happen to my son John and your children and grandchildren?" she asked. "Will this president, unrestrained by the need for re-election, heighten the risk of war?

"I don't want to take that chance," she said, adding that Mondale would trade "proposals, not insults" with the Soviets if elected president.

Anderson, a former Republican congressman, received 5.7 million votes in 1980 — nearly 7 percent of the 85 million cast.

In 14 states carried by President Reagan, Anderson's vote was larger than the margin by which Reagan defeated then-President Carter.

Mondale thanked Anderson for his support and then told the crowd that "this morning the White House said John Anderson is a 'nobody' ... but John Anderson is a somebody."

Mondale said, "I once had John Anderson on the other side of me in a campaign. That's one of the reasons I'm in private life."

James A. Lake, spokesman for the Reagan-Bush campaign, was quoted by The Washington Post as saying: "Who's John Anderson? Nobody. He's not a factor. People have forgotten who John Anderson is."

Asked about the endorsement after it became formal, Lake said Anderson "doesn't deliver anything to Walter Mondale."

"John Anderson doesn't have a constituency," Lake said. "There is not a large body of Republicans out there who will belong to John Anderson because they are not unhappy with Ronald Reagan."

Anderson said he accepted "with great enthusiasm" Mondale's invitation to serve as chairman of Independents for Mondale-Ferraro and praised Mondale for addressing the issues of budget deficits and the arms race.

"A vote for the present administration is a vote for the continuation of the present policy of fear and loathing," he said.

The former Republican congressman added that the Reagan administration "has no plan whatever, at least none they are willing to confide to the American people, of how they are going to deal with a gargantuan deficit."

He said that while the president often is referred to as "the great communicator," "he has yet to break the sound barrier with our adversaries. ... Instead he wisecracks deadly jokes into microphones."

Mingled among the pro-Mondale signs in the crowd were a number also supporting Reagan.

"Reagan — last of the tax fighters," and "Taxpayers love Reagan" were among them.

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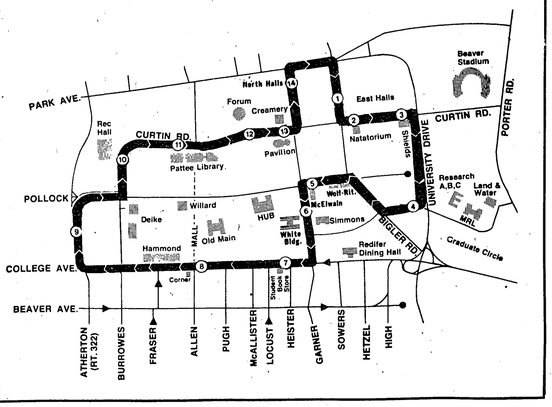


Raiders, Dolphins should dominate AFC

I suppose NBC is saying it best. Now is the time for "real football.

Yes, soon the leaves will turn, the days will grow shorter, and the air will have a nip in it. It's the perfect time for football.

Not to knock the USFL, but there is nothing like opening day in the NFL, and when the season unfolds this Sunday, fans across the country will be buzzing. "Real football" will be back.

And for myself, the coming of an NFL season always brings out the speculator in me. I always want to see how the "experts" have picked my team to finish. Will they finish .500, do they have a chance to make the playoffs, an outside shot at the Super Bowl?

These were questions I used to look in a book to answer, but I've learned my lesson. There are no "experts". I didn't see anyone pick the Seahawks to come one game from the Super Bowl, or the Jets to finish last, or the Giants 3-12-1. I didn't see the 49ers or Bengals picked for the Super Bowl three years ago, or the Redskins in 1982.

These are the kind of surprises that make it virtually impossible to forecast accurate finishes, and though I know there will be similar surprises in 1984, I'm giving the predicting game my best shot.

AFC EAST

Miami (11-5) — The trade of David Woodley to the Steelers made it official that the Dolphins are hinging their future on the strong arm of quarterback Dan Marino, who last year became the first rookie in 13 years to lead the conference in passing. However, if Marino cannot recover from a fractured finger in his throwing hand suffered during the preseason, Don Shula could be in for a long season. The running game will continue to be a question mark, but receivers Mark "Super" Duper and either Nat Moore or Jimmy Cefalo will provide Marino with outstanding targets. It will be the Killer Bee defense, however, that keeps the Dolphins on top.

