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## A Poet's Lament

In mid-December in this magazine, Poet Ogden Nash sang the praises of his beloved Baltimore Colts, who at the time were the hottest team in professional football and likely champions of the NFL. A week ago last Sunday the Colts met the AFL's New York Jets in the Super Bowl. Nash and 65 million others watched in amazement as the underdog Jets trampled the Colts, and Nash composed this lament:

**Prognostications Are for the Birds;  
Lay Off Me, Please, While I Eat My Words**

The gods of sport outdid themselves  
On that wildest of January Twelves.  
So I weep with the army of loyal dolts  
Who gave seventeen points and bet on the Colts.  
As the ancient Greeks besieging Troy  
Used words to bulldoze and pre-destroy  
And boasted that their skill and bravery  
Would doom the Trojans to death or slavery,  
So Broadway Joe, like great Achilles,  
Declared that the Colts were only fillies.  
Less modest than Caesar in his claim,  
He bragged of conquest *before* he came.  
Some figured that he'd outgrown his pants  
To count his chickens in advance.  
Spectators came prepared to cackle  
And hoot in glee at Joe's debacle.  
Debacle indeed the record shows,  
But whosever it was, it wasn't Joe's.  
The Colts who clobbered the Rams and Browns,  
Who gained the yardage on crucial downs,  
Who gave defensive linemen conniptions  
And ruined the offense with interceptions,  
Those Colts, like Florida snow that melts,  
Seemed to have trickled somewhere else.  
They couldn't get anywhere in particular  
As long as Joe remained perpendicular,  
In which position he did remain,  
Throwing strikes like Denny McLain.  
Well, it might have been the finger of fate,  
Or possibly something that they ate,  
But I credit the arm and the tricky calls  
Of the gay deceiver of Beaver Falls.  
Oh, a cloud of Jets eclipsed the stars  
And the only sound in Baltimore bars  
Was the sickly hack of a Hong Kong cough  
And the click of a TV set turned off.  
The Super-Bowl Limited of the Colts  
Was derailed with a grind of bumps and jolts  
By the sabotage of the playboy whiz  
Who is just as good as he says he is.  
For the moment it's *Vale* Baltimoria,  
and *Ave* Flushing, Queens, Astoria.  
Sic transit gloria.

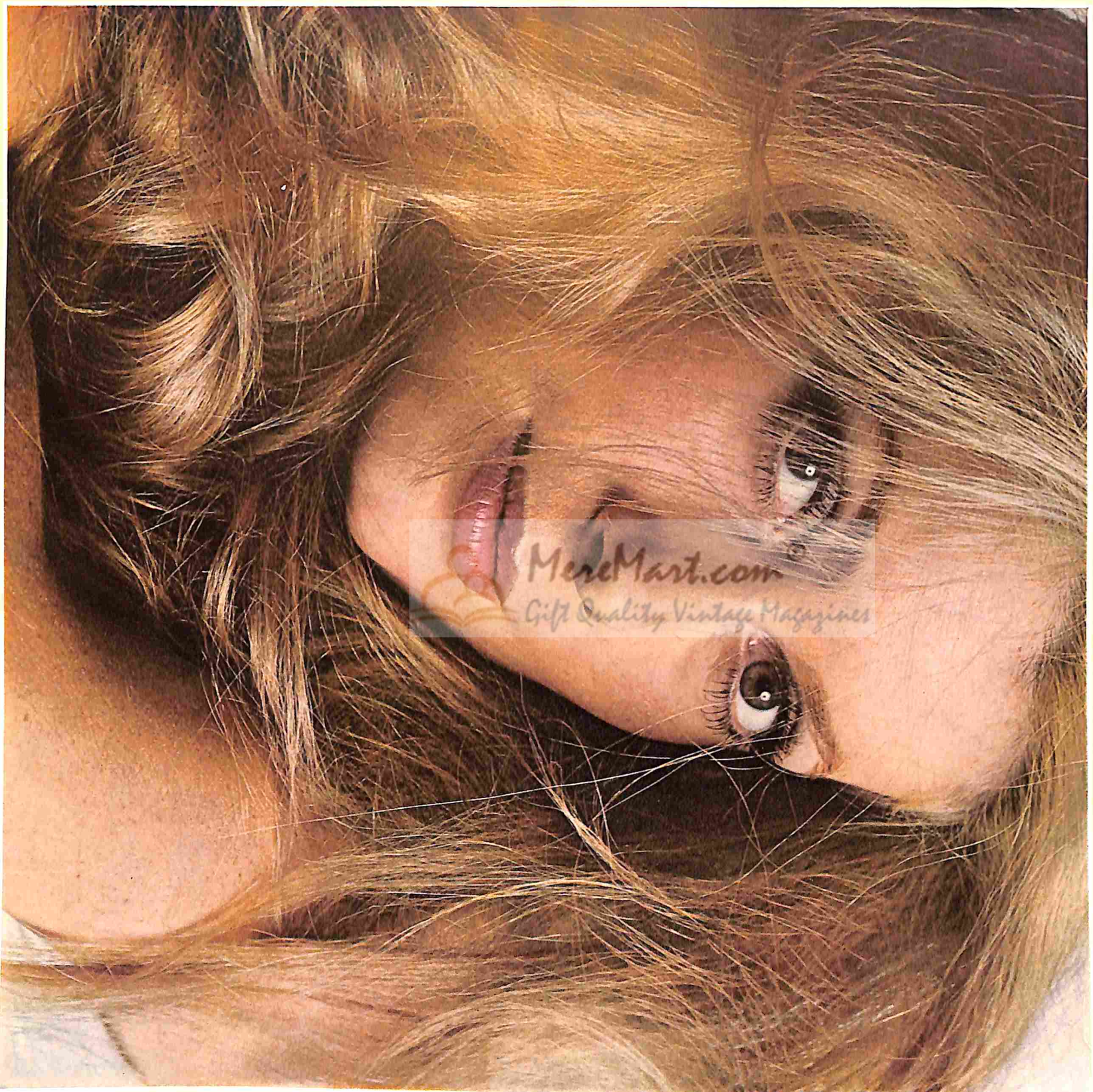
In this issue, in pictures and in prose by Staff Writer Paul O'Neil (pages 24-29), we take a somewhat awed look at Broadway Joe, architect of the Colts' downfall.

*George P. Hunt*  
GEORGE P. HUNT,  
Managing Editor



# CFE

**The Two Men  
Closest to Nixon  
Swaggering along with  
Broadway  
Joe Namath**



**DENEUE on DENEUE** 'Passion is the only way out'

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