

DENVER BRONCOS NEWS RELEASE

Week 1 • Denver (0-0) vs. Kansas City (0-0) • INVESCO Field at Mile High • 6:30 p.m. (MDT)



BRONCOS BATTLE DIVISION RIVAL KANSAS CITY IN SEASON OPENER AT INVESCO FIELD AT MILE HIGH

Let the games begin! The Denver Broncos kickoff the 2004 season at home against their division rival, the Kansas City Chiefs, on Sunday, Sept. 12 at INVESCO Field at Mile High. The game will be shown in the national spotlight of ESPN's *Sunday Night Football* (and locally on KUSA-TV, Channel 9) with the kickoff scheduled for 6:30 p.m. (MDT).



This is the fourth time these teams have faced each other in the season opener. The Broncos hold a 3-1 advantage, with all four games having been played in Denver. In the last season opener between Denver and Kansas City, the Broncos came away with a 19-3 win at Mile High Stadium on Aug. 31, 1997.

The Broncos-Chiefs game will be Denver's 262nd consecutive regular or postseason (non-strike) sellout at home. In the last 30 years (1974-03) the Broncos have had the best home record in the NFL, fashioning a 173-59-1 (.745) mark at home in the regular season. When the club's 11-2 (.846) postseason mark is included, the Broncos lead the league in that time frame with a 184-61-1 (.750) overall record.

RADIO/TELEVISION vs. KANSAS CITY

The Broncos and the Chiefs kickoff the regular season in front of a national television audience on ESPN. For Denver, it's the fifth time since 1995 that the team has opened the season in the primetime spotlight on either Sunday night or Monday night. The game will be broadcast nationally on ESPN's *Sunday Night Football*, and locally on KUSA-TV (NBC-Channel 9). **Pat Summerall** will provide the play-by-play, and joining him in the booth will be **Joe Theismann** and **Paul Maguire** doing the color commentary. **Suzy Kolber** will be on the sidelines.

For the 35th consecutive year, KOA radio (850) is the flagship station for the Denver Broncos radio network, and every game this season will be broadcast. **Dave Logan** and **Scott Hastings** will provide the play-by-play and color commentary respectively, with **Alan Roach** on the sidelines. The Broncos radio network extends to nine states, and the KOA pregame show, hosted by **Mike Rice**, begins two hours prior to kickoff.

The game will also be broadcast in Spanish on KBNO radio (1280). **Milo Sanchez** will do the play-by-play, with **Luke Sandoval** adding color commentary.

Westwood One/CBS Radio will provide a national radio broadcast. The team includes **Joel Meyers** with the call and **Bob Trumpy** by his side. **John Dockery** will be at field level.

MEDIA RELATIONS CONTACT INFORMATION

Jim Saccomano	(303) 649-0572	saccomanoj@broncos.nfl.com
Paul Kirk	(303) 649-0503	kirkp@broncos.nfl.com
Mark Cicero	(303) 649-0512	cicerom@broncos.nfl.com
Patrick Smyth	(303) 649-0536	smythp@broncos.nfl.com
Rebecca Villanueva	(303) 649-0598	villanuevar@broncos.nfl.com

WWW.DENVERBRONCOS.COM/MEDIAROOM

The Denver Broncos have a media-only website, which was created to assist accredited media in their coverage of the Broncos. By going to www.DenverBroncos.com/Mediaroom, members of the press will find complete statistical packages, press releases, rosters, updated player and coach bios, the 2004 Broncos Media Guide, game recaps and much more. Feature clippings are also available as one complete packet, and broken down individually by player and coach. Game clippings will also be posted weekly throughout the season. In addition, there is a password-protected photo section where media members can download high-resolution headshots and action shots, which will be updated after every game. Get a username and password by sending a request to photos@broncos.nfl.com.

The files are posted in .pdf format, and require Adobe's Acrobat Reader to access them. If you do not have a copy of Acrobat Reader, a free version can be downloaded from the Mediaroom.

Members of the media will also find a new feature in 2004. The Denver Broncos have created a complete archive of game books and flip cards for every regular-season and preseason game in franchise history. This searchable database is found on www.DenverBroncos.com/mediaroom.

2004 FINAL AFC WEST PRESEASON STANDINGS

Team	W	L	T	PF	PA	Home	Road	AFC	NFC	DIV	Streak
Oakland	3	1	0	98	91	1-1	2-0	0-0	3-1	0-0	W2
S.D.	2	2	0	106	75	0-2	2-0	0-1	2-1	0-0	W1
Denver	2	3	0	94	89	1-1	1-2*	1-2	1-1	0-0	L1
K.C.	1	3	0	87	86	1-1	0-2	0-1	1-2	0-0	L2

* - played opener on a neutral site vs. Washington (Hall of Fame Game)

DENVER BRONCOS 2004 SCHEDULE

2004 REGULAR SEASON

Wk	Day	Date	Opponent	Site	Time/Res.	TV/Record
1	Sun.	Sept. 12	KANSAS CITY	INVESCO Field at Mile High	6:30 p.m. MDT	ESPN
2	Sun.	Sept. 19	at Jacksonville	Alltel Stadium	1:00 p.m. EDT	CBS
3	Sun.	Sept. 26	SAN DIEGO	INVESCO Field at Mile High	2:05 p.m. MDT	CBS
4	Sun.	Oct. 3	at Tampa Bay	Raymond James Stadium	4:15 p.m. EDT	CBS
5	Sun.	Oct. 10	CAROLINA	INVESCO Field at Mile High	2:15 p.m. MDT	FOX
6	Sun.	Oct. 17	at Oakland	Network Associates Coliseum	1:15 p.m. PDT	CBS
7	Mon.	Oct. 25	at Cincinnati	Paul Brown Stadium	9:00 p.m. EDT	ABC
8	Sun.	Oct. 31	ATLANTA	INVESCO Field at Mile High	2:05 p.m. MST	FOX
9	Sun.	Nov. 7	HOUSTON	INVESCO Field at Mile High	2:15 p.m. MST	CBS
10			BYE WEEK			
11	Sun.	Nov. 21	at New Orleans	Louisiana Superdome	12:00 p.m. CST	CBS
12	Sun.	Nov. 28	OAKLAND	INVESCO Field at Mile High	6:30 p.m. MST	ESPN
13	Sun.	Dec. 5	at San Diego	Qualcomm Stadium	1:05 p.m. PST	CBS
14	Sun.	Dec. 12	MIAMI	INVESCO Field at Mile High	2:05 p.m. MST	CBS
15	Sun.	Dec. 19	at Kansas City	Arrowhead Stadium	3:15 p.m. CST	CBS
16	Sat.	Dec. 25	at Tennessee	The Coliseum	7:30 p.m. CST	ESPN
17	Sun.	Jan. 2	INDIANAPOLIS	INVESCO Field at Mile High	2:15 p.m. MST	CBS

**DENVER BRONCOS MEDIA SCHEDULE
vs. KANSAS CITY • SEPT. 12, 2004**

ALL TIMES AND AVAILABILITY ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
WE WILL NOTIFY THE MEDIA OF ANY CHANGES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Tuesday, Sept. 7:

12:15-1 p.m. Broncos Locker Room Open to Media
1:30-1:40 p.m. Practice open to Media
(local photography only)
Post-Practice Coach Shanahan Available
(local media only)

Wednesday, Sept. 8:

11:30 a.m. Priest Holmes Conference Call
11:45 a.m. Dick Vermeil Conference Call
11:45 a.m. Jake Plummer Press Conference
12:15 p.m. Mike Shanahan Press Conference
12:15-1 p.m. Broncos Locker Room Open to Media
1:30-1:40 p.m. Practice open to Media
(local photography only)
Post-Practice Coach Shanahan Available
(local media only)

Thursday, Sept. 9:

11:45-11:55 a.m. Practice Open to Media
(local photography only allowed)
Post-Practice Broncos Locker Room Open to Media
Post-Practice Coach Shanahan Available
(local media only)

Friday, Sept. 10:

11:45-11:55 a.m. Practice Open to Media
(local photography only allowed)
Post-Practice Coach Shanahan Available
(local media only)

WEEK 1 IN THE NFL

THURSDAY, SEPT. 9

Indianapolis at New England (ABC) 9:00p (ET)

SUNDAY, SEPT. 12..... FOX-TV National Weekend

Jacksonville at Buffalo..... 1:00p (ET)
Detroit at Chicago 12:00p (CT)
Baltimore at Cleveland..... 1:00p (ET)
San Diego at Houston 12:00p (CT)
Tennessee at Miami 1:00p (ET)
Seattle at New Orleans 12:00p (CT)
Cincinnati at New York Jets..... 1:00p (ET)
Oakland at Pittsburgh..... 1:00p (ET)
Arizona at St. Louis 12:00p (CT)
Tampa Bay at Washington..... 1:00p (ET)
Dallas at Minnesota..... 3:15p (CT)
New York Giants at Philadelphia..... 4:15p (ET)
Atlanta at San Francisco..... 1:15p (PT)
Kansas City at Denver..... (ESPN) 6:30p (MT)

MONDAY, SEPT. 13

Green Bay at Carolina(ABC).....9:00p (ET)

THE SERIES (vs. KANSAS CITY)

This will be the 88th meeting, with Kansas City holding a 49-38 (.563) advantage in the all-time series which dates back to 1960, the Broncos' first year in existence. Last year, the teams split the season series, with Kansas City winning at Arrowhead Stadium 24-23, but the Broncos dominated in a 45-27 win at INVESCO Field at Mile High.

Overall, Denver is 26-18 (.591) at home in the series, but is only 12-31 (.279) on the road. The first six games of the series were played in Texas, when the Chiefs were the Dallas Texans prior to the franchise moving to Kansas City.

Under Head Coach Mike Shanahan, the Broncos are 6-3 (.667) at home against the Chiefs in the regular season and 2-7 (.222) on the road, for an overall regular season record of 8-10 (.444). The teams have met one time in the postseason. Denver knocked off Kansas City 14-10 at Arrowhead Stadium in the 1997 AFC Divisional Playoff game, on their way to the team's first Super Bowl title.

BRONCOS/CHIEFS ALL-TIME RESULTS

(Dallas Texans 1960-62)	1983—@Kansas City 48, Denver 17
1960—Dallas 17, @Denver 14	1984—@Denver 21, Kansas City 0
1960—@Dallas 34, Denver 7	1984—@Kansas City 16, Denver 13
1961—Dallas 19, @Denver 12	1985—Denver 30, @Kansas City 10
1961—@Dallas 49, Denver 21	1985—@Denver 14, Kansas City 13
1962—Dallas 24, @Denver 3	1986—@Denver 38, Kansas City 17
1962—@Dallas 17, Denver 10	1986—@Kansas City 37, Denver 10
1963—Kansas City 59, @Denver 7	1987—Denver 26, @Kansas City 17
1963—@Kansas City 52, Denver 21	1987—@Denver 20, Kansas City 17
1964—@Denver 33, Kansas City 27	1988—@Kansas City 20, Denver 13
1964—@Kansas City 49, Denver 39	1988—@Denver 17, Kansas City 11
1965—Kansas City 31, @Denver 23	1989—@Denver 34, Kansas City 20
1965—@Kansas City 45, Denver 35	1989—Denver 16, @Kansas City 13
1966—@Kansas City 37, Denver 10	1990—@Denver 24, Kansas City 23
1966—Kansas City 56, @Denver 10	1990—@Kansas City 31, Denver 20
1967—@Kansas City 52, Denver 9	1991—@Denver 19, Kansas City 16
1967—Kansas City 38, @Denver 24	1991—Denver 24, @Kansas City 20
1968—@Kansas City 34, Denver 2	1992—@Denver 20, Kansas City 19
1968—Kansas City 30, @Denver 7	1992—@Kansas City 42, Denver 20
1969—Kansas City 26, @Denver 13	1993—@Kansas City 15, Denver 7
1969—@Kansas City 31, Denver 17	1993—@Denver 27, Kansas City 21
1970—@Denver 26, Kansas City 13	1994—Kansas City 31, @Denver 28
1970—@Kansas City 16, Denver 0	1994—Denver 20, @Kansas City 17 (OT)
1971—Kansas City 16, @Denver 3	1995—Kansas City 21, @Denver 7
1971—@Kansas City 28, Denver 10	1995—@Kansas City 20, Denver 17
1972—Kansas City 45, @Denver 24	1996—@Kansas City 17, Denver 14
1972—@Kansas City 24, Denver 21	1996—@Denver 34, Kansas City 7
1973—@Kansas City 16, Denver 14	1997—@Denver 19, Kansas City 3
1973—@Denver 14, Kansas City 10	1997—@Kansas City 24, Denver 22
1974—Denver 17, @Kansas City 14	1997—Denver 14, @Kansas City 10*
1974—Kansas City 42, @Denver 34	1998—Denver 30, @Kansas City 7
1975—@Denver 37, Kansas City 33	1998—@Denver 35, Kansas City 31
1975—@Kansas City 26, Denver 13	1999—@Kansas City 26, Denver 10
1976—Denver 35, @Kansas City 26	1999—Kansas City 16, @Denver 10
1976—@Denver 17, Kansas City 16	2000—Kansas City 23, @Denver 22
1977—@Denver 23, Kansas City 7	2000—@Kansas City 20, Denver 7
1977—Denver 14, @Kansas City 7	2001—@Denver 20, Kansas City 6
1978—Denver 23, @Kansas City 17 (OT)	2001—@Kansas City 26, Denver 23 (OT)
1978—@Denver 24, Kansas City 3	2002—Denver 37, @Kansas City 34 (OT)
1979—Denver 24, @Kansas City 10	2002—@Denver 31, Kansas City 24
1979—@Denver 20, Kansas City 3	2003—@Kansas City 24, Denver 23
1980—Kansas City 23, @Denver 17	2003—@Denver 45, Kansas City 27
1980—@Kansas City 31, Denver 14	
1981—@Kansas City 28, Denver 14	
1981—@Denver 16, Kansas City 13	
1982—Kansas City 37, @Denver 16	
1983—@Denver 27, Kansas City 24	

*AFC Divisional Playoff
Chiefs lead series 49-38
(Home: 26-18 / Away: 12-31)
Postseason: Broncos lead 1-0 (away)

BRONCOS/CHIEFS SERIES BREAKDOWN

First Game:	Dallas 17, at Denver 14 (10/30/60)
Last Game:	Denver 47, K.C. 27 (12/7/03)
Current Streak:	Denver has won one
Longest Streak:	K.C. won 11 straight from 1964 to 1970
Last Broncos' Home Win:	Denver 45, K.C. 27 (12/7/03)
Last Broncos' Home Loss:	Kansas City 23, Denver 22 (9/24/00)
Last Broncos' Road Win:	Denver 37, at K.C. 34 (OT) (10/20/02)
Last Broncos Road Loss:	at Kansas City 24, Denver 23 (10/5/03)

BRONCOS/CHIEFS IN SEASON OPENERS

When the Broncos and Chiefs square off Sunday to open the 2004 regular season, it will mark the fifth time these teams have opened the season against one another. The Broncos hold a 3-1 edge over Kansas City in openers, with all four games having been played in Denver. Denver is 4-1 against the Chiefs in home openers, when its 1990 win over Kansas City is added to the mix. Denver opened the season on the road in 1990, but played its first game at Mile High Stadium that year against the Chiefs. Below are the results from the four season openers against K.C.

DENVER VS. KANSAS CITY (ON OPENING DAY)

Sept. 7, 1963	7-59	L	Mile High Stadium
Sept. 21, 1975	37-33	W	Mile High Stadium
Sept. 10, 1989	34-20	W	Mile High Stadium
Aug. 31, 1997	19-3	W	Mile High Stadium
*Sept. 17, 1990	24-23	W	Mile High Stadium

**home opener, but not season opener*

NOTABLE PERFORMANCES VS. KANSAS CITY

***Please refer to player game-by-game charts vs. K.C. in the statistics section for a more detailed analysis. ***

• T Dwayne Carswell

Caught six passes for 62 yards (10.3 avg.) at K.C. 12/16/01 for the Broncos. Has 20 catches for 187 yards and a touchdown in 19 career games vs. K.C.

• FB Reuben Droughns

Returned four kicks for 97 yards (24.3 avg.) vs. K.C. 12/15/02 for the Broncos. Caught three passes for 32 yards (10.7 avg.) and a touchdown 12/7/03 vs. K.C. for the Broncos.

• K Jason Elam

Converted 4-of-4 field goal attempts, including a 53-yarder, vs. K.C. 8/31/97 for the Broncos. Then hit 5-of-6 field goals in Denver's next game against the Chiefs that season (at K.C., 11/16/97). Has made 34-of-42 field goals, including three from 50+yards, in 22 career games vs. K.C. along with hitting all 54 extra-point attempts.

• DT Luther Elliss

Recorded four tackles (three solo) vs. K.C. 11/28/96 for the Lions. Totaled one sack (-7 yds.) at K.C. 9/26/99 for the Lions.

• TE Patrick Hape

Caught two passes for 35 yards (17.5 avg.), including a 25-yard catch, at K.C. 12/16/01 for the Broncos.

• RB Garrison Hearst

Rushed seven times for 85 yards (12.1 avg.), including a 45-yard run, at K.C. 11/30/97 for the 49ers. Ran for a touchdown and caught three passes for 21 yards (7.0 avg.) 11/10/02 vs. K.C. for the 49ers.

• CB Kelly Herndon

Forced a fumble at K.C. 10/5/03 for the Broncos. Tallied nine tackles (seven solo) and two pass deflections while starting vs. K.C. 12/7/03.

• DE Raylee Johnson

Had four tackles (all solo) vs. K.C. 10/13/02 for San Diego. Recorded a sack (-5 yds.) at K.C. 12/22/02. Totaled four sacks (-31 yds.) for his career vs. K.C. with the Chargers.

• S Kenoy Kennedy

Recorded a sack (-11 yds.) and nine tackles (five solo) at K.C. 12/16/01 for the Broncos. Had a team-high 10 tackles (eight solo) and a pass deflection vs. K.C. 12/7/03. In five career games vs. K.C., totaled 32 tackles (21 solo).

• P Micah Knorr

Punted five times for 198 yards (39.6 avg.), including the placement of one punt inside the 20, at K.C. 10/5/03 for the Broncos.

• WR Ashley Lelie

Caught two passes for 68 yards, including a 40-yard reception, vs. K.C. 12/15/02 for the Broncos. Rushed once for 24 yards and caught three passes for 33 yards (11.0 avg.) at K.C. 10/20/02 for the Broncos. In four career games vs. K.C., totaled nine receptions for 144 yards (16.0 avg.).

• S John Lynch

Forced a fumble and totaled 13 tackles (nine solo) vs. K.C. 11/14/99 for the Buccaneers.

• QB Jake Plummer

Completed 16-of-25 passes for 228 yards and one touchdown while rushing three times for 20 yards (6.7 avg.) vs. K.C. 10/21/01 for the Cardinals. Also turned in a strong game vs. K.C. 12/7/03 by completing 20-of-29 passes for 238 yards and one touchdown for the Broncos. In five career games (2-3 record) vs. K.C., completed 90-of-160 passes for 1,024 yards, four touchdowns and five interceptions.

• DE Trevor Pryce

Posted two sacks for -17 yards at K.C. 10/20/02 for the Broncos and intercepted a pass at K.C. 9/19/99. Pryce has five sacks (-34 yds.), 43 tackles (32 solo) and one INT in 13 career games vs. K.C.

• WR Rod Smith

Has six games with eight catches against the Chiefs, highlighted by an eight-catch, 165-yard performance vs. K.C. 12/6/98 for the Broncos. Posted 93 career receptions for 1443 yards (15.5 avg.) and two touchdowns in 17 games vs. K.C.

• CB Lenny Walls

Made seven tackles (six solo) vs. K.C. 12/7/03 for the Broncos. Recovered a fumble at K.C. 10/5/03 for the Broncos.

• MLB Al Wilson

Totaled 15 tackles (11 solo) at K.C. 12/17/00. Posted 20 tackles (17 unassisted) and one sack (-5 yds.) at K.C. 10/20/02 for the Broncos. In 10 career games vs. K.C., totaled 100 tackles (77 solo) and two sacks (-15 yds.) for Denver.

BRONCOS/CHIEFS FESTIVITIES (9/12/04)

Sunday's game will be dedicated to our U.S. military forces who have served and continue to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and to all of our armed forces who serve throughout the world. The Denver Broncos organization would like to thank and honor the men and women who protect the citizens of our country and the freedoms that we all hold dear. Representing three Colorado bases will be soldiers from Petersen Air Force Base, Buckley Air Force Base and Fort Carson Army Base, all of whom fought for our country in the Middle East and returned home safely to continue to serve the United States of America. During the pregame ceremony, there will be a moment of silence to remember the men and women who dedicated their lives to our country and died protecting our great nation. We will ask that fans remove their hats and stand as we remember our fallen soldiers. In the sky, just after the national anthem, four F-16s from the 120th Fighter Squadron, 140th Wing, located at Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora, Colo., will wow fans with a four-ship fly by. The Denver Broncos and the National Football League dedicate this game to all branches of the military and are honored to have our Colorado soldiers here with us Sunday.

Pregame features a performance by the 2004 Junior Denver Broncos Cheerleaders (JDBC). The JDBC program is designed specifically to promote self-esteem, pride, commitment, and discipline among young women ages six to 14.

Presenting the colors will be the Colorado National Guard State Honor Guard. The CNG State Honor Guard was authorized by MG John L. France, The Adjutant General of the Colorado National Guard by a Proclamation signed on the 4th of January 1982. Today, the Honor Guard continues to serve proudly in the true tradition of the National Guard as Volunteer, the Citizen Soldier, acting as ambassadors for the Colorado National Guard around the State and Nation at over 100 events annually. Performing the National Anthem are cast members from "Heaven Help Us", the rat pack musical now playing at The Buell Theatre.

Performing a very special halftime will be Interscope Records recording artist Smash Mouth. Smash Mouth, named after Mike Ditka's term "smash mouth football", was formed in San Jose, Calif., in 1994. The quartet inked a deal with Interscope Records, which released their debut album, "Fush Yu Mang", in 1997. Smash Mouth supported the album with extensive touring, including jaunts with Sugar Ray, Third Eye Blind and Blur, among others. Buoyed by these road efforts, the #1 radio success of "Walkin' On The Sun" and a cover of War's "Why Can't We Be Friends", "Fush Yu Mang" bum-rushed the Top 20 and racked up double platinum sales. Smash Mouth sold over two million copies of their self-made debut, but it was 1999's "Astro Lounge" that truly set the pop pinnacle. The lead single "All Star" topped three national radio charts and hit number four on Billboard's perennial Hot 100.

**LAST TIME vs. KANSAS CITY (12/7/03)
at DENVER 45, at KANSAS CITY 27**

By rushing for 218 yards on 22 carries (9.9 avg.) and a franchise-record five touchdowns, running back Clinton Portis led the Broncos to a 45-27 win over the division-leading Kansas City Chiefs at INVESCO Field at Mile High in front of 76,403 fans. With the win, Denver improved to 8-5 and kept its playoff hopes alive. Portis recorded the sixth 200-yard rushing game in Denver history, and second of his career.

Denver jumped out to an early start by driving for a touchdown on its opening possession. Quarterback Jake Plummer drove the Broncos 74 yards in 10 plays, setting up Portis' 11-yard touchdown run. Kansas City answered its first drive of the game when running back Priest Holmes evened the score at 7 with a 2-yard touchdown run. Early in the second quarter, Denver drove the length of the field allowing Portis to score his second touchdown of the game, on a 1-yard run. After Dante Hall's 61-yard punt return gave the Chiefs the ball at Denver's 36-yard line, Kansas City tied the game at 14 on a 1-yard touchdown run by Holmes. Denver regained the lead with a 47-yard Jason Elam field goal, but with 1:26 left in the first half, Chiefs quarterback Trent Green found Eddie Kennison on a 42-yard touchdown pass to give the Chiefs a 21-17 halftime lead.

The second half, however, was a completely different story for the Broncos. The defense stepped up and stopped Kansas City on the opening drive of the second half, giving the offense momentum to get rolling. From the 5:58 mark in the third quarter to the 7:58 mark in the fourth quarter, Denver scored 28 unanswered points—including three Portis touchdown runs—to build a 45-21 lead. Fullback Reuben Droughns started the barrage with a 3-yard touchdown catch from Plummer. Later in the third quarter, Portis busted through the Chiefs' defense and sprinted 59 yards for his third touchdown of the game. On the Broncos' next drive, Portis scored on a 28-yard run and closed out his scoring-fest with a 53-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter.

With his performance—one of the best by a Broncos running back—Portis set a franchise record with five touchdowns (all rushing) and became only the second Bronco to score at least four rushing touchdowns in a game (Mike Anderson had four at New Orleans in 2000). The five touchdowns also tied for the fourth most in NFL history (three players have scored six: Ernie Nevers, Dub Jones and Gale Sayers), and Portis is the 12th player to score five in an NFL game. Additionally, it was Portis' fifth consecutive game with more than 100 yards (9 this season) and the 17th of his career. In two games against the Chiefs in Denver, Portis has 43 rushes for 348 yards (8.1 avg.), five receptions for 111 yards and nine touchdowns (8 rushing/1 receiving). In the second half alone, Portis rushed 11 times for 188 yards—the most in a single half in the NFL Nov. 11, 2001, when Seattle's Shaun Alexander had 192 against Oakland. The 188 yards in a half is a Broncos record as it topped the 168 Terrell Davis had in the first half against Philadelphia on Oct. 4, 1998.

BRONCOS/CHIEFS CONNECTIONS

- Head coach Mike Shanahan and Chiefs offensive line coach Mike Solari coached together at San Francisco from 1992-94. Shanahan was the offensive coordinator while Solari coached tight ends.
- Chiefs running backs coach James Saxon was a volunteer assistant at Menlo College in 1999 when Broncos wide receiver Nate Jackson played his college ball there.
- Broncos linebacker Terry Pierce and defensive tackle Mario Fatafehi and Chiefs linebacker Money Beisel played their college ball together at Kansas State.
- Broncos defensive end Darius Holland played the first six games of 1998 for the Chiefs.
- Broncos safety Kenoy Kennedy and Chiefs linebacker Quinton Caver played on the same defense in college for Arkansas.
- Broncos assistant strength and conditioning coach Cedric Smith and Chiefs quarterback Trent Green played together with Washington in 1995.
- Broncos running back Quentin Griffin and Chiefs receiver/return man Dante Hall both attended Nimitz High School outside of Houston.
- Broncos tight end Jeb Putzier and Chiefs safety Shaunard Harts played college ball together at Boise state.
- Broncos offensive lineman Dan Neil blocked for Chiefs running back Priest Holmes in college at Texas.
- Broncos defensive end Trevor Pryce and Chiefs cornerback Dexter McCleon played on the same defense in college at Clemson.
- Broncos fullback Reuben Droughns and Chiefs wide receiver Johnnie Morton played together with the Detroit Lions from 200-01.
- Broncos wide receiver Rod Smith and Chiefs cornerback Eric Warfield are both from Texarkana, Ark., and host an annual youth football camp there together.
- Broncos running back Quentin Griffin and Chiefs defensive end Jimmy Wilkerson played college ball together at Oklahoma and were selected in the 2003 draft.
- Broncos Jashon Sykes and Chiefs Fred Jones played linebacker on the same defense while at Colorado.
- Before playing with Broncos cornerback Champ Bailey played for the Redskins in 2003 with Chiefs defensive tackle Lionel Dalton, who was a Bronco himself in the 2002 season. Dalton made 13 starts, recording 39 tackles, one sack, one forced fumble and one pass break-up.
- Broncos cornerback Champ Bailey and defensive end Marco Coleman played on the same defense with Chiefs linebacker Shawn Barber while in Washington from 1999-01.
- Chiefs wide receiver Eddie Kennison played with the Broncos in 2001.
- Broncos defensive tackle Luther Elliss and Chiefs wide receiver Jonnie Morton were longtime teammates in Detroit from 1995-01.
- Broncos defensive end Marco Coleman and Chiefs tackle John Welbourn played ball together for the Eagles in 2003.

- Broncos defensive end Raylee Johnson broke into the league with Chiefs quarterback Trent Green in 1993 with San Diego, that season Green was on the practice squad.

WEEKLY CONFERENCE CALLS

Head Coach **Mike Shanahan** and quarterback **Jake Plummer** will be available to the Kansas City media by conference call Wednesday, with Plummer available approximately 12 p.m. (MDT) and Shanahan slated for 12:45 p.m. (MDT). Chiefs **Head Coach Dick Vermeil** and running back **Priest Holmes** will speak to the Denver press via conference call on Wednesday, with Holmes at approximately 11:30 a.m. (MDT) and Vermeil at approximately 11:45 a.m. (MDT).

COVERAGE ON WWW.DENVERBRONCOS.COM

DenverBroncos.com—The official website of the Denver Broncos—will have the most comprehensive coverage of the 2004 Broncos season available as the club gears up for a Super Bowl Championship run. Game day coverage in the Game Center will include individual and team statistics, lineups, photos, scoring summary, postgame quotes, feature stories, a live audio broadcast as well as a running game story. For home games at INVESCO Field at Mile High you can also watch Head Coach Mike Shanahan's live postgame press conference. New for 2004 after home games, fans can look for themselves in the new fan photo feature as we will offer a number of photos of Broncos fans at the game as well as photos from the action on the field. You are always able to find all team press releases, an up-to-date sortable roster, player bios, team and individual statistics, and injury and transaction updates.

The Denver Broncos Game Day Experience is back in 2004! This online application is one-of-a-kind in professional sports, capturing the fun and excitement of attending a Broncos game and delivering it to your computer—even when the Broncos are on the road! The Game Day Experience—or GDX—will be active starting one hour before kickoff of all Broncos games until one hour after the game ends. The first 50 people who log in will be sent the same giveaway being handed out at the stadium for Broncos home games, and other great Broncos prizes when the team is away. Once logged in, fans will be able to participate in a number of interactive elements like trying their hand at prediction-based games and a halftime trivia challenge, sharing their opinions through in-game polls, checking out tailgating photos and recipes and submitting their own and much more! If you're watching the Broncos from home and want to feel like you're at the game, log on to the Denver Broncos GDX!

The Broncos will open the 2004 regular season with a home game against the Kansas City Chiefs in a prime-time showdown on ESPN's Sunday Night Football. On Tuesday you can preview the game in the Broncos-Chiefs Game Center in anticipation of the game.

As the new season commences DenverBroncos.com will chronicle the journey for you. Each time the club takes the field for practice we'll have a story to keep you informed of the goings-on with the team. Broncos TV features will bring you video of players and coaches throughout the season and you can

go back through the archives at any time to watch previous Broncos TV features.

DenverBroncos.com will continue its live video coverage of the team's press conferences. Each Wednesday during the season we will broadcast the live press conferences of Jake Plummer and Head Coach Mike Shanahan at 11:45 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. (MDT) respectively.

We will be providing fantasy football news each week during the 2004 season as well. Each week we will offer a preview of the weekend's games on Thursday and a review of those games on Tuesdays.

Our weekly player Q&As will continue to be held on Friday's. On Monday you will be able to start sending questions to the week's subject and watch for his answers on Friday.

Broncology, our weekly analysis of statistics and history, will be available on Friday leading up to the contest. The Broncos-Chiefs Capsule and Notes, which will give you stats and notes about the two teams in preparation for the game, will be available on Saturday as well as a preview of some of the great content that will be in Broncos Gameday during the weeks that Denver plays at home.

PRESEASON GAME 5: ARIZONA 33, DENVER 21 (INVESCO FIELD AT MILE HIGH, 9/2/04)

Despite scoring 21 points in the second half, the Broncos could not overcome a slow start in their final preseason game against Arizona and were defeated by the Cardinals 33-21 at INVESCO Field at Mile High on Thursday night.

Denver, playing in its fifth preseason game, rested most of its top unit and dressed few regular first-teamers against Arizona. The Cardinals raced to a 26-0 lead the third quarter before Denver was able to put any points on the board.

Rookie quarterback Matt Mauck got most of the snaps for the Broncos, completing 13-of-22 passes for a game-high 194 yards and his first NFL touchdown. Wide receivers Charlie Adams and Nate Jackson both had strong nights with five catches each for 84 and 76 yards, respectively.

Defensive tackle Mario Fatafeh recorded two of Denver's three sacks against Arizona.

Cardinals kicker Neil Rackers connected on 45 and 47-yard field goal attempts in the first quarter as Arizona took a quick 6-0 lead. Two possessions later, the Cardinals went ahead 13-0 after covering 77 yards on a drive that concluded with a 1-yard scoring run by Josh Scobey.

Offensively, the Broncos struggled early on and did not cross the 50-yard line until there was less than a minute remaining in the first half. Mauck, in relief of Danny Kanell, was hit in his own end zone on first-and-10 at 6:27 of the second quarter by Calvin Pace and could not hold onto the ball.

The fumble was picked up by Ross Kolodziej for a touchdown and a 20-0 Cardinals lead.

Mauck exacted a bit of revenge in the third quarter with the Broncos trailing 26-0. He led a seven-play, 84-yard drive, which began with an 18-yard reception by Jackson and ended with the receiver's 24-yard touchdown grab, for the Broncos' first score of the game.

Rookie running back Tatum Bell, who ran for a game-high 69 yards, set up the score a play earlier by breaking away on a 21-yard run.

After Arizona went ahead 33-7 late in the third quarter on its next possession when Larry Croom scored on a 4-yard touchdown, Mauck used three completions covering 43 yards to tight end Byron Chamberlain to set up a 5-yard scoring run by Bell and bring Denver within a 33-14 deficit.

Mauck was replaced by fellow rookie Bradlee Van Pelt with 5:13 left in the fourth quarter. In his first appearance of the preseason in front of many of the fans who watched him star at Colorado State, Van Pelt showed promise with back-to-back completions of 27 and 29 yards.

When he could not spot an open receiver on first-and-10 from the Cardinals' 14, Van Pelt took off around the right side of the line and made it into the end zone for the score to cap off a 7-play, 84-yard drive.

HEAD COACH MIKE SHANAHAN POSTGAME QUOTES

On the play of QB Bradlee Van Pelt

"It was nice to see him come in and make some plays. He's a heck of an athlete and I'm happy for him."

On RB Tatum Bell seeing the bulk of the carries

"We needed to give Tatum some game experience. Last week was a little tough for him because he was very tentative. But for him to go in and play as much as he did, it's really a credit to him, considering the fracture in his finger. But he worked through it, played throughout the game in a tough scenario. He looked like he made some strides."

On the overall play of the team

"Anytime you don't play 22 or 23 guys, it's not going to be perfect. We understand that. But, what we try to do is go back and see which guys did play well. We're trying to evaluate who's going to be our top 53 guys and trying to put together a practice squad. I was kind of excited that they did get a chance to play against some of the first teams. I wish we would've played a little bit better. I thought our defense did some good things and stepped up. We had a few too many penalties on defense and kept a couple drives going. But overall, I get a chance to evaluate our players. Ultimately, we're trying to get ready for Kansas City. We didn't put a game plan together, which they didn't either. But, we stepped up and played better than we did in the first half. We played with some of our young guys, at least, and came back in the second half."

On the injury suffered by WR Adrian Madise

"He broke his hand so that's anywhere from 4-6 weeks. It's a fracture in his hand, so he's going to be out a little bit."

On LB D.J. Williams' playing time

"D.J. is completely different than Tatum. Tatum didn't get much playing time this year so we had to see what he can do. D.J. is a lot like George Foster. They haven't been starters and they need that experience. When you're a rookie, you have to be put through situations as many times as possible so you can get those reps in game situations. That's what we try to do with D.J. and George during the first half of the game. "

On the play of rookie QB Matt Mauck

"I think he did pretty good. He stepped up and made a couple plays that he didn't make earlier. That's really valuable experience for that third-team quarterback as you're competing, because you don't get a lot of reps in game situations. So it's nice to see him get some playing time and nice to see him make some plays on the run and scramble."

On the best thing that has happened in the preseason

"The best thing is we're ready to start the season. The three preseason games are over with and now we're ready to go. So I'm looking forward to the challenge. We have a lot of good players and a lot of character people. Now we have to come together as a team and get ready for Kansas City."

On it being harder to keep an edge with a fifth preseason game

"Anytime you don't play 22 or 23 guys, you're telling your team that this is not a very important game. But it's very important to these young guys trying to make the team. So it's good for the coaching staff to have that extra game and it's good for our young players to see them compete. I told our team, 'That game's on me.' But I told the offense at the end of the first half that it was embarrassing to play at that level regardless of who you're playing against because you have to play as a group. But I thought we stepped up and played better in the second half."

On if he is concerned about anything after the preseason

"You're concerned about everything. Anytime you look at a game situation, you look at special teams, offense and defense. The bottom line is that we're ready to go. It's time to tee it up and get ready for Kansas City. You always question if you should've played starters more and what you should've done. But, I feel very good about where we're at. I feel bad about Adrian Madise, obviously with him breaking a hand. But you never know, with these preseason games, who may go down. But for the most part, we're fairly healthy. We know what happened last week. I don't think we lost anybody who started for us, but obviously a close backup. But we're fairly healthy and hopefully we're ready to go."

On the play of the special teams unit

"Anytime you're not (seeing) 21 or 22 guys that play offense or defense, then the special teams are a little bit different as well. It's not an excuse, it's just reality. But we did that to evaluate some of our players, and hopefully it will help us get to the top 53 without too many mistakes."

BRONCOS HEAD COACH MIKE SHANAHAN

Mike Shanahan in 2004 completes a full decade as head coach of the Denver Broncos, and that decade of measurement against the game's all-time coaches places him among the pro football elite. He comes into 2004 needing just two wins to join the exclusive club of head coaches to post 100 wins in the first 10 seasons with one club, and the coming season will provide an almost weekly graphic of Shanahan's dramatic rise on that chart. The group that Mike Shanahan will join is listed below.

COACHES WITH 100 WINS FOR ONE TEAM THROUGH THE FIRST 10 SEASONS WITH THAT TEAM (including playoffs)

	Years	Wins by Season			SB WINS
		Reg	Post	TOTAL	
Joe Gibbs, Washington	1981-1990	101	12	113	2
John Madden, Raiders	1969-1978	103	9	112	1
Don Shula, Miami	1970-1979	104	8	112	2
George Seifert, San Francisco	1989-1996	98	10	108	2
Mike Ditka, Chicago	1982-1991	101	6	107	1
Marv Levy, Buffalo	1986-1995	96	11	107	0
Bud Grant, Minnesota	1967-1976	98	8	106	0
Bill Cowher, Pittsburgh	1992-2001	99	6	105	0
Marty Schottenheimer, K.C.	1989-1998	101	3	104	0
Bill Walsh, San Francisco	1979-1988	92	10	102	3
Dennis Green, Minnesota	1992-2001	97	4	101	0
Coming into 10th season:					
Mike Shanahan, Broncos	1995-2003	91	7	98	2

No head coach in the NFL has won more games than Mike Shanahan's 98 victories since the start of the 1995 season. Those 98 wins by Shanahan include seven straight in the playoffs (he is the only coach to have produced seven playoff wins in two years) during the 1997 and 1998 World Championship seasons, years in which he firmly established himself among the game's sideline greats. His postseason percentage of .700, on a 7-3 record, is second only to Vince Lombardi (9-1, .900) among coaches with more than five playoff victories.

Under Shanahan's guidance, Denver has: Posted the most wins in pro football history in a two-year period (33 in 1997-98); posted the most wins in pro football history in a three-year period (46 in 1996-98); won the most postseason games ever in a two-year period (seven, 1997-98); won 18 straight games over 1997-98 to tie the all-time NFL record for consecutive wins; been undefeated for three straight regular seasons at home (1996-98), just the second team ever to do so; and posted a 22-2 record in its last 24 games during the back-to-back title years.

He produced consecutive Super Bowl titles, three straight 13-plus win seasons (including postseason), and two AFC West titles from 1996-98. Shanahan led Denver to a 14-2 regular season mark and a 3-0 postseason mark in 1998, taking the Broncos back to the victorious Super Bowl glory they experienced in 1997. In his third season with the Broncos in 1997, Shanahan not only led the Broncos back to the Super Bowl for the first time in eight years, but he directed them to their first ever Super Bowl victory. Only Red Miller (1st year) in 1977 got a Broncos' team to the Super Bowl faster than Shanahan did.

In his 10th year with Denver, he has fashioned a franchise-record regular season home mark of 56-16 (.778), a regular season mark of 91-53 (.632), and an overall mark of 98-56 (.636). His NFL record as a head coach in regular season play is 99-65 (.604) and his overall record is 106-68 (.609).

Over the last 12 years (ninth in Denver and the previous three in San Francisco) Mike Shanahan's offenses have finished number one in the NFL four times, second twice and third twice; in two of those campaigns Denver was just 17 yards and 83 yards short of the number one spot.

In 1998 the defending world champions stormed to their second straight title with an offense that scored 501 points and finished third in the NFL in total yards, while the defense had another spectacular postseason, allowing just 25 points and two touchdowns while sparking a remarkable 13-1 turnover ratio in the playoffs.

In 1997 he directed a Denver offense that scored a total of 583 points (29.2 per game) during the entire 1997 season, the fifth highest total in NFL history and the second highest total in AFC history for a combined regular and postseason. Of course, in 1998 Shanahan's Broncos topped that mark by producing 596 regular and postseason points. The all-time high of 636 points came from the 1994 World Champion San Francisco 49ers, for whom Shanahan was the offensive coordinator.

He led his team to a 12-4 regular season record in 1997, marking the first time in franchise history that the team won 12 or more games in back-to-back seasons.

During his NFL career, Shanahan has been a part of teams that have played in nine conference Championship Games, in addition to his six Super Bowl appearances (three victories), five with Denver and Super Bowl XXIX with San Francisco. In his 26 seasons as a pro and college coach, Shanahan's teams have participated in postseason or bowl games 21 times. Shanahan is a graduate of Eastern Illinois University, and also has a master's degree from that institution.

CHIEFS HEAD COACH DICK VERMEIL

Dick Vermeil was named the ninth head coach in Chiefs history on January 12, 2001 following head coaching stints with Philadelphia ('76-82) and St. Louis ('97-99). He is one of just four coaches in NFL history to lead two different teams to the Super Bowl and has twice been named NFL Coach of the Year.

The Calistoga, California native began his NFL coaching career with the L.A. Rams ('69, '71-73) serving as the team's special teams, RBs, and QBs coach and offensive coordinator. During his tenure as head coach in Philadelphia ('76-82), he compiled a 54-47 record. In '78, Vermeil guided the Eagles to their first playoff appearance in 12 years. He then led the '80 Eagles to a 12-4 record to earn a trip to Super Bowl XV.

Vermeil returned to the sidelines as the head coach of St. Louis for three seasons ('97-99), guiding the Rams to a 13-3 record in '99, concluding the year with a win in Super Bowl XXXIV. A standout quarterback at San Jose State from '63-65, Vermeil served as an assistant at Stanford ('65-68) and UCLA ('70) before taking over the head coaching duties for the Bruins from '74-75.

BRONCOS CHAMPIONS IN THE COMMUNITY

Safety John Lynch will visit the Denver Broncos Boys and Girls Club on Tuesday, Sept. 7 to kick off the "Lynch's Leaders Program." The six-month long leadership program is a partnership between the Denver Broncos and The John Lynch Foundation that brings in a variety of Denver's leaders in business, education, politics, and the community to speak to select junior and senior high youth from all of the six Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Denver. All 120 Lynch's Leaders participants

were all invited to attend a Broncos home game in a luxury suite in addition to their participation in the program.

The Sept. 12 season-opener vs. Kansas City will be dedicated to increasing prostate cancer awareness in collaboration with the Prostate Cancer Education Council. Pro Bowl linebacker Al Wilson has been the spokesperson for the PCEC in Denver for the past four years. Wilson's involvement has helped to raise awareness of the disease and encourage men to get tested for this treatable form of cancer. Prostate Cancer Awareness Week is Sept. 19-25 and free screening sites can be found on www.pcaaw.com or by calling (303) 316-4695.

DENVER BRONCOS 2004 WEEK 1 NOTES

SHANAHAN EXCELS IN OPENERS

Head Coach Mike Shanahan has a 9-2 (.818) record in regular-season openers, including 7-2 with the Broncos. He ranks first among active NFL coaches (minimum of five games) in winning percentage.

TOP OPENING DAY RECORDS AMONG ACTIVE COACHES IN NFL (min. 5 games)

Head Coach, Team(s)	Record	Pct.
1. Mike Shanahan, Denver/Oakland	9-2	.818
2. Tom Coughlin, N.Y. Giants/Jax	6-2	.750
3. Jeff Fisher, Tennessee	6-3	.667
4. Tony Dungy, Indianapolis/Tampa Bay	5-3	.625
5. Dick Vermeil, Kansas City/St. Louis	8-5	.615

BRONCOS HAVE 4TH BEST OPENING DAY RECORD

The Broncos have compiled a **28-15-1 (.651) opening day record** since 1960, which ranks fourth among NFL teams. Take away franchises who have played less than 10 years, and the Broncos rank second behind Dallas (30-13-1, .698). Below is a list of the NFL's top 10 opening game records.

TOP 10 OPENING DAY RECORDS, NFL

Team	Record	Pct.
1. Houston Texans	2-0-0	1.000
2. Jacksonville Jaguars	6-3-0	.667
3. Dallas Cowboys	30-13-1	.698
4. Denver Broncos	28-15-1	.651
5. New York Giants	40-27-4	.597
6. Miami Dolphins	22-15-1	.595
7. Chicago Bears	40-30-1	.571
Minnesota Vikings	24-18-1	.571
9. Kansas City Chiefs	25-19-0	.568
San Diego Chargers	25-19-0	.568

In addition, the Broncos have won **12 of their past 15** season openers, and **are 27-6-1 (.809) in home openers since 1970.**

BRONCOS STRONG IN SEASON'S FIRST MONTH

Getting off to a fast start is important in the NFL. In the past 10 years, 16 teams have a combined record of .500 or better through their first four games, and those teams have combined for 80 playoff appearances and accounted for nine of the 10 Super Bowl Champions over that period. The Broncos rank among those top teams. Denver holds the second best record in

the first month of the season over the past 10 years at 29-11 (.725), just one game behind Miami (30-10, .750).