John Weiss

New England (9-7) — The loss of first round pick Irving Fryar (cracked ribs) for possibly half the season should quell the Patriots' chances to catch the Dolphins. But a defense that surrendered the third fewest points in the league last season, mostly without inside linebackers Steve Nelson or Clayton Weishuhn, should make New England a serious playoff contender. If quarterback Steve Grogan is sharp, he is one of the best around, especially throwing to the dangerous Stanley Morgan and young Stephen Starring. Tony Collins and Craig James make up a solid backfield of an offense that could be highly explosive.

Buffalo (7-9) — This may be stretching it. The loss of running back Joe Cribbs to the USFL could be crippling to a Bills offense that finished third to last in scoring in the conference. The Bills will only finish respectably if rookie Greg Bell can pick up where Cribbs left off. My hunch is that he will be better than most people expect.

Indianapolis (6-10) — The sharpest thing about the Colts this season is their new home, the spiffy Hoosier Dome. Though they surprised a lot of people last season by finishing 7-9, the Colts were last in the conference in scoring. Running Curtis Dickey gained 1,222 on the ground, but he will hardly be enough to make the Colts contenders.

New York (5-11) — The offseason trades of starting quarterback Richard Todd and defensive linemen Abdul Salaam and Kenny Neil for nothing but future draft picks indicates that the Jets are thinking in terms of the future instead of the present. They were touted as Super Bowl contenders a year ago, but with second-year man Ken O'Brien, who has never thrown a regular season pass, at the helm and Lam Jones and Joe Klecko injured, the Jets are in for a rough ride.

AFC CENTRAL

Cincinnati (10-6) — Why is everybody writing off the Bengals? Though they dropped to 7-9 last season, the Bengals finished strong after a 1-6 start that was caused by a host of injuries, holdouts, and drug suspensions. This season, the Bengals return the best offensive line in the conference that includes monster of a tackle Anthony Munoz and second-year center Dave Rimington. Quarterback Ken Anderson should be as sharp as anyone in the league, but his primary receiver, Cris Collinsworth, may have his mind elsewhere, like his future defection to the Tampa Bay Bandits.

Pittsburgh (8-8) — Chuck Noll said it best: "Franco who?" The holdout of Franco Harris is the best thing that could have happened to the Steeler running game, opening the door for Noll to go ahead and play some promising young backs. Though they made the playoffs last season with the highly inept Cliff Stoudt at quarterback, the Steelers also coasted on one of the easiest schedules in the league. The quarterback situation can do nothing but improve this season, with David Woodley the starter at the moment over Mark Malone. A solid defense will keep the Steelers at .500, but not much more can be expected.

Cleveland (7-9) — If Paul McDonald can play well enough to offset the loss of Brian Sipe to the New Jersey Generals, the Browns could make a run at the playoffs. But that is a big "if", as McDonald was less than impressive in three starts last season. If the Browns are strong anywhere, it is at linebacker, where Chip Banks and Tom Cousineau highlight possibly the best crew in the conference.

Houston (4-12) — Once again, the cellar is reserved for the Oilers, despite offseason acquisitions of quarterback Warren Moon and ex-Cowboy receiver Butch Johnson. The fact that workhorse running back Earl Campbell can hardly walk, let alone run, on a badly swollen knee won't make first-year Head Coach Hugh Campbell's job any easier.

AFC WEST

L.A. Raiders (13-3) — Who else? So Al Davis' band of merry marauders is not the prettiest bunch around, but this motley group of castaways knows how to win. And though Jim Plunkett lacks grace and mobility, he gets the job done. It doesn't hurt to have Marcus Allen in the backfield, but it might hurt to have last season's leading NFL receiver — tight end Todd Christensen — holding out. On defense, the Raiders remain one of the most intimidating squads in the league. By the way, isn't there a law against having Mike Haynes and Lester Hayes in the same secondary?

San Diego (10-6) — Oh, what a difference Dan Fouts can make. Last season, when he went down with a rotator cuff injury, Air Coryell skidded to 6-10. But footballs will soar over San Diego once again as Fouts returns to propel the Chargers back in post season play. Wes Chandler, Charlie Joiner, and Kellen Winslow provide Fouts with possibly the best receiving tandem in the conference. Bombs away!

Seattle (9-7) — Though he took the Seahawks to the playoffs for the first time in their history, I'm still not convinced Dave Krieg is the right quarterback for Chuck Knox's team. The team will only improve as much as second-year running back Curt Warner, who comes off a rookie season of rushing for 1,449 yards. However, defense, the Seahawks traditional weakness, will keep them out of post season play this year.

