



Denver Broncos Postgame Quotes & Notes

Denver Broncos vs. Oakland Raiders • INVESCO Field at Mile High • Sunday, Nov. 28, 2004

DENVER BRONCOS HEAD COACH MIKE SHANAHAN

General opening comments

"Credit the Raiders for making some big plays when they had to make them. I thought we had a chance to put them away a couple times when we were up 24-13 in the fourth quarter. We couldn't seem to get the first downs and kind of get a little tempo going and when they got their opportunities, they took advantage of them."

On if he was surprised they threw the ball so well in the inclement weather

"They threw the ball extremely well. (Jerry) Porter made some big-time catches. Kerry Collins made some big throws when he had to make them. Credit for them, they made plays when they had to make them."

On if he thought Micah Knorr's hold was bad

"I couldn't tell. It looked like the snap was a little bit high. Took him a little time to get it down and it threw the timing off a little bit. I wasn't really where the penetration was. I just caught it out of the corner of my eye so I didn't get a good look at it. Initially, that's what I thought."

On if the bad conditions affected the Broncos play negatively in the second half

"Well, both people had to play in the same conditions. So, you've got to deal with the elements. They made some big plays and we had a few big plays too. But, they made the plays when it counted and found a way to get it done."

DENVER BRONCOS PLAYERS

PK JASON ELAM

General: "It's very disappointing. We really needed to win to keep pace with San Diego. It will be a big showdown next week. We just kept letting (Oakland) hang around and hang around. We had a bunch of opportunities to put them away, even right there at the very end, but we just didn't get it done."

On his final kick: "You know, I just don't know what happened. I couldn't see it. My head was still down but I heard the block. My biggest thing was I was trying to figure out where my 8-yard drop was. Hopefully I went back far enough and it wasn't just being stupid and going too short and giving them a short field to rush up. It did feel good, but I can't really say a whole lot about it until I see the film."

S JOHN LYNCH

On the defense: "When you get someone down, you have to go for the jugular and close them out. We didn't get it done and it's really disappointing. We'll see about the big plays. We'll have to go back and check it out, but it's a big shame when you have a team down like that. That's the biggest thing – don't give up a big play. You're supposed to make them earn everything they get and they got a couple big plays and that killed us."

On beating San Diego: "We have to go get them. That's what this league is all about – responding to challenges. We're a game behind now and we have to rebound. It's a tough loss tonight, but we have to go get San Diego now."

On his late interception: "I caught it and I wish I could've gotten it out in better field position. But, my head was down in the dirt and I didn't know if it was their team trying to touch me or my team."

DT ELLIS JOHNSON

On his interception for a touchdown: "That was really nice. I've got three interceptions in my career and one touchdown. When I caught it, all I thought was 'Just get into the end zone, just get into the end zone.'"

On bouncing back for San Diego: "Our destiny is in our own hands now. They are a good team. We have to put this behind us and get ready to play a very good team next week. This is the National Football League. There are no sisters of the poor. These are professionals who come to play every day. We had an opportunity to win this game tonight, but we didn't. All we had to do was make that one last stop, and we didn't do it. It was that simple. But now, it's time to move on to San Diego. That's where our focus should be."

WR ASHLEY LELIE



Denver Broncos Postgame Quotes & Notes

Denver Broncos vs. Oakland Raiders • INVESCO Field at Mile High • Sunday, Nov. 28, 2004

On the conditions: "The field was not that bad. There was snow on it but we had our long cleats in, so that just can't be an excuse (for the loss) ... As a team, it shouldn't have come down to that one play at the end (the kick). As a team, we didn't do enough to win."

On bouncing back: "We've got professionals on this team. We have to bounce back and be prepared next week. We are going into their back yard and it's going to be a hornet's nest."

LB AL WILSON

General: "A loss is a loss, regardless of the records, whether it's the Raiders or the Buccaneers, it doesn't matter. You go out and prepare to win and sometimes it doesn't work out. But the character of the true team shows up how you bounce back from that loss."

On Oakland's big plays: "It happens in the NFL; guys make big plays. Sometimes you just have to give the other team credit. I give them more credit. They made the plays."

On playing San Diego: "We're going to go out and prepare to win. We're going to go play our game. We're going to do what we do and let the chips fall where they may."

OAKLAND RAIDERS NORV TURNER

General opening comments:

"I don't know if anyone else outside of our group thought we could do this but our guys came in with an intention to win the football game. We competed hard and fought. We gave up a big play at the end of the first half but then we came back and got one. I thought that was the key play in the game. We didn't leave the half with that sense of having given up the big play and thinking 'Oh, here we go again.'" There were a lot of times in the second half where we could have said 'things aren't going our'" but our guys just kept on fighting. Our guys made the plays when we had to."

On the Jerry Porter – Champ Bailey matchup

"Champ is a heck of a player but you when you play an entire game and things came up where he got singled. We had the right routes on and we came up with the big plays. You're not going to make a living against Champ Bailey. There are some situations where the coverage dictates where you're going to go."

On the offensive game plan"We came out and we wanted to throw it early (The Broncos) have an awful good run defense so we had to try and mix it up. A lot of it is we got behind so we had to keep throwing it. We felt that we needed to make some big plays in the passing game."

On the blocked field goal at the end of the game

"We got a great push. When you're kicking off of that footing it's going to come out low. We got a bunch of guys in there and Langston Walker got a hand on it. He came right up the middle. When you're kicking the ball that far and off that footing then it's going to be low and you have a good shot at getting a hand on it."