TOP 5 OPENING MONTH RECORDS, NFL

Team	Record	Pct.
1. Miami Dolphins	30-10	.750
2. Denver Broncos	29-11	.725
3. Green Bay Packers	28-12	.675
4. Kansas City Chiefs	27-13	.675
5. Minnesota	25-15	.625

ROAD WARRIORS

The Denver Broncos have 10 total road games in 2004, including three preseason games. The team will travel a total of 24,044 miles in the air, which is the sixth most by any NFL team. Below is a look at the league's top travelers:

TOTAL 2004 AIR MILES TRAVELED (preseason and regular season)

Team	Miles
1. San Francisco	35,756
2. Seattle	29,956
3. Arizona	27,622
4. Miami	26,244
5. San Diego	24,842
6. Denver	24,044

BRONCOS TOPS IN THE AFC SINCE FREE AGENCY BEGAN (1993)

Since the league's current free-agent system began in 1993, the Broncos have been extremely successful. In fact, the team has the AFC's best record, 107-69 (.608), and rank third overall. Below is a look at the NFL's top teams since free agency began:

NFL'S WINNINGEST TEAMS SINCE FREE AGENCY BEGAN (1993)

Team	Record	Playoff Appearances	Super Bowl Wins
1. Green Bay	117-59 (.665)	9	1
2. San Francisco	110-66 (.625)	8	1
3. Denver	107-69 (.608)	6	2
4. Kansas City	105-71 (.597)	5	0
Miami	105-71 (.597)	7	0

BRONCOS POSTED POTENT RUSHING ATTACK

After impressive efforts by Denver's running backs and offensive line, the Broncos rush offense posted some impressive numbers in 2003. Denver **set a franchise record with 2,629 total rushing yards**, finished second all-time with a 4.84 yards per carry average and finished third all-time in total rushes.

MOST RUSHING YARDS IN A SEASON, BRONCOS

Rushing Yards	Year
1. 2,629 yards	2003
2. 2,468 yards	1998
3. 2,451 yards	1978
4. 2,378 yards	1997
5. 2,362 yards	1996

BEST AVERAGE GAIN PER RUSH IN A SEASON, BRONCOS

Rushing Yards	Att.	Avg.	Year
1. 2,266 yards	457	4.96	2002
2. 2,629 yards	543	4.84	2003
3. 2,468 yards	525	4.70	1998
4. 2,378 yards	520	4.57	1997
5. 1,995 yards	440	4.53	1995

MOST TOTAL RUSHES IN A SEASON, BRONCOS

Total Rushes	Year
1. 601 rushes	1978
2. 554 rushes	1989
3. 543 rushes	2003
4. 525 rushes	1998
525 rushes	1996

100-YARDS AND RUNNING

The Broncos have won 29 of their last 35 games, including four straight, when a running back rushes for 100 yards or more. Denver had a streak of 20 straight, but it was snapped when it lost 37-30 in overtime at San Diego (12/1/02) after Clinton Portis rushed for 159 yards. But, the Broncos' streak of 28 straight wins at home when a running back tops the 100-yard mark was snapped by New England (11/3). Clinton Portis rushed for 111 yards in the team's 30-26 loss.

BRONCOS' WINS WHEN A RUNNING BACK TOPS 100-YARDS

Player	Yards	Opponent	Result
1. Terrell Davis	178 yards	Seattle (12/27/98)	W 28-21
2. Olandis Gary	124 yards	Green Bay (10/17/99)	W 31-10
3. Olandis Gary	108 yards	at San Diego (11/7/99)	W 33-17
4. Olandis Gary	183 yards	Seattle (12/19/99)	W 36-30
5. Olandis Gary	185 yards	at Detroit (12/25/99)	W 17-7
6. Mike Anderson	131 yards	Atlanta (9/10/00)	W 42-14
7. Mike Anderson	187 yards	at Oakland (9/17/00)	W 33-24
8. Mike Anderson	103 yards	Cleveland (10/15/00)	W 44-10
9. Terrell Davis	115 yards	at N.Y. Jets (11/5/00)	W 30-23
10. Mike Anderson	195 yards	at Seattle (11/26/00)	W 38-31
11. Mike Anderson	251 yards	at New Orleans (12/3/00)	W 38-23
12. Mike Anderson	131 yards	Seattle (12/10/00)	W 31-24
13. Terrell Davis	101 yards	N.Y. Giants (9/10/01)	W 31-20
14. Mike Anderson	155 yards	Kansas City (10/7/01)	W 20-6
15. Mike Anderson	118 yards	at Dallas (11/22/01)	W 26-24
16. Terrell Davis	109 yards	Seattle (12/9/01)	W 20-7
17. Clinton Portis	103 yards	Buffalo (9/22/02)	W 28-23
18. Clinton Portis	102 yards	San Diego (10/6/02)	W 26-9
19. Clinton Portis	111 yards	at New England (10/27/02)	W 24-16
20. Clinton Portis	136 yards	at Seattle (11/17/02)	W 31-9
Clinton Portis	159 yards	at San Diego (12/1/02)	L 37-30 OT
Clinton Portis	103 yards	at New York (12/8/02)	L 13-19
21. Clinton Portis	130 yards	Kansas City (12/15/02)	W 31-24
22. Clinton Portis	228 yards	Arizona (12/29/02)	W 37-7
23. Clinton Portis	120 yards	at Cincinnati (9/7/03)	W 30-10
24. Clinton Portis	129 yards	at San Diego (9/14/03)	W 37-13
Clinton Portis	141 yards	at Kansas City (10/5/03)	L 23-24
Clinton Portis	117 yards	at Minnesota (10/19/03)	L 20-28
Clinton Portis	111 yards	vs. New England (11/3/03)	L 26-30
25. Clinton Portis	106 yards	vs. San Diego (11/16/03)	W 37-8
Clinton Portis	165 yards	vs. Chicago (11/23/03)	L 10-19
26. Clinton Portis	170 yards	at Oakland (11/30/03)	W 22-8
27. Clinton Portis	218 yards	vs. Kansas City (12/7/03)	W 45-27
28. Clinton Portis	139 yards	vs. Cleveland (12/14/03)	W 23-20 OT
29. Quentin Griffin	136 yards	at Indianapolis (12/21/03)	W 31-17

DENVER TOUTED NFL'S NO. 4 DEFENSE IN '03; LOOK TO SOAR EVEN HIGHER IN 2004

The Broncos ranked as the NFL's No. 4 defense behind Dallas, Buffalo and Baltimore. Denver allowed just 277.1 total yards a game (4,433), while the Cowboys allowed only 253.5, Buffalo 269.6 and Baltimore 271.3.

Team	Total	Rush	Pass	Total	Rush	Pass
1. Dallas	4,056	1,425	2,631	253.5	89.1	164.4
2. Buffalo	4,313	1,606	2,707	269.6	100.4	169.2
3. Baltimore	4,341	1,536	2,805	271.3	96.0	175.3
4. Denver	4,433	1,605	2,828	277.1	100.3	176.8
5. T.B.	4,466	1,756	2,710	279.1	109.8	169.4

And, look for the Broncos to be even stronger on defense in 2004. With the offseason additions of Pro Bowlers Champ Bailey (cornerback), John Lynch (safety) and Luther Elliss (defensive tackle), and the Broncos' first-round draft pick D.J. Williams (linebacker), Denver is poised to take it to the next level. Below is a look at the projected starting defensive unit compared to 2003.

2003 Starters

LE 93 Trevor Pryce
LT 68 Mario Fatafehi
RT 90 Darius Holland
RE 92 Bertrand Berry
SLB 51 John Mobley (7) 57 Jashon Sykes (9)
MLB 56 Al Wilson
WLB 52 Ian Gold (6) 59 Donnie Spragan (8)
LCB 35 Lenny Walls
RCB 31 Kelly Herndon (11) 24 Deltha O'Neal (4)
FS 25 Nick Ferguson (6) 42 Sam Brandon (10)
SS 28 Kenoy Kennedy

2004 Projected Starters

LE 93 Trevor Pryce
LT 68 Mario Fatafehi
RT 94 Luther Elliss
RE 99 Raylee Johnson
SLB 59 Donnie Spragan
MLB 56 Al Wilson
WLB 52 D.J. Williams
LCB 24 Champ Bailey
RCB 31 Kelly Herndon
FS 47 John Lynch
SS 28 Kenoy Kennedy

OPPONENTS FOUND IT TOUGH ON 3RD DOWN

One of the main areas the Broncos' defense wanted to improve from last year was on third down. And improve they have. At season's end, Denver ranked third in the NFL in third-down defense at 29.5 percent. Opponents only converted 61 of 207 attempts, and only allowed 241 total first downs, which ranked second in the NFL.

NFL THIRD-DOWN DEFENSE RANKINGS, 2003

Team	MADE-ATT	PCT.
1. Tennessee	51-184	27.7
2. Baltimore	69-235	29.4
3. Denver	61-207	29.5
4. Dallas	69-227	30.4
5. Tampa Bay	68-214	31.8

Additionally, the Broncos set a new franchise record for best third-down defense percentage. The previous high-water mark was in 1991, when opponents only converted 64 of 206 third downs (31.1 percent).

THIRD-DOWN DEFENSE PERCENTAGE, BRONCOS ALL-TIME

Year	Made-ATT	Pct.
1. 2003	61-207	29.5
2. 1991	64-206	31.1
3. 1997	65-207	31.4
4. 1999	64-203	31.5
5. 1977	71-221	32.1

PLUMMER FINISHED FIFTH IN NFL IN PASSING

Quarterback Jake Plummer threw for 2,182 yards on 189 of 302 passes with 15 touchdowns and seven interceptions this season for a passer rating of 91.2 and ranked fourth in the AFC and fifth in the NFL in passing. Below is a list of the NFL's top passers:

2003 NFL LEADERS IN PASSER RATING

	Cmp.	Att.	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD	Int	Rtg.
1. McNair, Steve (TEN)	250	400	3,215	8.0	73	24	7	100.4
2. Manning, Peyton (IND)	379	566	4,267	7.5	79	29	10	99.0
3. Culpepper, Daunte (MIN)	295	454	3,479	7.7	59	25	11	96.4
4. Green, Trent (KC)	330	523	4,039	7.7	67	24	12	92.6
5. Plummer, Jake (DEN)	189	302	2,182	7.2	60	15	7	91.2

PLUMMER PACED HIMSELF

Jake Plummer threw 15 touchdown passes and only seven interceptions last season, and finished with the best touchdown to interception ratio of his career. Plummer's previous best, 18 TDs to 14 INTs, came with Arizona in 1997.

PLUMMER PLAYED THE "RATINGS" GAME

Jake Plummer in 2003—after posting a 21.7 passer rating in the Broncos season-opening win at Cincinnati (9/7)—finished three consecutive games with a passer rating of 116 or better (129.5 vs. San Diego, 128.5 vs. Oakland, 116.9 vs. Detroit). It marked the first time in Broncos history that a quarterback posted at least a 116 passer rating in three straight games, and also the first time in Plummer's career that he posted that high of a number in three straight games.

NO ROOM FOR SACKS

Anchored by center Tom Nalen—who earned his fifth-career trip to the Pro Bowl in 2003—Denver's offensive line only allowed 25 sacks (157 yards), which ranks tied for the fourth-lowest output in Broncos history. The franchise record for fewest sacks allowed in a season is 22 in 1971.

FEWEST SACKS ALLOWED IN A SEASON, BRONCOS

Fewest Sacks	Year
1. 22 sacks	1971
2. 24 sacks	*1982
3. 24 sacks	1965
4. 25 sacks	2003
5. 25 sacks	1998

* - (players' strike; nine-game season)

SHUTOUTS, WE NO NEED NO STINKIN' SHUTOUTS

It's a rare day when the Broncos can't score any points. Denver currently holds the fourth longest current streak in the NFL for consecutive games without being shutout at 181. Below is a list of the top current streaks in the league coming into the 2004 season.

MOST CONSECUTIVE GAMES WITHOUT BEING SHUTOUT, NFL

Team	Games
1. San Francisco	417
2. Minnesota	203
3. Green Bay	198
4. Denver	181

RUMMY .500

By finishing 10-6 in 2003, Denver continued to improve its streak of 59 straight weeks with a .500 or better record, which is the longest current streak in the NFL. Below is a list of the current streaks:

CURRENT STREAKS / CONSECUTIVE WEEKS WITH .500+ RECORD

59	Denver Broncos	10/08/2000 to present
31	Indianapolis Colts	09/08/2002 to present

HOLDING THE OPPONENTS AT BAY

The Broncos held nine of their 15 opponents under 20 points last season. Under Head Coach Shanahan, they are 60-14 (.811) when they hold their opponents under 20 points. In addition, the club is 39-2 (.951) when holding the opponent to 15 points or less, and in that time have not lost when holding the opponent to 10 points or less. Below is a list of the 29 games in which Denver's defense has held the opponent to 10 points or under since 1995, including four times last season (20-0 home and 9-0 on the road).

GAMES IN WHICH THE BRONCOS HAVE HELD THEIR OPPONENTS TO 10 POINTS OR LESS

Sept. 3, 1995	W 22-7	vs. Buffalo
Oct. 8, 1995	W 37-3	at New England
Oct. 16, 1995	W 27-0	vs. Oakland
Nov. 5, 1995	W 38-6	vs. Arizona
Sept. 1, 1996	W 31-6	vs. New York Jets
Sept. 29, 1996	W 14-10	at Cincinnati
Oct. 27, 1996	W 34-7	vs. Kansas City
Nov. 17, 1996	W 34-8	at New England
Dec. 1, 1996	W 34-7	vs. Seattle
Aug. 31, 1997	W 19-3	vs. Kansas City
Nov. 9, 1997	W 34-0	vs. Carolina
Nov. 24, 1997	W 31-3	vs. Oakland
Dec. 21, 1997	W 38-3	vs. San Diego
Nov. 8, 1998	W 27-10	vs. San Diego
Nov. 16, 1998	W 30-7	at Kansas City
Oct. 17, 1999	W 31-10	vs. Green Bay
Dec. 25, 1999	W 17-7	at Detroit
Oct. 8, 2000	W 21-7	at San Diego
Oct. 15, 2000	W 44-10	vs. Cleveland
Dec. 23, 2000	W 38-9	vs. San Francisco
Oct. 7, 2001	W 20-6	vs. Kansas City
Dec. 9, 2001	W 20-7	vs. Seattle
Oct. 6, 2002	W 26-9	vs. San Diego

Nov. 17, 2002	W 31-9	at Seattle
Dec. 29, 2002	W 37-7	vs. Arizona
Sept. 7, 2003	W 30-10	at Cincinnati
Sept. 22, 2003	W 31-10	vs. Oakland
Nov. 16, 2003	W 37-8	vs. San Diego
Nov. 30, 2003	W 22-8	at Oakland

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE

When John Elway was ruling the roost in Denver, comebacks were often times the only thing people talked about. But since Head Coach Mike Shanahan took over the reigns in 1995, the Broncos have learned to not allow the opponents to come back on them. In Shanahan's tenure, the Broncos are 79-12 (.868) in games in which they led after three quarters, which includes 9-3 (.750) in 2003.

BRONCOS RECORD WHEN LEADING AFTER THREE QUARTERS

Year	Record	Pct.
1995	6-1	.857
1996	10-1	.909
1997	12-0	1.000
1998	13-0	1.000
1999	5-2	.714
2000	9-1	.900
2001	7-2	.778
2002	8-2	.800
2003	9-3	.750
Total	79-12	.868

"30" IS THE MAGIC NUMBER, YEAH IT IS

Since Head Coach Mike Shanahan took over the Broncos' coaching reins in 1995, Denver has scored 30 or more points 36 times (twice in postseason) at home, and 20 or more points 61 times (4 times in playoff action) at home in 72 regular season and four playoff games. Including road games, they have scored 30 or more points 59 times (including 3 times in the playoffs) and 20 or more points 111 times in the 136 regular season games and nine postseason games under him. As noted above, Denver's record in the 59 games in which it has scored 30 or more points under Shanahan is an amazing 57-2 (which includes 3-0 in playoff competition), including a 36-0 mark (which includes a 2-0 playoff record) at Mile High Stadium and INVESCO Field at Mile High.

HOME, SWEET HOME

The Broncos have amassed the NFL's best home record since 1974 in the regular season and postseason. Denver also has the most regular season home victories in the league since 1974, and the most victories, regular and postseason, since 1974:

Team	Regular Season	Postseason	Total	Pct.
1. Denver	173-59-1 (.745)	11-2 (.846)	184-61-1	.750
2. Miami	165-64-1 (.720)	11-6 (.647)	176-70-1	.715
3. Pittsburgh	162-69-1 (.700)	14-5 (.700)	176-74-1	.703
4. Dallas	157-76-0 (.674)	14-4 (.778)	171-80-0	.681
5. Washington	147-83-1 (.639)	10-1 (.909)	157-84-1	.651

SHANAHAN BRINGS THE MAGIC BACK TO THE MILE HIGH AREA

Since taking over the coaching reins of the Broncos in 1995, Mike Shanahan has a 56-16 (.778) regular season record at home, the best home winning percentage of any head coach in the Broncos' 42-year history.

HOME WINNING PERCENTAGE, BRONCOS' HEAD COACHES

Head Coach (Years)	Reg. Season	Pct.
1. Mike Shanahan (1995-present)	56-16	.778
2. Dan Reeves (1981-92)	72-21	.774
3. Red Miller (1977-80)	22-9	.710
4. John Ralston (1972-76)	20-13-2	.600
5. Wade Phillips (1993-94)	9-7	.563

SHANAHAN TOPS THE CHART

Broncos' coach Mike Shanahan's nine-year regular season record is currently first among active coaches in the league since 1995:

TOP RECORDS AMONG ACTIVE COACHES IN NFL, 1995-03

Head Coach, Team (s)	Record	Pct.
1. Mike Shanahan, Denver	91-53	.632
2. Mike Holmgren, Green Bay/Seattle	89-55	.618
3. Jeff Fisher, Tennessee	88-56	.611
4. Bill Cowher, Pittsburgh	84-59-1	.587

DENVER STRIKES FAST UNDER SHANAHAN

Since Mike Shanahan became Denver's head coach prior to the start of the 1995 season, the Broncos have not only scored the most points in the first quarter in the NFL, but they also have the biggest point-differential in the first quarter:

BEST FIRST-QUARTER POINT-DIFFERENTIAL SINCE 1995

Team	Differential	Points For	Points Against
1. Denver	+410	875	465
2. Green Bay	+195	666	471
3. Tennessee	+202	719	517

ELAM SET NEW FRANCHISE RECORD

By hitting one of two field goal attempts vs. Chicago (11/23), kicker Jason Elam set a new franchise record with at least one field goal in 16 consecutive games. The streak, came to an end at Oakland (11/23). Elam hit a field goal in the last five games of the 2002 season, and each of the first 11 games last year.

CONSECUTIVE GAMES WITH A FIELD GOAL

16	Jason Elam (12th in '02 - 11th in '03)
15	Rich Karlis (13th in '84 - 11th in '85)
13	Jason Elam (6th in '01 - 2nd in '02)
12	David Treadwell (7th in '91 - 1st in '92)

ELAM FASTEST TO REACH 1,300 CAREER POINTS

With 11 points vs. Cleveland (12/14), Jason Elam surpassed the 1,300 career points mark in just his 170th career game. He is the fastest player in NFL history to score 1,300 career points:

FASTEST TO 1,300 CAREER POINTS, NFL HISTORY

Name	Games Needed
1. Jason Elam	170 games
2. Nick Lowery (KC)	188 games
3. Gary Anderson (Pit, Phi, SF, Min)	191 games

Additionally, with 12 points in the Broncos' season opener, Jason Elam went over the 1,200 career points plateau in just his 157th career game. He is the fastest player in NFL history to score 1,200 career points:

FASTEST TO 1,200 CAREER POINTS, NFL HISTORY

Name	Games Needed
1. Jason Elam	157 games
2. Gary Anderson (Pit, Phi, SF, Min)	174 games
3. Nick Lowery (KC)	175 games

ELAM RANKS SECOND ALL-TIME WITH 31 50+-YARD FIELD GOALS

The 51-yard field goal by Elam in Denver's 23-20 (OT) win vs. Cleveland (12/14/03) was the 31st of his career (regular season). He currently ranks second all-time in field goals of 50+-yards.

CAREER FIELD GOALS OF 50+-YARDS, ALL-TIME

Name	50+-Yard Field Goals
1. Morten Andersen (NO, ATL, NYG, KC)	40
2. Jason Elam (Denver)	31
3. Jason Hanson (DET)	25
4. John Kasay (SEA, CAR)	23
5. Nick Lowery, (KC, NYJ)	22
6. Eddie Murray (DET, KC, TB, DAL, PHI, WAS, MIN)	21
Al Del Greco (GB, STL, PHO, HOU/TEN)	21

ELAM THIRD IN CAREER 100-POINT SEASONS

Kicker Jason Elam continued to move up in the NFL's record books. With 11 points against Cleveland (12/14), he moves into a tie for third among all-time kickers in 100-point seasons with 11.

NFL'S CAREER LEADERS IN 100-POINT SEASONS

Name	100-pt Seasons	Years Played
1. Morten Andersen	14	1928-Present
Gary Anderson (TEN)	14	1982-2002
3. Jason Elam	11	1993-Present
Nick Lowery	11	1980-1996
5. Norm Johnson	9	1982-1999
Pete Stoyanovich	9	1989-2000

ELAM SET NFL RECORD

Kicker Jason Elam's 11 points vs. Cleveland (12/14) put him over the 100 point mark to become the first player in NFL history with 100 points in each of his first 11 seasons.

ELAM IS 1ST IN CAREER PAT PCT.

Elam is the NFL's leader in career PAT percentage at 99.6 percent (450 of 452):

NFL'S CAREER LEADERS IN PAT PERCENTAGE

Name	Made	Att.	Pct.
1. Jason Elam (DEN)	450	452	99.6
2. Tommy Davis	348	350	99.4
3. Matt Stover (BAL)	401	404	99.3
4. Jeff Wilkins (STL)	367	370	99.2
5. Gary Anderson (TEN)	783	790	99.1

ELAM RANKED WITH AFC'S BEST

Jason Elam finished in fourth place in the AFC among kickers in points with 120 (27 field goals and 39 extra points):

2003 LEADING SCORERS AMONG KICKERS, NFL

Player	Team(s)	Points
1. Mike Vanderjagt	Indianapolis	157 points
2. Matt Stover	Baltimore	134 points
3. Gary Anderson	Tennessee	123 points
4. Jason Elam	Denver	120 points
5. Adam Vinatieri	New England	112 points

ELAM AMONG THE LEADERS

Jason Elam ranks among the league leaders in fields goals made inside 40 yards since he entered the league in 1993:

NFL'S MOST ACCURATE KICKERS INSIDE 40 YARDS SINCE 1993

(ACTIVE PLAYERS; MIN. 150 ATTEMPTS)

Player	Team(s)	FG/FGA	Pct.
1. Jason Hanson	Detroit	170/178	.955
2. Matt Stover	Baltimore/Cleveland	195/205	.951
3. John Kasay	Carolina/Seattle	146/156	.936
4. Morten Andersen	K.C./New Orleans/Atlanta/N.Y.G.	168/180	.933
5. Jason Elam	Denver	192/206	.932
6. John Carney	New Orleans/San Diego	191/206	.927

ELAM AMONG THE LEADERS (PART 2)

Jason Elam ranks first in the NFL in points scored (1,313) and field goals made (288) since entering the league in 1993. Here is a look at the top four in each category:

MOST POINTS SCORED, 1993-2003

Player	Current Team	Points
1. Jason Elam	Denver	1,313
2. Gary Anderson	Tennessee	1,223
3. Matt Stover	Baltimore	1,191
4. Morten Andersen	Kansas City	1,174
5. Jason Hanson	Detroit	1,143

MOST FIELD GOALS MADE, 1993-2003

Player	Current Team	FGs
1. Jason Elam	Denver	288
2. Matt Stover	Baltimore	284
3. John Carney	New Orleans	277
4. Gary Anderson	Tennessee	264
5. Jason Hanson	Detroit	263

A "SCORE" TO SETTLE

In only 11 years, Jason Elam has put up some impressive numbers. He has scored 1,313 career points, which ranks fourth among the league's active leaders. In addition, Elam ranks 19th all-time in league history, and looks to move even higher in 2004. Below is a list of the NFL's top-5 active scorers:

TOP-5 ACTIVE SCORERS, NFL

Player	Yrs	TDs	FGs	PATs	Total Pts
1. Morten Anderson, K.C.	22	0	502	763	2,259
2. John Carney, N.O.	16	0	343	404	1,433
3. Matt Stover, Bal.	13	0	321	401	1,364
4. Jason Elam, Den.	11	0	288	449	1,313
5. Jerry Rice, Oak.	19	205	0	4*	1,238

* - two-point conversions

BRONCOS RECEIVER LOOKING TO MOVE UP

Wide receiver Rod Smith ranks second on the Broncos' all-time career receptions list coming into the 2004 season. With the retirement of Shannon Sharpe, who finished his Broncos' career with 675 receptions for 8,439 yards and 55 touchdowns, Smith can pass Sharpe with just 43 catches this season.

MOST RECEPTIONS BY A BRONCO, CAREER

Player	Rec.	Yards	TDs	Years with Denver
1. Shannon Sharpe	675	8,439	55	1990-99, 02-03
2. Rod Smith	633	8,628	52	1995-Present
3. Lionel Taylor	543	6,872	44	1960-65
4. Ed McCaffrey	462	6,200	46	1995-2003

SMITH LEADS BY EXAMPLE

Wide receiver Rod Smith is widely considered one of the leaders in the locker room, but he is also the team's all-time leader in receiving yards with 8,628 over his 10-year career.

MOST RECEIVING YARDS BY A BRONCO, CAREER

Player	Yards	Rec.	TDs	Years with Den.
1. Rod Smith	8,628	633	52	1995-Present
2. Shannon Sharpe	8,439	675	55	1990-99, 02-03
3. Lionel Taylor	6,872	543	44	1960-65

TOUCHDOWN FEVER

Wide receiver Rod Smith, who ranks No. 1 in receiving yards and No. 2 in catches, has a chance this season to become the Broncos' all-time leader in all the major receiving categories. He needs just four receiving touchdowns this year to pass former tight end Shannon Sharpe, who caught 55 touchdowns in a Broncos uniform. Below is a sample of the all-time Top-5:

MOST RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS BY A BRONCO

Player	TD Receptions	Years
1. Shannon Sharpe	55	1990-99, 02-03
2. Rod Smith	52	1995-Present
3. Ed McCaffrey	46	1995-03
4. Haven Moses	44	1972-81
Lionel Taylor	44	1960-66

SMITH 8TH AMONG ACTIVE PASS CATCHERS

Rod Smith has been one of the NFL's most productive wide outs in his 10 seasons in Denver. Coming into 2004, Smith ranks eighth among active pass catchers in receptions (633). What makes it more impressive, is the fact that only one receiver who ranks ahead of him (Marvin Harrison, Ind.), has played less seasons in the NFL than Smith. When the total is based on catches per season, Smith ranks fifth at 70.3.

TOP 10 ACTIVE PASS RECEIVERS, NFL

Player	Yrs	Rec.	Yds	TD
1. Jerry Rice, Oak	19	1,519	22,466	194
2. Tim Brown, T.B.	16	1,070	14,734	99
3. Marvin Harrison, Ind.	8	759	10,072	83
4. Keenan McCardell, T.B.	12	724	9,370	52
5. Jimmy Smith, Jac.	10	718	10,092	55
6. Isaac Bruce, St.L	10	688	10,461	68
7. Marshall Faulk, St.L	10	673	6,274	34
8. Rod Smith, Den.	9	633	8,628	52
9. Ricky Proehl, Car.	14	607	7,910	50
10. Keyshawn Johnson, Dal.	8	603	7,936	48

BRONCOS WIDEOUT ON A STREAK

Rod Smith owns the franchise record with 76 straight games with at least one catch, after posting at least one reception in all 15 games he played a year ago. Former wide out Ed McCaffrey previously held the franchise-record streak of 68 straight games, but it came to an end in the Broncos' season opener at Cincinnati last year. Below is a look at the Broncos' longest streaks:

MOST CONSECUTIVE GAMES WITH A RECEPTION, BRONCOS

Player	Consec. Games	Years of Streak
1. Rod Smith	76	1999-Present
2. Ed McCaffrey	68	1997-2003
3. Lionel Taylor	62	1960-64
4. Shannon Sharpe	60	1995-99
5. Steve Watson	49	1983-86

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN 2004

• The Broncos look to extend their NFL-best home record of 184-61-1 (173-59-1 regular season) since 1974. The regular season victories and total victories are the most in the NFL over that period.

HEAD COACH MIKE SHANAHAN

• Needs to win nine games in 2004 to reach 100 regular-season coaching victories faster than any coach in franchise history. Dan Reeves, the only other coach with as many wins, took 166 games to win his 100th. Shanahan enters 2004 with a 91-53 record (144 games) in the regular season.

KICKER JASON ELAM

• Needs 52 points to move past Matt Stover (1,364; active) for 18th place, 53 points to pass Fred Cox (1,365) for 17th place, 65 points to pass Steve Christie (1,377; active) for 16th place, 68 points to pass Jim Bakken (1,380) for 15th place, 70 points to pass Mark Moseley (1,382) for 14th place and 121 points to pass Matt Bahr (1,422) for 13th place on the NFL's all-time top scorers list.

QUARTERBACK JAKE PLUMMER

• Needs 610 yards passing to pass John McCormick (2,791) for 10th place, 1,426 to pass Mickey Slaughter (3,607) for ninth place, 1,638 to pass Steve DeBerg (3,819) for eighth place, 2,972 to pass Steve Tensi (5,153) for seventh place and 4,256 to pass Steve Ramsey (6,437) for sixth place on Denver's all-time passing yards list.

• Needs 19 completions to pass John McCormick (207) for 10th place, 103 to pass Mickey Slaughter (291) for ninth place, 126 to pass Steve DeBerg (314) for eighth place, 160 to pass Steve Tensi (348) for seventh place and 268 to pass Steve Ramsey (456) for sixth place on the Broncos' all-time completions list.

• Needs 235 attempts to pass John McCormick (537) for 10th place, 245 to pass Steve DeBerg (546) for ninth place and 283 to pass Mickey Slaughter (584) for eighth place on Denver's all-time passing attempts list.

• Needs three touchdowns to pass John McCormick (17) for 10th place, eight to pass Mickey Slaughter and Steve DeBerg (22) for eighth place, 21 to pass Steve Ramsey (35) for seventh place and 24 to pass Steve Tensi (38) for sixth place on the Broncos' all-time touchdown passes list.

DEFENSIVE END TREVOR PRYCE

• Needs five sacks to move past Lyle Alzado (64.5) for fifth place and 14 to pass Rulon Jones (73.5) for fourth place all-time in career sacks by a Bronco.

WIDE RECEIVER ROD SMITH

• Needs 43 catches to move past Shannon Sharpe (675) for first place all-time in receptions by a Bronco.

• Needs four touchdowns to move past Shannon Sharpe (55) for first place on the Broncos' all-time touchdown receptions list.

• Needs to score 11 touchdowns to pass Terrell Davis (65) for first place on Denver's all-time career touchdowns scored list.

• Needs 627 yards (rushing/receiving/returns) to move past Rick Upchurch (10,081) into second place all-time on Denver's Most Combined Yardage list. Floyd Little is in first place with 12,157 yards.

• Needs to score five points to pass Shannon Sharpe (336) for seventh place and 65 points to move past Terrell Davis (396) for sixth place all-time in career points scored by a Bronco.

• Needs 67 receptions to reach the 700 for his career. Seventeen NFL players have reached this numbers, with only two active players ranked ahead of him (Isaac Bruce, STL, with 688, and Marshall Faulk, STL, with 673).

• Needs 57 catches to move past Terrance Mathis (689) for 19th place and 67 to pass Gary Clark (699) for 18th place in NFL History for career receptions.

• Every game he catches a pass in this season will increase his franchise record for consecutive games with a reception (76).



FINAL 2004 PRESEASON GAME-BY-GAME OFFENSIVE STARTERS

GAME	WR	LT	LG	C	RG	RT	TE	WR	QB	RB	FB
vs. Wash.	Smith	Lepis	Hamilton	Nalen	Neil	Foster	Chamberlain	Lelie	Plummer	Griffin	Droughns
at Buffalo	Smith	Lepis	Hamilton	Nalen	Neil	Foster	Chamberlain	Lelie	Plummer	Griffin	Droughns
at Seattle	Smith	Lepis	Hamilton	Nalen	Neil	Foster	Watts (WR)	Lelie	Plummer	Griffin	Droughns
vs. Houston	Smith	Lepis	Hamilton	Nalen	Neil	Foster	Chamberlain	Hape (TE)	Plummer	Griffin	Droughns
vs. Arizona	Jackson	Carswell	P. Alexander	Watton	Carlisle	Foster	Chamberlain	Luke	Kanell	Bell	Hape (TE)

FINAL 2004 PRESEASON GAME-BY-GAME DEFENSIVE STARTERS

GAME	LE	LT	RT	RE	WLB	MLB	SLB	LCB	RCB	SS	FS
vs. Wash.	Coleman	Fatafehi	Pryce	R. Johnson	Spragan	Wilson	Sykes	Bailey	Herndon	Kennedy	Lynch
at Buffalo	Pryce	Holland	Elliss	R. Johnson	Williams	Wilson	Spragan	Bailey	Herndon	Kennedy	Lynch
at Seattle	Pryce	Pope	Elliss	R. Johnson	Williams	Wilson	Spragan	Bailey	Herndon	Kennedy	Lynch
vs. Houston	Pryce	Pope	Elliss	R. Johnson	Williams	Wilson	Middlebrooks (CB)	Bailey	Herndon	Kennedy	Lynch
vs. Arizona	Hayward	Fatafehi	Pope	McNeal	Williams	Chukwurah	Sykes	Middlebrooks	Walls	Young	Brandon

DENVER'S PRESEASON RECORD WAS...

0-0	when leading after 1st quarter	0-0	when Denver passes for 300 yards
1-1	when leading after 2nd quarter	0-0	when opponent passes for 300 yards
2-0	when leading after 3rd quarter	0-0	when playing in domes
1-2	when trailing after 1st quarter	2-3	when playing outdoors
1-2	when trailing after 2nd quarter	1-2	when playing on an artificial surface
0-3	when trailing after 3rd quarter	1-1	when playing on natural grass
1-0	when Denver scores first	1-3	when winning the coin toss
1-3	when opponent scores first	1-0	when losing the coin toss
0-0	when tied at the half	1-1	when scoring 20 or more points
2-1	when Denver rushes for 100 yards	0-2	when yielding 20 or more points
1-2	when opponent rushes for 100 yards	0-0	in overtime games
1-0	when winning turnover margin	0-3	when losing turnover margin

FINAL 2004 BRONCOS PRESEASON TURNOVER RATIO

Opponent	Interceptions	GIVEAWAYS		Interceptions	TAKEAWAYS		Difference	Result
		Fumbles	Total		Fumbles	Total		
vs. Washington	3	0	3	0	1	1	-2	L
at Buffalo	2	0	2	1	0	1	-1	L
at Seattle	0	0	0	0	0	0	E	W
vs. Houston	1	0	1	1	1	2	+1	W
vs. Arizona	0	2	2	0	0	0	-2	L
TOTALS	6	2	8	2	2	4	-4	2-3



FINAL 2004 PRESEASON INDIVIDUAL SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

BRONCOS

YARDS RUSHING.....	120, Mike Anderson, at Seattle (8/21/04)
RUSHING ATTEMPTS	21, Mike Anderson, at Seattle (8/21/04)
RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS.....	1, Five Players; most recent: Tatum Bell & Bradlee Van Pelt, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)
YARDS PASSING	194, Matt Mauck, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)
PASS ATTEMPTS	22, Matt Mauck, vs. Arizona (9/2/04) and Jake Plummer, vs. Houston (8/27/04)
PASS COMPLETIONS.....	13, Matt Mauck, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)
TOUCHDOWN PASSES	2, Danny Kanell, vs. Houston (8/27/04)
PASSES HAD INTERCEPTED	2, Jake Plummer, at Buffalo (8/15/04) and Matt Mauck, vs. Washington (8/9/04)
RECEPTIONS.....	5, Four Players; most recent: Charlie Adams and Nate Jackson, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)
RECEIVING YARDS	84, Charlie Adams, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)
RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS	1, Four Players; most recent: Nate Jackson, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)
TOTAL YARDS FROM SCRIMMAGE.....	127, Mike Anderson, at Seattle (8/21/04)
FIELD GOALS	4, Jason Elam, at Seattle (8/21/04)
TACKLES	9, Sam Brandon, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)
INTERCEPTIONS	1, Bryant McNeal, vs. Houston (8/27/04) and Willie Middlebrooks, at Buffalo (8/15/04)
SACKS	2, Mario Fatafehi, vs. Arizona (9/2/04) and Trevor Pryce, vs. Houston (8/27/04)
LONGEST RUN FROM SCRIMMAGE.....	27, Quentin Griffin, vs. Washington (8/9/04)
LONGEST PASS COMPLETION	74, Danny Kanell to Triandos Luke (TD) , vs. Houston (8/27/04)
LONGEST PASS RECEPTION	74, Triandos Luke (TD) from Danny Kanell, vs. Houston (8/27/04)
LONGEST INTERCEPTION RETURN.....	15, Willie Middlebrooks, at Buffalo (8/15/04)
LONGEST PUNT RETURN	22, Triandos Luke, vs. Washington (8/9/04)
LONGEST KICKOFF RETURN	46, Reuben Droughns, at Seattle (8/21/04)
LONGEST PUNT	55, Micah Knorr, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)
LONGEST FIELD GOAL.....	47, Jason Elam, vs. Washington (8/9/04)

OPPONENTS

YARDS RUSHING.....	79, Tony Hollings, vs. Houston (8/27/04)
RUSHING ATTEMPTS	13, Tony Hollings, vs. Houston (8/27/04) and Willis McGahee, at Buffalo (8/15/04)
RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS.....	1, Four Players; most recent: Larry Croom and Josh Scobey, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)
YARDS PASSING	156, Seneca Wallace, at Seattle (8/21/04)
PASS ATTEMPTS	26, Seneca Wallace, at Seattle (8/21/04)
PASS COMPLETIONS.....	12, Seneca Wallace, at Seattle (8/21/04)
TOUCHDOWN PASSES	1, David Carr, vs. Houston (8/27/04) and Tim Hasselbeck, vs. Washington (8/9/04)
PASSES HAD INTERCEPTED	1, David Carr, vs. Houston (8/27/04) and Drew Bledsoe, at Buffalo (8/15/04)
RECEPTIONS.....	5, Reggie Newhouse, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)
RECEIVING YARDS	69, Reggie Newhouse, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)
RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS	1, Derick Armstrong, vs. Houston (8/27/04) and Gari Scott, vs. Washington (8/9/04)
TOTAL YARDS FROM SCRIMMAGE.....	80, Tony Hollings, vs. Houston (8/27/04)
FIELD GOALS	4, Neil Rackers, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)
TACKLES	8, Michael Boulware, at Seattle (8/21/04) and Kahry Campbell, vs. Washington (8/9/04)
INTERCEPTIONS	2, Sean Taylor, vs. Washington (8/9/04)
SACKS	2, Calvin Pace, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)
LONGEST RUN FROM SCRIMMAGE.....	30, Troy Hambrick, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)
LONGEST PASS COMPLETION	47, David Carr to Corey Bradford, vs. Houston (8/27/04)
LONGEST PASS RECEPTION	47, Corey Bradford from David Carr, vs. Houston (8/27/04)
LONGEST INTERCEPTION RETURN.....	9, Bryan Pittman, vs. Houston (8/27/04)
LONGEST PUNT RETURN	39, Karl Williams, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)
LONGEST KICKOFF RETURN	33, Josh Reed, at Buffalo (8/15/04)
LONGEST PUNT	69, Kevin Stemke, vs. Washington (8/9/04)
LONGEST FIELD GOAL.....	57, Neil Rackers, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)



FINAL 2004 PRESEASON BRONCOS SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

BRONCOS	HIGHS	LOWS
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	24, at Seattle (8/21/04)	16, at Buffalo (8/15/04)
TOTAL NET YARDS	422, vs. Houston (8/27/04)	275, at Buffalo (8/15/04)
TOTAL OFFENSIVE PLAYS	78, at Seattle (8/21/04)	58, at Buffalo (8/15/04)
NET YARDS RUSHING	206, at Seattle (8/21/04)	93, at Buffalo (8/15/04)
RUSHING ATTEMPTS	43, at Seattle (8/21/04)	19, at Buffalo (8/15/04)
NET YARDS PASSING	293, vs. Houston (8/27/04)	179, at Seattle (8/21/04)
PASS ATTEMPTS	41, vs. Washington (8/9/04)	32, vs. Houston (8/27/04)
PASS COMPLETIONS	25, vs. Washington (8/9/04)	17, at Seattle (8/21/04) and at Buffalo (8/15/04)
PASSES HAD INTERCEPTED	3, vs. Washington (8/9/04)	0, vs. Arizona (9/2/04) and at Seattle (8/21/04)
TIMES SACKED	3, vs. Washington (8/9/04) & at Buffalo (8/15/04)	0, vs. Houston (8/27/04)
PUNTS	7, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)	2, at Buffalo (8/15/04)
GROSS PUNTING AVERAGE	46.5, at Buffalo (8/15/04)	34.6, vs. Washington (8/9/04)
NET PUNTING AVERAGE	45.5, at Buffalo (8/15/04)	29.4, vs. Washington (8/9/04)
PUNT RETURNS	5, at Seattle (8/21/04)	0, at Buffalo (8/15/04)
PUNT RETURN YARDS	46, vs. Washington (8/9/04)	-6, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)
KICKOFF RETURNS	5, at Buffalo (8/15/04)	2, at Seattle (8/21/04)
KICKOFF RETURN YARDS	110, vs. Washington (8/9/04)	66, at Seattle (8/21/04)
INTERCEPTION RETURNS	1, vs. Houston (8/27/04) and at Buffalo (8/15/04)	0, Three times; most recent: vs. Arizona (9/2/04)
INTERCEPTION RETURN YARDS	15, at Buffalo (8/15/04)	0, Three times; most recent: vs. Arizona (9/2/04)
PENALTIES	13, vs. Washington (8/9/04)	5, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)
YARDS PENALIZED	118, vs. Washington (8/9/04)	34, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)
FUMBLES	3, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)	0, vs. Washington (8/9/04) & at Buffalo (8/15/04)
FUMBLES LOST	2, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)	0, Four times; most recent; vs. Houston (8/27/04)
SACKS MADE	5.0, at Seattle (8/21/04)	0, vs. Washington (8/9/04)
FUMBLES FORCED	4, vs. Houston (8/27/04)	0, at Seattle (8/21/04)
FUMBLES RECOVERED	1, vs. Houston (8/27/04) vs. Washington (8/9/04)	0, Three times; most recent: vs. Arizona (9/2/04)
TIME OF POSSESSION	38:50, at Seattle (8/21/04)	22:44, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)

FINAL 2004 PRESEASON OPPONENT SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

OPPONENT	HIGHS	LOWS
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	22, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)	11, vs. Washington (8/9/04)
TOTAL NET YARDS	337, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)	183, at Seattle (8/21/04)
TOTAL OFFENSIVE PLAYS	71, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)	51, at Seattle (8/21/04)
NET YARDS RUSHING	187, vs. Houston (8/27/04)	49, at Seattle (8/21/04)
RUSHING ATTEMPTS	38, at Buffalo (8/15/04)	13, at Seattle (8/21/04)
NET YARDS PASSING	210, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)	123, at Buffalo (8/15/04)
PASS ATTEMPTS	33, at Seattle (8/21/04)	23, at Buffalo (8/15/04)
PASS COMPLETIONS	19, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)	14, at Seattle (8/21/04) & vs. Washington (8/9/04)
PASSES HAD INTERCEPTED	1, vs. Houston (8/27/04) and at Buffalo (8/15/04)	0, Three times; most recent: vs. Arizona (9/2/04)
TIMES SACKED	5, at Seattle (8/21/04)	0, vs. Washington (8/9/04)
PUNTS	8, vs. Houston (8/27/04)	3, at Buffalo (8/15/04)
GROSS PUNTING AVERAGE	46.2, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)	37.3, at Buffalo (8/15/04)
NET PUNTING AVERAGE	43.4, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)	36.6, vs. Houston (8/27/04) and at Seattle (8/21/04)
PUNT RETURNS	5, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)	1, at Buffalo (8/15/04)
PUNT RETURN YARDS	66, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)	2, at Buffalo (8/15/04)
KICKOFF RETURNS	7, vs. Houston (8/27/04)	2, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)
KICKOFF RETURN YARDS	164, vs. Houston (8/27/04)	19, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)
INTERCEPTION RETURNS	3, vs. Washington (8/9/04)	0, vs. Arizona (9/2/04) and at Seattle (8/21/04)
INTERCEPTION RETURN YARDS	9, vs. Houston (8/27/04)	0, vs. Arizona (9/2/04) and at Seattle (8/21/04)
PENALTIES	9, vs. Washington (8/9/04)	4, at Seattle (8/21/04)
YARDS PENALIZED	71, vs. Washington (8/9/04)	30, vs. Houston (8/27/04)
FUMBLES	4, vs. Houston (8/27/04)	0, at Seattle (8/21/04)
FUMBLES LOST	1, vs. Houston (8/27/04) and vs. Wash. (8/9/04)	0, Three times; most recent: vs. Arizona (9/2/04)
SACKS MADE	3, vs. Washington (8/9/04) & at Buffalo (8/15/04)	0, vs. Houston (8/27/04)
FUMBLES FORCED	3, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)	0, vs. Washington (8/9/04) & at Buffalo (8/15/04)
FUMBLES RECOVERED	2, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)	0, Four times; most recent; vs. Houston (8/27/04)
TIME OF POSSESSION	37:16, vs. Arizona (9/2/04)	21:10, at Seattle (8/21/04)


LONGEST SCORING DRIVES OF 2004 PRESEASON
Most Plays:

Broncos: 15 (at Buffalo, Aug. 15, FG, 70 yds., 7:24)
 Opponent: 16 (at Buffalo, Aug. 15, FG, 82 yds., 11:21)

Most Yards:

Broncos: 85 (vs. Houston, Aug. 27, TD, 10 plays, 5:21)
 Opponent: 82 (at Buffalo, Aug. 15, FG, 16 plays, 11:21)

Most Time:

Broncos: 7:52 (at Seattle, Aug. 21, FG, 13 plays, 67 yds)
 Opponent: 11:21 (at Buffalo, Aug. 15, FG, 16 plays, 82 yds)

FINAL 2004 PRESEASON SACK CHART

Team (13.0) — 3.0, Patrick Chukwurah; 2.0, Mario Fatafehi; 2.0, Trevor Pryce; 1.0, Darius Holland; 1.0, Raylee Johnson; 1.0, Louis Green; 1.0, Reggie Hayward; 1.0, Johnny Rutledge; 1.0, Donnie Spragan.