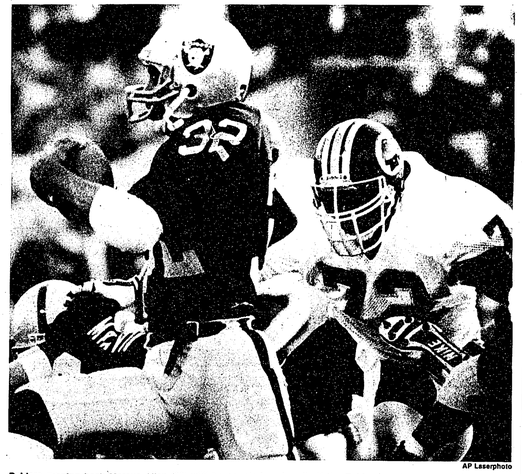
Kansas City (6-10) — The Chiefs received a major blow when quarterback Bill Kenney went down last weekend with a broken thumb. Kenney surprised everyone last season by passing for the most yardage in the AFC, but it will be Todd Blackledge who will open the season. Though they have entered the last few seasons with high hopes, gaping holes in the defense will keep the Chiefs out of contention again.

Denver (4-12) — Sure, John Elway has the ability to become one of the top quarterbacks in the game in the near future, but we will never see what he can do behind one of the most porous lines in the league. Though the Broncos earned a playoff berth last season with a 9-7 record, they were 21st in the league on defense and 26th on offense. Their record won't be as deceiving this time around.

AFC Champion — Though it seems like a cop out, I can only see the Raiders and Dolphins making a serious run. I never like to pick the defending Super Bowl champ because there are always surprises, but I have to go with the Raiders.

AP Laserphoto

49ers tailback Wendell Tyler (26) could, if healthy, run San Francisco to its second Super Bowl title in the last four years.



AP Laserphoto

Raiders running back Marcus Allen (32) willl be counted on heavily if the Raiders are to repeat as Super Bowl champions.

Balance makes 49ers possible Super Bowl champions

NFC EAST

Washington (12-4) — The only thing that is keeping the Redskins from being a superpower is the lack of a decent secondary. Still, they will receive no serious challenge in capturing their third consecutive division title. On offense, there is no better field general than Joe Theismann, and to put him behind the Hogs, the best offensive line in football, makes him all the more dangerous. Old engine number 44, John Riggins, will chug his way to another 1,000-yard season to lead the ground game.

St. Louis (10-6) — Surprise, surprise! My favorite pick of the preseason. Every year a team comes out of nowhere to wind up in postseason play; in '84 it will be the Cardinals. Coming off their best finish in a while (8-7-1), the Cards' defense was sixth best in the NFL, and if it can continue to improve, Jim Hanifan's team will fly. On offense, promising quarterback Neil Lomax, seventh leading passer in the league last season, is just beginning to spread his wings. Otis Anderson, coming off another 1,000-yard season, leads a strong ground game.

Dallas (9-7) — America's Team could be in for its biggest fall in years. Offseason retirements of Drew Pearson, Harvey Martin, and Pat Donovan indicate a sign of rebuilding. But what could hamper the Cowboys more is the emotional state of the players. The team has been turned away from the Super Bowl the past five seasons, three times in the NFC Championship game. How many more times can Tom Landry get his Cowboys hyped for a new season? The great quarterback debate between last year's starter Danny White and backup Gary Hogeboom is only hurting Dallas further. As of now, Hogeboom is the starter, but how long will he last?

New York Giants (7-9) — The Giants' defense is just too good for them to finish in the cellar again. Though they posted a disappointing 3-12-1 mark last season, Bill Parcells' team was fifth in defense in the NFL. Lawrence Taylor, perhaps the best at his position, leads a linebacking crew that remains strong despite the losses of Brad Van Pelt and Brian Kelley to trades. The trade of quarterback Scott Brunner to Denver may have been the best offseason move the Giants made, since it opened the door for Phil Simms, probably their most talented signal caller, to take charge of the starting job.

Philadelphia (3-13) — Optimistic Eagle fans are saying the addition of wide receiver Kenny Jackson and the return of a healthy Wilbert Montgomery will take their team to .500. But it will take more than that to help an offense that produced the fewest points in the NFL a year ago. Let's face it, the Eagles may have stolen the unenviable distinction from Houston of being the worst team in the NFL.

