

SPORTS SLANTS

- By Ray Shank

Football, North American style, is no longer a passing and running game--remember how exciting it was to see Sam Etcheverry and Hal Patterson combine for one of these 80-yard touchdown plays? Football, North American style, is now a kicker's game.

Yes folks, the field goal is the 'in' offensive play of football nowadays. Of course the three-point field goal has played a major part in winning football games for years, but it was never as prominent as it has been the past two or three years, in the Canadian League or the National Football League.

The invasion of soccer-style kickers, especially the NFL, has also helped revolutionize the game. Those soccer-style kickers are mainly of European parentage are threatening to dominate the game long keyed to the touchdown.

Take two Sundays ago, for instance:

Nick Mike-Mayer, the son of an immigrant Hungarian, kicked five field goals (soccer-style) with his soccer-trained foot and that was all the Atlanta Falcons' scoring as they edged the mighty Los Angeles Rams 15-13, in Atlanta.

The Rams scored the only touchdown of the game, but still, they lost it. It was only their second loss of the season, the other a 10-9 setback to Minnesota Vikings the week before, another game that was decided by a field goal.

That same Sunday the Falcons beat the Rams, field goals were being kicked for Miami Dolphins by Garo Yepremian (an American Cypriot); for Green Bay by Chester Marcol (a Pole); for Cincinnati by Horst Muhlmann, a German; for Dallas by Toni Fritsch, an Australian and for Kansas City by Jan Stenerud, a Norwegian.

It is those soccer-style field goal kickers who have helped to bring the field goal to a higher art form. The three-pointer has, in more than one, devaluated the touchdown and has rewarded teams that don't have the talent or ability to score a touchdown.

You'll also notice that the scoring champions of the Canadian Football League's two divisions this year were kickers. Gerry Organ of Ottawa Rough Riders won the crown in the east with 123 points and Dave Butler of Edmonton won it in the west with 133 points.

Neither Organ nor Butler scored a touchdown all season. Organ had 31 field goals, five singles and 25 converts for his total. Butler booted 32 field goals, eight singles and 29

converts.

The Canadians have a slight advantage when they kick, since quite often their field goal attempts will not go between the uprights, but will still count for one point (a single). If an American kicker's boot is wide of the goal posts, it's a touchback and not worth a point.

If you think field goals aren't winning more football games, look at these statistics from the National Football League. Two years ago at the season's halfway mark, 392 field goals had been attempted in the NFL and 233 had been made. This year, at a similar point, 43 more had been attempted and 63 more had been

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your week ahead BY DR. A.W. DAMIS

Forecast Period: November 18 to November 25, 1973

- ARIES**
Mar. 21 - Apr. 19
Help is coming your way. A chain of events plus the support of a friend, will push you ahead of competition. So, look for the big break!
- TAURUS**
Apr. 20 - May 20
Behind the scene manipulations are working against your job, project or mission. Animosity is spreading among your routine associates. Keep your guard up. Don't let smiles fool you.
- GEMINI**
May 21 - June 20
Your "inner sense" for judging character is sharply honed. Don't let words or gestures mislead you. It's highly probable that your "feelings" about people are correct.
- MOONCHILD**
June 21 - July 22
This cycle warns against your telling a member of the other sex, exactly what you think. Please, exercise tact and diplomacy in affairs of the heart.
- LEO**
July 23 - Aug. 22
Poor advice is heading your way. Your chart points to half truths and misinformation. You'll have to research things yourself, in order to get the facts!
- VIRGO**
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
Don't tamper with get rich schemes. According to your chart, any financial venture at this time could be disastrous. If you feel like speculating; wait until the urge passes.
- LIBRA**
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
Romance and affairs of the heart are favorable for the unattached. Those under your sign "spoken for" must avoid possible overtures and clandestine meetings.
- SCORPIO**
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
A whispering campaign, against you, shows in your chart. Here's the best part, however. Things said about you, in the long haul, will be to your benefit. Strange?
- SAGITTARIUS**
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21
Whatever you hear about a member of the opposite sex, this week . . . forget it! To clarify, whether you hear bad or good - the opposite will be true, understand?
- CAPRICORN**
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19
Financially, this week's forecast portrays many soft spots. Emotion, rather than logic, could prevail, in monetary transactions. Obviously, you know what that means.
- AQUARIUS**
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18
To say the least, this cycle, is not one of your best. The word "gullible" stands out in your chart, as a lion amid a flock of sheep.
- PISCES**
Feb. 19 - Mar. 20
Strange aspects crisscross your chart. It's not easy to explain, but your hands will be tied, so to speak, by an unusual opportunity.

PERSONALITY PROFILE

For your Sun Sign Analysis, send the day, month, year and place of birth, plus \$1.00 for postage to Dr. Andrew W. Damis, P. O. Box 12766, St. Petersburg Florida 33733.