SHORTEST SCORING DRIVES OF 2004 PRESEASON
Fewest Plays:

Broncos: 1 (vs. Houston, Aug. 27, TD, 74 yds, 0:21)
 Opponent: 4 (Three times; most recent: vs. Arizona, Sept. 2, FG, 14 yds, 0:29)

Fewest Yards:

Broncos: -1 (vs. Houston, Aug. 27, FG, 5 plays, 2:47)
 Opponent: 3 (vs. Arizona, Sept. 2, FG, 4 plays, 2:19)

Fewest Time:

Broncos: 0:21 (vs. Houston, Aug. 27, TD, 1 play, 74 yds)
 Opponent: 0:29 (vs. Arizona, Sept. 2, FG, 4 plays, 14 yds)

FINAL 2004 PRESEASON INTERCEPTION CHART

Team (2) — 1, Bryant McNeal; 1, Willie Middlebrooks.



THE LAST TIME...

(Reflects the last time each individual statistic occurred)
(2004 performances boldfaced; Super Bowl performances in Italics)

100 YARDS RUSHING:

Broncos: Q. Griffin, 28-136, at Indianapolis, 12/21/03
Playoffs: Terrell Davis, 25-102, vs. Atlanta, 1/31/99
Opponents: Jamal Lewis, 32-134, 1 TD, at Baltimore, 10/26/03
Playoffs: Jamal Lewis, 30-110, 2 TD, at Baltimore, 12/31/00

200 YARDS RUSHING:

Broncos: Clinton Portis, 22-218, 5 TD, vs. Kansas City, 12/7/03
Playoffs: Has never happened
Opponents: Ahman Green, 20-218, 2 TD, at Green Bay, 12/28/03
Playoffs: Tim Smith, 23-204, 2TD, vs. Washington, 1/31/88

TWO 100-YARD RUSHERS:

Broncos: Otis Armstrong (116) and Norris Weese (120), at Chicago, 12/8/76
Playoffs: Terrell Davis (184) and Derek Loville (103), vs. Jacksonville, 12/27/97
Opponents: Curt Warner (126) and John L. Williams (109), at Seattle, 12/11/88
Playoffs: Has never happened

100-YARD RUSHER AND 100-YARD RECEIVER:

Broncos: Quentin Griffin (136) and Ashley Lelie (115), at Indianapolis, 12/21/03
Playoffs: Terrell Davis (102) and Rod Smith (152), vs. Atlanta, 1/31/99
Opponents: Priest Holmes (161) and Dante Hall (143), Kansas City, 12/15/02
Playoffs: Tim Smith (204) and Ricky Sanders (193), vs. Washington, 1/31/88

100-YARD RUSHER AND TWO 100-YARD RECEIVERS:

Broncos: Mike Anderson (103), Rod Smith (111) and Ed McCaffrey (129), vs. Cleveland, 10/15/00
Playoffs: Has never happened
Opponents: Has never happened
Playoffs: Has never happened

100-YARD RUSHER, 300-YARD PASSER, 100-YARD RECEIVER:

Broncos: Clinton Portis (102), Brian Griese (316), Ed McCaffrey (113), vs. San Diego, 10/6/02
Playoffs: Terrell Davis (102), John Elway (336), Rod Smith (152), vs. Atlanta, 1/31/99
Opponents: Priest Holmes (161), Trent Green (310) and Dante Hall (143), Kansas City, 12/15/02
Playoffs: Tim Smith (204), Doug Williams (340), Ricky Sanders (193), vs. Washington, 1/31/88

100-YARD RUSHER, 300-YARD PASSER AND TWO 100-YARD RECEIVERS:

Broncos: Mike Anderson (103), Brian Griese (336), Rod Smith (111) and Ed McCaffrey (129), vs. Cleveland, 10/15/00
Playoffs: Has never happened
Opponents: Has never happened
Playoffs: Has never happened

100-YARD RUSHER AND 300-YARD PASSER:

Broncos: Clinton Portis (102) and Brian Griese (316), vs. San Diego, 10/6/02
Playoffs: Terrell Davis (102) and John Elway (336), vs. Atlanta, 1/31/99
Opponents: Priest Holmes (161) and Trent Green (310), Kansas City, 12/15/02
Playoffs: Tim Smith (204) and Doug Williams (340), vs. Washington, 1/31/88

100-YARD RECEIVER AND 300-YARD PASSER:

Broncos: Shannon Sharpe (214) and Brian Griese (376), at Kansas City, 10/20/02
Playoffs: Rod Smith (152) and John Elway (336), vs. Atlanta, 1/31/99
Opponents: Dante Hall (124) and Trent Green (397), vs. Kansas City, 12/7/03
Playoffs: Brandon Stokley (144), Marvin Harrison (133) and Peyton Manning (377), at Indianapolis, 1/4/04

TWO 100-YARD RECEIVERS AND 300-YARD PASSER:

Broncos: Rod Smith (187), Ed McCaffrey (148) and Gus Frerotte (462), vs. San Diego, 11/19/00
Playoffs: Has never happened
Opponents: Joe Horn (170), Robert Wilson (122) and Aaron Brooks (441), at New Orleans, 12/3/00
Playoffs: Brandon Stokley (144), Marvin Harrison (133) and Peyton Manning (377), at Indianapolis, 1/4/04

THREE 100-YARD RECEIVERS AND 300-YARD PASSER:

Broncos: Has never happened
Playoffs: Has never happened
Opponents: Marshall Faulk (100), Torry Holt (103), Az-Zahir Hakim (116) and Kurt Warner (441), vs. St. Louis, 9/4/00
Playoffs: Has never happened

TWO RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS:

Broncos: Jake Plummer, 6-22, 2 TD, at Indianapolis, 12/21/03
Playoffs: Howard Griffith, 4-9, 2 TD, vs. Atlanta, 1/31/99
Opponents: Ahman Green, 20-218, 2 TD, at Green Bay, 12/28/03
Playoffs: Jamal Lewis, 30-110, 2 TD, at Baltimore, 12/31/00

THREE RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS:

Broncos: Clinton Portis, 22-218, 5 TD, vs. Kansas City, 12/7/03
Playoffs: Terrell Davis, 30-157, 3 TD, vs. Green Bay, 1/25/98
Opponents: LaDainian Tomlinson, 37-220, 3 TD, at San Diego, 12/18/02
Playoffs: Napoleon McCallum, 13-81, 3 TD, at L.A. Raiders, 1/9/94

FOUR RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS:

Broncos: Clinton Portis, 22-218, 5 TD, vs. Kansas City, 12/7/03
Playoffs: Has never happened
Opponents: Curt Warner, 23-126, 4 TD, at Seattle, 12/11/88
Playoffs: Has never happened

FIVE RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS:

Broncos: Clinton Portis, 22-218, 5 TD, vs. Kansas City, 12/7/03
Playoffs: Has never happened
Opponents: Has never happened
Playoffs: Has never happened

300 YARDS PASSING:

Broncos: Brian Griese, 30-50, 376 yds., 2 TD, 0 INT, at Kansas City, 10/20/02
Playoffs: John Elway, 18-29, 336 yds., 1 TD, 1 INT, vs. Atlanta, 1/31/99
Opponents: Trent Green, 34-47, 397 yds., 1 TD, 0 INT, vs. Kansas City, 12/7/03
Playoffs: Peyton Manning, 22-26, 377 yds., 5 TD, 0 INT, at Indianapolis, 1/4/04

400 YARDS PASSING:

Broncos: Gus Frerotte, 36-58, 462 yds., 5 TD, 4 INT, vs. San Diego, 11/19/00
Playoffs: Has never happened
Opponents: Aaron Brooks, 30-48, 441 yds., 2 TD, 2 INT, at New Orleans, 12/3/00
Playoffs: Has never happened

THREE TOUCHDOWN PASSES:

Broncos: Jake Plummer, 23-34, 253 yds., 3 TD, vs. San Diego, 11/16/03
John Elway, 29-47, 302 yds., 3 TD, 1 INT, at L.A. Raiders, 1/9/94
Opponents: Tom Brady, 20-35, 350 yds., 3 TD, 1 INT, vs. New England, 11/3/03
Playoffs: Peyton Manning, 22-26, 377 yds., 5 TD, 0 INT, at Indianapolis, 1/4/04

FOUR TOUCHDOWN PASSES:

Broncos: Gus Frerotte, 36-58, 462 yds., 5 TD, 4 INT, vs. San Diego, 11/19/00
Playoffs: Has never happened
Opponents: Drew Bledsoe, 18-27, 271 yds., 4 TD, 1 INT, vs. New England, 10/1/00
Playoffs: Peyton Manning, 22-26, 377 yds., 5 TD, 0 INT, at Indianapolis, 1/4/04

FIVE TOUCHDOWN PASSES:

Broncos: Gus Frerotte, 36-58, 462 yds., 5 TD, 4 INT, vs. San Diego, 11/19/00
Playoffs: Has never happened
Opponents: John Hadl, 21-35, 325 yds., 5 TD, vs. San Diego, 12/1/68
Playoffs: Peyton Manning, 22-26, 377 yds., 5 TD, 0 INT, at Indianapolis, 1/4/04

SIX TOUCHDOWN PASSES:

Broncos: Has never happened
Playoffs: Has never happened
Opponents: Len Dawson, 23-38, 435 yds., 6 TD, at Kansas City, 11/1/64
Playoffs: Has never happened

100 YARDS RECEIVING:

Broncos: Ashley Lelie, 5-115, at Indianapolis, 12/21/03
Playoffs: Rod Smith, 5-152, TD, vs. Atlanta, 1/31/99
Opponents: Dennis Northcutt, 3-115, vs. Cleveland, 12/14/03
Playoffs: Brandon Stokley, 4-144, 2TD, and Marvin Harrison, 7-133, 2 TD, at Indianapolis, 1/4/04

200 YARDS RECEIVING:

Broncos: Shannon Sharpe, 12-214, 2 TD, at Kansas City, 10/20/02
Playoffs: Has never happened
Opponents: Torrance Small, 6-200, 2 TD, vs. New Orleans, 12/24/94
Playoffs: Has never happened

TWO 100-YARD RECEIVERS:

Broncos: Rod Smith (187) and Ed McCaffrey (148), vs. San Diego, 11/19/00
Playoffs: Has never happened
Opponents: Joe Horn (170) and Robert Wilson (122), at New Orleans, 12/3/00
Playoffs: Brandon Stokley, 4-144, 2 TD, and Marvin Harrison, 7-133, 2TD, at Indianapolis, 1/4/04

TWO RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS:

Broncos: Shannon Sharpe, 7-101, 3 TD, vs. San Diego, 11/16/03
Playoffs: Clarence Kay, 4-105, 2 TD, vs. Houston, 1/10/88
Opponents: Dante Hall, 5-143, 2 TD, Kansas City, 12/15/02
Playoffs: Brandon Stokley, 4-144, 2 TD and Marvin Harrison, 7-133, 2 TD, at Indianapolis, 1/4/04

THREE RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS:

Broncos: Shannon Sharpe, 7-101, 3 TD, vs. San Diego, 11/16/03
Playoffs: Has never happened
Opponents: Lamar Thomas, at Miami, 6-136, 3 TD, 12/21/98
Playoffs: Jerry Rice, 7-148, 3 TD, vs. San Francisco, 1/28/90

**FOUR RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS:**

Broncos: Has never happened
 Playoffs: Has never happened
 Opponents: Lance Alworth, 9-171, 4 TD, vs. San Diego, 12/1/68
 Playoffs: Has never happened

TWO INTERCEPTIONS:

Broncos: Deltha O'Neal, vs. San Diego, 10/6/02
 Playoffs: *Darrien Gordon*, vs. *Atlanta*, 1/31/99
 Opponents: Reggie Tongue, at Seattle, 10/14/01
 Playoffs: David Macklin, at Indianapolis, 1/4/04

THREE INTERCEPTIONS:

Broncos: Deltha O'Neal (4), vs. Kansas City, 10/7/01
 Playoffs: Has never happened
 Opponents: Mark Kelso, at Buffalo, 12/12/92
 Playoffs: Has never happened

FOUR INTERCEPTIONS:

Broncos: Deltha O'Neal, vs. Kansas City, 10/7/01
 Playoffs: Has never happened
 Opponents: Has Never Happened
 Playoffs: Has never happened

TWO SACKS:

Broncos: Bertrand Berry (3), vs. Kansas City, 12/7/03
 Playoffs: Neil Smith (2) and Alfred Williams (2), at Kansas City, 1/4/98
 Opponents: Gerard Warren (2), vs. Cleveland, 12/14/03
 Playoffs: Michael McCrary (3), at Baltimore, 12/31/00

THREE SACKS:

Broncos: Bertrand Berry (3), vs. Kansas City, 12/7/03
 Playoffs: Has never happened
 Opponents: Trace Armstrong (3), at Oakland, 12/22/02
 Playoffs: Michael McCrary, at Baltimore, 12/31/00

FOUR SACKS:

Broncos: Simon Fletcher, at San Diego, 11/11/90
 Playoffs: Has never happened
 Opponents: Michael Sinclair, at Seattle, 9/8/96
 Playoffs: Has never happened

TWO OPPONENT FUMBLE RECOVERIES:

Broncos: Bill Romanowski, at Seattle, 9/8/96
 Playoffs: Has never happened
 Opponents: Terry McDaniel, vs. Los Angeles Raiders, 9/18/94
 Playoffs: *Randy Hughes*, vs. *Dallas*, 1/15/78

SHUTOUT ON ROAD:

by Broncos: Denver 12, at Cleveland 0, 9/27/92
 Playoffs: Has never happened
 by Opponents: at L.A. Raiders 24, Denver 0, 11/22/92
 Playoffs: Has never happened

SHUTOUT AT HOME:

by Broncos: at Denver 34, vs. Carolina 0, 11/9/97
 Playoffs: Has never happened
 by Opponents: Has never happened
 Playoffs: Has never happened

OVERTIME WIN AWAY FROM DENVER:

Broncos: Denver 37, at Kansas City 34, 10/20/02
 Playoffs: Denver 23, at Cleveland 20, 1/11/87
 Opponents: at San Diego 30, Denver 27, 12/1/02
 Playoffs: Has never happened
 TIE: Denver 17, at Green Bay 17, 9/20/87

OVERTIME WIN IN DENVER:

Broncos: at Denver 23, Cleveland 20, 12/14/03
 Playoffs: Has never happened
 Opponents: Indianapolis 23, at Denver 20, 11/24/02
 Playoffs: Has never happened
 TIE: at Denver 35, Pittsburgh 35, 9/22/74

40 POINTS:

Broncos: at Denver 45, Kansas City 27, 12/7/03
 Playoffs: at Denver 42, Jacksonville 17, 12/27/97
 Opponents: at St. Louis 41, Denver 36, 9/4/00
 Playoffs: at Indianapolis 41, Denver 10, 1/4/04

50 POINTS:

Broncos: at Denver 50, San Diego 34, 10/6/63
 Playoffs: Has never happened
 Opponents: at Indianapolis 55, Denver 24, 10/31/88
 Playoffs: San Francisco 55, Denver 10, 1/28/90

TWO-POINT CONVERSION:

Broncos: Clinton Portis run, at Oakland, 11/30/03
 Playoffs: Terrell Davis run, vs. Jacksonville, 1/4/97
 Opponents: Doug Flutie pass to Stephen Alexander, vs. San Diego, 11/16/03
 Playoffs: Has never happened

THREE FIELD GOALS:

Broncos: Jason Elam, vs. Cleveland, 12/14/03
 Playoffs: Jason Elam vs. N.Y. Jets, 1/17/99
 Opponents: Paul Edinger (4), vs. Chicago, 11/24/03
 Playoffs: Mike Hollis, vs. Jacksonville, 1/4/97

FOUR FIELD GOALS:

Broncos: Jason Elam, vs. Miami, 10/13/02
 Playoffs: Has never happened
 Opponents: Paul Edinger, vs. Chicago, 11/24/03
 Playoffs: Has never happened

FIVE FIELD GOALS:

Broncos: Jason Elam, vs. Miami, 10/13/02
 Playoffs: Has never happened
 Opponents: Mike Vanderjagt, at Indianapolis, 1/6/02
 Playoffs: Has never happened

SIX FIELD GOALS:

Broncos: Has never happened
 Playoffs: Has never happened
 Opponents: Gary Anderson, at Pittsburgh, 10/23/88
 Playoffs: Has never happened

PUNT RETURN FOR A TOUCHDOWN:

Broncos: Rod Smith, 65 yds., vs. San Diego, 11/16/03
 Playoffs: Has never happened
 Opponents: Dante Hall, 93 yds., at Kansas City, 10/5/03
 Playoffs: Has never happened

KICKOFF RETURN FOR A TOUCHDOWN:

Broncos: Deltha O'Neal, 87 yds., vs. New England, 10/1/00
 Playoffs: Has never happened
 Opponents: Ronney Jenkins, 88 yds., at San Diego, 10/21/01
 Playoffs: *Tim Dwight*, 94 yds., vs. *Atlanta*, 1/31/99

INTERCEPTION RETURN FOR A TOUCHDOWN:

Broncos: Ian Gold, 12 yds., at Cincinnati, 9/7/03
 Playoffs: Has never happened
 Opponents: Gary Brackett, 31 yds., at Indianapolis, 12/21/03
 Playoffs: Carlton Bailey, at Buffalo, 1/12/92

FUMBLE RETURN FOR A TOUCHDOWN:

Broncos: Chester McGlockton, 24 yds., vs. Buffalo, 9/22/02
 Playoffs: Neil Smith, 79 yds., vs. Miami, 1/9/99
 Opponents: Marcus Wilkins, 0 yds. (in end zone), at Green Bay, 12/28/03
 Playoffs: Has never happened

MISSED FIELD GOAL RETURN FOR A TOUCHDOWN:

Broncos: Has never happened
 Playoffs: Has never happened
 Opponents: Chris McAlister, 108 yds., at Baltimore, 9/30/02
 Playoffs: Has never happened

BLOCKED PUNT:

Broncos: Jashon Sykes, at Indianapolis, 12/21/03
 Playoffs: Has never happened
 Opponents: O.J. Santiago, at Oakland, 11/30/03
 Playoffs: Blake Spence, vs. New York Jets, 1/17/99

BLOCKED PUNT RETURN FOR A TOUCHDOWN:

Broncos: Ian Gold, vs. Oakland, 11/13/00
 Playoffs: Has never happened
 Opponents: Alex Bannister, at Seattle, 10/14/01
 Playoffs: Travis Davis, 29 yds., vs. Jacksonville, 12/27/97

BLOCKED FIELD GOAL:

Broncos: Trevor Pryce, at San Diego, 12/1/02
 Playoffs: Has never happened
 Opponents: Anthony Dorsett, at Oakland, 11/5/01
 Playoffs: Has never happened

BLOCKED FIELD GOAL RETURN FOR A TOUCHDOWN:

Broncos: Louis Wright, 60 yds., vs. San Diego, 11/17/85
 Playoffs: Has never happened
 Opponents: Cornelius Bennett, 80 yds., at Buffalo, 9/30/90
 Playoffs: Has never happened

MISSED POINT-AFTER-TOUCHDOWN ATTEMPT:

Broncos: Jason Elam (hit left upright), vs. Indianapolis, 11/24/02
 Playoffs: Jason Elam (Blocked by Clyde Simmons), vs. Jacksonville, 1/4/97
 Opponents: Jason Hanson (kick short), vs. Detroit, 9/28/03
 Playoffs: Has never happened

SAFETY:

Broncos: Punt fumbled out of bounds in end zone, vs. New England, 11/3/03
 Playoffs: Tony Eason sacked in the end zone by Rulon Jones, vs. New England, 1/4/87
 Opponents: Punt blocked out of bounds in end zone, at Oakland, 11/30/03
 Playoffs: Mike Horan runs out of endzone, vs. Cleveland, 1/17/88



KICKER JASON ELAM – vs. KANSAS CITY

	Gms	W/L	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Total	Pct.	XM/XA	Pct.	Pts.
9-20-93	P	L	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	.000	1-1	1.000	1
12-12-93	P	W	0-0	0-0	1-1	0-0	1-1	0-0	2-2	1.000	3-3	1.000	9
10-17-94	P	L	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	.000	4-4	1.000	4
12-4-94	P	W	0-0	0-0	2-2	0-0	0-0	0-0	2-2	1.000	2-2	1.000	8
10-22-95	P	L	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	.000	1-1	1.000	1
12-17-95	P	L	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-1	0-0	0-0	1-1	1.000	2-2	1.000	5
9-22-96	P	L	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-2	.000	2-2	1.000	2
10-27-96	P	W	0-0	1-1	0-0	1-2	0-0	0-0	2-3	.667	4-4	1.000	10
8-31-97	P	W	0-0	1-1	2-2	0-0	1-1	0-0	4-4	1.000	1-1	1.000	13
11-16-97	P	L	0-0	2-2	3-3	0-0	0-1	0-0	5-6	.833	1-1	1.000	16
11-16-98	P	W	0-0	0-0	1-1	2-2	0-0	0-0	3-3	1.000	3-3	1.000	12
12-6-98	P	W	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1	.000	5-5	1.000	5
9-19-99	P	L	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-1	0-0	1-1	1.000	1-1	1.000	4
12-5-99	P	L	0-0	0-0	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-1	1.000	1-1	1.000	4
12-17-00	P	L	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1	.000	1-1	1.000	1
10-7-01	P	W	0-0	1-1	0-0	1-1	0-0	0-0	2-2	1.000	2-2	1.000	8
12-16-01	P	L	0-0	0-0	2-2	1-2	0-0	0-0	3-4	.750	2-2	1.000	11
10-20-02	P	W	0-0	1-1	2-2	0-0	0-0	0-0	3-3	1.000	4-4	1.000	13
12-15-02	P	W	0-0	0-0	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-1	1.000	4-4	1.000	7
10-5-03	P	L	0-0	2-2	0-0	1-1	0-1	0-0	3-4	.750	2-2	1.000	11
12-7-03	P	W	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-1	0-0	0-0	1-1	1.000	6-6	1.000	9
TOTALS	21	10-11	0-0	8-8	15-18	8-10	3-6	0-0	34-42	.810	52-52	1.000	154

POSTSEASON

1-4-98	P	W	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0.00	2-2	1.000	2
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RUNNING BACK GARRISON HEARST – vs. KANSAS CITY

	RUSHING							RECEIVING				
	G/S	W/L	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
10-1-95*	1-1	L	15	54	3.6	20	0	1	-5	-5.0	-5	0
11-30-97*	1-1	L	7	85	12.1	45	0	0	0	0.0	—	0
11-10-02*	1-1	W	15	69	4.6	17	1	3	21	7.0	9	0
TOTALS	3-3	1-2	37	208	5.6	45	1	4	16	4.0	9	0

* - with Arizona &- with San Francisco

DEFENSIVE END RAYLEE JOHNSON – vs. KANSAS CITY

	G/S	W/L	UT	A	TT	S-Yds	I-Yds	PD	FF	FR
10-9-94*	1-0	W	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
11-13-94*	1-0	W	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
10-9-95*	1-0	L	2	0	2	1-12	0-0	1	1	0
11-12-95*	1-0	L	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
9-29-96*	1-0	W	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
11-24-96*	1-0	W	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
10-16-97*	1-0	L	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
12-14-97*	1-0	L	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
9-20-98*	1-0	L	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
11-22-98*	1-1	W	1	2	3	0.5-4	0-0	0	0	0
10-3-99*	1-1	W	2	0	2	1-7	0-0	0	1	0
10-31-99*	1-1	L	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
11-4-01*	1-1	L	1	1	2	0.5-3	0-0	0	0	0
12-23-01*	1-1	L	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
10-13-02*	1-1	W	4	0	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
12-22-02*	1-1	L	2	0	2	1-5	0-0	0	0	0
9-7-03*	1-1	L	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
TOTALS	17-8	7-10	19	4	23	4-31	0-0	1	2	0

* - with San Diego



SAFETY KENOY KENNEDY – vs. KANSAS CITY

	<u>G/S</u>	<u>W/L</u>	<u>UT</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>TT</u>	<u>S-Yds</u>	<u>I-Yds</u>	<u>PD</u>	<u>FF</u>	<u>FR</u>
12-17-00	1-0	L	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
10-7-01	1-1	W	6	3	9	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
12-16-01	1-1	L	5	4	9	1-11	0-0	0	0	0
12-15-02	1-1	W	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
12-7-03	1-1	W	8	2	10	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
TOTALS	5-4	3-2	21	11	32	1-11	0-0	2	0	0

WIDE RECEIVER ASHLEY LELIE – vs. KANSAS CITY

	RECEIVING							RUSHING				
	<u>G/S</u>	<u>W/L</u>	<u>Att.</u>	<u>Yds.</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>LG</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>Att.</u>	<u>Yds.</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>LG</u>	<u>TD</u>
10-20-02	1-0	W	3	33	11.0	21	0	1	24	24.0	0	0
12-15-02	1-0	W	2	68	34.0	40	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
10-5-03	1-1	L	3	36	12.0	21	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
12-7-03	1-0	W	1	7	7.0	7	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
TOTALS	4-1	3-1	9	144	16.0	40	0	0	0	0.0	0	0

QUARTERBACK JAKE PLUMMER – vs. KANSAS CITY

	PASSING											RUSHING				
	<u>G-S</u>	<u>W/L</u>	<u>Att.</u>	<u>Cmp.</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>INT</u>	<u>LG</u>	<u>S/Yds</u>	<u>RTG</u>	<u>Att</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>LG</u>	<u>TD</u>
11-29-98*	1-1	L	37	20	250	54.1	1	2	40	5/36	61.8	1	8	8.0	8	0
10-21-01*	1-1	W	25	16	228	64.0	1	0	49	0-0	106.8	3	20	6.7	15	0
12-1-02*	1-1	L	31	14	88	45.2	0	3	15	2/10	12.6	0	0	0.0	—	0
10-5-03	1-1	L	38	20	220	52.6	1	0	21	0/0	78.8	3	22	7.3	11	0
12-7-03	1-1	W	29	20	238	69.0	1	0	30	0/0	105.2	3	10	3.3	9	0
TOTALS	5-5	2-3	160	90	1,024	56.3	4	5	49	7/46	70.9	10	60	6.0	15	0

* - with Arizona

DEFENSIVE END/TACKLE TREVOR PRYCE – vs. KANSAS CITY

	<u>G/S</u>	<u>W/L</u>	<u>UT</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>TT</u>	<u>S-Yds</u>	<u>I-Yds</u>	<u>PD</u>	<u>FF</u>	<u>FR</u>
11-16-97	1-0	L	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
11-16-98	1-1	W	2	1	3	1-10	0-0	0	0	0
12-6-98	1-1	W	3	1	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
9-19-99	1-1	L	1	3	4	0-0	1-0	0	0	0
12-5-99	1-1	L	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
9-24-00	1-1	L	3	0	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
12-17-00	1-1	L	4	1	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
10-7-01	1-1	W	4	0	4	1-4	0-0	0	0	0
12-16-01	1-1	L	4	1	5	1-3	0-0	0	0	0
10-20-02	1-1	W	5	0	5	2-17	0-0	0	0	0
12-15-02	1-1	W	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
10-5-03	1-1	L	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
12-7-03	1-1	W	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
TOTALS	13-12	6-7	32	11	43	5-34	1-0	0	0	0

POSTSEASON

1-4-98	1-0	W	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
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WIDE RECEIVER ROD SMITH – vs. KANSAS CITY

	RECEIVING							RUSHING				
	G/S	W/L	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
10-22-95	1-0	L	0	0	0.0	—	0	0	0	0.0	—	0
12-17-95	1-0	L	1	10	10.0	10	0	0	0	0.0	—	0
10-27-96	1-0	W	2	22	11.0	12	0	0	0	0.0	—	0
8-31-97	1-1	W	5	122	24.4	78	0	0	0	0.0	—	0
11-16-97	1-1	L	7	114	16.3	43	0	1	-13	-13.0	-13	0
11-16-98	1-1	W	5	50	10.0	20	0	1	7	7.0	7	0
12-6-98	1-1	W	8	165	20.6	58	0	0	0	0.0	—	0
12-5-99	1-1	L	8	106	13.3	34	0	0	0	0.0	—	0
9-24-00	1-1	L	8	134	16.8	25	0	0	0	0.0	—	0
12-17-00	1-1	L	6	101	16.8	34	0	0	0	0.0	—	0
10-7-01	1-1	W	8	110	13.8	32	1	0	0	0.0	—	0
12-16-01	1-0	L	8	100	12.5	21	1	0	0	0.0	—	0
10-20-02	1-1	W	7	92	13.1	29	0	0	0	0.0	—	0
12-15-02	1-1	W	3	83	27.7	46	0	0	0	0.0	—	0
10-5-03	1-1	L	8	130	16.3	20	0	0	0	0.0	—	0
12-7-03	1-1	W	7	85	12.1	20	0	2	32	16.0	23	0
TOTALS	16-12	8-8	91	1,424	15.6	78	2	4	26	6.5	23	0
POSTSEASON												
1-4-98	1-1	W	2	19	9.5	17	0	0	0	0.0	0	0

LINEBACKER AL WILSON – vs. KANSAS CITY

	G/S	W/L	UT	A	TT	S-Yds	I-Yds	PD	FF	FR
9-19-99	1-0	L	8	1	9	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
12-5-99	1-1	L	4	4	8	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
9-24-00	1-1	L	4	2	6	1.5-5	0-0	2	0	0
12-17-00	1-1	L	11	4	15	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
10-7-01	1-1	W	4	0	4	1-10	0-0	1	0	0
12-16-01	1-1	L	6	1	7	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
10-20-02	1-1	W	17	3	20	1-5	0-0	0	0	0
12-15-02	1-1	W	12	4	16	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
10-5-03	1-1	L	5	4	9	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
12-7-03	1-1	W	6	0	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
TOTALS	10-9	4-6	77	23	100	3.5-20	0-0	5	0	0

DENVER BRONCOS FINAL 2004 PRESEASON TEAM STATISTICS (2-3)

Date	W-L	Score	OT	Opponent	Attendance	Rushing	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
08/09	L	17-20		at Washington	22,177	Griffin	42	199	4.7	27	1
08/15	L	6-16		at Buffalo	49,645	Anderson	34	163	4.8	14	1
08/21	W	19-3		at Seattle	47,641	Bell	27	92	3.4	21	1
08/27	W	31-17		Houston	71,256	Hearst	12	62	5.2	9	0
09/02	L	21-33		Arizona	71,986	Galloway	6	29	4.8	16	0

	Denver	Opponent	Rushing	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Total First Downs	103	84	Griffin	42	199	4.7	27	1
Rushing	43	28	Watts	1	13	13.0	13	0
Passing	54	41	Mauck	3	9	3.0	13	0
Penalty	6	15	Quinn	3	8	2.7	4	0
3rd Down: Made/Att	27/70	24/67	Madise	1	4	4.0	4	0
3rd Down Pct.	38.6%	35.8%	Luke	1	2	2.0	2	0
4th Down: Made/Att	4/5	1/2	Kanell	1	0	0.0	0	0
4th Down Pct	80.0%	50.0%	Team	145	632	4.4	27	5
Possession Avg	30:38	29:22	Opponents	146	582	4.0	30	4
Total Net Yards	1747	1343	Receiving	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Avg. Per Game	349.4	268.6	Watts	13	222	17.1	46	0
Total Plays	332	297	Adams	12	143	11.9	29	0
Avg. Per Play	5.3	4.5	Jackson	10	128	12.8	24t	1
Net Yards Rushing	632	582	Chamberlain	8	119	14.9	27	0
Avg. Per Game	126.4	116.4	Putzier	8	93	11.6	26	1
Total Rushes	145	146	Griffin	8	35	4.4	7	0
Net Yards Passing	1115	761	Luke	7	136	19.4	74t	1
Avg. Per Game	223.0	152.2	Smith	7	81	11.6	17	0
Sacked/Yards Lost	9/53	13/82	Anderson	5	21	4.2	11t	1
Gross Yards	1168	843	Droughns	4	44	11.0	19	0
Attempts/Completions	178/95	138/77	Madise	3	36	12.0	15	0
Completion Pct	53.4%	55.8%	Hape	2	23	11.5	14	0
Had Intercepted	6	2	Lelie	2	23	11.5	13	0
Punts/Average	24/39.3	30/43.0	Johnson	2	14	7.0	14	0
Net Punting Avg.	31.9	38.4	Galloway	2	9	4.5	10	0
Penalties/Yards	44/380	33/237	Weaver	1	35	35.0	35	0
Fumbles/Ball Lost	6/2	9/2	Hearst	1	6	6.0	6	0
Touchdowns	9	8	Team	95	1168	12.3	74t	4
Rushing	5	4	Opponents	77	843	10.9	47	2
Passing	4	2	Interceptions	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Returns	0	2	Middlebrooks	1	15	15.0	15	0
			McNeal	1	1	1.0	1	0

Score By Periods	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	OT	PTS
Team	3	31	16	44	0	94
Opponents	19	34	20	16	0	89

Scoring	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	K-PAT	FG	S	PTS	Interceptions	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD			
Elam	0	0	0	0	5/5	11/11	0	38	Middlebrooks	1	15	15.0	15	0			
Anderson	2	1	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	12	McNeal	1	1	1.0	1	0			
Plummer	1	1	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	6	Team	2	16	8.0	15	0			
Putzier	1	0	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	6	Opponents	6	19	3.2	9	1			
Jackson	1	0	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	6	Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Net	TB	In	Lg	B
Luke	1	0	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	6	Knorr	17	674	39.6	33.1	1	7	55	0
Van Pelt	1	1	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	6	Epstein	7	270	38.6	29.0	1	1	43	0
Bell	1	1	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	6	Team	24	944	39.3	31.9	2	8	55	0
Griffin	1	1	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	6	Opponents	30	1289	43.0	38.4	2	11	69	0
Adams	0	0	0	0	0/0	0/0	1	2	Punt Returns	Ret	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TD		
Team	9	5	4	0	5/5	11/11	1	94	Luke	8	6	77	9.6	22	0		
Opponents	8	4	2	2	8/8	11/11	0	89	Adams	5	3	19	3.8	8	0		

2-Pt. Conversions: Team 1/4, Opponents: 0/0

Sacks: Chukwurah 3.0, Fatafehi 2.0, Pryce 2.0, Green 1.0, Johnson 1.0, Hayward 1.0, Rutledge 1.0, Spragan 1.0, Holland 1.0, Team: 13.0, Opponents: 9.0

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Madise	9	221	24.6	36	0
Droughns	4	109	27.3	46	0
Luke	4	90	22.5	27	0
Alexander	2	56	28.0	34	0
Team	19	476	25.1	46	0
Opponents	23	453	19.7	33	0

Field Goals	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+
Elam	0/0	2/2	6/6	3/3	0/0
Team	0/0	2/2	6/6	3/3	0/0
Opponents	0/0	3/3	3/3	4/4	1/1

Elam: (39G,40G,47G)(34G,30G)(29G,35G,37G,32G)(44G,23G)(
 OPPONENTS: (39G,39G)(31G,25G,42G)(28G)(26G) (45G,47G,57G,47G)

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Cmp%	Yds/Att	TD	TD%	Int	Int%	Long	Sack/Lost	Rating
Kanell	51	25	388	49.0%	7.6	2	3.9%	0	0.0%	74t	0/0	87.7
Plummer	62	32	336	51.6%	5.4	0	0.0%	4	6.5%	45	3/14	40.8
Mauck	52	28	335	53.8%	6.4	1	1.9%	2	3.8%	24t	6/39	64.2
Van Pelt	5	3	68	60.0%	13.6	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	29	0/0	104.2
Quinn	8	7	41	87.5%	5.1	1	12.5%	0	0.0%	10	0/0	127.6
Team	178	95	1168	53.4%	6.6	4	2.2%	6	3.4%	74t	9/53	67.3
Opponents	138	77	843	55.8%	6.1	2	1.4%	2	1.4%	47	13/82	72.8

BRONCOS FINAL 2004 PRESEASON DEFENSIVE STATISTICS (2-3)
(based on press box statistics)

	PLAYER	TT	UT	A	S	Yds.	I	Yds.	PD	FF	FR
1	Young	20	19	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1	0
2	Williams	18	13	5	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	0	0
3	Brandon	16	13	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	0	0
4	Green	14	10	4	1.0	17.0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Chukwurah	13	11	2	3.0	23.0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Shoate	12	11	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	2	0	0
	Hayward	12	9	3	1.0	7.0	0	0	1	0	0
8	R. Alexander	10	9	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	0	1
	LeSueur	10	6	4	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Rutledge	9	8	1	1.0	6.0	0	0	0	0	0
	Burton	9	7	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
	Spragan	9	7	2	1.0	5.0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Fatafehi	8	7	1	2.0	2.0	0	0	0	1	0
	Middlebrooks	8	7	1	0.0	0.0	1	15	3	0	0
	Herndon	8	6	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Pope	7	5	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Bailey	6	6	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	2	0	0
	Holland	6	5	1	1.0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0
	Pryce	6	4	2	2.0	14.0	0	0	0	0	0
	R. Johnson	6	3	3	1.0	8.0	0	0	0	0	0
21	K. Kennedy	5	5	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
	Wilson	5	4	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
	Eason	5	3	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Pierce	4	4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
	Walls	4	4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	1	0
	Ferguson	4	3	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	0	0
	Sykes	4	3	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
	Coleman	4	2	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
29	Garner	3	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
	Anthony	3	2	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1	1
	McNeal	3	1	2	0.0	0.0	1	1	2	0	0
32	Lynch	2	1	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Israel	1	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mitchell	1	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
	Team	1	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
	Elliss	1	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	2	0	0
	TOTALS	257	204	53	13.0	83.0	2	16	17	4	2

SPECIAL TEAMS STATISTICS

	PLAYER	TT	UT	A	FF	FR	BK	BP	TD
1	Ferguson	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
	K. Johnson	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
	LeSueur	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
4	Middlebrooks	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Weaver	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
6	Brandon	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Green	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Knorr	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Rutledge	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Chukwurah	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Young	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
12	Adams	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Alexander	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Anderson	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Galloway	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Isreal	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Leach	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Madise	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mitchell	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	N. Jackson	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Putzier	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Burton	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Droughns	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	TEAM	42	32	10	0	0	0	0	0

MISCELLANEOUS TACKLES: Chamberlain 1, Griffin 1, Putzier 1.

MISCELLANEOUS FUMBLE RECOVERIES: Foster 1, Kanell 1.

MISCELLANEOUS SPECIAL TEAMS FUMBLE RECOVERIES: Luke 1.

MISCELLANEOUS FORCED FUMBLES: None.

DEFENSIVE TOUCHDOWNS: None.

TWO-POINT CONVERSION STOPS: None.

BLOCKED PUNTS: None.

