

F O O T B A L L

Computer Glance: Time to Win



Bud Goode of Studio City, Calif., is a statistician and analyst who began computer studies of professional football teams 29 years ago. He will provide statistical scouting reports on a weekly basis.

It's called "clockball," and the Giants are its masters.

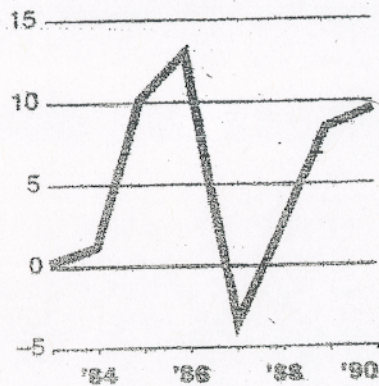
One of the important statistics separating winners from losers is rush differential. It will be a key statistic in tonight's New York Giant-San Francisco 49er game.

The running plays on both offense and defense are important since one extra running play is worth a point in the winning margin. When Bill Parcells took over the Giants in 1983, the rush differential improved by plus-13 over the league average (0 line on accompanying chart). Over the same time frame, the Giants' winning margin jumped 13 points per game.

If the Giants and 49ers play to form, the winner will rush two more times than the loser (counting short passes as running plays). Watch for rookie running back Jarrod Bunch to be used for four or five dump passes at the line of scrimmage.

During the first few weeks of the season this run differential will be a key stat to watch for the Giants. "Clockball" has been good to them and Coach Ray Handley has no reason to change a successful philosophy.

RUSHING DIFFERENTIAL



WINNING MARGIN

