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You want a Super Bowl prediction?

Here's one: Who knows?

I have an idea: this Sunday, when you're hanging out with your buddies (or if you're a youngster, that might be your "boys" or your "girls,") and you're grilling-up some ground turkey-breast patties for the big game (this is, after all, the decade of organics and non-red meats) ask a friend who will win this year's Super Bowl.

If they say, "I don't know," they are right, for once. Buy your "boy" a shot of whiskey for John Wayne's sake.

Speaking of The Duke, he would never cop out with an "I don't know," so neither will we. I'm picking the Pittsburgh Steelers to win the Super Bowl Feb. 6 in Dallas, and not for sentimental reasons. Quarterback Ben Roeslithberger might not dress up as Santa Claus this winter, but the man who was accused - but not charged - of sexually assaulting a college student can play some mean football. And he's coming off his four-game suspension for week five. More on that later.



For now, tell me which team has the best doctor. Which team med can do prime-time stitching and splinting? Aside from talent and experience and solid linemen, Super Bowl champions are determined by three primary factors: Chemistry, coaching and health.

(By the way, next time someone tells you defense wins championships, ask them how many teams won a Super Bowl without scoring more points than the other team.)

The team without bouts of turf toe and bruised ribs and broken tibias in December will have the best chance of plowing through the playoffs.

Also, the squad must develop chemistry. A professional football team is typically 52 players deep, and those players mesh and mix like, say, shrimp and okra gumbo. Too much talking about the finished product without results, and you have the New York Jets (OK, Rex Ryan, we get the point - your team is tough) and the Cincinnati Bengals. (Thanks, T.O. But we might not get our popcorn ready after all.)

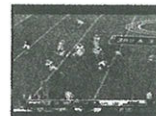
But just the right amount of celery, green pepper and sugar, and you have last season's New Orleans Saints.

Finally, we have coaching, the reason the New England Patriots and coach Bill Belichick, winner of four Super Bowls with the Patriots, will blast the talent-rich New York Jets.

But they won't top the Pittsburgh Steelers. The Steelers will soon have the infamous Roethlisberger back as quarterback, coupled with a staunch



NFL - Crazy Catches



Packers Vs. Bears



College - Trick Play



Football - Trick Play

deferred by bleating Head of Shoulders spokesman Troy Polamalu, and, like it or not, the Curtain is back.

Out of the NFC, look for the Green Bay Packers to get past the Saints behind Aaron Rodgers, the best quarterback in the NFL. Saints quarterback Drew Brees has a superb arm, but so does Rodgers, and Rodgers would have a better chance at catching a chicken—he's fast.



So there it is.

Be honest, and admit you don't know who will win the Super Bowl.

Then again, if you want to impress your "boys" or your "girls," pick the best team, the Pittsburgh Steelers.

By Nick Walter

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