BLOCKED KICKS: None.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS FINAL 2004 PRESEASON TEAM STATISTICS (1-3)

Date	W-L	Score	OT	Opponent	Attendance	Rushing	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
08/13	L	24-34		at New York Giants	76,476	Blaylock	30	101	3.4	11	1
08/23	W	24-7		St. Louis	75,428	Holmes	15	75	5.0	20	1
08/28	L	19-21		Cleveland	76,086	Johnson	25	63	2.5	14	1
09/02	L	20-24		at Dallas	61,157	Easy	15	54	3.6	17	1

	Kansas City	Opponent
Total First Downs	82	68
Rushing	22	19
Passing	53	39
Penalty	7	10
3rd Down: Made/Att	20/54	22/56
3rd Down Pct.	37.0%	39.3%
4th Down: Made/Att	0/3	1/3
4th Down Pct.	0.0%	33.3%
Possession Avg.	32:37	27:23
Total Net Yards	1408	1259
Avg. Per Game	352.0	314.8
Total Plays	262	244
Avg. Per Play	5.4	5.2
Net Yards Rushing	353	528
Avg. Per Game	88.3	132.0
Total Rushes	110	105
Net Yards Passing	1055	731
Avg. Per Game	263.8	182.8
Sacked/Yards Lost	12/63	10/70
Gross Yards	1118	801
Attempts/Completions	140/96	129/67
Completion Pct.	68.6%	51.9%
Had Intercepted	0	4
Punts/Average	22/43.6	25/42.6
Net Punting Avg.	35.5	35.4
Penalties/Yards	45/383	36/285
Fumbles/Ball Lost	5/2	3/0
Touchdowns	10	11
Rushing	4	7
Passing	5	4
Returns	1	0

	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Clausen	1	7	7.0	7	0
Richardson	3	6	2.0	4	0
Huard	1	6	6.0	6	0
Cruz	3	2	0.7	2	0
Green	2	1	0.5	1	0
Kennison	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0
Team	110	353	3.2	20	4
Opponents	105	528	5.0	67t	7

	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Easy	11	87	7.9	28	1
Horn	9	115	12.8	50	0
Smith	8	190	23.8	53t	1
Hall	8	79	9.9	14	1
Johnson	8	65	8.1	14	0
Wilson	7	73	10.4	23t	1
Blaylock	6	92	15.3	27	1
Gonzalez	5	87	17.4	37	0
Smith	5	56	11.2	19	0
Boerigter	4	50	12.5	21	0
Holmes	4	38	9.5	21	0
Booth	4	33	8.3	19	0
Kennison	3	48	16.0	20	0
Parker	3	32	10.7	20	0
Richardson	3	21	7.0	13	0
Cruz	3	16	5.3	7	0
Dunn	2	16	8.0	9	0
Golliday	1	11	11.0	11	0
Fletcher	1	5	5.0	5	0
Brown	1	4	4.0	4	0
Team	96	1118	11.6	53t	5
Opponents	67	801	12.0	37	4

Score By Periods	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	OT	PTS
Team	27	41	13	6	0	87
Opponents	7	27	21	31	0	86

	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Barber	1	60	60.0	60t	1
Woods	1	0	0.0	0	0
Crosby	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0
Ford	1	-2	-2.0	-2	0
Team	4	57	14.3	60t	1
Opponents	0	0	0.0	—	0

Scoring	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	K-PAT	FG	S	PTS
Tynes	0	0	0	0	6/6	5/6	0	21
Easy	2	1	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	12
Blaylock	2	1	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	12
Hall	1	0	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	6
Smith	1	0	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	6
Wilson	1	0	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	6
Johnson	1	1	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	6
Holmes	1	1	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	6
Andersen	0	0	0	0	3/3	1/1	0	6
Barber	1	0	0	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Team	10	4	5	1	9/9	6/7	0	87
Opponents	11	7	4	0	11/11	3/4	0	86

	No.	Yds	Avg	Net	TB	In	Lg	B
Baker	12	500	41.7	34.4	0	3	50	0
Williams	6	277	46.2	33.8	2	1	62	0
Cheek	4	183	45.8	41.5	0	1	48	0
Team	22	960	43.6	35.5	2	5	62	0
Opponents	25	1064	42.6	35.4	2	9	60	0

2-Pt. Conversions: Team 0/ 1, Opponents: 0/ 0

Sacks: Stills 2.0, Allen 2.0, Sims 1.0, Wilkerson 1.0, Truluck 1.0, Sharpe 1.0, Downing 1.0, Browning 1.0, Team: 10.0, Opponents: 12.0

	Ret	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Horn	7	3	110	15.7	62	0
Hall	4	1	30	7.5	11	0
Team	11	4	140	12.7	62	0
Opponents	13	3	138	10.6	37	0

	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Johnson	5	126	25.2	45	0
Blaylock	5	93	18.6	31	0
Hall	2	44	22.0	26	0
Haygood	2	31	15.5	19	0
Sapp	1	12	12.0	12	0
Team	15	306	20.4	45	0
Opponents	18	423	23.5	33	0

Field Goals	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+
Tynes	0/0	3/3	0/0	2/3	0/0
Team	0/0	5/5	0/0	2/3	0/0
Opponents	0/0	1/1	1/1	1/2	0/0

Tynes: (27G)()(48G,28G,48N)(27G,46G); Andersen: ()(28G)()
 TEAM: (27G)(28G)(48G,28G,48N)(27G,46G)
 OPPONENTS: (42G,26G)()(43B)(31G)

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Cmp%	Yds/Att	TD	TD%	Int	Int%	Long	Sack/Lost	Rating
Collins	49	38	484	77.6%	9.9	3	6.1%	0	0.0%	53t	5/33	128.2
Green	54	36	444	66.7%	8.2	2	3.7%	0	0.0%	37	1/6	104.3
Clausen	19	12	97	63.2%	5.1	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	19	1/1	76.0
Huard	18	10	93	55.6%	5.2	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	17	5/23	69.9
Team	140	96	1118	68.6%	8.0	5	3.6%	0	0.0%	53t	12/63	104.4
Opponents	129	67	801	51.9%	6.2	4	3.1%	4	3.1%	37	10/70	68.7

DENVER BRONCOS 2004 DEPTH CHART

(AS OF TUESDAY, SEPT. 7, 2004)

Broncos Offense

WR	80	Rod Smith	<u>17</u>	<u>Darius Watts</u>	81	Charlie Adams		
LT	78	Matt Lepsis	65	Cooper Carlisle				
LG	50	Ben Hamilton	69	P.J. Alexander				
C	66	Tom Nalen	50	Ben Hamilton				
RG	62	Dan Neil	65	Cooper Carlisle				
RT	72	George Foster	74	Cornell Green				
TE	89	Dwayne Carswell	88	Jeb Putzier	86	Patrick Hape	83	Mike Leach
WR	85	Ashley Lelie	<u>10</u>	<u>Triandos Luke</u>	14	Nate Jackson		
QB	16	Jake Plummer	13	Danny Kanell	8	<u>Matt Mauck</u>		
RB	22	Quentin Griffin	20	Garrison Hearst	<u>26</u>	<u>Tatum Bell</u>		
FB	34	Reuben Droughns	39	Kyle Johnson				

Broncos Defense

LE	93	Trevor Pryce	92	Marco Coleman		
LT	68	Mario Fatafehi	75	Monsanto Pope		
RT	94	Luther Elliss	90	Darius Holland		
RE	99	Raylee Johnson	98	Reggie Hayward		
WLB	59	Donnie Spragan	<u>52</u>	<u>D.J. Williams</u>		
MLB	56	Al Wilson	55	Patrick Chukwurah		
SLB	57	Jashon Sykes	58	Terry Pierce		
LCB	24	Champ Bailey	23	Willie Middlebrooks	<u>40</u>	<u>Jeff Shoate</u>
RCB	31	Kelly Herndon	35	Lenny Walls	<u>45</u>	<u>Roc Alexander</u>
SS	28	Kenoy Kennedy	32	Chris Young		
FS	47	John Lynch	25	Nick Ferguson	42	Sam Brandon

Broncos Specialists

P	4	Micah Knorr				
K	1	Jason Elam				
KO	4	Micah Knorr	1	Jason Elam		
PR	80	Rod Smith	24	Champ Bailey	<u>10</u>	<u>Triandos Luke</u>
KR	34	Reuben Droughns	<u>10</u>	<u>Triandos Luke</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>Roc Alexander</u>
PC	83	Mike Leach	86	Patrick Hape		
KC	83	Mike Leach	78	Matt Lepsis	50	Ben Hamilton
H	4	Micah Knorr	13	Danny Kanell		

Rookie and First-Year players underlined
[injured players]

BRONCOS PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Patrick Chukwurah (chuk-WER-uh)
Reuben Droughns (DRONES)
Jason Elam (EE-lum)
Mario Fatafehi (fa-ta-FAY-hee)
Micah Knorr (MY-ka NOR)
Ashley Lelie (lu-LEE)

Triandos Luke (tree-AN-dus)
Jeb Putzier [POOT (like "foot")-zee-air]
Jeff Shoate (SHOTE)
Donnie Spragan (SPRAY-gan)
Jashon Sykes (JAY-shon)

Denver Broncos 2004 Alphabetical Roster
(updated 9/7/04)

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	NFL Exp.	College	High School Hometown	How Acq.	2004 P-S-DNP-INA
81	Adams, Charlie	WR	6-2	190	10/23/79	2	Hofstra	Camp Hill, Pa.	CFA-'02	0-0-0-0
69	Alexander, P.J.	G	6-4	297	12/23/78	2	Syracuse	Tallahassee, Fla.	FA-'03	0-0-0-0
45	Alexander, Roc	CB	5-10	186	9/23/81	R	Washington	Colorado Springs, Colo.	CFA-'04	0-0-0-0
24	Bailey, Champ	CB	6-0	192	6/22/78	6	Georgia	Folkston, Ga.	T(Was)-'04	0-0-0-0
26	Bell, Tatum	RB	5-11	213	3/2/81	R	Oklahoma State	Dallas, Texas	D2a-'04	0-0-0-0
42	Brandon, Sam	S	6-2	200	7/5/79	3	UNLV	Riverside, Calif.	D4-'02	0-0-0-0
65	Carlisle, Cooper	G/T	6-5	295	8/11/77	5	Florida	McComb, Miss.	D4b-'00	0-0-0-0
89	Carswell, Dwayne	TE	6-3	290	1/18/72	11	Liberty	Jacksonville, Fla.	CFA-'94	0-0-0-0
55	Chukwurah, Patrick	LB	6-1	250	3/1/79	4	Wyoming	Irving, Texas	FA-'04	0-0-0-0
92	Coleman, Marco	DE	6-3	270	12/18/69	13	Georgia Tech	Dayton, Ohio	UFA (Phi)-'04	0-0-0-0
34	Droughns, Reuben	RB	5-11	207	8/21/78	5	Oregon	Anaheim, Calif.	FA-'02	0-0-0-0
1	Elam, Jason	K	5-11	200	3/8/70	12	Hawaii	Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.	D3b-'93	0-0-0-0
94	Elliss, Luther	DT	6-5	318	3/22/73	10	Utah	Mancos, Colo.	FA-'04	0-0-0-0
68	Fatafehi, Mario	DT	6-2	300	1/27/79	4	Kansas State	Honolulu, Hawaii	FA-'03	0-0-0-0
25	Ferguson, Nick	S	5-11	201	11/27/74	5	Georgia Tech	Miami, Fla.	FA-'03	0-0-0-0
72	Foster, George	T	6-5	338	6/9/80	2	Georgia	Macon, Ga.	D1-'03	0-0-0-0
74	Green, Cornell	T	6-6	315	8/25/76	5	Central Florida	St. Petersburg, Fla.	UFA(TB)-'04	0-0-0-0
22	Griffin, Quentin	RB	5-7	195	1/12/81	2	Oklahoma	Houston, Texas	D4a-'03	0-0-0-0
50	Hamilton, Ben	G/C	6-4	283	8/18/77	4	Minnesota	Minneapolis, Minn.	D4a-'01	0-0-0-0
86	Hape, Patrick	TE	6-4	262	6/6/74	8	Alabama	Killen, Ala.	UFA(TB)-'01	0-0-0-0
98	Hayward, Reggie	DE	6-5	270	3/14/79	4	Iowa State	Dolton, Ill.	D3-'01	0-0-0-0
20	Hearst, Garrison	RB	5-11	215	1/4/71	12	Georgia	Lincolnton, Ga.	FA-'04	0-0-0-0
31	Herndon, Kelly	CB	5-10	180	11/3/76	3	Colorado	Twinsburg, Ohio	FA-'01	0-0-0-0
90	Holland, Darius	DT	6-5	330	11/10/73	9	Colorado	Las Cruces, N.M.	FA-'03	0-0-0-0
14	Jackson, Nate	WR	6-3	223	6/4/79	2	Menlo	San Jose, Calif.	T(S.F.)-'03	0-0-0-0
39	Johnson, Kyle	FB	6-0	242	12/15/78	2	Syracuse	Woodbridge, N.J.	FA-'03	0-0-0-0
99	Johnson, Raylee	DE	6-3	272	6/1/70	12	Arkansas	Fordyce, Ark.	FA-'04	0-0-0-0
13	Kanell, Danny	QB	6-3	218	11/21/73	7	Florida State	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	FA-'03	0-0-0-0
28	Kennedy, Kenoy	S	6-1	215	11/15/77	5	Arkansas	Terrell, Texas	D2b-'00	0-0-0-0
4	Knorr, Michah	P/K	6-2	199	1/9/75	5	Utah State	Orange, Calif.	FA-'02	0-0-0-0
83	Leach, Mike	TE/LS	6-2	245	10/18/76	5	William & Mary	Jefferson Township, N.J.	FA-'02	0-0-0-0
85	Lelie, Ashley	WR	6-3	200	2/16/80	3	Hawaii	Honolulu, Hawaii	D1-'02	0-0-0-0
78	Lepis, Matt	T	6-4	290	1/13/74	8	Colorado	Conroe, Texas	CFA-'97	0-0-0-0
10	Luke, Triandos	WR	5-10	189	12/24/81	R	Alabama	Phenix City, Ala.	D6a-'04	0-0-0-0
47	Lynch, John	S	6-2	220	9/25/71	12	Stanford	Del Mar, Calif.	FA-'04	0-0-0-0
8	Mauck, Matt	QB	6-1	213	2/12/79	R	Louisiana State	Jasper, Ind.	D7a-'04	0-0-0-0
23	Middlebrooks, Willie	CB	6-1	200	2/12/79	4	Minnesota	Homestead, Fla.	D1-'01	0-0-0-0
66	Nalen, Tom	C	6-3	286	5/13/71	11	Boston College	Foxboro, Mass.	D7c-'94	0-0-0-0
62	Neil, Dan	G	6-2	285	10/21/73	8	Texas	Cypress Creek, Tex.	D3-'97	0-0-0-0
58	Pierce, Terry	LB	6-1	251	6/21/81	2	Kansas State	Fort Worth, Texas	D2-'03	0-0-0-0
16	Plummer, Jake	QB	6-2	212	12/19/74	8	Arizona State	Boise, Idaho	UFA(Ari)-'03	0-0-0-0
75	Pope, Monsanto	DT	6-3	300	1/27/78	3	Virginia	Hopewell, Va.	D7b-'02	0-0-0-0
93	Pryce, Trevor	DE	6-5	295	8/3/75	8	Clemson	Winter Park, Fla.	D1-'97	0-0-0-0
88	Putzier, Jeb	TE	6-4	256	1/20/79	3	Boise State	Eagle, Idaho	D6-'02	0-0-0-0
40	Shoate, Jeff	CB	5-10	189	3/23/81	R	San Diego State	San Diego, Calif.	D5-'04	0-0-0-0
80	Smith, Rod	WR	6-0	200	5/15/70	10	Missouri Southern	Texarkana, Ark.	CFA-'94	0-0-0-0
59	Spragan, Donnie	LB	6-3	239	7/12/76	3	Stanford	Union City, Calif.	FA-'01	0-0-0-0
57	Sykes, Jashon	LB	6-2	236	9/25/79	2	Colorado	Los Angeles, Calif.	CFA-'02	0-0-0-0
35	Walls, Lenny	CB	6-4	192	9/26/79	3	Boston College	San Francisco, Calif.	CFA-'02	0-0-0-0
17	Watts, Darius	WR	6-2	188	12/19/81	R	Marshall	Atlanta, Ga.	D2b-'04	0-0-0-0
52	Williams, D.J.	LB	6-1	242	7/20/82	R	Miami	Pittsburg, Calif.	D1-'04	0-0-0-0
56	Wilson, Al	LB	6-0	240	6/21/77	6	Tennessee	Jackson, Tenn.	D1-'99	0-0-0-0
32	Young, Chris	S	6-0	210	1/23/80	2	Georgia Tech	Senoia, Ga.	D7a-'02	0-0-0-0

PRACTICE SQUAD

3	Crenshaw, Romar	WR	6-0	185	9/22/80	R	S.E. Oklahoma State	Broken Bow, Okla.	CFA-'04	0-0-0-0
97	Eason, Nick	DT	6-3	301	5/29/80	2	Clemson	Lyons, Ga.	D4b-'03	0-0-0-0
53	Green, Louis	LB	6-3	228	9/23/79	1	Alcorn State	Vicksburg, Miss.	FA-'03	0-0-0-0
91	McNeal, Bryant	DE	6-4	248	7/13/79	2	Clemson	Swansea, S.C.	D4c-'03	0-0-0-0
37	Sapp, Cecil	RB	5-11	229	12/23/78	2	Colorado State	Miami, Fla.	CFA-'03	0-0-0-0
79	Sewell, Josh	C/G	6-2	300	7/26/81	R	Nebraska	Lincoln, Neb.	D6b-'04	0-0-0-0
9	Van Pelt, Bradlee	QB	6-2	231	7/3/80	R	Colorado State	Santa Barbara, Calif.	D7c-'04	0-0-0-0

RESERVE/SUSPENDED

82	Madise, Adrian	WR	5-11	215	3/23/80	2	TCU	Lancaster, Texas	D5b-'03	0-0-0-0
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RESERVE/INJURED

No.	Name	Date Placed	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	NFL Exp.	College	High School Hometown	How Acq.	2004 P-S-DNP-INA
38	Anderson, Mike (Groin)	8/31/04	RB	6-0	230	9/21/73	5	Utah	Winnsboro, S.C.	D6-'00	0-0-0-0
41	Chatman, Jermaine (L Hand)	8/31/04	CB	5-11	182	2/15/80	1	Arizona	Compton, Calif.	FA-'04	0-0-0-0
96	Davis, Dorsett (L Finger)	7/31/04	DT	6-5	305	1/24/79	3	Mississippi State	Cleveland, Miss.	D3-'02	0-0-0-0
2	Johnson, B.J. (L Ankle)	8/31/04	WR	5-11	207	8/4/82	R	Texas	Grand Prairie, Texas	CFA-'04	0-0-0-0
43	LeSueur, Jeremy (Hernia)	9/5/04	CB	6-0	197	10/5/80	R	Michigan	Holly Springs, Miss.	D3-'04	0-0-0-0
48	Miree, Brandon (L Thumb)	8/16/04	RB	5-11	237	4/14/81	R	Pittsburgh	Cincinnati, Ohio	D7b-'04	0-0-0-0

Head Coach: Mike Shanahan (10th year). **Assistant Coaches:** Gary Kubiak (Offensive Coordinator), Larry Coyer (Defensive Coordinator), Ronnie Bradford (Special Teams), Jacob Burney (Defensive Line), Troy Calhoun (Offensive Asst./Special Teams), Rick Dennison (Offensive Line), Kirk Doll (Defensive Asst./Special Teams), David Gibbs (Secondary), Pat McPherson (Quarterbacks), Keith Millard (Asst. Defensive Line/Pass Rush Specialist), Brian Pariani (Tight Ends), Greg Saporta (Asst. Strength & Conditioning), Cedric Smith (Asst. Strength & Conditioning), Jimmy Spencer (Asst. Defensive Backs), Bobby Turner (Running Backs), Rich Tuten (Strength & Conditioning), Steve Watson (Wide Receivers).

KEY: CFA-college free agent; D-drafted; FA-acquired as free agent; RFA-acquired as restricted free agent; UFA-acquired as unrestricted free agent; T-trade; W-waivers.

Denver Broncos 2004 Numerical Roster
(updated 9/7/04)

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	NFL Exp.	College	High School Hometown	How Acq.	2004 P-S-DNP-INA
1	Jason Elam	K	5-11	200	34	12	Hawaii	Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.	D3b-'93	0-0-0-0
4	Micah Knorr	P/K	6-2	199	29	5	Utah State	Orange, Calif.	FA-'02	0-0-0-0
8	Matt Mauck	QB	6-1	213	25	R	Louisiana State	Jasper, Ind.	D7a-'04	0-0-0-0
10	Triandos Luke	WR	5-10	189	22	R	Alabama	Phenix City, Ala.	D6a-'04	0-0-0-0
13	Danny Kanell	QB	6-3	218	30	7	Florida State	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	FA-'03	0-0-0-0
14	Nate Jackson	WR	6-3	223	25	2	Menlo	San Jose, Calif.	T(S.F.)-'03	0-0-0-0
16	Jake Plummer	QB	6-2	212	29	8	Arizona State	Boise, Idaho	UFA(Ari)-'03	0-0-0-0
17	Darius Watts	WR	6-2	188	22	R	Marshall	Atlanta, Ga.	D2b-'04	0-0-0-0
20	Garrison Hearst	RB	5-11	215	33	12	Georgia	Lincolnton, Ga.	FA-'04	0-0-0-0
22	Quentin Griffin	RB	5-7	195	23	2	Oklahoma	Houston, Texas	D4a-'03	0-0-0-0
23	Willie Middlebrooks	CB	6-1	200	25	4	Minnesota	Homestead, Fla.	D1-'01	0-0-0-0
24	Champ Bailey	CB	6-0	192	26	6	Georgia	Folkston, Ga.	T(Was)-'04	0-0-0-0
25	Nick Ferguson	S	5-11	201	29	5	Georgia Tech	Miami, Fla.	FA-'03	0-0-0-0
26	Tatum Bell	RB	5-11	213	23	R	Oklahoma State	Dallas, Texas	D2a-'04	0-0-0-0
28	Kenoy Kennedy	S	6-1	215	26	5	Arkansas	Terrell, Texas	D2b-'00	0-0-0-0
31	Kelly Herndon	CB	5-10	180	27	3	Toledo	Twinsburg, Ohio	FA-'01	0-0-0-0
32	Chris Young	S	6-0	210	24	2	Georgia Tech	Senoia, Ga.	D7a-'02	0-0-0-0
34	Reuben Droughns	RB	5-11	207	26	5	Oregon	Anaheim, Calif.	FA-'02	0-0-0-0
35	Lenny Walls	CB	6-4	192	24	3	Boston College	San Francisco, Calif.	CFA-'02	0-0-0-0
39	Kyle Johnson	FB	6-0	242	26	2	Syracuse	Woodbridge, N.J.	FA-'03	0-0-0-0
40	Jeff Shoate	CB	5-10	189	23	R	San Diego State	San Diego, Calif.	D5-'04	0-0-0-0
42	Sam Brandon	S	6-2	200	25	3	UNLV	Riverside, Calif.	D4-'02	0-0-0-0
45	Roc Alexander	CB	5-10	186	22	R	Washington	Colorado Springs, Colo.	CFA-'04	0-0-0-0
47	John Lynch	S	6-2	220	32	12	Stanford	Del Mar, Calif.	FA-'04	0-0-0-0
50	Ben Hamilton	G/C	6-4	283	26	4	Minnesota	Minneapolis, Minn.	D4a-'01	0-0-0-0
52	D.J. Williams	LB	6-1	242	22	R	Miami	Pittsburg, Calif.	D1-'04	0-0-0-0
55	Patrick Chukwurah	LB	6-1	250	25	4	Wyoming	Irving, Texas	FA-'04	0-0-0-0
56	Al Wilson	LB	6-0	240	27	6	Tennessee	Jackson, Tenn.	D1-'99	0-0-0-0
57	Jashon Sykes	LB	6-2	236	24	2	Colorado	Los Angeles, Calif.	CFA-'02	0-0-0-0
58	Terry Pierce	LB	6-1	251	23	2	Kansas State	Fort Worth, Texas	D2-'03	0-0-0-0
59	Donnie Spragan	LB	6-3	239	28	3	Stanford	Union City, Calif.	FA-'01	0-0-0-0
62	Dan Neil	G	6-2	285	30	8	Texas	Cypress Creek, Tex.	D3-'97	0-0-0-0
65	Cooper Carlisle	G/T	6-5	295	26	5	Florida	McComb, Miss.	D4b-'00	0-0-0-0
66	Tom Nalen	C	6-3	286	33	11	Boston College	Foxboro, Mass.	D7c-'94	0-0-0-0
68	Mario Fatafehi	DT	6-2	300	25	4	Kansas State	Honolulu, Hawaii	FA-'03	0-0-0-0
69	P.J. Alexander	G	6-4	297	25	2	Syracuse	Tallahassee, Fla.	FA-'03	0-0-0-0
72	George Foster	T	6-5	338	24	2	Georgia	Macon, Ga.	D1-'03	0-0-0-0
74	Cornell Green	T	6-6	315	28	5	Central Florida	St. Petersburg, Fla.	UFA(TB)-'04	0-0-0-0
75	Monsanto Pope	DT	6-3	300	26	3	Virginia	Hopewell, Va.	D7b-'02	0-0-0-0
78	Matt Lepsis	T	6-4	290	30	8	Colorado	Conroe, Texas	CFA-'97	0-0-0-0
80	Rod Smith	WR	6-0	200	34	10	Missouri Southern	Texarkana, Ark.	CFA-'94	0-0-0-0
81	Charlie Adams	WR	6-2	190	24	2	Hofstra	Camp Hill, Pa.	CFA-'02	0-0-0-0
83	Mike Leach	TE/LS	6-2	245	27	5	William & Mary	Jefferson Township, N.J.	FA-'02	0-0-0-0
85	Ashley Lelie	WR	6-3	200	24	3	Hawaii	Honolulu, Hawaii	D1-'02	0-0-0-0
86	Patrick Hape	TE	6-4	262	30	8	Alabama	Killen, Ala.	UFA(TB)-'01	0-0-0-0
88	Jeb Putzier	TE	6-4	256	25	3	Boise State	Eagle, Idaho	D6-'02	0-0-0-0
89	Dwayne Carswell	TE	6-3	290	32	11	Liberty	Jacksonville, Fla.	CFA-'94	0-0-0-0
90	Darius Holland	DT	6-5	330	30	9	Colorado	Las Cruces, N.M.	FA-'03	0-0-0-0
92	Marco Coleman	DE	6-3	270	34	13	Georgia Tech	Dayton, Ohio	UFA (Phi)-'04	0-0-0-0
93	Trevor Pryce	DE	6-5	295	29	8	Clemson	Winter Park, Fla.	D1-'97	0-0-0-0
94	Luther Elliss	DT	6-5	318	31	10	Utah	Mancos, Colo.	FA-'04	0-0-0-0
98	Reggie Hayward	DE	6-5	270	25	4	Iowa State	Dolton, Ill.	D3-'01	0-0-0-0
99	Raylee Johnson	DE	6-3	272	34	12	Arkansas	Fordyce, Ark.	FA-'04	0-0-0-0

PRACTICE SQUAD

3	Romar Crenshaw	WR	6-0	185	23	R	S.E. Oklahoma State	Broken Bow, Okla.	CFA-'04	0-0-0-0
9	Bradlee Van Pelt	QB	6-2	231	24	R	Colorado State	Santa Barbara, Calif.	D7c-'04	0-0-0-0
37	Cecil Sapp	RB	5-11	229	25	2	Colorado State	Miami, Fla.	CFA-'03	0-0-0-0
53	Louis Green	LB	6-3	228	24	1	Alcorn State	Vicksburg, Miss.	FA-'03	0-0-0-0
79	Josh Sewell	C/G	6-2	300	23	R	Nebraska	Lincoln, Neb.	D6b-'04	0-0-0-0
91	Bryant McNeal	DE	6-4	248	25	2	Clemson	Swansea, S.C.	D4c-'03	0-0-0-0
97	Nick Eason	DT	6-3	301	24	2	Clemson	Lyons, Ga.	D4b-'03	0-0-0-0

RESERVE/SUSPENDED

82	Adrian Madise	WR	5-11	215	24	2	TCU	Lancaster, Texas	D5b-'03	0-0-0-0
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RESERVE/INJURED

No.	Name	Date Placed	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	NFL Exp.	College	High School Hometown	How Acq.	2004 P-S-DNP-INA
2	B.J. Johnson (L Ankle)	8/31/04	WR	5-11	207	22	R	Texas	Grand Prairie, Texas	CFA-'04	0-0-0-0
38	Mike Anderson (Groin)	8/31/04	RB	6-0	230	30	5	Utah	Winnsboro, S.C.	D6-'00	0-0-0-0
41	Jermaine Chatman (L Hand)	8/31/04	CB	5-11	182	24	1	Arizona	Compton, Calif.	FA-'04	0-0-0-0
43	Jeremy LeSueur (Hernia)	9/5/04	CB	6-0	197	23	R	Michigan	Holly Springs, Miss.	FA-'04	0-0-0-0
48	Brandon Miree (L Thumb)	8/16/04	RB	5-11	237	23	R	Pittsburgh	Cincinnati, Ohio	D7b-'04	0-0-0-0
96	Dorsett Davis (L Finger)	7/31/04	DT	6-5	305	25	3	Mississippi State	Cleveland, Miss.	D3-'02	0-0-0-0

Head Coach: Mike Shanahan (10th year). **Assistant Coaches:** Gary Kubiak (Offensive Coordinator), Larry Coyer (Defensive Coordinator), Ronnie Bradford (Special Teams), Jacob Burney (Defensive Line), Troy Calhoun (Offensive Asst./Special Teams), Rick Dennison (Offensive Line), Kirk Doll (Defensive Asst./Special Teams), David Gibbs (Secondary), Pat McPherson (Quarterbacks), Keith Millard (Asst. Defensive Line/Pass Rush Specialist), Brian Pariani (Tight Ends), Greg Saporta (Asst. Strength & Conditioning), Cedric Smith (Asst. Strength & Conditioning), Jimmy Spencer (Asst. Defensive Backs), Bobby Turner (Running Backs), Rich Tuten (Strength & Conditioning), Steve Watson (Wide Receivers).

KEY: CFA-college free agent; D-drafted; FA-acquired as free agent; RFA-acquired as restricted free agent; UFA-acquired as unrestricted free agent; T-trade; W-waivers.

DENVER BRONCOS 2003-04 TRANSACTIONS — by date/by player
(Updated Sept. 7, 2004)

BY DATE

12/30/03 Signed WR MarTay Jenkins to future contract
Signed DT Thomas Pittman to future contract
Signed QB Tory Woodbury to future contract

12/31/03 Signed G Calvin Collins to future contract
Signed S Ron Israel to future contract
Signed T Jamain Stephens to future contract

1/6/04 Signed WR Atnaf Harris to future contract

1/7/04 Signed DT Luis Almanzar to future contract

1/13/04 Signed LB Patrick Chukwurah to future contract

2/9/04 Signed RB Antonio Beard

2/17/04 Signed P Hayden Epstein

2/24/04 Re-signed LB Al Wilson

3/2/04 Placed WR Ed McCaffrey on reserve/retired list
Waived T Ephraim Salaam

3/4/04 Acquired CB Champ Bailey and a 2004 second-round (41st overall) draft choice from Washington in exchange for RB Clinton Portis

3/10/04 Signed QB Mike Quinn (UFA-Houston)
Re-signed CB Scott Turner (UFA)

3/11/04 Signed DE Marco Coleman (UFA-Philadelphia)
Re-signed TE Mike Leach

3/12/04 Signed WR Willie Jackson

3/15/04 Re-signed CB Jimmy Spencer (UFA)
Signed CB Reggie Stephens

3/19/04 Re-signed RB Reuben Droughns (UFA)
Signed TE Jed Weaver (UFA-San Francisco)
Signed DE Raylee Johnson

3/22/04 Signed DE Raylee Johnson

3/23/04 Signed S John Lynch

3/24/04 Signed DT Luther Elliss

3/25/04 Signed RB Garrison Hearst

3/26/04 Signed T Cornell Green (UFA-Tampa Bay)

4/9/04 Traded CB Deltha O'Neal, a 2004 first round (24th overall) pick and a 2004 fourth round (117th overall) pick to Cincinnati in exchange for a 2004 first round (17th overall) selection

4/15/04 Re-signed TE Patrick Hape (UFA)
Signed TE O.J. Santiago (UFA-Oakland)

4/26/04 Waived QB Tory Woodbury

4/28/04 Signed G Tyson Clabo (rookie free agent)

5/3/04 Signed CB Roc Alexander (rookie free agent)
Signed WR Romar Crenshaw (rookie free agent)

5/7/04 Signed WR B.J. Johnson (rookie free agent)
Signed DT Brandon Kennedy (rookie free agent)
Signed G Shannon Snell (rookie free agent)

5/10/04 Waived QB Steve Beuerlein

5/11/04 Signed LB Johnny Rutledge

5/14/04 Signed TE Byron Chamberlain

6/2/04 Waived DT Daryl Gardener

6/9/04 Waived G Calvin Collins

6/11/04 Signed WR Triandos Luke (draft choice)

6/14/04 Signed LB Charles Burton
Signed DE Randy Garner
Signed G Tyler Lenda

7/27/04 Signed WR Darius Watts
Signed CB Jeremy LeSueur
Signed CB Jeff Shoate
Signed C Jeff Sewell
Signed QB Matt Mauck
Signed RB Brandon Miree
Signed QB Bradlee Van Pelt
Waived S Jarious Jackson
Waived WR MarTay Jenkins
Waived CB Reggie Stephens

7/28/04 Waived LB John Mobley

7/30/04 Signed CB Reggie Stephens

7/31/04 Placed DT Dorsett Davis on reserve/injured list (left finger)

8/12/04 Signed CB Jermaine Chatman

8/16/04 Placed RB Brandon Miree on reserve/injured list (left thumb)
Waived CB Reggie Stephens

8/17/04 Signed LB Cornelius Anthony
Waived WR Willie Jackson

8/23/04 Signed LB Riall Johnson

8/31/04 Placed CB Jimmy Spencer on reserve/retired list

Placed RB Mike Anderson on reserve/injured list (groin)

Placed CB Jermaine Chatman on reserve/injured list (left hand)

Placed WR B.J. Johnson on reserve/injured list (left ankle)

Waived DE Luis Almanzar
Waived RB Antonio Beard
Waived WR Atnaf Harris
Waived S Ron Israel
Waived LB Riall Johnson
Waived DT Brandon Kennedy
Waived G Tyler Lenda
Waived QB Mike Quinn
Waived TE O.J. Santiago
Waived T Jamain Stephens
Waived CB Scott Turner

9/5/04 Placed CB Jeremy LeSueur on reserve/injured list (hernia)
Waived LB Cornelius Anthony
Waived LB Charles Burton
Waived TE Byron Chamberlain
Waived G Tyson Clabo
Waived WR Romar Crenshaw
Waived DT Nick Eason
Waived P Hayden Epstein
Waived RB Ahmaad Galloway
Waived DE Randy Garner
Waived LB Louis Green
Waived DE Bryant McNeal
Waived DE Clint Mitchell
Waived DT Thomas Pittman
Waived LB Johnny Rutledge
Waived RB Cecil Sapp
Waived C/G Josh Sewell
Waived G Shannon Snell
Waived QB Bradlee Van Pelt
Waived G/C Chris Watton
Waived TE Jed Weaver

9/6/04 Signed WR Romar Crenshaw to practice squad
Signed DT Nick Eason to practice squad
Signed LB Louis Green to practice squad
Signed DE Bryant McNeal to practice squad
Signed RB Cecil Sapp to practice squad
Signed C/G Josh Sewell to practice squad
Signed QB Bradlee Van Pelt to practice squad

BY PLAYER

ALEXANDER, Roc — CB
5/3/04 Signed (rookie free agent)

ALMANZAR, Luis — DT
11/26/03 Signed
12/26/03 Waived
12/29/03 Signed to practice squad
1/7/04 Signed to future contract
8/31/04 Waived

ANDERSON, Mike — RB
11/11/03 Placed on reserve/suspended list by NFL
8/31/04 Placed on reserve/injured list (groin)

ANTHONY, Cornelius — LB
8/17/04 Signed
9/5/04 Waived

BAILEY, Champ — CB
3/4/04 Acquired from Washington with a 2004 second-round (41st overall) draft choice for RB Clinton Portis

BEARD, Antonio — RB
2/9/04 Signed
8/31/04 Waived

BEUERLEIN, Steve — QB
10/21/03 Placed on reserve/injured list (right little finger)
5/10/04 Waived

BURTON, Charles — LB
6/14/04 Signed
9/5/04 Waived

CHAMBERLIN, Byron — TE
5/14/04 Signed

9/5/04 Waived

CHATMAN, Jermaine — CB
6/23/03 Signed
8/31/03 Waived
8/12/04 Signed
8/31/04 Placed on reserve/injured list (left hand)

CHUKWURAH, Patrick — LB
12/24/03 Signed
12/26/03 Waived
1/13/04 Signed to future contract

CLABO, Tyson — G
4/28/04 Signed (rookie free agent)
9/5/04 Waived

COLEMAN, Marco — DE
3/11/04 Signed (UFA-Philadelphia)

COLLINS, Calvin — G
12/31/03 Signed to future contract
6/9/04 Waived

CRENSHAW, Romar — WR
5/3/04 Signed (rookie free agent)
9/5/04 Waived
9/6/04 Signed to practice squad

DAVIS, Dorsett — DT
7/31/04 Placed on reserve/injured list (left finger)

DROUGHNS, Reuben — RB
3/19/04 Re-signed (UFA)

EASON, Nick — DT
9/5/04 Waived
9/6/04 Signed to practice squad

ELLISS, Luther — DT
3/24/04 Signed

EPSTEIN, Hayden — P
2/17/04 Signed
9/5/04 Waived

FOSTER, George — T
7/24/03 Signed (1st-round draft choice)

GALLOWAY, Ahmaad — RB
9/5/04 Waived

GARDENER, Daryl — DT
11/20/03 Suspended one game for conduct detrimental to the team
11/25/03 Suspended two games for conduct detrimental to the team
12/9/03 Placed on reserve/non-football illness list

6/2/04 Waived

GARNER, Randy — DE
6/14/04 Signed
9/5/04 Waived

GREEN, Cornell — T
3/26/04 Signed (UFA-Tampa Bay)

GREEN, Louis — LB
9/5/04 Waived
9/6/04 Signed to practice squad

HAPE, Patrick — TE
4/15/04 Re-signed (UFA)

HARRIS, Atnaf — WR
1/6/04 Signed to future contract
8/31/04 Waived

HEARST, Garrison — RB
3/25/04 Signed

ISRAEL, Ron — S
12/31/03 Signed to future contract
8/31/04 Waived

JACKSON, Jarious — QB
8/31/03 Waived
10/22/03 Signed
7/27/04 Waived

JACKSON, Willie — WR
3/12/04 Signed
8/17/04 Waived

JENKINS, MarTay — WR
12/30/03 Signed to future contract
7/27/04 Waived

JOHNSON, B.J. — WR
5/7/04 Signed (rookie free agent)
8/31/04 Placed on reserve/injured list (left ankle)

JOHNSON, Raylee — DE
3/22/04 Signed

JOHNSON, Riall — LB
8/23/04 Signed

KENNEDY, Brandon — DT
5/7/04 Signed (rookie free agent)
8/31/04 Waived

LEACH, Mike — TE
3/11/04 Re-signed

LEDA, Tyler — G
8/26/03 Waived
8/29/03 Signed
8/31/03 Waived
6/14/04 Signed
8/31/04 Waived

LeSUEUR, Jeremy — CB
7/27/04 Signed
9/5/04 Placed on reserve/injured list (hernia)

LUKE, Triandos — WR
6/11/04 Signed

LYNCH, John — S
3/23/04 Signed

MAUCK, Matt — QB
7/27/04 Signed

McNEAL, Bryant — DE
9/5/04 Waived
9/6/04 Signed to practice squad

MIREE, Brandon — RB
7/27/04 Signed
8/16/04 Place on reserve/injured list (left thumb)

McCAFFREY, Ed — WR
3/2/04 Placed on reserve/retired list

MITCHELL, Clint — DE
9/5/04 Waived

MOBLEY, John — LB
11/6/03 Placed on reserve/injured list (neck)
7/28/04 Waived

O'NEAL, Deltha — CB
4/9/04 Traded to Cincinnati along with a 2004 first round (24th overall) pick and a 2004 fourth round (117th overall) pick, in exchange for the Bengals 2004 first round (17th overall) selection

PITTMAN, Thomas — DT
12/30/03 Signed to future contract
9/5/04 Waived

PORTIS, Clinton — RB
3/4/04 Traded to Washington for CB Champ Bailey and a 2004 second-round (41st overall) draft choice

QUINN, Mike — QB
3/10/04 Signed (UFA-Houston)
8/31/04 Waived

RUTLEDGE, Johnny — LB
11/12/03 Signed
5/11/04 Re-signed
9/5/04 Waived

SALAAM, Ephraim — T
3/2/04 Waived

SANTIAGO, O.J. — TE
4/15/04 Signed (UFA-Oakland)
8/31/04 Waived

SAPP, Cecil — RB
9/5/04 Waived
9/6/04 Signed to practice squad

SEWELL, Josh — C
7/27/04 Signed
9/5/04 Waived
9/6/04 Signed to practice squad

SHOATE, Jeff — CB
7/27/04 Signed

SNELL, Shannon — G
5/7/04 Signed (rookie free agent)
9/5/04 Waived

SPENCER, Jimmy — CB
3/15/04 Re-signed (UFA)
8/31/04 Placed on reserve/retired list

STEPHENS, Jamain — T
12/31/03 Signed to future contract
8/31/04 Waived

STEPHENS, Reggie — CB
3/15/04 Signed
7/27/04 Waived

7/30/04 Signed
8/16/04 Waived

TURNER, Scott — CB
10/14/03 Signed
3/10/04 Re-signed (UFA)
8/31/04 Waived

VAN PELT, Bradlee — QB
7/27/04 Signed
9/5/04 Waived
9/6/04 Signed to practice squad

WATTON, Chris — G/C
9/5/04 Waived

WATTS, Darius — WR
7/27/04 Signed

WEAVER, Jed — TE
3/19/04 Signed (UFA-San Francisco)
9/5/04 Waived

WILSON, Al — LB
2/24/04 Re-signed

WOODBURY, Tory — QB
12/30/03 Signed to future contract
4/26/04 Waived

HOW THE BRONCOS ARE BUILT

Updated 9/7/04

Year	Draft	Trades	Free Agents/Waivers
1993 9-7 (3rd AFC West)	K Jason Elam (3b)		
1994 7-9 (4th AFC West)	C Tom Nalen (7c)		TE Dwayne Carswell* WR Rod Smith*
1995 8-8 (4th AFC West)			
1996 13-3 (1st AFC West)			
1997 12-4 (2nd AFC West) Super Bowl Champs	DT Trevor Pryce (1) C/G Dan Neil (3)		T Matt Lepsis*
1998 14-2 (1st AFC West) Super Bowl Champs			
1999 6-10 (5th AFC West)	LB Al Wilson (1)		
2000 11-5 (2nd AFC West)	S Kenoy Kennedy (2b) G/T Cooper Carlisle (4b) RB Mike Anderson (6) (IR)		
2001 8-8 (3rd AFC West)	CB Willie Middlebrooks (1) DE Reggie Hayward (3) C Ben Hamilton (4a)		TE Patrick Hape** (UFA-Tampa Bay) DB Kelly Herndon** LB Donnie Spragan**
2002 9-7 (2nd AFC West)	WR Ashley Lelie (1) DT Dorsett Davis (3) (IR) S Sam Brandon (4) TE Jeb Putzier (6) S Chris Young (7a) DT Monsanto Pope (7b)		WR Charlie Adams* RB Reuben Droughns** FB Kyle Johnson** P/K Micah Knorr** TE/LS Mike Leach** LB Jashon Sykes* CB Lenny Walls*
2003 10-6 (2nd AFC West)	T George Foster (1) LB Terry Pierce (2) RB Quentin Griffin (4a) DT Nick Eason (4b) (PS) DE Bryant McNeal (4c) (PS) WR Adrian Madise (5b) (Susp.)	WR Nate Jackson (S.F.)**	G/T P.J. Alexander** DT Mario Fatafehi** S Nick Ferguson** LB Louis Green** (PS) DT Darius Holland** QB Danny Kanell** QB Jake Plummer*** (UFA-Arizona) RB Cecil Sapp* (PS)
2004	LB DJ. Williams (1) RB Tatum Bell (2a) WR Darius Watts (2b) CB Jeremy LeSueur (3) (IR) CB Jeff Shoate (5) WR Triandos Luke (6a) C/G Josh Sewell (6b) (PS) QB Matt Mauck (7a) RB Brandon Miree (7b) (IR) QB Bradlee Van Pelt (7c) (PS)	CB Champ Bailey (Was)**	CB Roc Alexander* CB Jermaine Chatman** (IR) LB Patrick Chukwurah** DE Marco Coleman*** (UFA-Philadelphia) WR Romar Crenshaw* (PS) DT Luther Elliss** T Cornell Green*** (UFA-Tampa Bay) RB Garrison Hearst** WR B.J. Johnson* (IR) DE Raylee Johnson** S John Lynch**

Number in parenthesis after draft choice indicates the round in which the player was taken.

* – indicates player was a rookie free agent when he joined the Broncos.

** – indicates player was an NFL veteran or had been in other camps before joining the Broncos.

*** – indicates player was an unrestricted free agent who had not been released by previous team.

(year) – indicates a player who had a previous tenure with the club, and the year it began.

PS – indicates player is on the Practice Squad for the '04 season.

IR – indicates player is on Injured Reserve list for the '04 season.

NFI – indicates player is on the Reserve/Non-Football Injury list for the '04 season.



MARCO COLEMAN

6-3 • 270 • 13TH YR. • GEORGIA TECH

BORN: Dec. 18, 1969, in Dayton, Ohio

HIGH SCHOOL: Patterson High School, Dayton, Ohio

ACQUIRED: Unrestricted Free Agent (Philadelphia), 2004

PRO YEAR: 13th • YEAR WITH BRONCOS: 1st

NFL GAMES PLAYED/STARTED: 184/169 • POSTSEASON: 9/7

DEFENSIVE END

Marco Coleman joined the Broncos (3/11) as an unrestricted free agent from Philadelphia and will add depth to Denver's defensive line. In 184 career games (169 starts), Coleman has 656 tackles (468 solo), 62 sacks for -410 yards, 17 passes defended, 20 forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries. An experienced defensive lineman, he was voted to the Pro Bowl in 2000 when he made 12 sacks. Entering his 13th year in the NFL, he has played for Miami (1992-95), San Diego (1996-98), Washington (1999-2001), Jacksonville (2002) and Philadelphia (2003). Originally drafted in first round (12th overall) by Miami in the 1992 NFL Draft, he has missed just eight games in 12 seasons. Coleman has started all 16 games in seven seasons and appeared in 16 games nine of 12 seasons. He played right defensive end in his first eight seasons and left end the last four years. Coleman was named the NFL Rookie of the Year in 1992 by *Sports Illustrated* and led San Diego's defensive linemen in tackles three consecutive seasons (1996-98). He has also appeared in nine postseason games, with 41 tackles (33 solo), three sacks and two forced fumbles.

2003: Coleman signed with Philadelphia on Sept. 5, replacing Derrick Burgess, who was placed on injured reserve. He played in 13 games, primarily as a backup defensive end, and posted 10 tackles (5 solo), a half sack and one quarterback pressure. Coleman made three tackles at Buffalo (9/28) and picked up the half sack in the season finale at Washington (12/27). He was a reserve in both of the Eagles' playoff games, where he made three tackles (all solo).

2002: Coleman signed with Jacksonville on June 19 and started all 16 games at left defensive end where he ranked 12th on team with 54 tackles (27 solo), adding five sacks, one forced fumble, one tackle for loss and five quarterback pressures. He led the team's defensive ends in tackles and was one of just six players to start every game on defense. Coleman picked up his first sack as a Jaguar on Oct. 6 vs. Philadelphia (of Donovan McNabb) and notched a sack of Chris Redman on Oct. 20 at Baltimore. He posted a season-high 10 tackles on Nov. 17 at Houston and made two sacks on Dec. 1 vs. Pittsburgh (of Kordell Stewart), marking first multi-sack game since 2000. Coleman tallied his fifth sack of the season Dec. 15 at Cincinnati (of Jon Kitna) and forced a fumble on the play.

2001: Coleman started 12 games in his final season with Washington and missed four games due to a right elbow injury. He collected 55 tackles (41 solo), 4.5 sacks and three forced fumbles. In Week 2 at Green Bay, he made six tackles but suffered a dislocated right elbow in the third quarter and left the game. He was inactive for the next four games, marking the first time in his career that he missed more than one game in a season. Coleman returned to the lineup Oct. 28 vs. N.Y. Giants and made three tackles. Against Seattle (11/4), he posted four tackles, one sack and one forced fumble, and two weeks later at Denver, made five tackles, one sack and one forced fumble. On Dec. 16 vs. Philadelphia, Coleman made six tackles, a half-sack and had one pass defended that led to an interception. He made five tackles, one sack, one forced fumble and a pass deflection on Dec. 30 at New Orleans, and added four tackles and a sack in the season finale vs. Arizona (1/6).

2000: Coleman enjoyed his finest season as a pro when he made a career-high 12 sacks and earned his first trip to the Pro Bowl. His sack total topped his previous career-high of 6.5 in 1995 and 1999, and he finished the season tied for eighth in NFL in sacks. Coleman made 62 tackles (42 solo), which ranked eighth on team, and added three passes defended and two forced fumbles. He started all 16 games for fourth consecutive season and played left defensive end for first time after eight years as a

right end (switch made after Redskins signed Bruce Smith). Coleman recorded at least a half-sack in each of the first six games and was named the NFC Defensive Player of the Week after an 11-tackle, three-sack game vs. Tampa Bay in Week 5. Those three sacks tied his single-game career-high set 10/29/92 vs. Indianapolis, and his 11 tackles were a season-high. He posted 2.5 sacks in a season-opening win over Carolina. Against Philadelphia in Week 6, he sacked quarterback Donovan McNabb and forced a fumble on game's second play. He netted a half-sack in Week 11 at St. Louis, and again sacked McNabb in Week 12, forcing another fumble. Coleman tallied six tackles in Week 13 vs. N.Y. Giants, posted six tackles and a sack in Week 14 at Dallas and four tackles in Week 14 at Pittsburgh.