On avenging the loss earlier in the year to Denver

"Through 16 games you have a couple of performances that you wish you hadn't had. We felt that wasn't us and that we could play better than that. We felt we were better at this point than we were back then and we showed that tonight."On what the win means long-term

"Every time you get a chance to go out and compete you're putting it on the line. Our guys put it on the line as hard as they could tonight and had a win. So you get that satisfaction. It's contagious. I think what's more important is what you do after a win. It's a great win for us but can we build it?"



Denver Broncos Postgame Quotes & Notes

Denver Broncos vs. Oakland Raiders • INVESCO Field at Mile High • Sunday, Nov. 28, 2004

OAKLAND PLAYERS

WR Jerry Porter

On successful passing game

Maybe (Denver Broncos) were thinking we weren't going to throw the ball deep because of the weather conditions. But Coach Turner called a couple of plays up the field and we got behind the secondary it was just the play calling. I guess their game plan was to play everything underneath. We ran some short routes and then were able to get behind them for the deep ball.

On Kerry Collins

This victory was a credit to Kerry Collins for being able to find all of the guys open. Kerry came out and played a hell of a game.

QB Kerry Collins

On 4th down success

It certainly shows that Coach Turner has a lot of faith in us. That was the thing that got us through all night. We made the plays we needed to make. I can't say enough about the receivers. They played great tonight.

On Ronald Curry TD

To make such an unbelievable acrobatic catch..... it's redemption for him, after last week, after dropping that pass. But he came back tonight and probably made the catch of the year.

On never giving up

I think it is just the attitude that all the guys have regardless of how things are going. I think looking back on the first San Diego game that changed everything. We knew that we were going to keep fighting regardless of the situation. I never saw anyone get down tonight. They stepped up and did what they needed to do.

On weather conditions

It probably looked a lot worse than it really was. The footing was ok. The wind wasn't too bad. The snow was a little bit of a factor. The ball was pretty good all day and didn't get too wet. Although it was a little wet on the one that slipped out of my hand at the goal line.

On Jerry Porter

Jerry Porter is a heck of a receiver. He made a heck of a lot of good plays for us tonight. We just needed to get him going. Because I was struggling he wasn't getting the catches that maybe he is getting now. He is a leader on this team. A guy that is going to come to play for you every night. He made a lot of big plays for us tonight. It was a big factor in why we won.

RT Langston Walker

On field goal block

I had gotten back there so far. I put my hand up, hoped that the stars were aligned right and gravity was on our side and it just brought the ball to my hand. I looked to see where it went and it fell about 10-yards down the field.

WR Ronald Curry

On his touchdown catch

We had been practicing that play for about three weeks now. It's in the back of the end zone so it is pretty much a jump ball. He kind of threw it behind me and I just jumped and put my hand up.

General

The attitude has been different the last few weeks around here ever since the Carolina game and it is starting to show on the field. The offense was doing a good job and the defense kept us in the game.

On his 63-yard catch

I think was a busted coverage. The corner wasn't running with me. The linebacker ran into the flat. I was in motion and it was just me and John Lynch. I had an "in-route" and I broke it in and it was wide open.



Denver Broncos Postgame Quotes & Notes

Denver Broncos vs. Oakland Raiders • INVESCO Field at Mile High • Sunday, Nov. 28, 2004

POSTGAME NOTES

- The teams wind up splitting the season series; Oakland's 25-24 win was the first one-point game in the series since a 22-21 Denver win in Oakland in 1996 (the Raiders have won three of the four 1-point affairs in the series history).
 - This was only the **10th** time the teams have split the season series (in 45 years); Denver's 28-point win (31-3) in the first game is the largest by the team that won on the front end; the old high was in 1977, when Denver won by 23, 30-7 in Oakland and the Raiders countered with a 24-14 win in Denver.
 - The **85-yard** touchdown pass from Jake Plummer to Rod Smith was the eighth longest play from scrimmage in Bronco history (all 8 are passes), as well as the longest play of both players' careers.
 - **Inside-The-Numbers.** Field position played a big role in the game, as Oakland started 16 drives on average at its own 38, while Denver 15 at its own 25. Looking one step further, Shane Lechler's six punts had Denver starting on average at its own 17, while Micah Knorr's seven punts had Oakland starting at its 35.
 - **Ellis Johnson's** 32-yard interception return, coupled with **Al Wilson's** (7 yards) last week at New Orleans for touchdowns marked the first time since 1998 that Denver returned to interceptions for touchdowns in back-to-back games. In 1998, **Ray Crockett** (Sept. 20 at Oakland/80 yards) and **Darien Gordon** (Sept. 27 at Washington/55 yards) accomplished the feat.
 - **WR Rod Smith.** He moved into 25th place on the NFL's all-time receiving yards list; with two catches for 97 yards tonight, he has 9,388, passing Rob Moore (9,368) into the top 25.
 - **WR Triandos Luke.** He recorded his first career reception, a 12-yard catch from Jake Plummer, on Denver's final drive of the game.
 - **Bizarre Stat of the Game.** Oakland's first 20 plays were evenly divided in its territory and Denver's; the 10 in Raider territory netted 92 yards, the 10 in Denver territory just 13. Oakland wound up running 31 of its 64 plays in plus territory (for 144 yards); Denver ran just 18 of 57 on the other side of the 50.
 - **RB Reuben Droughns (28-102, 1 TD).** It was his sixth 100-yard game, coming in seven starts at running back. He now has 946 yards on the season.
 - **Rivalry Curse.** The last six times that Denver and Oakland battled the same week as Colorado and Nebraska, the Buffs and Broncos have not been able to pull off the sweep, regardless of the order of the games in 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2003 and this year, as one has won and the other has lost (this was the first time it was done with CU defeating NU and the Raiders topping Denver, however).
-