The Washington Redskins take on the Los Angeles Raiders in Super Bowl XVIII this Sunday. All is as it should be: the two best teams in the NFL battling it out for the title in what promises to be a great game. Both squads have been there before, and both boast an army of the league's top players.

The Redskins are led by backfield star John Riggins. While his statistics are not the most stellar, he has a way of making the Raiders fight every step of the way as Theismann, a factor which could leave him a sitting duck if the Redskins can generate a pass rush.

Ultimately, the outcome of Super Bowl XVIII reduces to a few key factors. If Riggo's NFL record 24 touchdowns rushing hand, have a man many consider as Dave Butz and Dexter Manley. The Redskins defensive line stifled opposing runners all season, yielding an average of only 80 yards per game on the ground. Raiders running back Marcus Allen will not be much of a factor in the Superbowl unless his blockers can do what few teams have — move mountains known as Dave Butz and Dexter Manley.

The Redskins, on the other hand, have a man many consider to be the single most dominant player in the game today, fullback John Riggins. While his numbers in the league are not the most stellar, he has a way of making the Raiders fight every step of the way. His statistics are designed to instill confidence by first-hand experience. You learn by doing. On your first sea tour, you're responsible for managing the work of up to 30 men and the the care of sophisticated equipment worth millions of dollars. It's a bigger challenge and a lot more responsibility than most corporations give you at 22. The rewards are bigger, too. There's challenge and a lot more responsibility than most corporations give you at 22. The rewards are bigger, too. There's

The Redskins tendency to run the ball and throw short passes, a strategy which will place the burden on the Raiders defensive line and linebackers. The Raiders almost exclusively use a 3-4 defensive alignment, offering Riggins an open invitation to run the ball all afternoon long.

The Raiders defensive backfield has had its problems this year, carrying the sobriquet "Pearl Harbor Crew" because of the numerous bombs always dropping on them. The loss of two all-pros — Jeris White, in a contract dispute, and Tony Peters, in a cocaine conviction — from last year's championship team is reason the unit has jelled remarkable.

Rookie linebacker Darrell Green has become one of the best in the league. In the passing game, the Redskins have a decided edge. This year's MVP Joe Theismann, will quarterback for the "Skins; he's proven to be the versatile, durable QB every team covets. Raider signal caller Jim Plunkett, on the other hand, has been plagued by inconsistency; his tendency is to throw into tight coverage and be intercepted frequently.

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The Redskins went 12-4 during the regular season, tying Dallas for the second-best record this year. They lost to Washington 37-35 in a hotly contested game; their other losses came at the hands of the St. Louis Cardinals and twice the Seattle Seahawks — teams which the Redskins trounced handily earlier in the year.

During the playoffs, the Raiders easily disposed of the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Cinderella Cincinnati Bengals while the Redskins annihilated the Los Angeles Rams — in the most lopsided NFL post-season game in 26 years — and squeaked by the San Francisco 49ers amidst controversy on a last-minute field goal.

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A comprehensive package of benefits, including special duty pay. The starting salary is $17,000 — more than most companies would pay you right out of college. After four years, with regular promotions and pay increases, your salary will have increased to as much as $31,000.

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