1999: Coleman signed with Washington as an unrestricted free agent on June 3 and started all 16 games at right end, finishing first on team in QB pressures (44), second in sacks (6.5) and tied for first in forced fumbles (three). He ranked eighth with 65 tackles (42 solo) and nine tackles for loss, while also posting a recovered a fumble and returned it 42 yards for his first career touchdown (Nov. 21 vs. N.Y. Giants). In Week 2 vs. N.Y. Giants, he had four tackles, two pressures and a forced fumble, and followed that up with five tackles and two QB pressures in the Redskins' 27-20 win over N.Y. Jets in Week 3. Coleman posted seven quarterback pressures in Week 4 vs. Carolina, and eight pressures, 1.5 sacks, four tackles and three assists in Week 7 vs. Chicago. In Week 9 vs. Philadelphia, he suffered a strained cervical spine and left game but came back to start the next week vs. N.Y. Giants and made three solo tackles, two assists, one sack, one tackle for loss and a recovered fumble that he returned 42 yards for a touchdown and his first career score. Coleman had four tackles in Washington's NFC Wild Card Playoff vs. Detroit and eight tackles in the NFL Divisional Playoff Game at Tampa Bay.

1998: Coleman led a San Diego defense, which claimed the league's No. 1 defensive ranking, that allowed only 263 yards and 71.3 yards rushing per game. He led the team's defensive linemen in tackles for the third consecutive season with 51, in 16 starts for the Chargers. Coleman added 3.5 sacks and two fumble recoveries. He collected a season-high nine tackles and a sack in Week 14 at Seattle.

1997: Coleman, who started all 16 games, led all Chargers defensive linemen in tackles for a second consecutive season (48). He added two sacks, one interception (the only one of his career) and forced a team-high three fumbles. Coleman recorded a season-high five tackles, a half-sack and his first career interception at New Orleans in Week 2, and posted five tackles in each game against Kansas City (Week 7 and Week 15).

1996: In his first season with San Diego after being signed as an unrestricted free agent, Coleman made 42 tackles, four sacks and one forced fumble in 15 starts. He posted a season-high six tackles and one sack in the Chargers' Week 6 Monday night game vs. Oakland.

1995: In 16 starts on the season for Miami, Coleman ranked seventh on team with 65 tackles and second with 6.5 sacks. He had a season-high nine tackles and added a sack vs. Saints (10/15), and set a postseason career-high with 11 tackles vs. Buffalo in the AFC Wild Card Playoff game (12/30).

1994: Coleman started all 16 games for the Dolphins and finished the year with 66 tackles, six sacks, four forced fumbles and three passes defended, including five or more tackles in eight games. He opened the season with eight tackles and a sack vs. New England. Coleman posted eight tackles, two sacks (tied a team playoff record) and one forced fumble at San Diego in an AFC Divisional Playoff game (1/8).

1993: Coleman, who started 15 games for Miami, made 54 tackles, 5.5 sacks, two forced fumbles and one pass defended. He had a season-high eight tackles and recorded a sack vs. Bills (9/26). After he fractured his hand vs. Washington (10/4), Coleman was inactive the next week vs. Cleveland. He returned to the lineup vs. Indianapolis (10/24) and made two tackles, and he made two tackles and 1.5 sacks vs. New England (11/21).

1992: Coleman was named the NFL Rookie of the Year by *Sports Illustrated* and Defensive Rookie of the Year by *Football News* after finishing the season with Miami with 84 tackles, six sacks and one forced fumble. His six sacks were the third-highest single-season total for a Dolphin rookie. He made 15 starts (16 played), started the season at outside linebacker before moving to right defensive end for the final 12 games. Coleman posted 13 tackles and three sacks vs. Indianapolis at his new position and followed that with a six-tackle, two sack performance vs. N.Y. Jets. He was the first Dolphins rookie to have back-to-back games with two sacks. Against Buffalo (1/16), he tallied 11 tackles, and made five tackles and one sack vs. Buffalo in the AFC Championship Game. He joined the Dolphins as the team's first-round selection (12th overall) in the draft.

COLLEGE: Coleman finished his career at Georgia Tech as the school's all-time leader with 28 sacks despite playing just three years, and earned All-ACC honors his junior year, playing in 11 games while tallying 67 tackles, 10 sacks and one fumble recovery. He helped lead the school to a share of the national championship as a sophomore in 1990 by making 81 tackles and 13 sacks. Coleman was named second-team All-America by the *Sporting News* and was named the ACC Defensive Player of the Week after a 12-tackle, five-sack performance vs. Maryland. As a redshirt freshman, he started all season at outside linebacker posting 63 tackles and five sacks.

PERSONAL: Coleman attended Patterson Co-Operative High School in Dayton, Ohio, where he was an all-area linebacker. As a senior, he made 84 tackles, 31 sacks, three forced fumbles, six fumble recoveries and blocked an extra point. He lettered three times in football and once in track. Coleman performed a cameo role opposite actor Jim Carrey in the movie *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*. Marco Darrell Coleman is married (Katrina) and has three children, Kabrione, Kennedy and Kenneth. Born Dec. 18, 1969, in Dayton, Ohio, he resides in both Atlanta and Jacksonville.

COLEMAN'S REGULAR SEASON RECORD

Year	Club	G	S	UT	A	TT	S-Yds.	I-Yds.	PD	FF	FR	TD-Int.	TD-FR	S	Pts.
1992	Miami	16	15	61	23	84	6-45	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
1993	Miami	15	15	35	19	54	5.5-44.5	0-0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
1994	Miami	16	16	48	18	66	6-23	0-0	3	4	0	0	0	0	0
1995	Miami	16	16	37	28	65	6.5-49	0-0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
1996	San Diego	16	15	34	8	42	4-41	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
1997	San Diego	16	16	41	7	48	2-13	1-2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
1998	San Diego	16	16	46	5	51	3.5-21.5	0-0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
1999	Washington	16	16	51	14	65	6.5-39.5	0-0	2	3	1	0	1	0	6
2000	Washington	16	16	42	20	62	12-94	0-0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
2001	Washington	12	12	41	14	55	4.5-11.5	0-0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
2002	Jacksonville	16	16	27	27	54	5-27	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
2003	Philadelphia	13	0	5	5	10	0.5-1.0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAREER TOTALS		184	169	468	188	656	62-410	1-2	17	20	3	0	1	0	6

COLEMAN'S POSTSEASON RECORD

Year	Club	G	S	UT	A	TT	S-Yds.	I-Yds.	PD	FF	FR	TD-Int.	TD-FR	S	Pts.
1992	Miami	2	2	7	1	8	1-7	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1994	Miami	2	2	7	1	8	2-6	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
1995	Miami	1	1	10	1	11	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
1999	Washington	2	2	6	5	11	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2003	Philadelphia	2	0	3	0	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAREER TOTALS		9	7	33	8	41	3-13	0-0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0

National Football League Game Summary

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Date: Thursday, 9/2/2004

Arizona Cardinals At Denver Broncos
at Invesco Field at Mile High, Denver

Start Time: 7:06 PM MDT

Game Day Weather

Game Weather: Partly Cloudy
Played Outdoor on Turf: Grass

Temp: 79° F (26.1° C), Humidity: 21%, Wind: W 5 mph
Outdoor Weather: Partly Cloudy

Officials

Referee: Larry Nemmers (20)	Umpire: Undrey Wash (96)	Head Linesman: Paul Weidner (87)
Line Judge: Michael Spanier (90)	Side Judge: Carl Cheffers (51)	Field Judge: Mike Weir (50)
Back Judge: Kirk Dornan (6)	Replay Official: Neil Gereb ()	Video Operator: Jim Pearson ()

Lineups

Arizona Cardinals				Denver Broncos			
Offense		Defense		Offense		Defense	
WR 82 K.Kasper	LDE 93 K.Vanden Bosch	WR 14 N.Jackson	LE 98 R.Hayward				
LT 75 L.Davis	NT 98 R.Davis	LT 77 D.Carswell	LT 68 M.Fatafehi				
LG 74 R.Wells	UT 90 D.Dockett	LG 69 P.Alexander	RT 75 M.Pope				
C 71 A.Stepanovich	RDE 92 B.Berry	C 67 C.Watton	RE 91 B.McNeal				
RG 76 C.Spikes	SLB 56 L.Woods	RG 65 C.Carlisle	WLB 52 D.Williams				
RT 65 A.Clement	MLB 57 R.McKinnon	RT 72 G.Foster	MLB 55 P.Chukwurah				
TE 85 F.Jones	WLB 55 R.Thompson	TE 86 P.Hape	SLB 57 J.Sykes				
TE 49 L.Diamond	LCB 21 R.Hill	TE 49 B.Chamberlain	LCB 23 W.Middlebrooks				
WR 84 L.Hamilton	SS 24 A.Wilson	WR 10 T.Luke	RCB 35 L.Walls				
QB 12 J.McCown	FS 29 Q.Harris	QB 13 D.Kanell	SS 32 C.Young				
RB 22 E.Smith	RCB 27 D.Macklin	RB 26 T.Bell	FS 42 S.Brandon				

Substitutions

K 1 N.Rackers, QB 4 S.King, P 10 S.Player, WR 14 R.Newhouse, QB 16 J.Navarre, RB 20 D.Anderson, CB 23 C.Rhinehart, CB 26 R.Tate, FB 30 O.Ayanbadejo, RB 32 L.Croom, RB 33 J.Scobey, SS 37 A.Mayes, FB 42 J.Hodgins, TE 43 E.Edwards, CB 44 M.Stone, FB 46 J.Rue, RB 47 T.Hambrick, LB 47 M.Wilkins, LS 48 N.Hodel, MLB 51 J.Darling, OLB 52 L.Fisher, OLB 54 G.Hayes, G 60 N.Leckey, G 61 E.Lindsay, DT 62 J.Tafoya, DT 62 S.Smith, G/C 63 F.Garcia, C 64 S.Grace, T 66 A.Reuber, DE 67 A.Smith, G 68 T.Wragge, G 69 R.Cantu, DE 72 R.Kolodziej, G/T 73 R.Roundtree, DT 78 C.Hilliard, DE 79 C.Pace, WR/KR 86 K.Williams, WR 89 N.Poole, DT 91 W.Bryant, DE 94 P.Zellner

Substitutions

K 1 J.Elam, WR 3 R.Crenshaw, P/K 4 M.Knorr, P 6 H.Epstein, QB 8 M.Mauck, QB 9 B.Van Pelt, WR 12 C.Adams, RB 27 A.Galloway, S 28 K.Kennedy, RB 37 C.Sapp, FB 39 K.Johnson, CB 40 J.Shoate, CB 43 J.LeSueur, CB 45 R.Alexander, LB 50 C.Anthony, LB 51 C.Burton, LB 53 L.Green, LB 54 J.Rutledge, DT 60 T.Pittman, DE 61 R.Garner, G 70 T.Clabo, C 79 J.Sewell, WR 82 A.Madise, TE 87 J.Weaver, DT 90 D.Holland, DE 95 C.Mitchell

Did Not Play

RB 25 A.Cason, T 70 L.Shelton, DE 96 D.Johnson

Did Not Play

QB 16 J.Plummer, WR 17 D.Watts, RB 20 G.Hearst, RB 22 Q.Griffin, CB 24 C.Bailey, S 25 N.Ferguson, CB 31 K.Herdon, RB 34 R.Droughns, G 47 J.Lynch, G 50 B.Hamilton, LB 56 A.Wilson, LB 59 D.Spragan, C 62 D.Neil, C 66 T.Nalen, G 71 S.Snell, T 74 C.Green, T 78 M.Lepis, WR 80 R.Smith, TE 83 M.Leach, WR 85 A.Lelie, TE 88 J.Putzier, DE 92 M.Coleman, DE 93 T.Pryce, DT 97 N.Eason, DE 99 R.Johnson

Not Active

WR 11 L.Fitzgerald, CB 28 D.Starks, FS 34 D.Jackson, S 38 I.Ohalete, LB 45 K.Dansby, WR 81 A.Boldin, WR 83 B.Johnson, DT 95 K.King, DE 97 F.Wakefield

Not Active

LB 58 T.Pierce, DT 94 L.Elliss

Field Goals (made () & missed)

N.Rackers (45) (47) (57) (47)

		1	2	3	4	OT	Total
VISITOR:	Arizona Cardinals	6	17	10	0	0	33
HOME:	Denver Broncos	0	0	7	14	0	21

Scoring Plays

Team	Qtr	Time	Play Description (Extra Point) (Drive Info)	Visitor	Home
Cardinal	1	11:11	N.Rackers 45 yd. Field Goal (4-3, 2:19)	3	0
Cardinal	1	5:30	N.Rackers 47 yd. Field Goal (7-18, 3:20)	6	0
Cardinal	2	13:09	J.Scobey 1 yd. run (N.Rackers kick) (12-77, 5:27)	13	0
Cardinal	2	6:17	R.Kolodziej fumble recovery in end zone (N.Rackers kick)	20	0
Cardinal	2	0:13	N.Rackers 57 yd. Field Goal (4-14, 0:29)	23	0
Cardinal	3	10:07	N.Rackers 47 yd. Field Goal (9-51, 4:53)	26	0
Broncos	3	6:25	N.Jackson 24 yd. pass from M.Mauck (J.Elam kick) (7-84, 3:42)	26	7
Cardinal	3	2:05	L.Croom 4 yd. run (N.Rackers kick) (8-80, 4:20)	33	7

National Football League Game Summary

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Broncos	4	14:23	T.Bell 5 yd. run (J.Elam kick) (7-71, 2:42)	33	14
Broncos	4	3:04	B.Van Pelt 14 yd. run (J.Elam kick) (7-84, 2:09)	33	21

Paid Attendance: 71,986

Time: 3:11

Arizona Cardinals vs Denver Broncos
9/2/2004 at Invesco Field at Mile High

Final Individual Statistics

Arizona Cardinals							Denver Broncos										
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD		RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD					
L.Croom	11	41	3.7	11	1		T.Bell	18	69	3.8	21	1					
T.Hambrick	9	37	4.1	30	0		B.Van Pelt	1	14	14.0	14	1					
J.Scobey	9	21	2.3	8	1		M.Mauck	2	11	5.5	13	0					
D.Anderson	4	17	4.3	9	0		T.Luke	1	2	2.0	2	0					
E.Smith	1	7	7.0	7	0												
J.McCown	2	6	3.0	4	0												
J.Navarre	1	-2	-2.0	-2	0												
Total	37	127	3.4	30	2		Total	22	96	4.4	21	2					
PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	SK/YD	TD	LG	IN	RT	PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	SK/YD	TD	LG	IN	RT
J.Navarre	12	5	71	1/7	0	24	0	61.5	M.Mauck	22	13	194	2/19	1	24	0	103.2
S.King	11	9	107	1/1	0	26	0	107.2	D.Kanell	8	2	24	0/0	0	15	0	39.6
J.McCown	8	5	41	1/1	0	26	0	75.5	B.Van Pelt	5	3	68	0/0	0	29	0	104.2
Total	31	19	219	3/9	0	26	0	82.6	Total	35	18	286	2/19	1	29	0	88.5
PASS RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD		PASS RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD					
R.Newhouse	5	69	13.8	24	0		C.Adams	5	84	16.8	29	0					
N.Poole	3	43	14.3	26	0		N.Jackson	5	76	15.2	24	1					
L.Hamilton	3	23	7.7	11	0		B.Chamberlain	4	70	17.5	27	0					
K.Kasper	2	31	15.5	26	0		T.Luke	3	47	15.7	24	0					
J.Scobey	2	15	7.5	15	0		P.Hape	1	9	9.0	9	0					
D.Anderson	2	5	2.5	3	0												
L.Diamond	1	26	26.0	26	0												
K.Williams	1	7	7.0	7	0												
Total	19	219	11.5	26	0		Total	18	286	15.9	29	1					
INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD		INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD					
Total	0	0	0.0	0	0		Total	0	0	0.0	0	0					
PUNTING	NO	YDS	AVG	NET	TB	IN20	LG	PUNTING	NO	YDS	AVG	NET	TB	IN20	LG		
S.Player	5	231	46.2	43.4	1	4	53	M.Knorr	7	301	43.0	30.7	1	0	55		
Total	5	231	46.2	43.4	1	4	53	Total	7	301	43.0	30.7	1	0	55		
PUNT RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	FC	LG	TD	PUNT RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	FC	LG	TD				
K.Williams	4	66	16.5	1	39	0	T.Luke	1	-3	-3.0	0	-3	0				
J.Scobey	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	C.Adams	1	-3	-3.0	1	-3	0				
[TOUCHBACK]	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	[OUT OF BOUNDS]	1	0	0.0	0	0	0				
							[TOUCHBACK]	1	0	0.0	0	0	0				
Returns	5	66	13.2	1	39	0	Returns	2	-6	-3.0	1	0	0				
KICKOFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	FC	LG	TD	KICKOFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	FC	LG	TD				
K.Kasper	1	19	19.0	0	19	0	A.Madise	2	48	24.0	0	26	0				
N.Poole	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	T.Luke	2	42	21.0	0	27	0				
[TOUCHBACK]	2	0	0.0	0	0	0	[TOUCHBACK]	4	0	0.0	0	0	0				
Returns	2	19	9.5	0	19	0	Returns	4	90	22.5	0	27	0				

Arizona Cardinals

FUMBLES	FUM LOST	OWN-REC	YDS	TD	FORCED	OPP-REC	YDS	TD	OUT-BDS
N.Poole	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
K.Kasper	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
C.Pace	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
A.Mayes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
R.Kolodziej	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
A.Smith	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total	1	0	1	0	0	3	2	0	1

Denver Broncos

FUMBLES	FUM LOST	OWN-REC	YDS	TD	FORCED	OPP-REC	YDS	TD	OUT-BDS
M.Mauck	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
T.Bell	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
L.Walls	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

Arizona Cardinals vs Denver Broncos
9/2/2004 at Invesco Field at Mile High

Final Team Statistics

	Visitor Cardinals	Home Broncos
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	22	22
By Rushing	8	5
By Passing	11	16
By Penalty	3	1
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	6-14-43%	4-11-36%
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	0-0-0%	0-0-0%
TOTAL NET YARDS	337	363
Total Offensive Plays (inc. times thrown passing)	71	59
Average gain per offensive play	4.7	6.2
NET YARDS RUSHING	127	96
Total Rushing Plays	37	22
Average gain per rushing play	3.4	4.4
Tackles for a loss-number and yards	4-6	3-4
NET YARDS PASSING	210	267
Times thrown - yards lost attempting to pass	3-9	2-19
Gross yards passing	219	286
PASS ATTEMPTS-COMPLETIONS-HAD INTERCEPTED	31-19-0	35-18-0
Avg gain per pass play (inc.# thrown passing)	6.2	7.2
KICKOFFS Number-In End Zone-Touchbacks	8-5-4	4-2-2
PUNTS Number and Average	5-46.2	7-43.0
Had Blocked	0	0
FGs - PATs Had Blocked	0-0	0-0
Net Punting Average	43.4	30.7
TOTAL RETURN YARDAGE (Not Including Kickoffs)	66	-6
No. and Yards Punt Returns	5-66	2--6
No. and Yards Kickoff Returns	2-19	4-90
No. and Yards Interception Returns	0-0	0-0
PENALTIES Number and Yards	6-35	5-34
FUMBLES Number and Lost	1-0	3-2
TOUCHDOWNS	3	3
Rushing	2	2
Passing	0	1
Fumbles	1	0
EXTRA POINTS Made-Attempts	3-3	3-3
Kicking Made-Attempts	3-3	3-3
FIELD GOALS Made-Attempts	4-4	0-0
RED ZONE EFFICIENCY	2-2-100%	2-2-100%
GOAL TO GO EFFICIENCY	2-2-100%	1-1-100%
SAFETIES	0	0
FINAL SCORE	33	21
TIME OF POSSESSION	37:16	22:44

1st Quarter

Play By Play

9/2/2004

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DEN wins toss, elects to Receive, and ARZ elects to defend the South goal.

N.Rackers kicks 70 yards from ARZ 30 to end zone, Touchback.

Denver Broncos at 15:00

- 1-10-DEN 20 (15:00) T.Bell up the middle to DEN 25 for 5 yards (A.Wilson).
- 2-5-DEN 25 (14:28) T.Bell left tackle to DEN 24 for -1 yards (R.Davis).
- 3-6-DEN 24 (13:49) D.Kanell pass incomplete to N.Jackson.
- 4-6-DEN 24 (13:44) M.Knorr punts 46 yards to ARZ 30, Center-J.Weaver. K.Williams to DEN 31 for 39 yards (M.Knorr).

Arizona Cardinals at 13:30

- 1-10-DEN 31 (13:30) E.Smith right tackle to DEN 24 for 7 yards (C.Young).
- 2-3-DEN 24 (12:57) PENALTY on ARZ, Illegal Substitution, 5 yards, enforced at DEN 24 - No Play.
- 2-8-DEN 29 (12:42) (Shotgun) J.Scobey up the middle to DEN 30 for -1 yards (J.Shoate).
- 3-9-DEN 30 (12:00) (Shotgun) J.McCown left end to DEN 28 for 2 yards (B.McNeal; D.Williams).
- 4-7-DEN 28 (11:16) N.Rackers 45 yard field goal is GOOD, Center-N.Hodel, Holder-S.Player.

ARZ 3 DEN 0, 4 plays, 3 yards, 2:19 drive, 3:49 elapsed

N.Rackers kicks 70 yards from ARZ 30 to end zone, Touchback.

Denver Broncos at 11:11

- 1-10-DEN 20 (11:11) D.Kanell pass incomplete to N.Jackson (R.Hill).
- 2-10-DEN 20 (11:03) D.Kanell pass incomplete to T.Bell.
- 3-10-DEN 20 (10:58) D.Kanell pass to C.Adams to DEN 35 for 15 yards (J.Darling) P1
- 1-10-DEN 35 (10:21) T.Luke pushed ob at DEN 37 for 2 yards (Q.Harris).
- 2-8-DEN 37 (9:50) T.Bell right guard to DEN 38 for 1 yard (R.Davis).
- 3-7-DEN 38 (9:11) D.Kanell pass incomplete to C.Adams (A.Wilson).
- 4-7-DEN 38 (9:00) M.Knorr punts 10 yards to DEN 48, Center-J.Weaver. J.Scobey to DEN 48 for no gain (M.Knorr).
pUNT WAS TOUCHED

Arizona Cardinals at 8:50

- 1-10-DEN 47 (8:50) J.Scobey right tackle to DEN 44 for 3 yards (J.Sykes).
- 2-7-DEN 44 (8:08) J.McCown pass to J.Scobey to DEN 44 for no gain (D.Williams).
- 3-7-DEN 44 (7:29) S.King pass to J.Scobey to DEN 29 for 15 yards (W.Middlebrooks) P1
Penalty on DEN, Defensive Holding, declined.
- 1-10-DEN 29 (6:59) T.Hambrick left guard to DEN 28 for 1 yard (S.Brandon).
- 2-9-DEN 28 (6:24) J.Scobey right end to DEN 29 for -1 yards (C.Burton; D.Williams).
- 3-10-DEN 29 (5:40) (Shotgun) J.McCown pass incomplete (R.Hayward).
- 4-10-DEN 29 (5:35) N.Rackers 47 yard field goal is GOOD, Center-N.Hodel, Holder-S.Player.

ARZ 6 DEN 0, 7 plays, 18 yards, 3:20 drive, 9:30 elapsed

N.Rackers kicks 70 yards from ARZ 30 to end zone, Touchback.

Denver Broncos at 5:30

- 1-10-DEN 20 (5:30) D.Kanell pass to P.Hape to DEN 29 for 9 yards (R.Thompson).
- 2-1-DEN 29 (5:07) T.Bell right guard to DEN 31 for 2 yards (R.McKinnon, R.Davis) R2
- 1-10-DEN 31 (4:33) D.Kanell pass incomplete to N.Jackson.
- 2-10-DEN 31 (4:27) T.Bell right tackle to DEN 37 for 6 yards (A.Wilson).
- 3-4-DEN 37 (3:51) D.Kanell pass incomplete to T.Luke.
- 4-4-DEN 37 (3:48) M.Knorr punts 50 yards to ARZ 13, Center-J.Weaver. K.Williams to ARZ 23 for 10 yards (S.Brandon).

Arizona Cardinals at 3:36

- 1-10-ARZ 23 (3:36) J.McCown pass to K.Kasper to ARZ 28 for 5 yards (J.Sykes).
- 2-5-ARZ 28 (3:09) J.McCown pass incomplete to L.Hamilton.
PENALTY on DEN-S.Brandon, Personal Foul, 15 yards, enforced at ARZ 28 - No Play. X2
- 1-10-ARZ 43 (3:04) J.McCown pass incomplete to F.Jones.
- 2-10-ARZ 43 (3:00) J.McCown right end ran ob at ARZ 47 for 4 yards.
PENALTY on DEN-M.Pope, Face Mask (5 Yards), 5 yards, enforced at ARZ 47.
- 2-1-DEN 48 (2:29) J.McCown pass incomplete to J.Rue (W.Middlebrooks).
Timeout #1 by ARZ at 02:22.
- 3-1-DEN 48 (2:22) T.Hambrick up the middle to DEN 45 for 3 yards (S.Brandon, J.Sykes) R3
- 1-10-DEN 45 (1:49) T.Hambrick right guard to DEN 45 for no gain (P.Chukwurah).
- 2-10-DEN 45 (1:09) (Shotgun) J.McCown pass to K.Kasper to DEN 19 for 26 yards (J.Shoate) P4
- 1-10-DEN 19 (:24) J.McCown sacked at DEN 20 for -1 yards (M.Fatafehi).

END OF QUARTER	Score	Time	First Downs				Efficiencies		
==== Quarter Summary =====			Poss	R	P	X	T	3Down	4Down
Arizona Cardinals	6	9:15	1	2	1	4		2/4	0/0
Denver Broncos	0	5:45	1	1	0	2		1/4	0/0

2nd Quarter

9/2/2004

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Play By Play

Arizona Cardinals continued.

2-11-DEN 20	(15:00) J.McCown pass incomplete to N.Poole. <i>PENALTY on DEN-W.Middlebrooks, Defensive Holding, 5 yards, enforced at DEN 20 - No Play.</i>	X5
<u>1-10-DEN 15</u>	(14:56) T.Hambrick right end to DEN 14 for 1 yard (P.Chukwurah). Timeout #2 by ARZ at 14:09.	
2-9-DEN 14	(14:09) J.McCown pass to N.Poole to DEN 11 for 3 yards (L.Walls). FUMBLES (L.Walls), recovered by ARZ-K.Kasper at DEN 8. K.Kasper to DEN 8 for no gain (C.Burton).	
3-3-DEN 8	(13:34) J.McCown pass to K.Williams pushed ob at DEN 1 for 7 yards (L.Walls).	P6
<u>1-1-DEN 1</u>	(13:13) J.Scobey up the middle for 1 yard, TOUCHDOWN. N.Rackers extra point is GOOD, Center-N.Hodel, Holder-S.Player.	R7

ARZ 13 DEN 0, 12 plays, 77 yards, 3 penalties, 5:27 drive, 1:51 elapsed

N.Rackers kicks 73 yards from ARZ 30 to DEN -3. A.Madise to DEN 23 for 26 yards (A.Mayes).

Denver Broncos at 13:09, (1st play from scrimmage 13:02)

1-10-DEN 23	(13:02) M.Mauck pass incomplete to J.Weaver.	
2-10-DEN 23	(12:57) M.Mauck pass incomplete to J.Weaver.	
3-10-DEN 23	(12:50) M.Mauck pass incomplete to T.Bell.	
4-10-DEN 23	(12:46) M.Knorr punts 55 yards to ARZ 22, Center-J.Weaver. K.Williams to ARZ 30 for 8 yards (J.LeSueur, K.Johnson). <i>Penalty on DEN-K.Johnson, Illegal Formation, declined.</i>	

Arizona Cardinals at 12:33

1-10-ARZ 30	(12:33) S.King pass incomplete to L.Diamond.	
2-10-ARZ 30	(12:29) D.Anderson up the middle to ARZ 34 for 4 yards (J.Shoate).	
3-6-ARZ 34	(11:46) (Shotgun) S.King pass incomplete to N.Poole.	
4-6-ARZ 34	(11:39) S.Player punts 49 yards to DEN 17, Center-N.Hodel, out of bounds.	

Denver Broncos at 11:31

1-10-DEN 18	(11:31) <i>PENALTY on DEN-G.Foster, False Start, 5 yards, enforced at DEN 18 - No Play.</i>	
1-15-DEN 13	(11:31) T.Bell to DEN 25 for 12 yards (C.Rhinehart).	
2-3-DEN 25	(10:54) T.Bell up the middle to DEN 27 for 2 yards (R.Thompson, G.Hayes). Timeout #1 by DEN at 10:15.	
3-1-DEN 27	(10:15) T.Bell up the middle to DEN 27 for no gain (C.Pace).	
4-1-DEN 27	(9:27) M.Knorr punts 51 yards to ARZ 22, Center-J.Weaver, fair catch by K.Williams.	

Arizona Cardinals at 9:19

1-10-ARZ 22	(9:19) (Shotgun) S.King pass to N.Poole to ARZ 36 for 14 yards (L.Walls).	P8
<u>1-10-ARZ 36</u>	(8:38) S.King sacked at ARZ 35 for -1 yards (M.Fatafeh).	
2-11-ARZ 35	(8:04) (Shotgun) D.Anderson up the middle to ARZ 36 for 1 yard (R.Hayward).	
3-10-ARZ 36	(7:21) (Shotgun) <i>PENALTY on ARZ-R.Wells, False Start, 5 yards, enforced at ARZ 36 - No Play.</i>	
3-15-ARZ 31	(7:21) (Shotgun) S.King pass to D.Anderson to ARZ 33 for 2 yards (L.Walls).	
4-13-ARZ 33	(6:41) S.Player punts 53 yards to DEN 14, Center-N.Hodel. T.Luke to DEN 11 for -3 yards (A.Wilson).	

Denver Broncos at 6:27

1-10-DEN 11	(6:27) M.Mauck sacked at DEN 0 for -11 yards (C.Pace). FUMBLES (C.Pace), RECOVERED by ARZ-R.Kolodziej at DEN 0. TOUCHDOWN.	
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Arizona Cardinals at 6:17

N.Rackers extra point is GOOD, Center-N.Hodel, Holder-S.Player.

ARZ 20 DEN 0, 0 plays, 0 yards, 0:00 drive - 8:43 elapsed

N.Rackers kicks 70 yards from ARZ 30 to end zone, Touchback.

Denver Broncos at 6:17

1-10-DEN 20	(6:17) <i>PENALTY on ARZ-W.Bryant, Encroachment, 5 yards, enforced at DEN 20 - No Play.</i>	
1-5-DEN 25	(6:17) T.Bell right tackle to DEN 23 for -2 yards (W.Bryant).	
2-7-DEN 23	(5:44) M.Mauck pass to C.Adams to DEN 41 for 18 yards (R.Hill).	P3
<u>1-10-DEN 41</u>	(5:08) T.Bell right end to DEN 42 for 1 yard (G.Hayes).	
2-9-DEN 42	(4:30) M.Mauck pass incomplete to C.Adams (C.Rhinehart).	
3-9-DEN 42	(4:26) M.Mauck pass incomplete to C.Adams.	
4-9-DEN 42	(4:21) M.Knorr punts 42 yards to ARZ 16, Center-J.Weaver. K.Williams to ARZ 25 for 9 yards (K.Johnson).	

Arizona Cardinals at 4:10

1-10-ARZ 25	(4:10) J.Scobey right end to ARZ 33 for 8 yards (C.Burton).	
2-2-ARZ 33	(3:30) J.Scobey right guard to ARZ 39 for 6 yards (C.Young, J.Shoate).	R9
<u>1-10-ARZ 39</u>	(2:47) J.Navarre pass incomplete to N.Poole (L.Walls).	
2-10-ARZ 39	(2:43) J.Navarre pass to R.Newhouse to DEN 42 for 19 yards (S.Brandon).	P10
<u>1-10-DEN 42</u>	(2:07) T.Hambrick up the middle to DEN 40 for 2 yards (J.Sykes).	

Two-Minute Warning

2-8-DEN 40	(2:00) (Shotgun) J.Navarre pass incomplete to R.Newhouse.	
3-8-DEN 40	(1:55) J.Navarre sacked at DEN 47 for -7 yards (R.Hayward). Timeout #2 by DEN at 01:34.	
4-15-DEN 47	(1:34) S.Player punts 47 yards to end zone, Center-N.Hodel, Touchback.	

Denver Broncos at 1:25

1-10-DEN 20	(1:25) M.Mauck pass to N.Jackson to DEN 33 for 13 yards (D.Macklin).	P4
<u>1-10-DEN 33</u>	(1:06) M.Mauck left tackle to DEN 46 for 13 yards (J.Darling). Timeout #3 by DEN at 00:56.	R5
<u>1-10-DEN 46</u>	(;56) M.Mauck pass to C.Adams to ARZ 39 for 15 yards (R.Hill; J.Darling).	P6
<u>1-10-ARZ 39</u>	(;50) M.Mauck sacked at ARZ 47 for -8 yards (C.Pace). FUMBLES (C.Pace), RECOVERED by ARZ-A.Smith at ARZ 47.	

Arizona Cardinals at 0:42

1-10-ARZ 47	(;42) J.Navarre pass to R.Newhouse to DEN 29 for 24 yards (C.Young).	P11
<u>1-10-DEN 29</u>	(;39) J.Navarre spiked the ball to stop the clock.	
2-10-DEN 29	(;21) J.Navarre pass incomplete to L.Diamond. <i>PENALTY on ARZ-J.Navarre, Intentional Grounding, 10 yards, enforced at DEN 29.</i>	
3-20-DEN 39	(;18) (Shotgun) N.Rackers 57 yard field goal is GOOD, Center-N.Hodel, Holder-S.Player.	

ARZ 23 DEN 0, 4 plays, 14 yards, 0:29 drive, 14:47 elapsed

N.Rackers kicks 65 yards from ARZ 30 to DEN 5. A.Madise to DEN 27 for 22 yards (E.Edwards).

Denver Broncos at 0:13, (1st play from scrimmage 0:05)

1-10-DEN 27	(;05) M.Mauck kneels to DEN 25 for -2 yards.	
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END OF QUARTER	Score	Time	First Downs				Efficiencies		
==== Quarter Summary =====			Poss	R	P	X	T	3Down	4Down
Arizona Cardinals	23	8:59	2	4	1	7		1/4	0/0
Denver Broncos	0	6:01	1	3	0	4		0/3	0/0

Arizona Cardinals vs Denver Broncos
9/2/2004 at Invesco Field at Mile High

First Half Summary

	PERIOD SCORES			TIME OF POSSESSION	
Cardinals (Visitor)	6	17 = 23	Cardinals	18:14	
Broncos (Home)	0	0 = 0	Broncos	11:46	

Scoring Plays

Team	Qtr	Time	Scoring Play	Score	
				Visitor	Home
Cardinal	1	11:11	N.Rackers 45 yd. Field Goal (4-3, 2:19)	3	0
Cardinal	1	5:30	N.Rackers 47 yd. Field Goal (7-18, 3:20)	6	0
Cardinal	2	13:09	J.Scobey 1 yd. run (N.Rackers kick) (12-77, 5:27)	13	0
Cardinal	2	6:17	R.Kolodziej fumble recovery in end zone (N.Rackers kick)	20	0
Cardinal	2	0:13	N.Rackers 57 yd. Field Goal (4-14, 0:29)	23	0

	Cardinals	Broncos
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	11	6
First Downs Rushing-Passing-by Penalty	3 - 6 - 2	2 - 4 - 0
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	3-8-38%	1-7-14%
TOTAL NET YARDS	147	90
Total Offensive Plays	38	31
NET YARDS RUSHING	41	39
NET YARDS PASSING	106	51
Gross Yards Passing	115	70
Times thrown-yards lost attempting to pass	3-9	2-19
Pass Attempts-Completions-Had Intercepted	19 - 10 - 0	16 - 5 - 0
Punts-Number and Average	3 - 49.7	6 - 42.3
Penalties-Number and Yards	4 - 25	4 - 30
Fumbles-Number and Lost	1 - 0	2 - 2
Red Zone Efficiency	2-2-100%	2-2-100%
Average Drive Start	ARZ 34	DEN 20

Arizona Cardinals						Denver Broncos											
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD	RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD						
J.Scobey	6	16	2.7	8	1	T.Bell	10	26	2.6	12	0						
T.Hambrick	5	7	1.4	3	0	M.Mauck	2	11	5.5	13	0						
E.Smith	1	7	7.0	7	0	T.Luke	1	2	2.0	2	0						
J.McCown	2	6	3.0	4	0												
D.Anderson	2	5	2.5	4	0												
Total	16	41	2.6	8	1	Total	13	39	3.0	13	0						
PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	SK/YD	TD	LG	IN	RT	PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	SK/YD	TD	LG	IN	RT
J.McCown	8	5	41	1/1	0	26	0	75.5	M.Mauck	8	3	46	2/19	0	18	0	57.3
J.Navarre	6	2	43	1/7	0	24	0	59.7	D.Kanell	8	2	24	0/0	0	15	0	39.6
S.King	5	3	31	1/1	0	15	0	77.9									
Total	19	10	115	3/9	0	26	0	71.2	Total	16	5	70	2/19	0	18	0	46.4
PASS RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD	PASS RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD						
R.Newhouse	2	43	21.5	24	0	C.Adams	3	48	16.0	18	0						
K.Kasper	2	31	15.5	26	0	N.Jackson	1	13	13.0	13	0						
N.Poole	2	17	8.5	14	0	P.Hape	1	9	9.0	9	0						
J.Scobey	2	15	7.5	15	0												
K.Williams	1	7	7.0	7	0												
D.Anderson	1	2	2.0	2	0												
Total	10	115	11.5	26	0	Total	5	70	14.0	18	0						

Arizona Cardinals		Regular Defensive Plays								Special Teams					Misc				
		TKL	AST	COMB	SACK	YRDS	IN	PD	FF	FR	TKL	AST	FF	FR	BL	TKL	AST	FF	FR
C.Pace		3	0	3	2.0	19.0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
J.Darling		2	1	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
R.Davis		2	1	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
R.Thompson		2	0	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Denver Broncos	Regular Defensive Plays	Special Teams	Misc
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First Half Summary

	TKL	AST	COMB	SACK / YRDS	IN	PD	FF	FR	TKL	AST	FF	FR	BL	TKL	AST	FF	FR
L.Walls	4	0	4	0.0	0.0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
J.Shoate	3	1	4	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
J.Sykes	3	1	4	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
S.Brandon	3	0	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3rd Quarter

Play By Play

9/2/2004

Page 1

ARZ elects to Receive, and DEN elects to defend the South goal.

H.Epstein kicks 69 yards from DEN 30 to ARZ 1. K.Kasper to ARZ 20 for 19 yards (C.Burton; J.LeSueur).

Arizona Cardinals at 15:00, (1st play from scrimmage 14:54)

- 1-10-ARZ 20 (14:54) D.Anderson right tackle to ARZ 23 for 3 yards (D.Holland).
- 2-7-ARZ 23 (14:18) S.King pass to L.Hamilton to ARZ 29 for 6 yards (J.LeSueur; C.Anthony).
- 3-1-ARZ 29 (13:35) T.Hambrick left end to DEN 41 for 30 yards (C.Young; J.LeSueur). R12
- 1-10-DEN 41 (12:55) D.Anderson up the middle to DEN 32 for 9 yards (S.Brandon).
- 2-1-DEN 32 (12:55) T.Hambrick up the middle to DEN 31 for 1 yard (D.Holland). R13
- 1-10-DEN 31 (12:14) T.Hambrick left guard to DEN 30 for 1 yard (L.Green).
- 2-9-DEN 30 (11:35) T.Hambrick left guard to DEN 32 for -2 yards (S.Brandon).
- 3-11-DEN 32 (10:54) (Shotgun) S.King pass to D.Anderson to DEN 29 for 3 yards (C.Burton).
- 4-8-DEN 29 (10:11) **N.Rackers 47 yard field goal is GOOD, Center-N.Hodel, Holder-S.Player.**

ARZ 26 DEN 0, 9 plays, 51 yards, 4:53 drive, 4:53 elapsed

N.Rackers kicks 69 yards from ARZ 30 to DEN 1. T.Luke to DEN 16 for 15 yards (O.Ayanbadejo).

Denver Broncos at 10:07, (1st play from scrimmage 10:01)

- 1-10-DEN 16 (10:01) M.Mauck pass to N.Jackson to DEN 34 for 18 yards (M.Stone). P7
- 1-10-DEN 34 (9:25) T.Bell right guard to DEN 38 for 4 yards (L.Woods).
- 2-6-DEN 38 (8:50) T.Bell right end to DEN 39 for 1 yard (R.Kolodziej).
- 3-5-DEN 39 (8:11) M.Mauck pass to T.Luke to DEN 48 for 9 yards (R.Tate). P8
- 1-10-DEN 48 (7:32) T.Bell up the middle to ARZ 45 for 7 yards (J.Darling).
- 2-3-ARZ 45 (7:04) T.Bell right tackle to ARZ 23 for 22 yards (A.Mayes). FUMBLES (A.Mayes), RECOVERED by ARZ-C.Rhinehart at ARZ 5. C.Rhinehart pushed ob at ARZ 5 for no gain. R9
Play Challenged by DEN and REVERSED.
T.Bell right tackle to ARZ 24 for 21 yards (A.Mayes). FUMBLES (A.Mayes), ball out of bounds at ARZ 24.
- 1-10-ARZ 24 (6:33) **M.Mauck pass to N.Jackson for 24 yards, TOUCHDOWN.** P10
J.Elam extra point is GOOD, Center-J.Weaver, Holder-M.Knorr.

ARZ 26 DEN 7, 7 plays, 84 yards, 3:42 drive, 8:35 elapsed

H.Epstein kicks 70 yards from DEN 30 to end zone, Touchback.

Arizona Cardinals at 6:25

- 1-10-ARZ 20 (6:25) J.Scobey to ARZ 21 for 1 yard (S.Brandon).
- 2-9-ARZ 21 (5:48) S.King pass to R.Newhouse to ARZ 27 for 6 yards (R.Alexander).
- 3-3-ARZ 27 (5:10) S.King pass incomplete to L.Hamilton (R.Alexander).
PENALTY on DEN-J.LeSueur, Illegal Use of Hands, 4 yards, enforced at ARZ 27 - No Play. X14
- 1-10-ARZ 31 (5:06) (Shotgun) S.King pass to L.Diamond to DEN 43 for 26 yards (C.Young). P15
- 1-10-DEN 43 (4:21) (Shotgun) J.Scobey up the middle to DEN 42 for 1 yard (C.Young).
- 2-9-DEN 42 (3:42) S.King pass to R.Newhouse pushed ob at DEN 33 for 9 yards (L.Green). P16
- 1-10-DEN 33 (3:14) J.Scobey left tackle to DEN 30 for 3 yards (L.Green).
- 2-7-DEN 30 (2:33) (Shotgun) S.King pass to N.Poole pushed ob at DEN 4 for 26 yards (C.Young). P17
Timeout #1 by ARZ at 02:09.
- 1-4-DEN 4 (2:09) **L.Croom right guard for 4 yards, TOUCHDOWN.** R18
N.Rackers extra point is GOOD, Center-N.Hodel, Holder-S.Player.

ARZ 33 DEN 7, 8 plays, 80 yards, 1 penalty, 4:20 drive, 12:55 elapsed

N.Rackers kicks 68 yards from ARZ 30 to DEN 2. T.Luke to DEN 29 for 27 yards (D.Anderson).

Denver Broncos at 2:05, (1st play from scrimmage 1:59)

- 1-10-DEN 29 (1:59) M.Mauck pass to B.Chamberlain to DEN 45 for 16 yards (L.Fisher; C.Rhinehart). P11
- 1-10-DEN 45 (1:32) M.Mauck pass to B.Chamberlain to ARZ 45 for 10 yards (J.Darling). P12
- 1-10-ARZ 45 (:59) T.Bell up the middle to ARZ 41 for 4 yards (C.Pace).
- 2-6-ARZ 41 (:26) M.Mauck pass to B.Chamberlain to ARZ 24 for 17 yards (M.Stone). P13

END OF QUARTER	Score	Time	First Downs				Efficiencies	
==== Quarter Summary =====		Poss	R	P	X	T	3Down	4Down
Arizona Cardinals	33	9:13	3	3	1	7	1/2	0/0
Denver Broncos	7	5:47	1	6	0	7	1/1	0/0

Denver Broncos continued.

- 1-10-ARZ 24 (15:00) M.Mauck pass incomplete to N.Jackson.
- 2-10-ARZ 24 (14:55) M.Mauck pass to T.Luke to ARZ 10 for 14 yards (G.Hayes). P14
- PENALTY on ARZ-G.Hayes, Face Mask (15 Yards), 5 yards, enforced at ARZ 10.* X15
- 1-5-ARZ 5 (14:27) **T.Bell left guard for 5 yards, TOUCHDOWN.** **R16**
- J.Elam extra point is GOOD, Center-J.Weaver, Holder-M.Knorr.

ARZ 33 DEN 14, 7 plays, 71 yards, 1 penalty, 2:42 drive, 0:37 elapsed

H.Epstein kicks 70 yards from DEN 30 to end zone, Touchback.