NFC CENTRAL

Chicago (9-7) — One sure fire way of preventing a team from reaching its full potential is to platoon quarterbacks. Last season, Head Coach Mike Ditka threw a fly in the Bears' honey when he decided to relieve starter Jim McMahon in mid-season and go with Vince Evans. But after Evans faltered, McMahon took control again and led the Bears to a 5-2 finish (8-8 overall). During the offseason, Evans jumped to the USFL, leaving McMahon the undisputed starting job. The lack of a quarterback controversy, plus the sweet running of soon-to-be record breaking back Walter Payton, should be just the combination to put the Bears on top.

Green Bay (8-8) — There is no way I'll be suckered into picking this team again. Sure, the Packers probably have the best talent in the division with the likes of strong-armed Lynn Dickey throwing to James Lofton and John Jefferson, the best receiving combination in the league. But they have been expected to take control of this division the last few years now, and they always come up with the same inconsistency and mediocrity. Who knows, maybe new head coach Forrest Gregg will get them over the hump, but I wouldn't bet on it.

Minnesota (8-8) — A new era begins with the Vikings, with hard-nosed first year Head Coach Les Steckel taking the reigns from the resigned Bud Grant. Steckel, a former Marine lieutenant, will have less to fret over at quarterback than Grant did last season when starter Tommy Kramer was lost for the year following a knee injury during the third game. Kramer's return will help, but the Vikings are just too inconsistent on defense to make a big move.

Detroit (7-9) — If the Lions had lost Billy Sims to the USFL, they would might as well have packed it in. Fortunately, they were able to wrest him free from the Houston Gamblers, the team he had also signed with. Even with Sims back, however, the Lions will probably stumble from their 9-7 mark of last season. Gary Danielson has taken the starting quarterback duties from Eric Hipple, but it is almost certain that once the offense sputters, Head Coach Monte Clark will not hesitate a switch. It will be that uncertainty that will hold the Lions back.

Tampa Bay (6-10) — The Bucaneers are still reeling from the loss of quarterback Doug Williams to the USFL a year ago. Last season, they fell to 2-14 when the job was handled (or mishandled) by Jack Thompson and Jerry Golsteyn. Seeing a clear need for help, Buc management traded for Denver's Steve DeBerg in the offseason. If DeBerg can get a dormant offense off the ground and if the Bucs can recover from last season's decimating injuries to its offensive line and secondary, they could finish as high as .500.

NFC WEST

San Francisco (12-4) — Don't let last season's 10-6 record fool you, Bill Walsh has the 49ers humming along like a finely tuned engine. Barring injuries, this could be the most well-balanced team in the league. Quarterback Joe Montana is in his prime and is deadly when he goes to his favorite target, Dwight Clark. On defense, the unit that gives the 49ers that special edge is the secondary, where cornerbacks Ronnie Lott and Eric Wright, and safeties Dwight Hicks and Carlton Williamson make up probably the best four in the league.

New Orleans (10-6) — It seems that Saints' fans have always been forced to settle for "wait till next year". Last season, the Saints once again came oh so close to post-season play and oh so close to breaking .500. But a last second field goal in their final game kept them at 8-8. They had the defense — it was ranked second in the NFL. They had the running game — George Rogers gained 1,144 yards. But quarterback Ken Stabler was snake-bitten for 18 interceptions while throwing for only nine touchdowns, ending the season ranked next to last in the conference. This year, however, the Saints acquired Richard Todd from the Jets, and if the new starter can cut down on his interceptions, he should be just the boost the Saints need to finally go marching into the playoffs.

L.A. Rams (9-7) — The Rams surprised a lot of people last season by finishing 9-7 and earning a playoff berth. Rookie sensation Eric Dickerson, who rushed for 1,808 yards, was the catalyst, and if he remains healthy again, the Rams could sneak back into post season play again. Vince Ferragamo will get good protection from a line that tied with Miami's for allowing the fewest sacks (23) in the NFL. All in all, the Rams should improve, but their defense just isn't as strong as the 49ers' or Saints'.

Atlanta (5-11) — The Falcons received a terrific blow when it was learned that their franchise, running back William Andrews, will miss the entire season due to a knee injury. Andrews, who gained 1,567 yards last season, is the most underrated back in the league, and without him, the Falcons won't stand a chance in this competitive division. Last year's top-rated quarterback Steve Bartkowski is coming off his best season ever, but once again, the Falcons only fly with Andrews.

NFC Champion — Again, only two teams have a legitimate shot, the Redskins and 49ers. The Redskins will enter the NFC championship game as favorites, but their weak secondary will keep them out of a third straight Super Bowl.

Super Bowl Champion — The 49ers should have enough fire power to prevent the Raiders from a second straight championship.

John Weiss is a senior majoring in journalism and a sports writer for the Daily Collegian.