

1979 los angeles rams

Ebook Description: 1979 Los Angeles Rams

This ebook delves into the compelling story of the 1979 Los Angeles Rams, a team that captured the hearts of fans and left an indelible mark on NFL history. While they ultimately fell short of the Super Bowl, their season was a captivating blend of high-octane offense, defensive grit, and dramatic moments. This isn't just a recounting of wins and losses; it explores the personalities of the players, the coaching strategies, the socio-political context of the era, and the lasting legacy of this memorable team. The book offers a nuanced look at their triumphs and setbacks, providing readers with a deep understanding of what made the '79 Rams so captivating and significant within the broader narrative of NFL history. It's a must-read for Rams fans, football enthusiasts, and anyone interested in the fascinating intersection of sports, culture, and history.

Ebook Title: The Fearsome Foursome's Fadeout: The 1979 Los Angeles Rams

Ebook Outline:

Introduction: Setting the stage - The Rams' history leading up to 1979, expectations, and the key players.

Chapter 1: The Offense - Air Coryell's Peak: Analyzing the innovative passing game, the role of stars like Vince Ferragamo, and the offensive line's performance.

Chapter 2: The Defense - A Defensive Dilemma: Examining the defensive struggles, key players, and the challenges faced in stopping opposing offenses.

Chapter 3: The Season's Narrative: A game-by-game breakdown, highlighting key victories, crushing defeats, and pivotal moments.

Chapter 4: The Players - Beyond the Numbers: In-depth profiles of key players, exploring their personalities, contributions, and legacies.

Chapter 5: The Coaching Staff - Don Coryell's Influence: Examining Don Coryell's offensive genius, his coaching style, and his impact on the team's identity.

Chapter 6: The 1979 Playoffs and Beyond: Analyzing the Rams' playoff run, their ultimate loss, and the long-term consequences of the season.

Conclusion: The lasting legacy of the 1979 Rams, their impact on the NFL, and their place in football history.

Article: The Fearsome Foursome's Fadeout: The 1979 Los Angeles Rams

Introduction: Setting the Stage for a Season of Contrasts

The 1979 Los Angeles Rams season stands as a fascinating paradox in NFL history. Coming off a successful period, expectations were high for a team known for its innovative, high-

powered offense orchestrated by the visionary coach Don Coryell, and nicknamed "The Fearsome Foursome." However, while they displayed moments of brilliance, the season ultimately ended in disappointment, highlighting the complexities and unpredictable nature of professional football. This deep dive explores the team's triumphs and failures, examining the players, coaches, and circumstances that shaped their memorable, yet ultimately frustrating, 1979 campaign.

Chapter 1: The Offense – Air Coryell's Peak (and its Limitations)

Don Coryell's innovative "Air Coryell" offense was at its peak in 1979. The system, heavily reliant on the quick passing game and stretching the field vertically, was revolutionary for its time. Quarterback Vince Ferragamo, stepping into the starting role, displayed remarkable talent, connecting with talented receivers like Billy Waddy, Harold Jackson, and Jackie Smith. The Rams' offense consistently piled up yards, putting up impressive point totals in several games. However, the offense's reliance on the passing game also exposed its vulnerabilities. If the passing attack sputtered, the Rams struggled to maintain consistency, leading to some disappointing performances. The offensive line, while talented, sometimes faltered under pressure, allowing sacks that disrupted the rhythm of the passing game.

Chapter 2: The Defense – A Defensive Dilemma

While the offense garnered much of the attention, the Rams' defense in 1979 was a source of considerable frustration. Lacking the dominance of previous seasons, they struggled against many opponents. They lacked a consistent pass rush, and their secondary was often exposed by the high-powered passing offenses prevalent in the NFL at the time. While players like Fred Dryer and Jack Youngblood fought hard, the unit as a whole couldn't consistently deliver the stops needed to complement the high-scoring offense. This defensive inconsistency became a significant factor in their playoff loss.

Chapter 3: The Season's Narrative – A Rollercoaster Ride

The 1979 season was a rollercoaster of emotions for Rams fans. The team displayed flashes of brilliance, showcasing the explosive potential of the Air Coryell offense. However, inconsistencies on defense and occasional offensive struggles resulted in unexpected losses. The team's record reflected this volatility. Key games – wins and losses – need individual analysis in this chapter, providing specifics about pivotal moments, significant plays, and the impact of injuries or opponent strategies.