Arizona Cardinals at 14:23

- 1-10-ARZ 20 (14:23) L.Croom left guard to ARZ 31 for 11 yards (S.Brandon, J.LeSueur). R19
- 1-10-ARZ 31 (13:42) L.Croom up the middle pushed ob at ARZ 36 for 5 yards (J.Shoate).
- 2-5-ARZ 36 (13:16) J.Navarre pass to L.Hamilton to ARZ 47 for 11 yards (J.LeSueur). P20
- 1-10-ARZ 47 (12:35) L.Croom right guard to DEN 49 for 4 yards (R.Garner).
- 2-6-DEN 49 (11:55) L.Croom left tackle to DEN 49 for no gain (C.Young).
- 3-6-DEN 49 (11:16) (Shotgun) J.Navarre pass incomplete.
- 4-6-DEN 49 (11:11) S.Player punts 35 yards to DEN 14, Center-N.Hodel, fair catch by C.Adams.

Denver Broncos at 11:03

- 1-10-DEN 14 (11:03) M.Mauck pass to T.Luke to DEN 38 for 24 yards (A.Mayes). P17
- 1-10-DEN 38 (10:32) M.Mauck pass to N.Jackson to DEN 47 for 9 yards (M.Stone).
- 2-1-DEN 47 (10:04) T.Bell right guard to DEN 46 for -1 yards (C.Hilliard, R.Kolodziej).
- 3-2-DEN 46 (9:31) M.Mauck pass to C.Adams to ARZ 47 for 7 yards (R.Hill). P18
- 1-10-ARZ 47 (9:02) M.Mauck pass incomplete (R.Hill).
- 2-10-ARZ 47 (8:58) M.Mauck pass incomplete to N.Jackson.
- 3-10-ARZ 47 (8:52) M.Mauck pass incomplete to J.Weaver.
- 4-10-ARZ 47 (8:48) M.Knorr punts 47 yards to end zone, Center-J.Weaver, Touchback.

Arizona Cardinals at 8:38

- 1-10-ARZ 20 (8:38) L.Croom right tackle to ARZ 24 for 4 yards (P.Chukwurah).
- 2-6-ARZ 24 (8:00) L.Croom up the middle to ARZ 22 for -2 yards (P.Chukwurah, S.Brandon).
- 3-8-ARZ 22 (7:22) J.Navarre pass to R.Newhouse to ARZ 33 for 11 yards (J.Shoate). P21
- 1-10-ARZ 33 (6:38) J.Navarre pass to R.Newhouse to ARZ 40 for 7 yards (J.Shoate).
- PENALTY on ARZ-L.Hamilton, Illegal Shift, 5 yards, enforced at ARZ 33 - No Play.*
- 1-15-ARZ 28 (6:16) J.Navarre pass incomplete to N.Poole.
- 2-15-ARZ 28 (6:12) L.Croom right guard to ARZ 34 for 6 yards (L.Green).
- 3-9-ARZ 34 (5:29) J.Navarre pass incomplete to L.Croom.
- Penalty on ARZ-E.Lindsay, Offensive Holding, declined.*
- 4-9-ARZ 34 (5:24) S.Player punts 47 yards to DEN 19, Center-N.Hodel. C.Adams to DEN 16 for -3 yards (A.Mayes; N.Hodel).

Denver Broncos at 5:13

- 1-10-DEN 16 (5:13) B.Van Pelt pass incomplete to C.Adams.
- 2-10-DEN 16 (5:08) B.Van Pelt pass incomplete to T.Luke (R.Tate).
- 3-10-DEN 16 (5:05) B.Van Pelt pass to N.Jackson to DEN 28 for 12 yards (M.Stone). P19
- 1-10-DEN 28 (4:31) T.Bell right guard to DEN 30 for 2 yards (C.Hilliard).
- 2-8-DEN 30 (3:57) B.Van Pelt pass to B.Chamberlain pushed ob at ARZ 43 for 27 yards (M.Stone). P20
- 1-10-ARZ 43 (3:48) B.Van Pelt pass to C.Adams to ARZ 14 for 29 yards (L.Fisher). P21
- 1-10-ARZ 14 (3:11) **B.Van Pelt right end for 14 yards, TOUCHDOWN.** **R22**
- J.Elam extra point is GOOD, Center-J.Weaver, Holder-M.Knorr.

ARZ 33 DEN 21, 7 plays, 84 yards, 2:09 drive, 11:56 elapsed

(Onside Kick formation) J.Elam kicks 15 yards from DEN 30 to DEN 45. N.Poole (didn't try to advance) to DEN 45 for no gain (C.Mitchell).

Arizona Cardinals at 3:04, (1st play from scrimmage 3:03)

- 1-10-DEN 45 (3:03) J.Navarre pass to L.Hamilton to DEN 39 for 6 yards (S.Brandon).
- 2-4-DEN 39 (2:20) L.Croom left tackle to DEN 37 for 2 yards (P.Chukwurah).

Two-Minute Warning

- 3-2-DEN 37 (2:00) L.Croom left tackle to DEN 32 for 5 yards (P.Chukwurah; L.Green). R22
- 1-10-DEN 32 (1:16) L.Croom right tackle to DEN 30 for 2 yards (R.Garner).
- 2-8-DEN 30 (:33) J.Navarre kneels to DEN 32 for -2 yards.

END OF QUARTER	Score	Time	First Downs				Efficiencies	
==== Quarter Summary =====		Poss	R	P	X	T	3Down	4Down
Arizona Cardinals	33	9:49	2	2	0	4	2/4	0/0
Denver Broncos	21	5:11	2	6	1	9	2/3	0/0

Arizona Cardinals vs Denver Broncos
9/2/2004 at Invesco Field at Mile High

Ball Possession And Drive Chart

Arizona Cardinals

#	Time Recd	Time Lost	Time Poss	How Ball Obtained	Drive Began	# Play	Yds Gain	Yds Pen	Net Yds	1st Down	Last Scrm	How Given Up
1	13:30	11:11	2:19	Punt	DEN 31	4	8	-5	3	0	DEN 28	Field Goal
2	8:50	5:30	3:20	Punt	DEN 47	7	18	0	18	1	DEN 29	Field Goal
3	3:36	13:09	5:27	Punt	ARZ 23	12	52	25	77	6	*DEN 1	Touchdown
4	12:33	11:31	1:02	Punt	ARZ 30	3	4	0	4	0	ARZ 34	Punt
5	9:19	6:27	2:52	Punt	ARZ 22	4	16	-5	11	1	ARZ 33	Punt
6	4:10	1:25	2:45	Punt	ARZ 25	7	28	0	28	2	DEN 47	Punt
7	0:42	0:13	0:29	Fumble	ARZ 47	4	24	-10	14	1	DEN 39	Field Goal
8	15:00	10:07	4:53	Kickoff	ARZ 20	9	51	0	51	2	DEN 29	Field Goal
9	6:25	2:05	4:20	Kickoff	ARZ 20	8	76	4	80	5	*DEN 4	Touchdown
10	14:23	11:03	3:20	Kickoff	ARZ 20	6	31	0	31	2	DEN 49	Punt
11	8:38	5:13	3:25	Punt	ARZ 20	6	19	-5	14	1	ARZ 34	Punt
12	3:04	0:00	3:04	Kickoff	DEN 45	5	13	0	13	1	DEN 30	End of Game

 (404) Average ARZ 34

Denver Broncos

#	Time Recd	Time Lost	Time Poss	How Ball Obtained	Drive Began	# Play	Yds Gain	Yds Pen	Net Yds	1st Down	Last Scrm	How Given Up
1	15:00	13:30	1:30	Kickoff	DEN 20	3	4	0	4	0	DEN 24	Punt
2	11:11	8:50	2:21	Kickoff	DEN 20	6	18	0	18	1	DEN 38	Punt
3	5:30	3:36	1:54	Kickoff	DEN 20	5	17	0	17	1	DEN 37	Punt
4	13:09	12:33	0:36	Kickoff	DEN 23	3	0	0	0	0	DEN 23	Punt
5	11:31	9:19	2:12	Punt	DEN 18	3	14	-5	9	0	DEN 27	Punt
6	6:27	6:17	0:10	Punt	DEN 11	1	-11	0	-11	0	DEN 11	Fumble
7	6:17	4:10	2:07	Kickoff	DEN 20	5	17	5	22	1	DEN 42	Punt
8	1:25	0:42	0:43	Punt	DEN 20	4	33	0	33	3	ARZ 39	Fumble
9	0:13	0:00	0:13	Kickoff	DEN 27	1	-2	0	-2	0	DEN 27	End of Half
10	10:07	6:25	3:42	Kickoff	DEN 16	7	84	0	84	4	ARZ 24	Touchdown
11	2:05	14:23	2:42	Kickoff	DEN 29	7	66	5	71	6	*ARZ 5	Touchdown
12	11:03	8:38	2:25	Punt	DEN 14	7	39	0	39	2	ARZ 47	Punt
13	5:13	3:04	2:09	Punt	DEN 16	7	84	0	84	4	*ARZ 14	Touchdown

 (254) Average DEN 20

*** inside opponent's 20**

Time of Possession by Quarter	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Visitor Arizona Cardinals	9:15	8:59	9:13	9:49		37:16
Home Denver Broncos	5:45	6:01	5:47	5:11		22:44

Kickoff Drive No.-Start Average Cardinals: 4 - ARZ 29 Broncos: 8 - DEN 22

Arizona Cardinals vs Denver Broncos
9/2/2004 at Invesco Field at Mile High
Final Defensive Statistics

Arizona Cardinals	Regular Defensive Plays										Special Teams					Misc			
	TKL	AST	COMB	SACK /	YRDS	IN	PD	FF	FR		TKL	AST	FF	FR	BL	TKL	AST	FF	FR
M.Stone	5	0	5	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
J.Darling	4	1	5	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C.Pace	4	0	4	2.0	19.0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
R.Hill	2	1	3	0.0	0.0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
R.Davis	2	1	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
G.Hayes	2	1	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A.Wilson	2	0	2	0.0	0.0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A.Mayes	2	0	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
R.Thompson	2	0	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C.Hilliard	2	0	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C.Rhinehart	1	1	2	0.0	0.0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
R.Kolodziej	1	1	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
L.Fisher	1	1	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
R.Tate	1	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q.Harris	1	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
R.McKinnon	1	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
W.Bryant	1	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D.Macklin	1	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
L.Woods	1	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A.Smith	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E.Edwards	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
O.Ayanbadejo	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D.Anderson	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N.Hodel	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
K.Kasper	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	36	7	43	2.0	19.0	0	5	3	2	0	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

TKL /TK=Tackle AST /AS=Assist COMB=Combined IN=Interception
 PD=Pass Defense FF =Forced Fumble FR=Fumble Recovery BL=Blocked

Denver Broncos	Regular Defensive Plays										Special Teams					Misc			
	TKL	AST	COMB	SACK /	YRDS	IN	PD	FF	FR		TKL	AST	FF	FR	BL	TKL	AST	FF	FR
S.Brandon	8	1	9	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C.Young	7	1	8	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
J.Shoate	5	1	6	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.Chukwurah	5	1	6	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
L.Green	4	1	5	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
L.Walls	4	0	4	0.0	0.0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C.Burton	3	1	4	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
J.Sykes	3	1	4	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
J.LeSueur	1	3	4	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D.Williams	1	2	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
R.Hayward	2	0	2	1.0	7.0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M.Fatafehi	2	0	2	2.0	2.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D.Holland	2	0	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
R.Garner	2	0	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
W.Middlebrooks	1	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
R.Alexander	1	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B.McNeal	0	1	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C.Anthony	0	1	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M.Knorr	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
K.Johnson	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C.Mitchell	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	51	14	65	3.0	9.0	0	3	1	0	0	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



DENVER BRONCOS vs. ARIZONA CARDINALS

THURSDAY, SEPT. 2, 2004 • 7:00 P.M. • INVESCO FIELD AT MILE HIGH • DENVER, COLO.



CARDINALS NUMERICAL

No.	Player	Pos.
1	Neil Rackers	K
4	Sham King	WR
10	Scott Player	P
11	Larry Fitzgerald	WR
12	Josh McCown	QB
14	Reggie Newhouse	WR
16	John Navarre	WR
20	Damien Anderson	WR
21	Renaldo Hill	WR
22	Enmitt Smith	WR
23	Coby Rhinehart	WR
24	Adrian Wilson	WR
26	Robert Tate	WR
27	David Macklin	WR
28	Duane Starks	WR
29	Quentin Harris	WR
30	Obafemi Ayantadejo	WR
31	Marcel Shipp	WR
32	Larry Croom	WR
33	Josh Scobey	WR
34	Dexter Jackson	WR
35	Dydstod Carter	WR
37	Adrian Mayes	WR
38	Ifeanyi Othale	WR
42	James Hodgins	WR
43	Eric Edwards	WR
44	Michael Stone	WR
45	Karlis Dansby	WR
46	Joshua Rue	WR
47	Marcus Wilkins	WR
48	Nathan Hodel	WR
49	Lorenzo Diamond	WR
51	James Darling	WR
52	Levar Fisher	WR
54	Geralt Hayes	WR
55	Ray Thompson	WR
56	LeVar Woods	WR
57	Ronald McKinnon	WR
60	Nick Leach	WR
61	Everett Lindsay	WR
62	Joe Tafoya	WR
63	Frank Garcia	WR
64	Steve Grace	WR
65	Anthony Clement	WR
67	Antonio Smith	WR
68	Tony Wragge	WR
69	Rolando Cantu	WR
70	L.J. Shelton	WR
71	Alex Stepanovich	WR
72	Ross Kolodziej	WR
73	Raleigh Roundtree	WR
74	Reggie Wells	WR
75	Leonard Davis	WR
76	Cameron Spikes	WR
78	Cedric Hilliard	WR
79	Calvin Pace	WR
81	Anquan Boldin	WR
82	Kevin Kasper	WR
83	Bryant Johnson	WR
84	Lawrence Hamilton	WR
85	Freddie Jones	WR
86	Karl Williams	WR
89	Nathan Poole	WR
90	Darnell Dockett	WR
91	Wendell Bryant	WR
92	Bertrand Berry	WR
93	Kyle Vanden Bosch	WR
95	Kenny King	WR
96	Dennis Johnson	WR
97	Fred Wakefield	WR
98	Russell Davis	WR

BRONCOS NUMERICAL

No.	Player	Pos.
1	Jason Elam	K
3	Romar Crenshaw	WR
4	Mitch Knorr	P
6	Hayden Epstein	WR
8	Matt Mauck	WR
9	Bradlee Van Pelt	WR
10	Triandos Luke	WR
11	Mike Quinn	WR
12	Charlie Adams	WR
13	Danny Kanel	WR
14	Nate Jackson	WR
16	Jake Plummer	WR
17	Darius Watts	WR
19	Alnaf Harris	WR
20	Garrison Hearst	WR
21	Scott Turner	WR
22	Quentin Griffin	WR
23	Willie Middlebrooks	WR
24	Champ Bailey	WR
25	Nick Ferguson	WR
26	Tatum Bell	WR
27	Ahmad Galloway	WR
28	Kenny Kennedy	WR
29	Kelly Herndon	WR
30	Santonio Beard	WR
31	Kelly Herndon	WR
32	Chris Young	WR
33	Jimmy Spence	WR
34	Reuben Droughms	WR
35	Lenny Wells	WR
36	Ron Israel	WR
37	Cecil Sapp	WR
38	Mike Anderson	WR
39	Kyle Johnson	WR
40	Jeff Shoate	WR
42	Sam Brandon	WR
43	Jeremy LeSueur	WR
44	Roc Alexander	WR
45	Rial Johnson	WR
46	John Lynch	WR
47	Byron Chamberlain	WR
48	Cornelius Anthony	WR
50	Ben Hamilton	WR
51	Charles Burton	WR
52	D.J. Williams	WR
53	Louis Green	WR
54	Johnny Rutledge	WR
55	Patrick Chukwurah	WR
56	AJ Wilson	WR
57	Jaston Sykes	WR
58	Terry Pierce	WR
59	Donnie Spragan	WR
60	Thomas Pittman	WR
61	Randy Garner	WR
62	Dan Irel	WR
63	Jamain Stephens	WR
64	Cooper Carlisle	WR
66	Tom Nalen	WR
67	Chris Watson	WR
68	P.J. Alexander	WR
69	Shannon Snell	WR
70	Tyson Clabo	WR
71	George Foster	WR
72	Brandon Kennedy	WR
73	Connell Green	WR
74	Luiz Almanzar	WR
76	Dwayne Carswell	WR
78	Matt Leppis	WR
79	Josh Sewell	WR
80	Ron Smith	WR
82	Adrian Madise	WR
83	Mike Leach	WR
85	Ashley Lelle	WR
86	Patrick Hape	WR
87	Jeff Weaver	WR
88	Jon Putzler	WR
89	O.J. Santiago	WR
90	Darius McNeal	WR
91	Bryant Johnson	WR
92	Marco Coleman	WR
93	Trevor Pryce	WR
94	Luther Ellis	WR
95	Clint Mitchell	WR
96	Nick Eason	WR
97	Reggie Hayward	WR
98	Raylee Johnson	WR

BRONCOS OFFENSE

WR	80	Rod Smith
LT	78	Matt Leppis
LG	50	Ben Hamilton
LG	66	Tom Nalen
RG	62	Dan Neli
TE	72	George Foster
TE	49	Byron Chamberlain
WR	85	Ashley Lelle
QB	16	Jake Plummer
RB	22	Quentin Griffin
FB	34	Reuben Droughms
WR	17	Darius Watts
WR	77	Dwayne Carswell
WR	20	Tyson Clabo
WR	71	Shannon Snell
WR	79	Josh Sewell
WR	64	Tyler Lerdag
WR	63	Jamain Stephens
WR	88	Jeff Putzler
WR	86	Patrick Hape
WR	8	Nate Jackson
WR	13	Danny Kanel
WR	38	Mike Anderson
WR	39	Kyle Johnson
WR	10	Triandos Luke
WR	3	Romar Crenshaw
WR	89	O.J. Santiago
WR	83	Mike Leach
WR	11	Mike Quinn
WR	9	Bradlee Van Pelt
WR	30	Santonio Beard
WR	26	Tatum Bell
WR	20	Garrison Hearst
WR	27	Ahmad Galloway
WR	37	Cecil Sapp

CARDINALS DEFENSE

LDE	90	Darnell Dockett
NT	98	Russell Davis
UT	72	Ross Kolodziej
RDE	92	Bertrand Berry
SLB	45	Karlis Dansby
MLB	57	Ronald McKinnon
WLB	55	Ray Thompson
LCB	28	Duane Starks
FS	24	Adrian Wilson
SS	38	Ifeanyi Othale
RCB	27	David Macklin
WR	86	Karl Williams
LT	75	Leonard Davis
LG	74	Reggie Wells
C	71	Alex Stepanovich
RG	76	Cameron Spikes
RT	65	Anthony Clement
TE	85	Freddie Jones
WR	83	Bryant Johnson
WR	11	Larry Fitzgerald
QB	12	Josh McCown
RB	22	Enmitt Smith
FB	30	Obafemi Ayantadejo
WR	84	Lawrence Hamilton
LT	70	L.J. Shelton
LG	68	Tony Wragge
C	71	Alex Stepanovich
RG	76	Cameron Spikes
RT	65	Anthony Clement
TE	85	Freddie Jones
WR	83	Bryant Johnson
WR	11	Larry Fitzgerald
QB	12	Josh McCown
RB	22	Enmitt Smith
FB	30	Obafemi Ayantadejo
WR	86	Karl Williams
LT	75	Leonard Davis
LG	74	Reggie Wells
C	71	Alex Stepanovich
RG	76	Cameron Spikes
RT	65	Anthony Clement
TE	85	Freddie Jones
WR	83	Bryant Johnson
WR	11	Larry Fitzgerald
QB	12	Josh McCown
RB	22	Enmitt Smith
FB	30	Obafemi Ayantadejo

BRONCOS SPECIALISTS

P	4	Mitch Knorr
K	1	Jason Elam
KO	4	Michael Knorr
PR	80	Rod Smith
KR	34	Reuben Droughms
PC	83	Mike Leach
KC	83	Mike Leach
H	4	Mitch Knorr
WR	6	Hayden Epstein
WR	10	Triandos Luke
WR	40	Jeff Shoate
WR	10	Triandos Luke
WR	3	Romar Crenshaw
WR	86	Patrick Hape
WR	50	Ben Hamilton
WR	8	Matt Mauck
WR	80	Rod Smith
WR	12	Charlie Adams
WR	3	Romar Crenshaw
WR	45	Roc Alexander
WR	30	Santonio Beard
WR	78	Matt Leppis
WR	67	Chris Watson
WR	11	Mike Quinn
WR	80	Rod Smith

BRONCOS: Patrick Chukwurah (chuk-WER-uh); Tyson Clabo (CLAY-bo); Reuben Droughms (DRONES); Jason Elam (EE-lum); Mario Fatafeh (fa-fa-FAY-hee); Alnaf Harris (AT-not); Miteah Knorr (MY-ka NOR); Ashley Lelle (lu-LEE); Jeremy LeSueur (luh-SER); Triandos Luke (tree-AN-dus); Adrian Madise (ma-DEESE); Brandon Miree (my-REE); Jeff Putzler (POOT [like "foot"]-zee-ahr); Jeff Shoate (SHOTE); Donnie Spragan (SPRAY-gan); Jaston Sykes (JAY-shon).

Referee—Larry Nemmers (20); **Umpire**—Andrey Wash (96); **Head Linesman**—Paul Weidner (87); **Line Judge**—Mike Weir (50); **Side Judge**—Carlton Cheffers (51); **Back Judge**—Kirk Dorman (6); **Replay**—Neil Gereb; **Video**—Jim Pearson; **Observer**—Howard Roe; **Trainer**—Jim Poole.

BRONCOS DEFENSE

LE	93	Trevor Pryce
LT	68	Mario Fatafeh
RT	94	Luther Ellis
RE	99	Raylee Johnson
WLB	52	D.J. Williams
MLB	56	Al Wilson
SLB	59	Donnie Spragan
LCB	24	Champ Bailey
RCB	31	Kelly Herndon
SS	28	Kenny Kennedy
FS	47	John Lynch
WR	76	Luis Almanzar
WR	75	Monsanto Pope
WR	60	Thomas Pittman
WR	91	Bryant Johnson
WR	98	Reggie Hayward
WR	53	Louis Green
WR	55	Patrick Chukwurah
WR	54	Johnny Rutledge
WR	23	Willie Middlebrooks
WR	45	Roc Alexander
WR	25	Nick Ferguson
WR	42	Sam Brandon
WR	50	Cornelius Anthony
WR	51	Charles Burton
WR	46	Rial Johnson
WR	33	Jimmy Spence
WR	40	Jeff Shoate
WR	32	Chris Young
WR	36	Ron Israel
WR	73	Brandon Kennedy
WR	95	Clint Mitchell
WR	61	Randy Garner
WR	57	Jaston Sykes
WR	58	Terry Pierce
WR	21	Scott Turner
WR	43	Jeremy LeSueur
WR	35	Lenny Wells

CARDINALS OFFENSE

WR	86	Karl Williams
LT	75	Leonard Davis
LG	74	Reggie Wells
C	71	Alex Stepanovich
RG	76	Cameron Spikes
RT	65	Anthony Clement
TE	85	Freddie Jones
WR	83	Bryant Johnson
WR	11	Larry Fitzgerald
QB	12	Josh McCown
RB	22	Enmitt Smith
FB	30	Obafemi Ayantadejo
WR	84	Lawrence Hamilton
LT	70	L.J. Shelton
LG	68	Tony Wragge
C	71	Alex Stepanovich
RG	76	Cameron Spikes
RT	65	Anthony Clement
TE	85	Freddie Jones
WR	83	Bryant Johnson
WR	11	Larry Fitzgerald
QB	12	Josh McCown
RB	22	Enmitt Smith
FB	30	Obafemi Ayantadejo
WR	84	Lawrence Hamilton
LT	70	L.J. Shelton
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C	71	Alex Stepanovich
RG	76	Cameron Spikes
RT	65	Anthony Clement
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WR	84	Lawrence Hamilton
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LG	68	Tony Wragge
C	71	Alex Stepanovich
RG	76	Cameron Spikes
RT	65	Anthony Clement
TE	85	Freddie Jones
WR	83	Bryant Johnson
WR	11	Larry Fitzgerald
QB	12	Josh McCown
RB	22	Enmitt Smith
FB	30	Obafemi Ayantadejo

CARDINALS SPECIALISTS

K	1	Neil Rackers
P	10	Scott Player
LS	48	Nathan Hodel
H	10	Scott Player
KR	33	Josh Scobey
PR	86	Karl Williams
WR	63	Frank Garcia
WR	20	Damien Anderson
WR	14	Reggie Newhouse
WR	42	James Hodgins
WR	58	Terry Pierce
WR	32	Larry Croom
WR	31	Marcel Shipp

CARDINALS: Obafemi Ayantadejo (Oh-buh-FEM-ee ah-yon-buh-DAY-joe); Bertrand Berry (BURR-trend); Rolando Cantu (CAN-too); Dydstod Carter (DYE-shod); Anthony Clement (CLEM-ent); Nathan Hodel (HOE-dul); Ross Kolodziej (kuh-LODZEE-ee); John Navarre (nuh-VARR); Ifeanyi Othale (ee-FONN-ee oh-hah-LAY-tee); Alex Stepanovich (ste-PAN-oh-vich); Kyle Vanden Bosch (VAN-den bosh); Tony Wragge (RAW-gee).

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

TONIGHT'S OFFICIALS



DENVER BRONCOS NUMERICAL

No.	Player	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Age	NFL Exp.	College	How Acq.
1	Roman Elum	WR	6-1	185	34	12	Hawaii	FA-03
2	Michael McCann	WR	6-0	200	33	12	S.E. Oklahoma State	FA-02
3	Hayden Epstein	WR	6-2	199	29	5	Michigan	FA-02
4	Malik Maick	WR	6-1	206	23	2	Louisiana State	D7a-04
5	Bradley Van Pelt	WR	6-2	231	24	R	Colorado State	D7c-04
6	Travis Lue	WR	5-10	189	21	R	Alabama	D6a-04
7	Mike Williams	WR	6-4	196	20	7	Stephen F. Austin	FA-02
8	Danny Kanell	WR	6-3	218	20	7	Florida State	FA-03
9	Nate Jackson	WR	6-3	213	25	2	Memphis	TIS F1-03
10	Jake Plummer	WR	6-2	212	29	8	Arizona State	FA(A)01-03
11	Darius Watts	WR	6-2	188	22	R	Marshall	D2b-04
12	Alain Harris	WR	6-1	182	25	3	Cal State-Northridge	FA-03
13	Chukwura Patrick	WR	5-11	215	23	12	Georgia	FA-04
14	Clabo Tyson	WR	5-10	190	32	3	Illinois	FA-04
15	Coleman Marco	WR	5-7	195	25	2	Oklahoma	D4a-03
16	Creshaw Ronar	WR	6-1	192	29	2	Minnesota	D1a-04
17	Mike Pugh	WR	6-1	207	25	5	Georgia Tech	T(W)FA-03
18	Nick Pugh	WR	5-11	213	23	2	Oklahoma State	FA-03
19	Elam Jason	WR	5-11	223	24	R	Alabama	D7b-03
20	Kenny Kennedy	WR	6-0	215	26	5	Arkansas	D7b-03
21	Kelly Herndon	WR	6-0	224	24	2	Texas	FA-04
22	Chris Young	WR	6-0	180	27	2	Toledo	FA-01
23	Jimmy Spencer	WR	5-9	210	35	13	Georgia Tech	D7a-02
24	Paul Thompson	WR	5-9	187	29	3	Florida	FA-00
25	Paul Thompson	WR	5-8	192	25	3	North Carolina	FA-00
26	Scottie Phillips	WR	6-4	197	22	3	North Carolina	FA-02
27	Scottie Phillips	WR	6-4	197	22	3	North Carolina	FA-02
28	Mike Anderson	WR	5-11	204	25	3	Colorado State	FA-04
29	Mike Anderson	WR	5-11	204	25	3	Colorado State	FA-04
30	Mike Anderson	WR	5-11	204	25	3	Colorado State	FA-04
31	Kenyon Kennedy	WR	6-0	242	26	2	Syracuse	D6-00
32	Jeff Stanton	WR	5-10	189	20	3	San Diego State	D5-04
33	Jeff Stanton	WR	5-10	189	20	3	San Diego State	D5-04
34	Jeremy LeBeaur	WR	6-0	197	23	R	Michigan	D3-04
35	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
36	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
37	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
38	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
39	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
40	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
41	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
42	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
43	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
44	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
45	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
46	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
47	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
48	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
49	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
50	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
51	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
52	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
53	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
54	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
55	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
56	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
57	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
58	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
59	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
60	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
61	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
62	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
63	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
64	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
65	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
66	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
67	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
68	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
69	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
70	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
71	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
72	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
73	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
74	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
75	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
76	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
77	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
78	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
79	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
80	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
81	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
82	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
83	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
84	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
85	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
86	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
87	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
88	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
89	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
90	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
91	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
92	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
93	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
94	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
95	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
96	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
97	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
98	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
99	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04
100	Scottie Phillips	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Washington	D3-04

D - Draft choice; UFA - Unrestricted free agent; RFA - Restricted free agent; FA - Veteran free agent; CR - College free agent; W - Waivers (from).
Head Coach: Mike Shanahan (10th year). **Assistant Coaches:** Gary Kubik (Offensive Coordinator), Larry Cory (Defensive Coordinator), Ronnie Bradford (Special Teams), Jacob Bruney (Defensive Line), Troy Calhoun (Offensive Asst. Special Teams), Rick Demerson (Offensive Line), Kirk Bell (Defensive Asst. Special Teams), David Gibbs (Secondary), Pat McPherson (Quarterbacks), Keith Willard (Asst. Strength & Conditioning), Brian Parani (Tight Ends), Greg Saporita (Asst. Strength & Conditioning), Cedric Smith (Asst. Strength & Conditioning), Jimmy Spencer (Player/Asst. Defensive Backs), Bobby Turner (Running Backs), Rich Tuton (Strength & Conditioning), Steve Watson (Wide Receivers).

ARIZONA CARDINALS NUMERICAL

No.	Player	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Age	NFL Exp.	College	How Acq.
1	Nel Rackers	K	6-1	206	28	5	Illinois	FA-03
2	Scott King	P	6-1	212	34	7	Tulane	UFA (TB)-08
3	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
4	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
5	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
6	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
7	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
8	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
9	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
10	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
11	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
12	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
13	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
14	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
15	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
16	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
17	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
18	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
19	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
20	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
21	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
22	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
23	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
24	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
25	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
26	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
27	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
28	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
29	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
30	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
31	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
32	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
33	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
34	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
35	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
36	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
37	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
38	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
39	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
40	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
41	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
42	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
43	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
44	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
45	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
46	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
47	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
48	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
49	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
50	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
51	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
52	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
53	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
54	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
55	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
56	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
57	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
58	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
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61	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
62	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
63	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
64	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
65	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	223	20	R	Florida State	FA-98
66	Shannon Sharpe	WR	6-3	2				

Denver Broncos



2004 Feature Clippings

(Updated Sept. 6, 2004)

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Bailey could make Broncos a champ

[Dan Pompei](#) / The Sporting News
Posted: 9 hours ago Aug. 13, 2004

To be a shutdown corner for [Champ Bailey](#) in his new blue and orange jersey will mean covering [Chad Johnson](#), [Peerless Price](#), [Marvin Harrison](#) ... and all the inadequacies in the [Broncos'](#) defense.

The beauty of a highly skilled cover corner is he enhances every aspect of his team's defense like no other player can. It would not be surprising if [Clinton Portis](#), the running back the [Broncos](#) traded to the [Redskins](#) for Bailey and a second-round pick, led the league in rushing in Joe Gibbs' offense. But Bailey will mean more to the [Broncos](#) than Portis ever could have.

Bailey can bring to the [Broncos](#) what Deion Sanders brought to the [49ers](#) in 1994, minus the nicknames and jewelry (or "jew-ray" as Sanders called it). The [49ers](#) went from the league's 15th-ranked defense in '93 to No. 8 after adding Sanders. Most of the improvement came against the run, as their yards allowed per carry dropped from 4.5 to 3.6.

How did Sanders, soft as marshmallow fluff, improve the run defense? By covering so well that the [49ers](#) could commit an extra man to stopping the run. Though the [Broncos](#) won 10 games a year ago, they allowed 4.2 yards per rush. Sixteen teams did better. It's safe to assume all of them used eight in the box more. [Broncos](#) coordinator Larry Coyer says when they tried to use that eighth man for run support, it often led to opposing receivers running by [Broncos](#) cornerbacks who were in man coverage.



In a 30-26 loss to the [Patriots](#) last November, the [Broncos](#) gave up a 66-yard touchdown pass in the first quarter and an 18-yard touchdown pass with 36 seconds remaining. Both were the result of coverage failures after bringing an eighth man up on first down. After that game, the [Broncos](#) shied away from stacking the box. Even when they suspected run, an eighth man was placed in the box roughly 10 percent of the time, according to Coyer. Other teams play eight in the box close to 100 percent of the time when they smell run.

Enter Bailey.

"With him, you can insert extra guys (for run support) and be comfortable," Coyer says. "Then it becomes a very simple game. You have more guys than they do. You can stop the run."

Bailey's presence also will help the pass rush. The [Broncos](#) rarely blitzed last season because they didn't trust their corners and were uncomfortable without a safety in the middle of the field. Coyer says they used a five-man rush approximately six percent of the time. And get this: They sent six or more pass rushers on only four of 910 snaps.

What's more important, having a stud running back or a shutdown cornerback? With Champ Bailey in Denver, the Broncos will find out. (Brian Bahr / GettyImages)

With Bailey, the [Broncos](#) will feel more comfortable sending five or six. The extra pressure should lead to more takeaways for a team that finished with the fewest interceptions in the NFL the past two seasons.

The interception, oddly enough, has not been Bailey's calling card. He has averaged 3.6 picks in his five seasons. But you should see him toy with the quarterbacks at the [Broncos'](#) training camp in Englewood, Colo.

Receiver [Ashley Lelie](#) runs a double move and creates some separation from Bailey before turning back for the ball. [Jake Plummer](#) drills a perfect pass headed toward Lelie's hands, about 10 yards past the line of

scrimmage. Before Lelie can feel the sting of the ball, it's gone. Bailey intercepts the pass and turns upfield for what would be a touchdown.

"Champ has made more plays in one-on-one, seven-on-seven and team (drills) than I've seen any corner make here in 13 years — and that's just the summer," [Broncos](#) general manager Ted Sundquist says.

Part of the reason Bailey hasn't intercepted many passes is a lack of opportunity. Throwing at Bailey is like throwing at a beehive. [Ravens](#) consultant Jim Fassel says when he was coaching the [Giants](#), he would tell quarterback [Kerry Collins](#) to never throw out routes or inside posts against Bailey. "You can maybe throw some inside cuts, but you can't try to throw the ball over his head," Fassel says.

Like Sanders, Bailey switched teams after his fifth NFL season, at the height of his abilities. Bailey says he no longer runs like he did as a rookie, when he allegedly timed a 4.19 in the 40-yard dash. But he's still rabbit fast.

His speed should reduce the number of big plays allowed by the [Broncos](#). Big gains by an opponent usually are a function of slow secondary players, among other things. Last year, the [Broncos](#) gave up 52 plays of 20 yards or more, including 13 touchdowns, according to STATS Inc. Only the [Texans](#) allowed more long TDs.

Not only is Bailey one of the NFL's fastest cornerbacks, he also is obscenely athletic. Safety [John Lynch](#), another new Bronco who is in his 12th NFL season, says he never has played with anyone so fluid. [Bengals](#) coach Marvin Lewis, who was Bailey's defensive coordinator with the [Redskins](#) in 2002, says no one is better at getting in and out of his breaks. [Broncos](#) cornerback [Jimmy Spencer](#), who doubles as an assistant coach, raves about Bailey's footwork. Fassel marvels at how Bailey can keep a receiver off-balance by getting physical. During training camp practices, Bailey's strong jams at the line regularly knock receivers toward the Wyoming border.

Last season, the [Broncos](#) were a cover 2 team that played zone about 85 percent of the time. Being a zone-dominated defense with such a gifted corner, however, would be like watching only news channels with HDTV. [Broncos](#) coach Mike Shanahan says the plan this year is to play about 40 percent man-to-man. What's more, Bailey will match up with the opponent's best receiver every game.

That's fine with Bailey, who estimates he matched up with the opponent's top receiver 85 percent of the time the past few years with Washington. "When you get out there and you beat a guy," Bailey says, "it's almost like you are playing one-on-one basketball."

Man-to-man defense is like playing with fire, and some of the [Broncos'](#) other defensive backs might need more help. But with Bailey capable of covering any receiver in the NFL by himself, they usually will be able to roll a safety toward [Lenny Walls](#), who is expected to be the other starting cornerback after he returns from foot surgery near the start of the regular season.

Bailey already has helped the [Broncos'](#) young cornerbacks by teaching them how to prepare and work like pros. Though [Redskins](#) management privately questioned his zest for the game, the [Broncos](#) see a leader in Bailey. Coyer goes so far to say that Bailey could be an excellent coach. "It's more than just his ability on the field," Coyer says. "He offers knowledge and professionalism."

And versatility. Depending on matchups, Bailey also could be used over the slot receiver or even at safety. He has done both in the past.

In the 1994 season, Sanders helped the [49ers](#) to one more thing: a Super Bowl ring. The possibility of Bailey doing the same for the [Broncos](#) should not be discounted.

Senior writer Dan Pompei covers the NFL for Sporting News.



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Top corner or star back? Bailey makes it clear



June 8, 2004

By [Pete Prisco](#)

SportsLine.com Senior Writer

[Tell Pete your opinion!](#)

It is a trade that set off the great positional debate in the NFL, which goes something like this: What's more valuable, a premier running back in his prime or a cover corner who is arguably the best at his position?

When the [Denver Broncos](#) sent hotshot running back [Clinton Portis](#) to the [Washington Redskins](#) for cornerback [Champ Bailey](#) and (yeah, and) a second-round pick in this year's draft, it opened both teams up to debate.



Champ Bailey has no doubts about the value of cornerbacks and running backs. (Getty Images)

"It's a great argument," said Bailey, who was given a seven-year, \$63-million deal from the Broncos that makes him the highest-paid cornerback of all time. "I used to play running back. I know how valuable those guys are. But there's one big difference. A corner lasts longer than a running back. We don't take the kinds of hits that the backs take. So I'll go with the corners. Of course, I'm biased."

That's a given. So to help get a clearer view of the argument, we thought it best to contact a handful of league scouts, front-office execs and coaches to gauge their thinking. Of the five men contacted, four went for the corner and one for the running back.

"I think it's harder to find a premier corner," said one AFC scout. "Those two are both special players, but I'd go with the corner."

"I think Champ is the best corner in the game," said one NFC personnel director. "But I'd go with the running back. I think you can control the game with a good back. Joe Gibbs will do that in Washington with Portis. So I give the edge to the back."

But the reality is teams believe they can get their backs anywhere -- only two went in the first round of this year's draft -- but premier corners usually get gobbled up early in the first round of the draft.

his happened to be a lean year for first-round corners, but two -- DeAngelo Hall and Dunta Robinson -- went in the top 10 picks anyway. The first back selected was Steven Jackson, who went 24th to the St. Louis Rams.

"With the way the game is going, there is more of a premium on the corners," said the NFC personnel director. "That's why they are more valuable."

Agreed.

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And that's why Bailey is the choice to be the player who will make the biggest impact of all players switching teams in 2004. The Broncos will be an entirely different defense with him on the field, yet they fully expect the running game on offense to churn on without Portis -- doesn't it always?

All anyone need do is pop in the tape of the Broncos' playoff loss to the Colts, which was essentially a Peyton Manning Passing Clinic Video, to see why Denver would make a deal for Bailey. Manning carved up the Broncos secondary as if he was in a seven-on-seven drill, playing against a group of weekend flag-football players.

"It was bad," admitted Bailey, who watched the game on television back in January.

Little did he know at the time that he might be the guy designated to turn things around for the Denver secondary. It was a secondary that didn't make enough big plays, as evidenced by the team finishing last in the league in interceptions last season with nine.

Bailey, who turns 26 later this month, will be in his sixth season since coming out of the University of Georgia. Since entering the league, he has 18 interceptions, but just eight the past three seasons and a career-low two in 2003.

That led to some talk that Bailey didn't play as well last season, that his game fell off and he was beaten more than in the past.

"People can say what they want," said Bailey. "I know how I played. I played through some bumps and bruises at the end of the season that might have made some other guys sit out. That slowed me down some, but I still think I had a good year."

"I didn't see a drop-off," said the NFC personnel director. "If anything, it might have seemed that way because of the bad situation in Washington. But he can still cover the best receivers man for man."

That's worth every penny in the NFL. When teams can take their best cover player and use him one-on-one with the other team's best receiver, it enables the rest of the secondary to play a variety of coverages on the other side of the field, perhaps masking a lesser cover player.

It's the old Deion Sanders rule: Give the top corner half the field and let the other three or four or five secondary people worry about the other half. Of course, it's not that simple, but Bailey will enable the Broncos to be more aggressive on defense and should help improve the play of rising corner Lenny Walls.

"The guys are already talking about how much more aggressive we are," said Bailey. "We want it that way."

Bailey has earned the label of "shutdown corner." There are those that will argue there is no such thing in the NFL, that it's impossible for a cornerback to shut down a receiver, especially if it's not done in conjunction with a good pass rush.

Bailey scoffs as such talk.

"You can say what you want, but turn on the film and watch me," he said. "You will see you have a cornerback who can cover any receiver on any team. You call it what you want. It's all about production. Am I the best corner? Yeah. I'm consistent. I don't think there's one thing about me that stands out. I can tackle, I can cover one-on-one better than anyone else. I think I am the best."

In Denver, he said he is in a perfect situation, too. Unlike last year with the Redskins, where the inmates took over the prison from warden Steve Spurrier to create an unsettling locker room, the Broncos are a different team. There are veterans to lean on and coach Mike Shanahan is clearly the guy in charge -- and everyone knows it.

"This is a first-class organization," said Bailey. "You can feel it. Things are so much more organized than they were in Washington last year. That's the biggest difference. This is a good move for me and my career."

It is a move that will be scrutinized every week during the 2004 season, a rare trade that will be open to criticism for one or both teams if things don't work out just right for the two players.

So which is it, a premier back or a shutdown corner?

"Corner, definitely," said Bailey. "You wait and see."

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Rocky Mountain News

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Folkston lore

Tiny Georgia town has produced big stars, including new Bronco Champ Bailey

By Lynn DeBruin, Rocky Mountain News
March 24, 2004

FOLKSTON, Ga. - It's Sunday afternoon deep in the Bible Belt, and Pastor Van Baker has the Greater Faith Baptist congregation on its feet.

Tiny beads of sweat cover his shaved head, and his white handkerchief - once a perfect complement to his neat blue suit - is sopping with the outflow of his spirited sermon.

Advertisement

As he nears the finish, his words thunder through the wireless microphone:

Now I know your strawberry shortcake is good, but God is better than that.

God is great! Yes, he is!

Somebody say, Ye-ah!

Ye-ah!

For three hours, the joyful group sings and sways, claps and prays.

Tambourines shake, drums roll and voices soar. In the process, Pastor Baker's powerful message about faith is delivered and received.

Welcome to Folkston, Ga., where Sundays are devoted to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but Friday nights bring a different fervor - at least in the fall.

Fridays in Folkston mean football - and the Charlton County High School Indians.

"If you're going to rob us, that's a good time to rob us because we're all at the game," quips Brian Huling, president of the Quarterback Club.

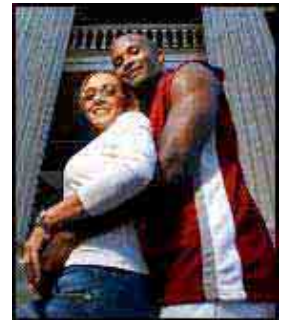
Indeed, Folkston might be the Gateway to the Okefenokee Swamp. But with famous alums such as Champ Bailey, it seemingly is the gateway to the pros.

Six and counting

The water tower that hovers above Main Street shows how small this town is, as the number 3,157 certainly doesn't denote its altitude.

And with nearly 95 percent of its acreage swampland or slash pine tree farms, Charlton County's population (10,533) isn't much higher.

"We may have more alligators than people," one resident proudly boasts.



Marc Piscotty © News

New Broncos cornerback Champ Bailey and his wife, Hanady, are finishing their degrees at the University of Georgia in Athens and hope to graduate May 8. Bailey promised his mother, Elaine, that he would return to school and earn his degree after leaving Georgia following his junior season to enter the NFL draft.

Yet when it come to pros per capita, this poor, three-stoplight town 43 miles north of Jacksonville, Fla., might hold the record.

Since 1990, 47 Charlton County graduates have earned college scholarships, many at Division I schools, and six players have gone on to the pro ranks.

Defensive lineman Larry Smith was a second-round pick of the Jacksonville Jaguars in 1999 and spent last season in Green Bay.

Defensive lineman Henry McMillian was a sixth-round pick of the Seattle Seahawks in 1995.

Receiver Joe Hagins was on a Grey Cup-winning team with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in 1999.

And all three sons of Elaine and Roland Bailey went from Folkston to the University of Georgia, then to the pros.

Ronald Bailey, the oldest, was on a World Bowl-winning team with the Frankfurt Galaxy, only to have injury end his NFL dreams in 1999.

Rodney "Boss" Bailey, the youngest, starred as a rookie linebacker last year in Detroit with the Lions after being picked in the second round.

Then there's Roland "Champ" Bailey, who just signed a seven-year, \$63 million contract with the Denver Broncos after a blockbuster trade with the Washington Redskins.

Asked what his \$18 million signing bonus could buy in Folkston, the cornerback chuckles, then says, "Folkston."

It is from these humble roots that Champ - given the appropriate nickname by his mother as a baby - grew into the star he is today.

"You really had to see him run to believe," longtime resident Roosevelt Baker said. "He'd be going one direction, then make a move and be gone. Once he got around the corner, he was gone, like a bolt of lightning."

