Chicago will fail to repeat in '87

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The Philadelphia Eagles: Sorry Buddy. The Eagles aren't the Bears, and you can't magically make them into the Bears. No chance here. Watch for decent plays, but nothing inspired.

The Saint Louis Cardinals: Point blank honest here: I only know of them by reputation, which isn't good. Lomer is a competitative passer, but they just don't seem to be the kind of team which really slams the door in your face. In the NFL, you have to slam and lock it.

The Chicago Bears: What can I say? The defending champions will have no real problems in the division, but I can't see them running away with the NFL again. Payton is an offensive dream, but he needs the whole team which carries this club. Their biggest problem is that they won last year. If they hadn't it would be a lot easier to take it all. But who can concentrate on football when you're doing encore performances of the Super Bowl Shutout?

The easy pick for the Super Bowl, but I think the wrong one.

The NFC Central: Minnesota, Detroit, Green Bay, Tampa Bay -- no one of these teams is going to bear out Chicago, unless injuries strike hard. Neither will they make it as wild-cards. Green Bay will be a solid team, and Minnesota has a slight chance. But Detroit and Tampa are out.

The Los Angeles Rams: They've got everything but a quarterback. Eric Dickerson doesn't really look like he is pinpointing all over you, but you better count on it every time. Not quite in the league of Allen, Payton, Dorsett, or Morris, but he is really impressive when you consider that everyone in the stadium knows LA's only offensive option is to run. Eric. In the game this weekend LA made three times as many yards on returns as they did on passes. A contender anyway.

The Atlanta Falcons: Honesty again. I had to ask what the nickname of the Atlanta team was. A freshman from Atlanta told me that the best thing about the Falcons is their uniforms. On the other hand, someone named Riggins was second only to Allen last year in rushing yards. But the team had the second worst defense in the NFC last year, so maybe she's right.

The New Orleans Saints: It's so wonder I don't know much about them. They were third from the bottom in defense, and second from the bottom in offense in the NFC last year. Their punter kicked 99 times last year. But they like everyone else in this division are 2-2 in the exhibition season. Just how did New Orleans become West, anyway?

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