Chapter 4: The Players – Beyond the Numbers

This chapter delves into the individual stories of the key players, going beyond simple statistics. It would explore the personalities of Vince Ferragamo, the pressure he faced as the starting quarterback, and his eventual success. Profiles of Harold Jackson's receiving prowess, Jackie Smith's veteran leadership, and Fred Dryer's defensive tenacity would be included. This section aims to give readers a deeper understanding of the human element behind the game.

Chapter 5: The Coaching Staff – Don Coryell's Influence

Don Coryell's impact on the Rams and the NFL cannot be overstated. His offensive

innovations revolutionized the game. This chapter would explore his coaching philosophy, his relationship with the players, and the challenges he faced in managing a team with offensive and defensive imbalances. Analysis of his strategic decisions during the season, particularly in the playoffs, would be included.

Chapter 6: The 1979 Playoffs and Beyond – A Bitter End

The Rams' playoff run ended in disappointment, highlighting the team's flaws. This chapter would provide a detailed analysis of their playoff game, examining the key moments, strategic decisions, and ultimately their defeat. It would also explore the long-term consequences of the season, how it impacted the team's future, and the legacy of the 1979 Rams within the broader context of NFL history. The chapter will end by explaining how close they were to a Super Bowl appearance and the impact of that near-miss.

Conclusion: A Legacy of Innovation and Unfinished Business

The 1979 Los Angeles Rams represented a high point for the Air Coryell offense but also exposed the team's defensive vulnerabilities. Despite falling short of their ultimate goal, they left a lasting legacy of innovation and excitement. Their story serves as a reminder of the delicate balance required for sustained success in professional sports and how even the most innovative strategies can falter without a holistic approach to team building.

FAQs:

1. What was the Air Coryell offense? The Air Coryell offense was a revolutionary passing attack emphasizing quick throws, vertical routes, and spreading the field horizontally.
2. Who was the quarterback for the 1979 Rams? Vince Ferragamo was the starting quarterback.
3. Did the 1979 Rams make the Super Bowl? No, they lost in the NFC Championship Game.
4. What were the Rams' biggest strengths in 1979? Their high-powered passing offense.
5. What were the Rams' biggest weaknesses in 1979? Their inconsistent defense.
6. Who was the head coach of the 1979 Rams? Don Coryell.
7. How did the 1979 season impact the Rams' future? It highlighted the need for a more balanced team.
8. What is the lasting legacy of the 1979 Rams? Their offensive innovation and the exciting brand of football they played.
9. What were the key matchups that defined the 1979 season? Several key games against divisional rivals and eventual playoff opponents would be listed.

Related Articles:

1. The Evolution of the Air Coryell Offense: A detailed history of Don Coryell's offensive system and its impact on the NFL.
2. Vince Ferragamo: A Quarterback's Journey: A biography of Ferragamo's career, focusing on his time with the Rams.
3. Don Coryell: The Architect of Air Coryell: A deep dive into Coryell's coaching career and his innovative offensive philosophies.
4. The Fearsome Foursome: A Dynasty's Decline: An exploration of the Rams' defensive legacy and the challenges faced in maintaining dominance.
5. 1970s NFL: A Decade of Change: A broader look at the NFL landscape in the 1970s, including rule changes and evolving offensive strategies.
6. The NFC Championship Game History: An overview of the history of the NFC Championship game, highlighting significant moments.
7. The Impact of the Passing Game on NFL History: An analysis of how the passing game has evolved and its impact on the game's strategy.
8. Key Players of the 1979 Rams: Beyond the Statistics: Detailed profiles of key players emphasizing their contributions beyond game stats.
9. The Legacy of Don Coryell's Coaching Style: How Don Coryell's innovative approach to football continues to influence the NFL today.

Additional Resources

1979 Los Angeles Rams Rosters, Stats, Schedule, Team Draftees

Check out the 1979 Los Angeles Rams Roster, Stats, Schedule, Team Draftees, Injury Reports and more on Pro-Football-Reference.com.

1979 Los Angeles Rams season - Wikipedia

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