By the time he got to high school, his legend had grown way beyond the tiny timber town.

Freddy Jones, now an assistant athletic director at the University of Georgia, recalled telling officials there about this young star - when Champ was just in the seventh grade.

"They made fun of me," said Jones, a Folkston native who was teased for bragging about a hometown boy.

They weren't laughing a few years later when Champ became one of the most sought-after athletes in state history.

Humble beginnings

The sign above the main bleachers says, *Welcome to the Swamp*.

But the raggedy sandlot football field looks more like a beach.

"We call it the back yard because it looks as bad as somebody's back yard," said Rich "Mac" McWhorter, who became Charlton's football coach in 1990.

Players from a private school in Atlanta who traveled to Folkston for a state quarterfinal showdown recently told McWhorter they wouldn't park their cars on something like that.

"It's what we have, who we are," he said. "We'd like to have better, and maybe we will someday. But in the sand, it's hard to grow things."

Except, perhaps, great football players.

At Charlton, Champ started as a quarterback because he was such a great athlete. And he doubled as the team's

free safety - covering practically the entire field.

Halfway through his senior year, McWhorter moved Champ to tailback, and Boss - a year younger - to quarterback.

The switches worked wonderfully.

In his first game, Champ rolled up 317 rushing yards and scored five touchdowns.

In the second, he rushed for 413 yards and six touchdowns.

"One of the things that made him good is what makes him good now. He has great vision and great anticipation," McWhorter said.

Champ still holds school records for rushing touchdowns (58), points (394) and total offense (5,855 yards).

On defense, it didn't hurt that he could jump out of the gym.

"There are a lot of 'wow' stories," McWhorter said.

One came during practice when Champ went up to snag an interception.

"I'm on the sideline, and all I see are his feet at eye level," McWhorter recalled of Champ's 43-inch vertical jump.

Champ still holds the school record with six dunks in a basketball game. And as a junior, he won the state high jump title (his best: 6 feet, 8 ¾ inches).

What also set the Bailey boys apart, McWhorter said, was they were very good students and very disciplined.

"And they were all kind of quiet kids," he said. "Today's modern athletes like to pound their chest and announce their presence, announce their greatness. These guys just aren't those kind of people, which, in a way, makes them great."

Solid upbringing

Credit their parents and grandparents.

"You knew someone behind them was very strong," longtime resident Vivian Wainwright said.

Most point to Elaine Bailey, who raised four children as a single parent following her divorce from Champ's father 11 years ago. (His father remains involved in his sons' lives but lives in Jacksonville and works for the United States Postal Service.)

The Baileys lived in public housing, and at times Elaine Bailey worked two jobs to make ends meet.

Even today, though Champ has seen to it that she doesn't need to work (buying her a large brick house with a swimming pool in nearby Settlers Village), she still does four days a week - tutoring in the adult education program.

She's also the church secretary and Sunday school superintendent, and she helped organize Charlton County's 150th anniversary celebration.

"I stopped working at one time, but I'm so used to staying busy, I found myself volunteering (and eventually taking a paid position)," she said. "I've been told again that I didn't have to work, but I haven't quit yet."

It's an attitude Champ's grandfather, John Atwater, can understand.

At 71, he still is in the logging business, harvesting trees with his old pulpwood truck.

"If you buy an automobile brand new and park it and go back to it after a year, what happens? It deteriorates. It's

falling apart," said Atwater, no relation to former Broncos great Steve Atwater.

"It's the same with me. I'd fall apart. It's why I keep going."

Of course, there are times when Elaine - Miss Elaine to those in Folkston - found herself struggling to figure out which game to attend.

Ronald and Champ played two years together at the University of Georgia while Boss was still in high school, and it wasn't uncommon for her to attend Friday's prep matchup, then make the 4 1/2-hour drive north to Athens.

Though Champ and Boss played one year together at Georgia, she eventually had to juggle Champ's Redskins schedule with Boss' at Georgia, then at Detroit.

While she was glad Champ got what he wanted in Denver, part of her hoped he would end up in Detroit with Boss.

"Then I'd have both of my babies at one place," she said.

Champ, who was so close to Boss that some thought they were twins in high school, doesn't rule out the possibility.

"I would love to play with my brother one day, wherever it may be," said Champ, 25. "There's always a possibility he may come to Denver. You never know. This is a strange business."

Back in school

For now, Champ is the one juggling schedules - college schedules.

He and his wife, Hanady, are finishing their undergraduate degrees in psychology on the Athens campus, taking the same 17 unit hours this spring.

Both hope to graduate May 8 - two days before the first Broncos mini-camp - though they admit one class is weighing on them.

Considering the lucrative contract he just signed, why do it?

"It's funny, but I ask that question myself," said Champ, who is in school his third consecutive off-season. "I'm not perfect, but I know when I start to do something, I don't like to not finish."

Elaine wouldn't have it any other way.

Jones, the Georgia administrator, was there when Champ made the decision to leave Georgia after his junior season.

"Before you sign anything," Elaine told him that day at Jones' home, "I want you to tell me you will return to finish your education. I don't care how long it takes."

All four Bailey children have their degrees or are working toward them.

Ronald Bailey, who works in the information technology field in Atlanta, has a master's degree.

Sister Danielle has a bachelor's degree in sociology and works for the State of Georgia in Athens.

Boss Bailey plans to return to Georgia next off-season to work on his degree.

Big celebration

What Jones admires equally was Champ's decision five years ago, when the Redskins selected him No. 7 in the draft.

Though he was invited to New York for ESPN's selection show, Champ instead chose to celebrate in Folkston with family and friends.

"Folkston is not a rich town, but he shared this moment with everybody," Jones said.

And what a party it was.

"We're out in this big yard and there are chickens running around, little kids with balloons. The whole town turned out. It was like an old-fashioned county picnic," Jones said.

The cable company rigged up for free a couple of TV sets on poles so everyone could watch the draft.

A funeral home donated a limousine so Champ, his mother and Smith, the defensive lineman drafted in the second round, could arrive in style.

Someone produced four horses to lead the limo and another company donated wood chips to cover the sand that is everywhere.

By some estimates, the crowd swelled to 1,000.

The only family member who couldn't attend was Ronald, who was playing in NFL Europe.

Two years later, the town came out to celebrate with Boss.

If McWhorter has his way, there will be others to follow. He points to a Bailey cousin, sophomore Justin Williams, who has a chance to be a big-time athlete like Champ.

Behind the success

While genes no doubt played a big role in the Bailey boys' success - Champ's father and uncle were very good high school players - others point to McWhorter.

"Coach really was a big influence," Ronald Bailey said. "If it wasn't for him, a lot of kids probably wouldn't have gone to college."

McWhorter drove them to football camps, prepared highlight videos and pushed them to work hard in the rickety weight room that looks like a scene straight out of *Hoosiers*.

"There are athletes everywhere, but what separates them is what we're doing here (in the weight room) and the way we practice," said McWhorter, who, like Broncos coach Mike Shanahan, is an Eastern Illinois University graduate. "Kids call back and say, 'College practices aren't nearly as tough as what you put us through.' "

The rest of it, McWhorter said, is luck and the fact there simply isn't much to do in Folkston.

Some folks watch trains, as 70 or more funnel through Folkston every day on their way in and out of Florida.

For others, it's simply sports or hanging out.

"When you're growing up, you've got what you've got," Champ said. "You can't miss what you never had. When I look back, I'm glad I grew up in a small town. There, it's just you, your family and whatever you make of it."

Giving back

Now that Champ has cashed in, a few wonder if he'll remember where he came from.

They point to the need to pay off a \$27,000 loan for the new weight room and other improvements that might help other youths succeed.

"Coach McWhorter doesn't ask for a lot. He puts it out there if you want to help, great. If not, he understands," said Champ, who contributed \$1,000 toward rings when Charlton finally won a state championship and signed autographs to raise money at a gala recently. "But I definitely want to help somewhere in the near future now that I'm able to."

Of course, he also has that rather large family to help, including three children of his own - Bria, 10, Whitney, 7, and Keevan, 3.

Though he has homes in Atlanta and Virginia and expects to buy another home in Denver soon, he will always come back to Folkston.

"When I go back, I see all the same people I saw my whole life," Champ said. "And I know where to find them. It's always good to know you've got people supporting you."

That he has, as evidenced by the Champ Bailey Award, given to the high school team's best defensive back, and the school cafeteria, where his retired red-and-black No. 10 jersey hangs high.

On any given day, half a dozen students might be wearing Bailey's old Redskins jersey.

Pretty soon, it figures to be Broncos blue and orange.

Some things change.

Just not in Folkston, or the dark waters of the Okefenokee, for that matter.

As Elaine and her church family were wrapping up a long Sunday of ministry, a flat-bottomed boat glided through the Okefenokee a dozen miles to the west.

"Welcome to the real world," a swamp guide said proudly above the croaks of a million frogs.

"Or the middle of nowhere."

As with Folkston, it's all in one's vantage point.

debruinl@RockyMountainNews.com

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BRONCOS

A lesson in tough love

After his mom died, Tatum Bell started over with his dad

By FRANK SCHWAB THE GAZETTE 8/23/04 (1 of 2)

ENGLEWOOD c Tatum Bell looked at the full-sized window at the back of the team meeting room and remembered the worst day of his life.

The Denver Broncos rookie running back flashed back to when he was 14 years old, waiting in a Dallas-area hospital. His mother, Venessa Jones, was inside a room dying from complications after contracting pneumonia. Bell watched her through a window.

"I couldn't go in," Bell said. "My uncles and my grandmother were in there, but they wouldn't let me in.

"They took her off life support. About 30 seconds after that, you heard the machine go beep."

All of a sudden, Bell was without a mother. At that point, he barely knew his father. He could count the times he had seen his father.

"I can remember just twice," Tatum Bell said. "He was never a factor. Just paid child support, that's it."

That would change.

Tony Bell and his wife, Terry, took Tatum into their home after his mother's death.

Although Tony and Terry Bell both said the decision was a "no-brainer," the transition wasn't easy.

Tatum had a new family, including a younger half-brother, T.J., he had never met, and a set of strict house rules unlike anything he had experienced living with his mother and grandmother Doris Jones.

"I rebelled, got punished," Tatum said. "I stayed in trouble. It was crazy."

"He was used to having his way," Tony said. "It was a big difference for him."

Tony's rules were heavy on schoolwork. His children had to do a minimum of two hours of studying every night. Every time Tatum was caught skipping class, he'd be grounded for a month.

That seemed to happen regularly.

"I never had a phone, never had a TV, just sat in my room looking at the wall all night," Tatum said.

Tatum was, admittedly, doing barely enough to pass his classes before he moved in with his father and stepmother.

And had Terry not accepted Tatum so openly and sat with him night after night to study for tests and do his homework, maybe Tatum wouldn't be where he is today.

"That was my son the day he walked in this house," Terry said. "And I told him I wasn't giving up on him, so I didn't care what he did."

Said Tony: "I work nights and many nights I would come home and they'd still be up studying. As long as I've been married to her, she never recognized him as a stepchild. That word was never used in this home."

Meanwhile, football was coming easy for Tatum. He was a two-time All-District selection at DeSoto (Texas) High School and received a scholarship to Oklahoma State, thanks in part to those long nights of homework that helped him earn the necessary grades.

And a funny thing happened when he left for college. The battles over discipline and studying stopped.

Tatum and Tony talked just about every day, and the conversations were between friends.

“He started mellowing out when he went to college,” Tony said. “He got a chance to get away and appreciate what he had.”

It has been nine years since Tatum’s mother passed away. He keeps memories of his mother close, and he said he drives himself to succeed so he can make his mother proud.

But without his mother, Tatum gained another family.

Tatum bought a house in the Denver area a couple of months after the Broncos selected him in the second round of April’s draft.

Tony and Terry spent a week with him, helping him get settled before training camp.

They were there for him then, just like they were in high school, just like they were in college when they made it to almost every game, just like when they hosted a party for about 60 people the day Tatum was drafted.

And Tatum has been on the other side, as a role model for his younger brother T.J., a standout cornerback who will follow his brother as a scholarship athlete at Oklahoma State in 2005.

“We had our (tough) times,” Tony said. “But we look back now and laugh at a lot of things.”

“I don’t think I would be here without them,” said Tatum, who hasn’t played in three exhibition games because of a broken middle finger but expects to play against Houston on Friday.

Tatum was wrapping up the story of the extreme highs and lows of his life, and he was sure that as he talked he missed another chance to speak to his father, who he said is his best friend.

“I promise you, I got two calls waiting from him right now,” Tatum said, referring to his cell phone. “He’ll be like ‘What did you guys do today?’ I’ll be like ‘Dad, leave me alone.’ That’s how I got to talk to him. He’ll be like, ‘I’m not calling you anymore.’ That’s what he’ll say. Then he’ll call the next day, say the same thing. That’s our communication.”

Tatum paused and laughed.

“It’s all good now,” he said.

Elliss' true passion children, not football

By FRANK SCHWAB THE GAZETTE

ENGLEWOOD c Luther Elliss will talk about football if you wish. He has nothing against discussing his nine seasons with the Detroit Lions, the two Pro Bowls he played in or his new job as starting defensive tackle for the Denver Broncos.

But if you want to find out who Elliss really is, ask him about his true passion.

"Children in general," Elliss said. "Anything with children."

Luther and his wife, Rebecca, have four children of their own, but they also adopted four and haven't ruled out adding to their family.

"'Cheaper by the Dozen' is a true story," Elliss said. "We're not quite there, but that's how our household goes. It's fun."

Besides Luther and Rebecca, the Elliss family includes Kaden, Olivia, Christian, Noah, Isaiah, Isabelle, Sophia and Jonah. And while Luther is at Broncos training camp, Rebecca remains in Michigan planning a move while taking care of all the children.

"I like to be busy," Rebecca said. "I don't like to have free time."

"My wife's an angel," Luther said.

The funny thing is, Rebecca or Luther never really had a plan to adopt children. Luther said they thought maybe, someday, when their biological children were older, they would adopt older children who didn't have homes.

But five years ago, Luther and Rebecca were in Salt Lake City — where he played for the University of Utah — visiting friends for a few weeks during the offseason. Rebecca ran into a friend who told her a story. A healthy baby didn't have an adoptive family waiting because he was bi-racial.

"Rebecca called me and asked me 'What do you think about adopting now, a baby?' " Luther said. "I was like 'Whoa.'"

"We prayed about it, and it was one of those prayers where 'God, if you don't want this to happen, stop it.' "

Of course, nothing was going to stop them from taking the new baby into their lives, even though Rebecca had given birth to their third child about a year earlier.

"Obviously, this was our baby," Rebecca said. "That was so clear."

Adopting four children is unusual, but Luther's and Rebecca's commitment to adoption goes beyond that.

Rebecca and Luther are actively involved with the Act of Love adoption agency based in Salt Lake City. They've donated money, spread the word of adoption and they sit on the agency's board of directors.

"With all they have on their plate, when we give them a call and say 'We need your help in this way,' they're right there," said Megan Peterson, a social worker at the adoption agency. "What they give and what they do is priceless. They have meant so much to us."

Utah changed its adoption rules recently, making the process more restrictive. Now, agencies can only pay expenses of the birth mother.

Previously, agencies such as Act of Love paid for the birth mother and a husband, boyfriend or family member to stay in Salt Lake City, or helped pay for the birth mother to finish her education, all of which can make the process more comfortable for the birth mother.

Luther Elliss said he tries to use his position as a football star for worthwhile causes but is so humble about his fame the people he worked with at the adoption agency said they didn't know he was a football player until they saw his adoption application.

Still, he tried to talk to some politicians to reconsider the new rules.

"We're basically using my position," Luther said. "I hate to say it, but that's what we're doing. We're trying to show these congressmen and stuff that the laws they're passing are hurting what we're trying to do here."

"A lot of these mothers then are at (good) odds for abortion or something else. Why should

they, when there's so many people that are willing to adopt these children?"

Even among NFL players who are lauded for their off-the-field contributions, Elliss is an exception.

He has done countless hours of charity work, some of which is in his media guide biography, some of which nobody knows about.

Part of that is his background. Luther grew up living in a three-bedroom trailer in Mancos, a small town in southwest Colorado. There were usually eight or nine other people living there: Luther, his two parents, a younger sister and brother and almost always three or four cousins.

He would help neighbors when he was younger, mowing lawns and not collecting any money for it if they didn't have it.

Luther said his parents always told him to give back to the community, and he has followed that advice to the fullest.

"I know Charles Barkley said (athletes) are not role models, but we're put in that role," he said. "Once you're in that position you got to live up to it. You got a responsibility. If you don't want it, you need to retire and move on."

CONTACT THE WRITER: 476-4891 or

fschwab@gazette.com



LUTHER ELLISS: He and his wife have four kids and have adopted four more.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO ALL MY CHILDREN: Luther and Rebecca Elliss' children, from left to right, Isaiah, Sophia, Kaden, Olivia, Jonah, Christian, Isabelle and Noah. The Ellisses have four children of their own, but they also adopted four and haven't ruled out adding to their family.

Rocky Mountain News

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Measuring up

The Broncos are counting on mammoth tackle George Foster to make big headway this season

By Lee Rasizer, Rocky Mountain News
June 5, 2004

He's the biggest thing to hit the Denver Broncos roster since, well, no one, really.

Players have been taller than George Foster - such as Brian Clark and Stuart Yatsko, whose impact with the franchise, other than the lanky frames they squeezed into orange and blue, was brief and forgettable.



Steve Peterson © Special To The News

Tipping the scale at 332 pounds, 6-foot-5 George Foster will test his mental strength this season with the Broncos as their starting offensive right tackle. Foster was Denver's first-round pick last year.

Players have weighed more than Foster. The claim to fame with the organization for Alphonso Taylor, a defensive lineman, was that he tipped the scale at 360 pounds.

But no one in team history has combined into one package the physical stature of Foster, the team's 2003 first-round pick.

At 6-foot-5, 332 pounds, he is big by anyone's standards but massive for a Broncos offensive lineman, a group known for its smallish stature compared with its NFL brethren.

Nearly as enormous are the expectations Foster faces.

One year removed from essentially a redshirt NFL season, during which he was activated only once as a rookie, Foster, 23, is being counted on to start at right tackle.

He'll line up with the first unit during team camp Wednesday through Friday - it's the final official tuneup before July training camp - as he did in May workouts.

"They know what I can do. They've seen it on the field, seen it on tape. So I think they have confidence in me," Foster said of the challenge ahead. "But they don't know yet because I haven't played."

Foster has watched, learned and waited. Such patience seldom is seen these days at his position, where teams often adopt a video-game mentality of plug and play.

Twenty-seven players who originally were first-round NFL draft picks are projected to start at tackle this season. Only seven, including Foster, failed to start at least 10 games during their rookie seasons.

Foster joins Aaron Gibson, who missed the entire 1999 season because of a shoulder injury while playing for Detroit, as the only players among that group of 27 (other than Oakland's 2004 No. 1 pick, Robert Gallery, who hasn't yet had an opportunity to crack the top unit) who did not start at least one game during their first year.

Greats play right away

How soon is too soon to play a rookie first-round tackle depends on the player and organizational philosophy.

Detroit's Jeff Backus and Philadelphia's Tra Thomas are examples of athletes inserted into the pressure cooker of left tackle from the get-go to protect the quarterback's blindside.

The Baltimore Ravens' Jonathan Ogden and the New York Giants' Luke Petitgout spent a year at guard before moving back to their natural positions.

Kansas City's Willie Roaf and Carolina's Jordan Gross began their careers at right tackle before switching to the other side of the

line in their second seasons.

"The great ones tend to play right away and play very well," said Eric DeCosta, the Baltimore Ravens' director of college scouting. "Very seldom do you see a guy struggle at the tackle position if he's been a premier player in college. I'm talking about the Orlando

Paces, Tony Bosellis, Jonathan Ogdens and Walter Joneses. Those guys have all been very good players at our level.

"Specifically speaking on George Foster, I think he was a first-round pick, but he wasn't a guy, in my opinion, who was equally as talented, polished or as finished as those guys. So there was a substantially greater learning curve with him. And I think he was more, in my opinion, a developmental player, not necessarily as pro-ready as those guys."

But, as DeCosta noted, "If you 'hit' on him, obviously, you hit on a very good player."

Denver could afford to wait on Foster because last season it had veteran tackles Matt Lepsis and Ephraim Salaam on a roster that was considered of playoff caliber. But such a circumstance has become rare.

Take Petitgout. He not only had to make the transition from college to pros - from Notre Dame to New York - but he also did so playing for a lackluster 7-9 team that finished third in the NFC East in 1999 and was 8-8 the previous season.

Petitgout ended up struggling and getting benched eight games into his rookie season before developing into an above-average left tackle.

"The hard part for me was trying to catch up to the pace of the game, the mental part of the game, the seriousness of it," Petitgout said of his rookie experience. "I had to grow up. I really matured before that second year.

"In college, you're the big man on campus. You're playing against a guy who got drunk on the Thursday night before, possibly, and you're out there trying to get to the pros. You're for real and he's a joke. Here (in the NFL), you're playing against a fourth-year guy who's trying to get a contract that next year and you're a rookie. You can't let the pressure bother you, but it's hard to ignore it. I was a first-round pick. I wanted to be perfect every play."

More time to learn

Arizona's L.J. Shelton, the 21st pick in 1999, two selections after Petitgout, practiced only a handful of times before getting thrust into the Cardinals' starting lineup.

A contract holdout wiped out his training camp and lasted into the season. When starting quarterback Jake Plummer suffered a thumb injury that coincided with Shelton's arrival, the Cards saw no reason to wait to see what they had in their rookie.

"It's hard for me to say I would be better off than had I not gotten the playing experience early. I think it definitely helped me," Shelton said. "But there were times where, had I known a little more - how to prepare for games, how to read coverages and things like that - I would have had more success my rookie year. But that's part of what they say is the growing pains of the game. You've got to learn those things with experience."

That's a main component Foster lacks.

"For me, the biggest transition was mental," Shelton said. "I know, George Foster physically, having met him and watched him perform, he can do anything that any of the good tackles in the league can do. And if he's that much further ahead mentally and has a grasp on that, that's just going to help him. So he's probably in a good situation, really."

In that regard, Foster figures to have company this season.

While playing top-tier talent immediately appears to be a pattern around the league, the eight tackles selected on the first day of the 2003 draft ended up playing only a combined 46 games last season. Carolina's Gross and Miami's Wade Smith accounted for 32 of those.

San Francisco's Kwame Harris (five), New Orleans' Jonathan Stinchcomb (none), Seattle's Wayne Hunter (none), Houston's Seth Wand (two) and San Diego's Courtney Van Buren (seven), along with Foster, were tackles taken in the first three rounds who failed to start at least half of their team's games.

Injuries slow progress

Foster's chances to make an immediate impact disappeared quickly, largely because of injury. He suffered a sprained right foot during pass protection the first day of training camp in July and missed 17 valuable days of on-field mentoring. He didn't appear

in a regular-season game until the Dec. 28 finale at Green Bay, after the Broncos already had a postseason berth clinched.

"Once you miss training camp as an offensive lineman, it's almost impossible to catch up," Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said.

Foster's ankle injury, though, wasn't the sole factor he sat out most of 2003.

The Broncos typically take their time grooming offensive linemen. Center Tom Nalen is the only current Broncos player to start a game up front as a rookie, and that was a one-game bailout because of an injury after his activation from the practice squad in 1994.

The previous rookie tackle to start a game for the team came 12 years ago (Russell Freeman). No other Denver offensive lineman on the roster started a game as a first-year player for the Broncos under Shanahan.

Guard Ben Hamilton spent his rookie season in 2001 on the inactive list, was sent to Europe for seasoning the next spring, then unexpectedly moved into the starting lineup when former Broncos guard Lennie Friedman broke his thumb.

Unlike Hamilton, Foster has the advantage of working daily with the first unit during the off-season and training camps, because he already has been anointed the starter.

"In Denver, I think it does help not having the pressure of playing your first year to really learn the system and not have the pressure of games every Sunday but have the chance to get the reps in practice and get it down pat before playing," Hamilton said.

As for Foster, "I think he'll be well-prepared," Hamilton said. "Because even though George was not playing last year, he was still watching film, breaking guys down and recognizing their moves and taking scout team reps. It's not the same as game experience. But he put in the time watching film and preparing mentally. Now, he's physically got to go out there and do it."

Conditioning work pays

After two injury-marred seasons, Foster never has been more prepared physically than he is now.

He endured a dislocated right wrist in an auto accident before his senior season at the University of Georgia that necessitated his playing with a hefty cast for nine games in 2002. The ailment also prevented him from most weightlifting.

In fact, when he performed 23 repetitions of 225 pounds in the bench press at his pro day before being drafted, he admitted to having taken part in only two lifting sessions before that date, getting by on brute strength and adrenaline.

Those days are long gone.

Surgery in January to remove bone spurs from Foster's right ankle (unrelated to his training-camp injury) required frequent attendance at Dove Valley this off-season. And while he was in the building, Denver's strength and conditioning coaches, Rich Tuten and Cedric Smith, got their hooks in him.

Tuten recently called Foster's improvement in the weight room "one of the biggest turnarounds on the team." Foster does appear broader, particularly in the upper body, from his increased work with free weights and a high-protein diet.

"Weights are all good. They make you stronger and more confident. But it's all leverage, I think," Broncos offensive line coach Rick Dennison said. "He's got bulk. He's got mass. As long as he gets low, and I've talked about that a million times, he'll be fine."

Foster wears a protective brace on his wrist but calls it a non-issue. At May mini-camp, he appeared to move well on the surgically repaired ankle, more resembling the player Denver saw on film before drafting him.

"George may be big," Broncos offensive coordinator Gary Kubiak noted, "but he can run like the way we ask our guys to run."

That type of mobility was a primary factor leading the Broncos to make Foster the first offensive tackle they have taken in the first round since Northwestern's Chris Hinton in 1983.

In taking Foster, the Broncos also were gambling a bit, because he had started only 10 games in college.

Yet the Broncos front office saw someone combining a tenacious style, plus-size, quick feet and 5.0 speed in the 40-yard dash rather than an inexperienced work in progress.

"He's a very good athlete for his size, there's no doubt about that," Kubiak said. "It's all about George becoming a pro."

Asked if Foster compared to any previous Broncos linemen, Shanahan invoked the name of arguably the finest player to suit up at the tackle position for the team: Gary Zimmerman.

"He's got that type of ability," Shanahan said. "Now we find out if he can play at that level. Gary Zimmerman was so mentally tough. He was ready to play each and every week and was a true pro. But I'd be surprised if Foster doesn't play extremely well for us."

Focus on technique

Expecting such results immediately might be asking a lot. While Foster believes he has absorbed the playbook and has matched Pro Bowl defensive end Trevor Pryce at times in practice, getting used to the speed of the game and making split-second reads figure to be his greatest challenges, players and front-office officials say.

"He's going to have to play with a lot better technique than he thinks," said Will Lewis, the Seattle Seahawks' director of player personnel. "I think sometimes those young guys who are big and strong think all they have to do is just lock on, grab and (they'll) win because he's bigger and stronger. But that's not necessarily the case. Defensive players at this level are a lot better at escapability and disengaging, so you have to play with better hips, knee bend and technique than just trying to win with brute strength."

It might help that Foster is a self-described perfectionist when it comes to playing with the proper form. Having logged considerable time getting quizzed by Dennison and former offensive line coach

Alex Gibbs on the finer points of blocking while biding his time last season should help him, too.

But to say nothing will prepare him for what Foster is about to face isn't completely true, either.

Foster has had a year to ponder his setup, an opportunity that hasn't always been afforded other first-rounders at his position.

Still, his upside - you guessed it - is considered huge.

"I know all eyes are on the tackle. It's kind of like cornerback. It's one-on-one. If you mess up, the play can be a disaster," Foster said.

"The pressure's on," he added. "But I welcome that."

Lee Rasizer rasizerl@RockyMountainNews.com Copyright 2004, Rocky Mountain News. All Rights Reserved.

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Aug. 25, 2004, 12:51AM

Broncos teammates know size not issue with Griffin

By JOHN McCLAIN
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Attention fantasy football players: Quentin Griffin might be the best-kept secret in the NFL.

Griffin, a 5-7, 195-pound running back from Houston, could become the next big thing in Denver.

What Houston learned when he played at Aldine-Nimitz and Norman, Okla., discovered when he played at the University of Oklahoma is that Griffin might be small, but he makes big-time plays and scores a lot of touchdowns.

In his second season with the Broncos, Griffin is starting in place of Clinton Portis, who compiled a pair of 1,500-yard seasons before being traded to Washington in the offseason for cornerback Champ Bailey.

With two preseason games remaining, including Friday's home opener against the Texans, Griffin is leading a race that includes veterans Mike Anderson and Garrison Hearst and second-round pick Tatum Bell.

"When it comes to Quentin's potential, the sky's the limit," said Denver guard Dan Neil, another Houston native. "He's definitely got the talent. It's just a matter of him learning and fitting into the system."

Griffin, 23, was a soft-spoken star in high school and college before the Broncos selected him in the fourth round of the 2003 draft. As a rookie, he started one game and made a good impression in three.

At Indianapolis in December, Griffin came off the bench in place of the injured Portis and sparked a victory over the Indianapolis Colts with 136 yards on 28 carries. Griffin helped the Broncos clinch their first playoff appearance since 2000.

"That game was a steppingstone for me," Griffin said.

The next week, in the last regular-season game, Griffin started for the first time and produced 74 yards on 21 carries at Green Bay. In an AFC playoff game against the Colts, he came off the bench for 60 yards on six carries, but the Broncos were eliminated.

Overall, Griffin played in 10 games and finished with 345 yards on 94 carries. He also caught eight passes for 64 yards. In a rarity for him, he did not score a touchdown, which might not happen for the rest of his career.

"Quentin has a great work ethic," Neil said. "It's just a matter of time before he really starts fitting into our system. As he does, you'll see him finding a crease and exploding through."

Because of his speed and quickness, Griffin could become the touchdown machine he was at Oklahoma. As a senior, he rushed for 15 touchdowns and 1,884 yards, breaking Billy Sims' school record of 1,762.

Griffin's 44 career TDs for the Sooners rank third behind Steve Owens (56) and Sims (50). His 3,756 yards rushing rank fourth behind Joe Washington (3,995), Owens (3,867) and Sims (3,813).

Because Griffin didn't get into the end zone last season, he's hoping to make up for lost time.

"Last year, I missed all of preseason (with a fractured fibula)," Griffin said. "That has a big effect on you when it comes to learning the scheme and adjusting to the speed of the game. I'm very fortunate to get a lot of work this preseason.

"I tried to pick up where I left off last year, and I've been learning a lot. I need all the work I can get."

Denver began preseason with an 0-2 record, but in last week's 19-3 victory at Seattle, Griffin rushed for 55 of the team's 206 yards.

"I see him every day in practice, and he's incredibly quick," said safety John Lynch, who is playing his first season with the Broncos after being a salary-cap casualty at Tampa Bay. "He can stop and start so fast. He's got a great change of direction.

"There's no telling how good Quentin can be."

Griffin, who is polite and shy, is a quick runner who's stronger than defensive players think when they see him. He has enough strength to break arm tackles.

The primary question NFL people have about Griffin involves his capacity to stay healthy while carrying a heavy workload.

"People talk about it because he's a smaller guy, that he can't run inside and can't get the power run," Broncos quarterback Jake Plummer said. "I think that's a bunch of bull. We can't not play him because you look what he does when he gets the ball, it's crazy. He's going to make guys miss.

"You look at him run, (and) he runs hard. He hits it hard. He's not necessarily going to move a 285-pound guy by himself, but not many backs can do that. As long as he bounces off and moves forward, that's what we're looking for."

Those who follow the Broncos predict success for Griffin this season if he can stay healthy. In Denver's offensive system, the linemen are smaller and quicker than most NFL linemen. Their blocks are

designed to move defensive players from sideline to sideline rather than to try to knock them back.

"Quentin has to learn this system, and it's not easy," Neil said. "He's got to read our blocks and see where the (running) lanes are. He's got to find out and accelerate through them.

"That's one thing that made Terrell Davis so good in our offense. He could read his blocks in a hurry and find his lanes in an instant."

Quickly hitting his lanes shouldn't be a problem for Griffin.

"It's good that my coaches and teammates have confidence in me," Griffin said. "We've got a lot of good guys up front blocking for me. When they create creases for me, I've got to take advantage.

"I worked hard during the offseason to get where I am right now. I've got so much more to learn that I'm not making any predictions. I do know this, though, that if I keep doing what I've been doing, good things are possible."

john.mcclain@chron.com

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Strong, silent type

His performance on field says it all, so Broncos RB Griffin doesn't have to

By Lee Rasizer, Rocky Mountain News
August 21, 2004

Texas-bred Quentin Griffin spent his formative years in and around the town of Humble. Talk about adapting to one's environment.

Getting the Denver Broncos' diminutive running back to talk about his ascension to the starting job in the post-Clinton Portis era often is more difficult than tackling him in the open field.



Brian Bahr © Getty Images

While smaller than the average running back, Quentin Griffin, at 5-foot-7 and 195 pounds, figures to make a large impact this season with the Denver Broncos. The second-year player from the University of Oklahoma has impressed coaches during the off-season with his stamina and ability to escape opposing defenses.

It's the ultimate game of dodgeball:

"I've got to go take a drug test."

"I've got to go to the trainer's room."

"I've got to go to the dentist."

"I'm pressed. . . . We have early meetings."

See the reporters roll their eyes.

The press corps might take it personally until Griffin's teammates intervene and make assurances it's just "Q" being "Q."

"Sometimes," fullback Reuben Droughns said with a laugh, "We can't even get two words out of him."

If Griffin turns out to be this elusive on the field, he figures to have a huge season.

Given his football work ethic, that might happen anyway.

Strength coach Rich Tuten calls Griffin perhaps the Broncos' strongest player pound for pound, even at 5-foot-7, 195 pounds. Offensive coordinator Gary Kubiak has been wowed in the off-season by Griffin's endurance.

That kind of conditioning doesn't come from running from the media, well, at least not totally.

"His stamina is what's got me," Kubiak said. "He struggled last year as a rookie, and a lot of guys do, coming to this altitude and getting their bodies to the point where they can go all day. But whatever he's done, he's got himself ready to go. He looks like he could run all day right now."

One of the greatest unanswered questions coming into the off-season regarding Griffin, though, wasn't whether he could run all day but all season.

The Broncos saw what Griffin could do with a full workload in a single afternoon in December. He burst on the scene against Indianapolis with highs in both carries (28) and yards (136) in the game in which the Broncos clinched a playoff berth.

But after the Portis trade March 4, the pertinent inquiry, from the Broncos' personnel department to the coaching offices, was whether Griffin could handle a 20-25-carry workload over a 16-week period and, possibly, a postseason.

It's an issue still up for debate, considering Griffin hasn't yet done it in the NFL. But watching Griffin sprint 40 yards after each camp repetition, then run post-practice wind sprints, is one hint he might be up to the chore. Viewing tape of his 3,756-yard primer at the University of Oklahoma in the rugged Big 12 Conference is another clue he might become the workhorse back the Broncos usually favor to carry their running attack.

"A guy could be 250 pounds and be beat up," Broncos running backs coach Bobby Turner said. "It's just the individual. But I have been impressed with that. I'm not saying I still don't (have some skepticism). I'd like to have a 300-pound back, but it's not size or the weight, it's the character of the player. And, yeah, he's 195-198 pounds on any given day. But it's his heart."

In Denver's first two preseason games, while the first-team offense has been mainly stuck in the mud, Griffin has looked as if he was in overdrive. He has averaged 6.0 yards in his 15 carries with a long run of 27 yards. He has shown the ability to dart outside and displayed patience followed by aggressiveness running between the tackles.

As a result, in the span of 10 days, Griffin has separated himself from competition that once was considered open at halfback. Rookie Tatum Bell gets his first chance to impress tonight in Seattle (8 MDT, KCNC-Channel 4) against the Seahawks (0-1), but it's probably too late for him to push Griffin aside.

At this juncture, Turner said, it would be "hard" for Griffin not to get the nod to start the season opener with Kansas City on Sept. 12.

"The thing I've been very impressed with is his toughness, with and without the ball, because that's what it takes to play in our offense," Turner said. "It's not just, 'Give me the ball,' and let our guys run. It's picking up twisters (stunting linemen) or blocking linebackers, whoever. . . . And when he lines up now, he's got that look of complete poise and confidence. He knows what he's doing, whether it be run, pass, faking, whatever it is."

Griffin demonstrated his toughness midway through the first quarter of the loss in Buffalo on Sunday, when 6-7, 276-pound Bills defensive end Ryan Denney intercepted a Jake Plummer pass.

Griffin, using something less than prime tackling form, hit Denney about thigh high with his helmet. The

defensive end was sent airborne.

"The guy went down," Broncos running back Garrison Hearst said with a laugh. "That's all that matters."

Tackling Griffin in the open field doesn't figure to be quite as easy; his lack of height allows him to hide behind his blockers. So when he's in the open field, he's at his most dangerous. The Colts' game in December was replete with examples of defenders flailing at him. Griffin stutter-stepped, jukeed, even used his hand on the turf to keep himself on his feet.

Those skills have Kubiak envisioning Griffin as a weapon in the passing game, with screens and flares designed to get the back out of traffic.

Al Wilson, Denver's Pro Bowl middle linebacker, has chased Griffin throughout training camp and knows what's in store for his league brethren. He already classifies Griffin as "one of the hardest" backs in the league to bring down in the open field.

"Because he's so low to the ground and his cuts are so precise," Wilson explained. "You've kind of got to shoot your guns and not break down, which is what he wants you to do, or he's definitely going to make you miss."

He already has made some miss the old days.

Portis was always good for a zinger or a little controversy. He dressed flashy. He even wore championship belts on occasion.

Griffin mainly fashions a blank stare, at least publicly.

"We get him going," Anderson said assuredly. "We can get words out of him."

Just not in front of the media.

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The Denver Post

broncos

"Q" tip: Griffin can get it done

Quiet back will make noise if he succeeds Portis

By Patrick Saunders
Denver Post Staff Writer

Sunday, July 25, 2004 -

During Quentin Griffin's glory days at the University of Oklahoma, fans serenaded him with chants of "Q! Q!"

They were enthralled - certainly not by his quotes - but by his quicksilver moves. He stood just 5-foot-7, but when his massive quadriceps propelled him through holes in the defense, his quest seemed almost quixotic. "Q" was the quintessential underdog.

But the "Q" that best describes Quentin is Q-U-I-E-T.

As the Broncos prepare to open training camp Wednesday at their Dove Valley headquarters, the quiet one holds the pole position in the tailback derby to replace Pro Bowl player Clinton Portis.

It's quite a contradiction.

While Portis struts like a peacock, Griffin shuns the spotlight. While Portis mugs for the camera, Griffin runs away from it. During his rookie season, Griffin avoided the media at all costs. When encroaching reporters appeared, he flashed moves that would turn a Pro Bowl linebacker into a pretzel.

"I don't know if shy is the right word to describe Quentin," said his mother, Barbara Griffin. "He just doesn't like to be the center of attention."

The lasting impression of Portis was etched in December when he rushed for a career-high 218 yards and a franchise-record five touchdowns in Denver's 45-27 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs. Portis strutted along the sideline wearing a gold heavyweight championship belt given to him by rapper Pastor Troy.

A pumped-up Portis crowed to tight end Shannon Sharpe: "Hey, Sharpe! I'm heavyweight champion of the world!"

Two weeks later, with Portis sidelined by a sprained ankle, it was Griffin's turn to shine. In Denver's 31-17 victory at Indianapolis on Dec. 21, Griffin rushed for 136 yards on 28 carries and helped the Broncos clinch a playoff berth.

Surrounded by reporters in the locker room, Griffin was forced into talking.

"I've come in a mop-up role all season," he said. "These opportunities don't come every day, so I have to make the most of them."

That was as good as it got.

Driven to achieve

But Griffin will be the center of attention this week when he begins competing for the starting job, which opened when Portis was traded to Washington in the offseason for Pro Bowl cornerback Champ Bailey.

Griffin's competition includes veterans Mike Anderson and Garrison Hearst and rookie second-round draft pick Tatum Bell.

"I think Quentin's got a dang good shot at it," Broncos offensive coordinator Gary Kubiak said. "There are a bunch of guys who could end up being our starting tailback, but 'Q' is going to get every opportunity to do that."

Make no mistake about it, the pint-sized Griffin wants to take his place in the Broncos' line of royal running backs that began with Terrell Davis and continued with Olandis Gary, Anderson and Portis.

"I think the thing that has always made Quentin achieve big things is because people were always saying he couldn't do those things because of his small size," Barbara Griffin said. "He's real determined, and that just makes him work even harder."

That work ethic is legendary.

"The biggest thing about Quentin is that in his five years at the university, he was the hardest working player here," said Josh Heupel, the former Sooners quarterback and 2000 Heisman Trophy runner-up.

One chilly January day, Griffin began running sprints on the football field at Aldine Nimitz High School, his alma mater near Houston.

Never mind that just days before, Griffin, a sophomore, had helped lead the Sooners to a 13-2 victory over Florida State in the Orange Bowl to claim the 2000 national title.

"I couldn't believe my eyes," former Nimitz High offensive line coach David Grounds said. "It was less than a week after they won the national title, and here was Quentin sprinting on his old high school field."

Grounds ventured out to the field to find out what was going on.

"I said, 'Quentin, what are you doing?' He said, 'Coach I've got to stay in shape,'" Grounds recalled. "I said, 'Quentin, you just went through a whole season, you won the championship, take some time off.'"

Griffin thought about that for a moment - but just for a moment - before he replied: "Coach, they're recruiting some good running backs at Oklahoma. I can't take time off."

Then Griffin began running for his job again.

And he never has stopped.

Strong, silent type

JOIN THE DISCUSSION!



Can Quentin Griffin become the next Pro Bowler for the Broncos? Comment on Denver's backfield, or create your own topics in our Broncos discussion forums.

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Griffin has hardly ever looked, or acted, like a future backfield king. When he was a ninth-grader at Nimitz he stood 5-feet-4, weighed 140 pounds and played on the freshman B team. It wasn't until he ran for the first time, taking his first carry 65 yards for a touchdown, that anyone took notice of the shy kid. Today, Griffin's 5-7 stature makes him the shortest Bronco, but he's bulked up to 195 pounds. And he's still quiet as a church mouse.

Like his idol, Barry Sanders, the former Detroit Lions star and Hall of Fame running back, Griffin prefers to let his deeds do his talking.

In fact, efforts to find out about what Griffin has to say about this pivotal upcoming season were fruitless. Not his agent, Lamont Smith, nor the Broncos, nor even his mom, could persuade him to talk. Not even to ESPN.

Fittingly, Griffin grew up in the Houston suburb of Humble.

"He's the nicest, quietest, most respectful kid you'd ever want to meet," said Daryl Wade, Nimitz High's longtime athletic director.

At Nimitz, the Cougars had two future Division I-A running backs at the same time. One was Griffin; the other was his best friend, Maurice Harris, who went on to Texas A&M and Sam Houston State. It was Harris who got the starting nod, at Griffin's insistence.

"Quentin never started a game for us, never," Grounds said. "Because Maurice was Quentin's buddy and he wanted his buddy to start - over him. But by the end of their careers, both of them had exactly the same number of carries and their yardage was only 10 yards apart."

There are other tales of humbleness.

This spring, Griffin bought himself a shiny new black BMW sedan, but then decided to give it to his mother.

"He told me he didn't like people staring at him when he drove," Grounds said. "So he said he was going to drive his mom's car (a Toyota Camry) instead."

In his senior season at Nimitz, Griffin rushed for 1,053 yards and eight touchdowns, earning a scholarship at Oklahoma, where he became a fan favorite. Griffin might have soaked in the cheers on the field, but he recoiled from contrived adoration.

During his senior season at OU, he rushed for 1,884 yards and 15 touchdowns and was touted for the Doak Walker Award as the nation's top running back. However, he had no appetite for self-promotion.

"There is a certain amount of media byplay that goes with any of those types of awards, but he really wasn't interested in participating in any of that," OU sports information director Kenny Mossman said. "It wasn't a belligerent attitude, and it wasn't an ego-driven attitude. It's just that his personality was such that he didn't want to participate in that."

Working in the shadows

On the field, Griffin blooms like a rose, but off of it he is a shrinking violet. It's a curious contradiction, and it makes one wonder if Griffin will wither in the NFL spotlight.

"Don't worry about his competitiveness or toughness, because I promise you, he's tough," Sooners coach Bob Stoops said. "He doesn't say much, but I promise you that he is a very prideful person

and player. He's very competitive. Football means a lot to him. Believe me, he'll go after it."

But doesn't Griffin's demeanor suggest a kid lacking self- confidence?

"No, not at all," Stoops countered. "Quentin is a very bright, sharp young man. But you know what? It's OK to be quiet. For us, he was always a great spokesperson for our team. No, he doesn't seek the limelight, and he doesn't relish it, but he's a team guy and he represented when he had to."

If Griffin does win the Broncos' starting job, he'll have to step out of the shadows. Kubiak said Griffin can handle it.

"I think he is a very mature young man," Kubiak said. "Now, is he very shy? Yeah. Would he rather do his job and go home? Yeah. That's just the type of kid he is."

"The limelight is not that big a deal to him, but I think he will learn. He'll have to deal with that aspect of the game from Day 1 of camp, and I think he will do a good job."

And Heupel insists there's more to Griffin than meets the media's eye.

"He might be shy when he gets around you media guys, but the more Quentin gets to know you, the more he opens up," Heupel said. "When you get him on the video games or shooting pool, he's actually a bit of a trash talker."

