

**M**et Maxim (Bud) Goode, resident of Studio City, state of California, continent of North America, planet Earth—a Hollywood press agent loose in a Twilight Zone of numbers. In defiance of all oddsmakers he says Miami will beat Minnesota in the Super Bowl by nine—count 'em nine—points.

Don't scoff. Goode (it is pronounced goody) correctly predicted the winner in 75% of last year's NFL games. Early in the season he forecast that Cincinnati would make the playoffs, an expectation based on the Bengals upsetting both the Vikings and the Browns, which they did.

In the last three years he has picked 17 of the 20 winners in postseason playoffs, and in the last two years he has beaten the line 10 of 13 times in the playoffs.

That degree of accuracy surely suggests supernatural assistance. In fact, the forces of Goode consist of IBM 360-91, one of the world's largest computers, which he calls "Cal." Electronically speaking, Cal says that Miami will beat the spread—seven points—on Sunday in Houston. So put your money on the Dolphins, and while you're at it place a bet for Goode, who prefers to kick a gift horse in the mouth. He is, alas,

philosophically opposed to gambling.

In making its prediction the computer points to an unexpected Viking weakness, the defensive line. Goode is not surprised. Last year only two teams got to the quarterback fewer times than Minnesota and Goode was saying, "Color the Purple People Eaters puce." This year the Vikes improved their sacks by 43% but only rose to 16th. Miami, on the other hand, tied for second in sacks. Color the Dolphins royal aqua.

Perhaps Minnesota's lowly ranking in sacks reflects nothing more than Coach Bud Grant's preseason intention to con-

## DOING IT BY THE NUMBERS

Statistician Bud Goode uses one of the world's biggest computers to pick football games. In 1973 the IBM 360-91 had the Dolphins by seven in the Super Bowl. This year it likes them by nine by JOE MARSHALL