Staff writer Patrick Saunders can be reached at 303-820-5459 or psaunders@denverpost.com.

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Time for end to get mean

Broncos believe Hayward can do the job

By Jeff Legwold, Rocky Mountain News
August 2, 2004

Reggie Hayward is not Bertrand Berry.

The Broncos know this, and right now they're OK with it. The Broncos also know Berry is no longer at defensive end.

They know Berry took his 11.5 sacks from 2003 to the free-agent gold rush (five years, \$25 million) waiting with the Arizona Cardinals. They know Hayward will have to fill some of the gap left behind.

But, then, they don't want him to be Bertrand Berry; they want him to be, well, Reggie Hayward.

"Reggie will do what he has to do to get the job done," Broncos defensive end Trevor Pryce said. "I don't want him thinking about any of that. Reggie's his own player, he's just got to do his own thing."

"What Bert did is stepped up and did it; now we'll see if Reggie can," Broncos defensive coordinator Larry Coyer said. "That's up to him. He has the skills. He's just a little different cat than Bert."

While Berry, at 6-foot-3, 250 pounds, is built more like a linebacker and plays with linebacker speed, Hayward is taller, at 6-5, with a longer reach on a listed 270 pounds, and plays with more push. Hayward played far closer to 250 than 270 pounds last season, however, and as he makes the jump from situational player to full-time defensive end, he will have to slug it out against offensive tackles on early downs as well.

"(Hayward) is a little longer, a little taller, has a little different package," Coyer said. "Bert Berry was extraordinarily fast, extraordinarily fast - and that helped him. He was able to use that. Reggie will use a little more power when he's playing; he's got to learn to put the mental part in. That's what Bert did, turned potential into results.

"That's the step for Reggie right now."

Berry also made the most of third-down situations - 6.5 of his career-best 11.5 sacks last season came on third down. By comparison and in mostly situational work last season - Hayward played in every game for the Broncos in '03, starting two - Hayward made five of his 8.5 sacks on third down.

Last season also marked the first time Hayward played in more than nine games. But with Berry gone, he has worked with the starters thus far in training camp and figures far more prominently in the team's plans this year.

"Bert's out of here," Hayward said. "And now I think there's a fighting chance for me to take a leading role on the defense. . . . I've had big expectations on myself; hopefully I can get them accomplished."

Hayward is just part of the revamping of the Broncos defense that included the signing of Raylee Johnson and Ellis Johnson in the defensive line. And like Berry, who constructed a career year playing on the opposite side of Pryce last season, Hayward should benefit from the attention opposing offenses pay to Pryce, a four-time Pro Bowl selection.

"I expect it to be the same," Pryce said. "A lot of attention gets paid my way, but that means we can do some things and that includes Reggie. Reggie's going to be his own man."

"He just needs not to think about it. Just play. Just be Reggie. That's all there is to it."

Comparison shopping

Fourth-year defensive end Reggie Hayward figures to replace departed free agent Bertrand Berry this season. Their statistics:

- Bertrand Berry

Year Games Starts Tackles Sacks

2003 16 16 65 11.5
Career 88 30 175 25

- Reggie Hayward

Year Games Starts Tackles Sacks

2003 16 2 44 8.5
Career 31 5 76 11.5

legwoldj@RockyMountainNews.com or 303-892-2359

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The Denver Post

broncos

Resilient Hearst could plug hole

By Patrick Saunders
Denver Post Staff Writer

Sunday, August 29, 2004 -

Running back Garrison Hearst has been knocked down, counted out and overlooked.

But he has always bounced back.

The Broncos are thankful for that, especially after Mike Anderson went down because of what could be a serious groin injury Friday night in Denver's 31-17 preseason victory over Houston.

Hearst - the 33-year-old, 12-year veteran with 7,885 rushing yards, four 1,000-yard seasons and two Pro Bowls on his NFL résumé - has had a very quiet summer. Counting his one-carry, 1-yard performance Friday night, Hearst has 12 carries for 62 yards in preseason.

Before Anderson's injury, Hearst was on the bubble to make Denver's final roster, but now he could be elevated to the No. 2 back behind Quentin Griffin. Rookie second-round draft choice Tatum Bell might eventually stake his claim, but a fractured finger limited his training camp, and he gained 23 yards on nine carries in his preseason debut Friday night.

While team doctors examined Anderson on Friday night, reporters questioned Hearst about whether he was ready to play.

"Come on, man, I don't have any doubts. No doubts at all," Hearst said, insulted by the question.

Hearst has made a career out of squashing doubts. Twice he has been named NFL comeback player of the year. He won it in 1995 with the Arizona Cardinals after coming back from a severe knee injury. He won it again in 2001 with the San Francisco 49ers after spending two years rehabilitating an ankle injury so severe that doctors feared he might never walk normally again. In 2001, he started all 16 games for the 49ers, rushed for 1,206 yards and earned his second Pro Bowl invitation. In 2002, he rushed for 972 yards and a career-high eight touchdowns.

"I found that Garrison was incredibly respected, for what he had been through and what he could do on the field," said Broncos receiver Nate Jackson, who spent the 2002 training camp with San Francisco. "It wasn't just because he was able to battle injuries. He still goes on the field and does very well. Not only that, he's a great locker-room guy, and everybody really likes him."

Last year, in his seventh and final season in San Francisco, Hearst started 12 games and rushed for 768 yards on 178 carries (4.3-yard average). He missed the final four games because of a right knee injury. Offseason surgery kept Hearst out of the Broncos' minicamps, and his practice time during training camp was relatively limited.

While most Broncos veterans will see little, if any, playing time in

the preseason finale Thursday night against Arizona, Hearst could play in an effort to remove some rust.

"Whatever I need to do, I'll do," he said. "I'm not against playing, so I'll do it. But I don't like preseason, because I don't like to see guys hurt, like what happened to Mike Anderson. But my thing is, if they call my number, I have to perform."

Last week, Hearst was asked if he was worried about making the final roster. He responded with a veteran's answer.

"I look at it like I have to do my job," he said. "I just have to make the coaches see that I can do the job and not worry about whether I'm going to be on this team or not."

Anderson, a former Marine, is one of the Broncos' toughest and most popular players. That's a role Hearst could fill if need be.

Most of all, Hearst just wants to keep playing.

"I don't know how to explain it; I have always loved football and I still do," Hearst said.

Staff writer Patrick Saunders can be reached at 303-820-5459 or at psaunders@denverpost.com.

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Hearst always pushing limits

By Jeff Legwold, Rocky Mountain News
August 14, 2004

The way Garrison Hearst figures it, after 11 NFL seasons he still runs with plenty of power.

The power of knowledge, that is.



Brian Bahr © Getty Images

After taking part in his 12th training camp, running back Garrison Hearst will hit the field with his Broncos teammates for his first dose of preseason action this year Sunday against the Buffalo Bills.

"It's different now," Hearst said. "Now I just know. I know how to prepare, what to do. When I was younger, you just didn't know. Trying to learn and perform at the same time, you can't do as well. That's because you're out there thinking instead of reacting."

"He's just one of those guys who has proven himself, one that we're not just looking for what he can do on the field, but what he can do off the field as well," said Broncos defensive tackle Luther Elliss, a 10th-year veteran, who, like Hearst, is in his first season with the Broncos.

"That leadership role. You've got to figure that in the equation."

Still, thus far in Broncos training camp, Hearst has been the quiet man of sorts. Quentin Griffin has been with the starters much of the time, rookie Tatum Bell continues to wear the cloak of potential and Mike Anderson is the familiar face in the Broncos backfield, a 1,487-yard rusher for Denver in 2000.

Then there is Hearst, who has the most extensive résumé of anyone in the Broncos backfield but has been relatively unnoticed thus far. Hearst said he expects to get his first carries of the preseason Sunday night in Buffalo when the Broncos face the Bills at Ralph Wilson Stadium.

Hearst did not play in Monday's preseason opener because of inflammation in his knee.

"It'll be a chance to really get back in the feel of football more than anything," Hearst said. "I don't think players like (the preseason), but you have to look for a positive. You know you find a way . . . get back into

football speed, get your eye for the holes, things like that."

"And we'll get a look at Garrison this week," Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said.

In his career, Hearst has rushed for more than 1,000 yards four times and more than 800 yards six times. He also twice has been the league's Comeback Player of the Year because of his returns from serious knee (1993) and ankle (1999 and 2000) injuries.

Now he finds himself fighting for space at a crowded position, surrounded by youth. Griffin, Bell, Ahmaad Galloway and Santonio Beard all have been in the league less than two seasons.

"I'm just taking it day by day, still picking up on the offense, trying to be comfortable," Hearst said. "We'll just see what happens."

With only one preseason game having been played, Shanahan said he is nowhere near setting his rotation at running back for the regular season.

The Broncos, though, do want one back who takes the majority of the carries, but they would also like to have at least two more who could contribute to the offense when they have the chance.

"I really don't know yet. What we're trying to do is figure out who our top 53 guys are, our top running backs. That's why we get these guys reps, to find out who's going to be one, two and three," Shanahan said. "But whoever the starter is, we'd like to get that extra guy to come in, whoever it is, and get five, six, seven carries a game."

"Right now, this time of year, I hurt all over," Hearst said. "That's basically how it is right now. You're trying to push through training camp and perform when it's time. I fit this scheme. I think I fit any scheme. It's just about getting the job done."

The big five

- Garrison Hearst's top five rushing games of his career:

Date Opponent Car Yds TD

12/14/98 Detroit 24 198 1

9/6/98 N.Y. Jets 20 187 2

11/30/98 N.Y. Giants 20 166 1

11/11/01 New Orleans 17 145 0

9/29/97 Carolina 28 141 1

legwoldj@RockyMountainNews.com or 303-892-2359

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For boy, Hall of Fame inspired

Kelly Herndon says visions took root in busts at Canton

By Lee Rasizer, Rocky Mountain News
August 9, 2004

The dream came early, if seemingly contradictory, to Kelly Herndon. Some day, if everything fell just right, maybe one day he could become a bust.

He was wearing a different uniform, not the Denver Broncos colors he sports now, when those images first fluttered into his mind. He wasn't even playing cornerback then.

Offense fascinated him in the mid-1980s. Defense merely was a means to stay on the field. They would let you participate in both in middle school. And in those days, the Dodge Tigers needed him to linger on the field.

Even then, football mattered to Herndon. The exact details of that time are hazy now, but he knows it did.

It always matters in football-crazy Ohio. It always mattered in Twinsburg, where he grew up.

Go about 45 minutes from Herndon's hometown - to Canton, and you'll see just how much the sport, the state and that kind of passion intersect.

Canton is home of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

It's also where Herndon's visions took root at around age 11, staring at the bronze faces of greats he barely knew.

All he did know was maybe, someday . . .

"Without a doubt," said Herndon, who will return home to play at Fawcett Stadium on the Hall grounds tonight against the Washington Redskins in the Broncos' preseason opener. "When you see stuff like that and have got a love for the game, you hope that one day you get a chance to play in the NFL and get to make moves like that, to have an opportunity like that. And me, being so close to the Hall of Fame, it was like, what if I could get in here with it being this close to home? You think about stuff like that."

It wasn't until a subsequent visit to the Hall that he really gained a true appreciation of the accomplishments of those enshrined there.

It didn't occur on his second visit when he was about 15.

He didn't return there during his days at the University of Toledo.

It might not have been even in 1999, when, as an undrafted rookie, he played in the Hall of Fame Game for the first time while a member of the San Francisco 49ers.

No, the appreciation came later - after he was cut a first time, then a second by the Niners; after the New York Giants waived him before the regular season started; and through his practice-squad stint with Denver, followed by a liberal dose of special-teams duty in 2001, when he finally cracked a regular roster.

The plaques he had read as a kid finally resonated.

"You don't really notice that back then. You can't really fathom it," he said. "All you can do is notice that, OK, I know these guys are great players and I see what they've done on TV, but to actually know what they did to get into the Hall of Fame, you'd never figure it would be that hard."

Herndon will have family and friends at the game tonight. He'll probably start, playing the right cornerback spot vacated by Lenny Walls, who is recovering from ankle surgery.

But Herndon is keeping the reunion small because he doesn't figure to play much. And he admits, with John Elway gaining admittance to the Hall, the game means more for the Broncos organization than for himself.

But no matter what, Herndon can't help but improve upon the experience he had when he went back to Ohio at almost the same time last August.

There was no fun, no games.

His family gathered then, too, but it was to say their final goodbyes to Herndon's first cousin.

An ordained minister, Charles Herndon II had died in a car accident at age 23. He and Kelly were like brothers. The tragedy, Kelly Herndon said, made him re-evaluate his own life.

In honor of his cousin, the Broncos cornerback wore a T-shirt with Charles' face on it under his uniform on game days last season.

"The flight back home this time will be a lot more comforting than the last time when everything was running through my head," he said. "It'll be a different time."

And it'll be the same as so many other times back home.

Football as the centerpiece of a long weekend in Ohio.

Family in attendance.

And the Hall of Fame as a backdrop to it all.

BRONCOS TRAINING CAMP

A HAPPY END

Raylee Johnson is thrilled to be making plays — and the Broncos love having him on the field

By FRANK SCHWAB THE GAZETTE

ENGLEWOOD c There is a good chance Denver Broncos defensive end Raylee Johnson is smiling as you read this.

Finding the jovial Johnson in a bad mood seems to be a nearly impossible task. Even when he was recently ribbed about being a senior member of the Broncos — he's 34 years old and entering his 12th NFL season — he just flashed a wide smile and laughed.

"I age like wine," said Johnson, who spent the first 11 years of his career with San Diego before he signed with the Broncos this offseason. "I get better with time."

After a little more than two weeks of training camp, the Broncos couldn't agree more.

Johnson started ahead of Reggie Hayward on Monday night against Washington and, according to defensive coordinator Larry Coyer, Johnson passed Hayward on the depth chart after impressing the coaches with his all-around play and attitude.

"What we see is the same old Raylee," Coyer said. "Quick. Fast. Very good pass rusher. Very knowledgeable player. A real asset.

"He's nice to see out there, he's a very positive guy, encouraging, and a great guy in the locker room. We're just lucky to have him."

Although Johnson is a starter, he said he wouldn't complain if he were a backup. In fact, when he was asked about the competition with Hayward, Johnson hardly answered the question, but instead talked about what a great player he thought Hayward was.

"If they feel like they want me to start, whatever, but I feel comfortable with Reggie doing that job," Johnson said.

Johnson said when he was a free agent his main priority was signing with a winning team. Johnson hasn't played in a playoff game since Super Bowl XXIX at the end of the 1994 season.

"I came here because I thought it was a championship team and I wanted to be a part of it," Johnson said. "Jumped on the bandwagon. I'll call it what it is."

Johnson needed to prove he could perform after a sprained foot injury ended his 2003 season at nine games and limited him this past offseason. Johnson said he feels some discomfort in the foot, but it doesn't hinder his play.

Johnson said he would be happy to contribute to a winning team in Denver no matter his role, but you wouldn't expect anything else from the always-cheerful end.

"I can't help but smile," Johnson said. "I'm in a good mood all the time, I'm breathing, life is great, and I'm playing the game I love and getting paid for it."

CONTACT THE WRITER: 476-4891 or

fschwab@gazette.com

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Kanell enters season with new mindset

By Ryan Thorburn, Camera Sports Writer

September 1, 2004

ENGLEWOOD — The facts are these:

1. Jake Plummer was 9-2 as a starter last season.

Advertisement

2. Danny Kanell was 0-2 as a starter last season.

3. The Denver Broncos made the playoffs, but at 10-6 were forced to travel to Indianapolis in the first round as a wild card.

Which leads to this hypothetical: What if Plummer plays against Baltimore or New England in the middle of the season? Perhaps Denver is 12-4 and Mike Shanahan doesn't have to answer questions about not winning a single playoff game since John Elway retired.

Right, Danny boy?

"That's part of being a quarterback. That's how they're going to judge you — whether you win or you lose," said Kanell, who is expected to start Thursday's exhibition finale against Arizona (7 p.m., Channel 4). "That's the way it should be. You're the leader, you're the guy that touches the ball more than anybody else and you're the guy making the decisions. So you get a lot of praise when things are good and a lot of heat when things are bad."

Unlike last season, things have gone very well for Kanell during this summer. Through four exhibition games his passer rating is an impressive 97.4, with two touchdowns and no interceptions.

The offensive highlight of the preseason for Denver was Kanell's brilliantly timed 74-yard touchdown throw to rookie receiver Triandos Luke during the 31-17 win over Houston last Friday.

"There is always room for improvement and I try to be a perfectionist. There were a couple throws I'd like to have back," Kanell said. "Overall, my goal through the preseason was to gain the confidence of my coaches and my teammates, and I think I've done that somewhat."

But Kanell appeared to have Shanahan at hello when he was signed to a contract extension early in the 2003 training camp. It was assumed that the former New York Giants starter, who had been out of the NFL for two seasons, would be the No. 3 quarterback behind Steve Beuerlein.

And then Kanell was waived six days before the Broncos opened the season at Cincinnati.

"It was tough, but coach Shanahan stuck to his word. He called me up to his office and said, 'Look, we're in a numbers crunch right now and one of the places we think we can try to take a risk is at quarterback and go with only two,'" Kanell recalled. "He told me to stay by the phone and stay in shape. Sure enough, two weeks later I got the phone call I was waiting for. Two weeks after that I was starting."

Plummer and Beuerlein sustained injuries within a two-week period, so Kanell went from the cutting-room floor to running the offense. In five appearances, including the disheartening losses to the playoff-bound Ravens and Patriots, he threw two interceptions and five touchdowns.

It's only the preseason, but Kanell has completed 23 of 43 passes for 364 yards to squash early talk of rookie Matt Mauck

moving up to No. 2 on the depth chart.

"I think Danny's done a great job just making plays," said Mauck, who is just trying to hold on to a roster spot after struggling during his exhibition opportunities. "Anytime that he's given something it seems like he's made the most of it."

Plummer has thrown 19 more passes this preseason for 28 fewer yards than Kanell with no touchdowns and four interceptions. Denver's second-year starter, despite a 40.8 passer rating, will not play against the Cardinals and is already focused on the regular-season opener Sept. 12.

"Hopefully, Jake goes wire-to-wire and we get to the playoffs and go deep into the playoffs," Kanell said. "But this is a rough league and if something does happen where I have to step in for a game or eight games, however long it may be, I want to step in where there's no drop-off in the level of play."

Kanell said all of the right things last season about taking mental reps and being ready for anything, but even he didn't believe a situation would arise in which he would be the Broncos starting quarterback.

"I truly didn't," he said. "In training camp I was just fighting for that third spot. I was four or five deep on the roster just trying to catch coach's eye just so I could have a chance down the road. I never thought there would be any way I would see the field."

If Plummer has to miss a game or two, not only will Kanell be better prepared, neither the defenses of Ray Lewis or Bill Belichick are on the schedule.

"They were definitely some tough challenges, but that's when you have to rise," Kanell said. "I was disappointed that we didn't get wins when I was in there and that's what I'm going to try to fix this year."

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Kanell bent on getting backup spot in the bag

By Lee Rasizer, Rocky Mountain News

August 14, 2004

When training camp ended last season, Danny Kanell was left holding the bag.

He walked out of the Denver Broncos training facility, equipment hanging over his shoulder after the team released him as part of its final roster cutdown, and faced an uncertain future.

The Broncos liked him, but they also wanted to see if they could survive with two quarterbacks on the roster. Jake Plummer's shoulder separation in Week 2 answered that question and gave Kanell back his livelihood.

"It was a great moment for me," Kanell said this week. "It was almost like redemption to be able to come back and get that second chance."

So far, he's making the most of it.

Kanell is Denver's backup quarterback for the time being, with rookie Matt Mauck his lone challenger for that role. And despite some uneasy feelings among the team's fan base about his qualifications and readiness, the Broncos coaches and front office are expressing unwavering confidence in his abilities.

Because Kanell claims to avoid newspapers and probably doesn't bother to monitor team-oriented Web sites or talk radio, he hasn't heard much about that nagging feeling that exists among Broncos backers that perhaps he's ill-equipped for the job if Plummer goes down for an extended period.

But Kanell is aware that perception exists. And, frankly, he doesn't blame people for feeling that way.

He just doesn't buy into the negativity.

"It's been a while since I've been out there for an extended period of time," said Kanell, who figures to play about 11/2 quarters in Sunday's preseason game at Buffalo.

"People forget that I brought a team to a divisional title in New York and some of the successful things I've done," said Kanell, a starter for the Giants for most of the 1997 and '98 seasons. "I was on a pretty bad team in Atlanta for two years, then out of the game. Statistically, I haven't been up there for whatever reason. But as long as I keep faith in myself and keep my confidence up, that's the only thing that matters."

Perhaps perceptions might be different had Kanell been credited with a win Nov. 3 against New England.

He almost had brought Denver back from a 28-10 deficit as the third-string quarterback against Minnesota in his first appearance in October. He had kept the Broncos in the game until a critical interception in the fourth quarter at Baltimore the following week before he was called upon to start on *Monday Night Football* vs. the Patriots.

Denver was leading that game 26-23 with less than 3 minutes to play when Deltha O'Neal allowed a free kick to bounce and pinned the Broncos deep in their own territory.

A pass on third down that would have clinched the victory was dropped by Ashley Lelie, forcing the Broncos to punt. The eventual Super Bowl champions then marched downfield for the winning score.

The result was Kanell ended a two-game stretch as the starter 0-2 before Plummer returned to the lineup.

"No doubt, a play here or there changes a lot of things," Broncos quarterback coach Pat McPherson said.

Kanell completed 53 of 103 attempts for 442 yards with two touchdowns and five interceptions in five appearances.

He pointed out that his totals are somewhat deceiving because he threw "a couple Hail Marys for interceptions and another one at the end of the game when we were up by 40."

In the off-season, the Broncos coaching staff wanted Kanell to get a better handle on the playbook, and he put himself through the club's rigorous conditioning program to get in better shape.

He had crammed all those tasks into his first summer with Denver because he didn't join the Broncos until June.

"Last year you could kind of tell he wasn't real strong," McPherson said. "He's got a strong arm but he used his whole body to make some of those throws. But now he doesn't have to exert as much effort to make those throws as he did last year."

Play-calling is coming more naturally to him, too. Kanell admitted his mind was racing when he would come to the line of scrimmage last year.

It didn't help that his practice repetitions in camp were limited.

Now, his head has stopped spinning and he can concentrate on what's unfolding in front of him defensively instead of worrying about botching things in the huddle or getting the offense aligned.

"It's the same with me, just knowing where you're going with the ball," said Plummer, who had a three-month head start on Kanell last spring to learn the Broncos scheme. "And that's part of the system as you grow into it. You're going to know when something's going to come open, when something's not, when to move on to your next guy. He's obviously going to be more comfortable."

Kanell played only one series against Washington in the preseason opener Monday night. The drive resulted in Jason Elam's 40-yard field goal, but two potential touchdown throws were dropped and a scoring run was

wiped out by a holding call.

Plummer figures to start and play 10 to 12 snaps before Kanell takes over Sunday. Mauck will come in next and could finish.

The pecking order behind Plummer once the regular season starts will be determined to a large degree by the reserves' performance against the Bills and in the final three preseason games.

Mauck has received a lot of hype for his performances this summer, but Kanell takes it all in stride.

Once upon a time, he was the young quarterback earning similar accolades in Giants camp. Those bouquets came before his long, eventful career path brought him to his present situation, where positive publicity has changed to out-and-out skepticism.

Like Mauck, he too, has been through the lower rungs of pro baseball. But Kanell also has appeared in 43 NFL games, which can't be discounted, even if most of them came a handful of years ago or more.

"It's not over yet and you never know what's going to happen," Kanell said. "But if my number does get called this season, I'm excited about the chance I'll have to change some of these fans' minds and win them over to my side - and hopefully win some games, too."

rasizerl@RockyMountainNews.com

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The Denver Post

broncos

Catching heat

Broncos' Lelie receptive to making his third NFL season his best

By Patrick Saunders
Denver Post Staff Writer

Thursday, June 10, 2004 -

First Broncos coach Mike Shanahan roasted him, then former tight end Shannon Sharpe challenged him. Now it's Ashley Lelie's turn to respond.

"It's definitely all on me, but I'll come through," Lelie, a third-year wide receiver, said Wednesday after the Broncos' team camp practice.

As a first-round draft choice in 2002, Lelie caught 35 passes for 525 yards and two touchdowns as Denver's third wide receiver. His future looked bright. Last season, with the pressure on because of injuries to veteran Ed McCaffrey, Lelie caught 37 passes for 628 yards and two touchdowns.

The second-season performance did not satisfy Shanahan.

"I don't think Ashley took a step forward," Shanahan said in January at his end-of-season news conference. "I think Ashley probably played a little bit poorer than he did as a rookie."

Lelie left his home state of Hawaii a month earlier than usual to pump iron at the Broncos' Dove Valley complex. The result is 5 pounds of added muscle.

"Coach Shanahan's words put fire into me," Lelie said. "It was meant to build me up. He doesn't say a lot of things publicly about a lot of players, so it means he must think a lot about me, that I'm something special, for him to say that and try to get me going. It means a lot to me."

With McCaffrey and Sharpe retired, and with running back Clinton Portis traded to Washington, the Broncos need Lelie to become a big-play producer.

"It's time for Ashley to step up," Sharpe said last month when he announced he was leaving the Broncos for a job at CBS. "A guy that's drafted in the first round - especially if he's a top-20 pick - by his third or fourth season he should be looking at the Pro Bowl. So it's time for Ashley to step up."

Lelie said he took Sharpe's remarks as a compliment.

"It's an encouragement," Lelie said. "I took his words to mean that I can make it to the Pro Bowl. It's actually fun for me. Now that we don't have Shannon or Ed, I will be one of the first options on a lot of plays now. So I'm going to get a lot of opportunities."

As the 19th pick in 2002, Lelie was the second wide receiver selected in the draft. Donte Stallworth, picked by New Orleans with the 13th overall pick, was the only receiver selected before Lelie. Although both have produced decent numbers - Lelie's 72 career catches rank him seventh among receivers in the 2002 draft class and Stallworth's 67 receptions rank him eighth - neither has emerged as a consistent playmaker. At least not compared with Patriots second-round pick Deion Branch (100 catches) and Bills second-round pick Josh Reed (95).

"I need to work on my concentration," Lelie said. "I dropped a lot of easy balls."

Two in particular stand out. Lelie dropped potential scoring passes against Kansas City and New England. And while Lelie made some big plays - his 60-yard catch at Indianapolis sparked Denver's 31-17 road victory on Dec. 21 - he was a no-show during a midseason stretch when he went five games without a reception longer than 8 yards.

"I think he did some good things last year, early and late, then he had a little lull in the middle of the season," Shanahan said Wednesday. "He came back about a month early to take part in our offseason conditioning, and he spent time in the

weight room. He's had an excellent offseason thus far, both catching the football and doing what he needs to get stronger.

"I will be surprised if he doesn't play extremely well."

Quarterback Jake Plummer echoed Shanahan.

"He had a couple of rough games, but we are going to count on him big to make the big plays for us this year," Plummer said. "What we can do is give him more opportunities. Not just a couple of go-routes a game, but five or six. Just let him go deep and just air it out. The more chances we give him, the more he's going to make."

Staff writer Patrick Saunders can be reached at 303-820-5459 or psaunders@denverpost.com .

Rocky Mountain News

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Big task left up to Lepsis

Veteran tackle gets accustomed to other side of offensive line

By Jeff Legwold, Rocky Mountain News
August 4, 2004

Some of the most important real estate for the Denver Broncos offense sits squarely beneath Matt Lepsis' feet.

The Broncos left tackle often will be the last line of defense between some of the top-shelf pass rushers in the NFL and Denver quarterback Jake Plummer's blind side. So Lepsis' move from the right side - where he spent the past six seasons for the Broncos - to the left is no small matter.

"I'm sure people will take a look at it, sure, you're probably going to try that out if you're on the defensive side of the ball," Broncos defensive coordinator Larry Coyer said. "What Matt is, though, is extremely athletic, and I would think his impact on another team would be, 'This is a good athlete who we're going to have to handle' instead of thinking the other way that they could rush there."

If there is room for a glamour position in the meat-and-spuds world of an offensive lineman, it is left tackle. They usually make the most money and face the finest in a fleet of pass rushers who seem to get faster each season, and they usually have to do it without much help from a tight end.

Whereas right tackle often is a position of power, left tackle is one of quickness and footwork.

"But (Lepsis) is an old vet and he knows what he's doing," Plummer said.

And while Lepsis, who asked to make the switch early in the off-season after Ephraim Salaam was sent on his way (Salaam later signed a two-year deal with Jacksonville), fits the profile of a left tackle-in-waiting, he still has not yet played the position in a regular-season game.

A tight end and All-America discus thrower at the University of Colorado, the 290-pound Lepsis has the

quickness scouts look for. So much so that the Broncos tinkered with the idea of moving Lepsis to left tackle during mini-camp in 2001 but elected to leave him at right tackle and play Trey Teague on the left.

"(Lepsis) knows the deal, he's been over on the left side some before . . .," Broncos offensive line coach Rick Dennison said. "He just has to keep focused, keep concentrating. His feet and hands are getting better every day."

There are two basic problems for any player moving from the right side to the left. The first, and it's a significant one, is footwork.

Unlike guards who can play on the left side in a right-handed stance - as Hall of Famer Mike Munchak did in his career with the Houston Oilers - a left tackle must play in a left-handed stance.

And much like trying to eat with the opposite hand, backing out in pass protection in an unfamiliar stance can be a difficult adjustment. In mini-camp, Lepsis called it "awkward" and "uncomfortable."

It's something that hasn't deterred the Broncos, who have gone as far as having two players try to make the adjustment. Dwayne Carswell, who had spent the past 10 years as a tight end in the Denver offense, also has moved to tackle.

Carswell currently is working as Lepsis' backup.

"Only way you're going to get better is learn from your mistakes and go out there and compete . . .," Carswell said. "I guess they see something maybe we haven't seen in ourselves. Gives us a chance to play another position, and somehow it's working out for the best."

But there also is the matter of the player the left tackle usually is trying to block. While some prominent rushers, such as Reggie White and Jevon Kearse, have played on the defensive left to work against right tackles, most teams put their best speed rusher on the defensive right to attack the offense's left side.

And as the speed rushers get smaller - six of the NFL's top 10 in sacks last season weighed 262 pounds or less - the demand for left tackles with enough power in the run game and enough quickness in pass protection continues to grow.

"So, you need somebody who blocks the guys, does the right things," Dennison said. "Matt is athletic enough. . . . We know he can do it, it's just readjusting after so many years on the right."

"The footwork, it's just totally different . . .," Carswell said. "You just deal with it and you play."

Here they come

- As Matt Lepsis adjusts to playing left tackle, the Broncos schedule, including the preseason, holds some of the top pass rushers from 2003. All rush from the defensive right.

Preseason

Player Team Sacks Rank

Aaron Schobel Bills 11 1/2 T6
Bertrand Berry Cardinals 11 1/2 T6

Regular season

Simeon Rice Buccaneers 15 T2
Mike Rucker Panthers 12 T5
Jason Taylor Dolphins 13 3

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Plenty of outside (LB) chances

By Lynn DeBruin, Rocky Mountain News

May 10, 2004

Even after three mini-camp practices, Al Wilson admitted it still felt a bit strange not having John Mobley and Ian Gold at his side.

"It's like they cut off my left and right arm or something," the Denver Broncos middle linebacker said. "I still feel that way. But the guys we have now are working hard."

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Coaches know that will only intensify come July, when the real camp - training camp - opens.

If this past weekend is any indication, the fight for the two outside linebacker spots should be no less intense than the battle for the starting tailback job.

"I think it will be very tight," defensive coordinator Larry Coyer said Sunday after wrapping up three days of workouts.

The Broncos' decision to draft D.J. Williams from the University of Miami with the No. 17 pick ensured that.

But so did Terry Pierce's commitment to lose nearly 20 pounds this off-season so he could make the move outside.

"I think it took something for that kid to say this is what I got to do and to get it done," Coyer said of Pierce, who slimmed to 237 pounds thanks to a new diet and exercise program. "I don't think it was easy for him and I don't think it will be easy for him tomorrow. But he's going to be competitive."

Pierce will battle former University of Colorado standout Jashon Sykes on the strong side, and Williams will try to unseat Donnie Spragan on the weak side.

Coyer expects a battle to the wire.

"Those guys are proud men," Coyer said of Sykes and Spragan, undrafted players who filled in for Gold and Mobley last season. "They fought their butts off to get the opportunity to play. They're proud suckers. They will fight you to the end."

The Broncos lost Gold to a torn right anterior cruciate ligament in Week 6 last season, then to free agency this off-season. Mobley, meanwhile, has yet to be cleared to return from a spinal cord injury suffered in Week 8 last season.

Despite the injuries, coaches insist there was no drop off, with Coyer pointing to Denver's No. 4 ranking on defense.

"I don't think Jashon or Spragan have the talent of Mobley or Gold, but they bring a little different package," he said. "Spragan is intelligent, bright. And Jashon is intent, fiery. They're both better athletes than people give them credit for."

But there was a reason Williams was drafted in the first round this year and Pierce in the second last year.

They provided a glimpse over the weekend.

Coyer pointed to three or four plays that had him salivating about Williams' ability, including one on a counter-pitch.

"They faked to the fullback and try to suck you back in, then pitch it to the fast guy outside," Coyer said. "He laid the running back down like he was standing still. That was an impressive (play)."

What impressed Coyer most was Williams' composure under fire (he ran with the first unit part of the weekend), though he barely knows Denver's defense.

"He has every bit the ability of Ian Gold but in a different package," said Coyer, who would like Williams to trim 10 pounds to 240. "He's been well-coached, and this kid knows how to win. Losing is not part of his vocabulary. It's just a matter of putting his feet in the fire."

That is something that didn't happen last season with Pierce, who was inactive the first six games, played sparingly in the next three, then went on the injured reserve list because of a torn pectoral muscle.

In all, it was a tough rookie season for a player who started all three years at middle linebacker for -Kansas State.

That's behind him now, and he's excited about playing the strong side.

"Would I love to be inside? Yeah," he said. "But I'm happier with the chance to start more than anything. Me and Jashon are going to battle it out. He knows that. I know that. It's not a big deal to either one of us."

Though it's early, Wilson senses the dedication.

"The last couple of days he's starting to show why they drafted him in the second round," Wilson said of Pierce. "He's really starting to take football for what it is, and understands to be a professional you've got to come out and work every day."

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The Denver Post

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Inspirational Bronco turns tide for little girl

By Patrick Saunders
Denver Post Staff Writer

Monday, May 10, 2004 -

The first time Triandos Luke looked at Jensen Jones, she couldn't look back. J.J. was in a hospital bed, deep in a coma, clinging to a life doctors expected would end before she reached her 10th birthday.

Two months later, J.J. sat in a wheelchair at Alabama's Bryant-Denny Stadium watching the Crimson Tide play Mississippi State. Her eyes focused on only one player. Luke, a junior receiver, was having a reasonably productive 2002 season, but he had yet to catch a touchdown pass for Alabama. That day he caught two touchdown passes, one for 15 yards, the other for 36. As Luke made the first touchdown catch, J.J. bolted out of her wheelchair.

"She was screaming: 'Is it Triandos? Is it Triandos?'" recalled her father, Barry. "When I said yes, she had tears in her eyes."

Added J.J.: "Triandos hadn't scored until we showed up for that game. I think I was his lucky charm."

Luke - his first name is pronounced "Tree-an-dos" - is a rookie with the Broncos. The sixth-round draft choice finished his first NFL minicamp Sunday, then flew back to Phenix City, Ala., his hometown, which is near the Jones' hometown of Smiths. This week, Luke plans to reunite with his biggest fans and have a celebratory dinner.

"It means a lot that I'm important to their life," Luke said. "I've learned that it's not what you accomplish by getting your awards, it's who you help. I helped that family in some kind of way, so that's special. This life is about service. Jesus was a servant and he served us, so our purpose is to serve."

A tragedy led Luke to J.J.

On Sept. 14, 2002, the Jones family packed their Crimson Tide gear and headed down a highway toward Tuscaloosa.

Alabama was playing North Texas that day. But J.J. and her family never made it. A car careened across the highway and hit the Jones' Honda Accord head-on. J.J. suffered a traumatic head injury. Her mother, Rhonda, suffered a ruptured aorta. Paramedics at the scene feared she would not live.

Barry Jones suffered a fractured foot. Only Ben, J.J.'s older brother, escaped the crash without major injuries.

J.J. was taken by helicopter about 100 miles to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

"Her prognosis was not good, and doctors told me to expect the worst," J.J.'s father said. "The medical team first told me she would not make it. It was 10 days before the neurosurgeon told

us she would live."

Post / John Leyba

Rookie receiver Triandos Luke came to the Broncos in the sixth round of the draft.

While J.J. struggled to emerge from her coma, and her mother recovered from injuries that nearly killed her, Luke walked into the Jones' lives.

"Me and one of my teammates, (lineman) Wesley Britt, were doing community service involvement," Luke recalled. "We went to the Children's Hospital in Birmingham. We got a chance to visit with the family, but Jensen was still in a coma. She didn't even know we were there, but it meant a lot to her father. You could tell that."

J.J., now 10, is back in school and doing well. She has physical therapy twice a week as she works to regain use of her left arm. Her mother has recovered.

After the Broncos drafted Luke, who corresponds with J.J., the Jones family figured it was a good time to call him.

"I sat around watching TV all day, hoping I would see Triandos' name in the draft," Barry Jones said. "On that second day of the draft, when I saw his name go across the ticker, I got pretty excited. ... I mean, here was a broke college kid who went out of his way to make this effort for us. It means something to this family. So we'll take him out for dinner when he comes back home.

"The other day, J.J. said, 'Dad, now maybe I can do the lucky charm thing again and watch him score his first touchdown in the NFL.' I said: 'OK, baby, OK. Daddy's got his frequent- flier miles built up.'"

Staff writer Patrick Saunders can be reached at 303-820-5459 or psaunders@denverpost.com.

Gone but he has not forgotten

Broncos safety John Lynch wants to focus on his future, but his departure from the Bucs has left a bitter taste.

By ROGER MILLS, Times Staff Writer
Published September 5, 2004

DENVER - His new teammates can't believe him. His new fans feel a similar sense of bewilderment. Even members of the Denver media simply won't buy that Broncos safety John Lynch is such a consummate professional, a true gentleman.

He plays hard. He practices hard. He spends hours in the film room. He signs autographs, never says no to an interview or photo shoot and stops in the grocery line to shake hands. As he enters the 2004 season, his 12th in the league and first with the Broncos, Lynch appears to be a happy man, rejuvenated by a new team and in love with the city.

There doesn't appear to be a bitter bone in his ... well, not quite!

There is a touch of bitterness when it comes to his controversial departure from the Bucs, and certainly when it comes to his feelings about general manager Bruce Allen.

"My mind-set all along has been to move forward, it's a waste of time to have bitter feelings," Lynch said. "But the thing that was hardest for me is that (Allen) was someone who had just come in. And I felt, 'Wait a minute, I've got a piece of ownership in this thing. I helped build this thing.' You just came here and now you're telling me I can't be here anymore. That was hard to take."

* * *

From the embryonic stages of the Bucs' rise to elite status, Lynch was vital. But in March the team cut the cord with Lynch under circumstances hard to imagine, harder to explain.

There is fact and fiction, but this much is true: Lynch wanted to stay in Tampa and felt he would be, should be, the starter; the team saw things differently, did not honor the final two years of his contract and cut him loose.

The Bucs said Lynch, who turns 33 on Sept. 25, was a liability considering a recurring neck/shoulder stinger that forced him to miss a significant number of snaps in 2003.

Lynch, who has chosen his words carefully, said the argument is hogwash.

"They sent me to Dr. (Robert) Watkins (considered a top spine and neck specialists), but ultimately, when it came down to making a decision, they weren't listening to him but to an intern instead," said Lynch, who has declared himself healed. "Dr. Watkins is known as the guru of these injuries. He gave me a clean bill of health. He gave me a letter saying that. Yet they wouldn't talk to him.

"I called (coach) Jon (Gruden) and said, "Isn't it funny that no one has talked to Dr. Watkins?" "

But there was nothing funny about ensuing negotiations. When talks between Lynch's agent, David Dunn, and Allen made no headway, it became clear the 11-year relationship between player and team was over.

Lynch said there was no offer, no face-to-face meeting and, despite rumors, no olive branch extended by Allen or executive vice presidents Bryan and Joel Glazer to bring him back for a farewell news conference in Tampa.

"That's simply not true," Lynch said. "Now, I may have preempted it to some extent. Before anything was actually done, I decided to do something on my own terms. Bruce offered to meet me in Phoenix so we could talk man to man. I said, "Bruce why would we want to talk? It's all over.' It doesn't do me any good."

Lynch said he did speak to the Glazers the night before.

"Joel and Bryan said they had talked to (front-office personnel) about it," Lynch said. "They came to them once and they didn't feel comfortable about it, and then they came to them again and they chose to go back to when they first bought the team, when they pledged to hire people and not get involved and let the people do their job.

"They told me it was the hardest thing they ever had to do as owners, but they had to stick to it or they wouldn't be true to themselves. I respected that."

* * *

What he doesn't respect is the insinuation he no longer can play, that he is a health risk and that his best days of football are behind him.

"I said to every doctor, "Look, I love this game and I don't want to give it up now,' " said Lynch, who had offseason surgery to correct his neck and shoulder. "But if you tell me that I should (give it up) for my health, then I would have done it immediately. If they had told me I wouldn't be able to play the way I was used to playing, then I would have retired. I'm pretty confident that if I was there I would still be playing."

The Broncos, who put Lynch through a barrage of tests before signing him to a three-year, \$9-million deal, endorse that argument.

"We talked to our doctors and they give us the percentages on someone's injury, and they had no reservations about his neck after the operation," Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said. "Now, if he didn't have the operation and they weren't able to evaluate him, obviously there would have been some big concerns coming off those stingers.

"We've had a number players with neck injuries, and our recommendation to those players was not to

play anymore. In John's case it's full speed ahead. From that standpoint I felt good. Now, it may not work out, but at least from a doctor's standpoint we had no reservations."

It appears to be working on the field as well. With his neck and shoulder recovered, Lynch jumped into the offseason program with the exuberance of a rookie. Teammates say his passion and intensity were evident and effective from the first day of workouts.

"He almost knows what's going to happen before it happens," Shanahan said. "Whether it's run support, zone coverage or man coverage. He works at it. He seems to anticipate things before they happen, and most great players do that. Sometimes your skills can go down, but your knowledge of the game is very good, you can still play at a high level."

Cornerback Champ Bailey, acquired in an offseason trade with the Redskins for Clinton Portis, said he hopes teams, like the Bucs, continue to doubt Lynch.

"I hope they do that to him, I really do," said Bailey, who is developing a good relationship with his new teammate. "I really don't know how he was back in Tampa, because I didn't see him all the time. But now that I see him every day I have to wonder why the Bucs let him go. I don't know how much money he was making, but I'm sure he was worth it."

While it is in the Broncos' best interest that Lynch move on - he has sold his house in Tampa and moved into a new place in the Cherry Hills area of Denver - the team may benefit from the veteran's renewed sense of purpose.

"I believe (the Bucs) will regret it," Lynch said. "Not that I needed to be re-energized, because last year was such a frustrating year since I didn't play the way I wanted to play, but I firmly feel like I have my best days ahead of me. ... I know what I feel, and I think I'm going to have a great year."

* * *

On the field and in the meeting rooms, Lynch has influenced a team that showed vulnerability in the secondary in a playoff loss to the Colts.

"Any time you have a pro like John, the transition is going to be very easy," Shanahan said. "No matter where he went, he's a leader by example. He jumped right into our offseason program and did a fantastic job. In order for a player to lead he has to get the respect of all of his teammates, and the way to do that is through hard work and the players knowing that you know what you're talking about. You practice at a certain level and make very few mistakes. That's what John has done for us."

Even big-name players such as Bailey, considered the best cover corner in the game, said he has learned a thing or two from Lynch, like the value of dedicated film research.

"You know, you hear a lot about a guy but you never know how he's going to be until he gets here," Bailey said. "He's definitely a true leader, every bit of a leader and more than I expected. He's always trying to get everyone on the same page."

The Broncos are confident Bailey's shut-down skills and Lynch's savvy will make a difference on a defense that finished among the best in the league last season.

"I welcome the challenge," Lynch said. "This isn't a unit that was broke, They were broke that game

(against the Colts), but we were the fourth-ranked defense in the league. ... We're not going to be great because we have great players. We're going to be great because we work to be the best every day, not just on Sundays either."

Then, there is the little issue of Week 4, when the Broncos travel to Tampa and Lynch plays in Raymond James Stadium as a Bucs opponent for the first time. The eventuality of that Oct. 3 game has occurred to him.

"I would be lying if I said no," Lynch said, smiling. "It's going to be funny. It's going to be weird. I've thought about it. I don't spend a whole lot of time on it, because I've got to get this defense down, so many things in this league move so fast. But it'll be unusual."

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Tampa gives Lynch send-off

New Broncos safety moved by tribute

By Roger Mills, Special To The News
May 6, 2004

TAMPA, Fla. - Veteran safety John Lynch was very suspicious that his wife Linda was planning something.

She kept him away from televisions and newspapers, shoed him out of rooms where people were talking, wouldn't let him listen to too much radio.



Cliff McBride © Tampa Tribune

John Lynch signs autographs Wednesday for fans at a special farewell salute staged at the St. Pete Times Forum in Tampa, Fla.

Advertisement

The new Denver Broncos safety, who came over from Tampa Bay this off-season after 11 years with the Buccaneers, was sure something was up.

Clearly, his instincts still work.

In front of almost 700 fans and well-wishers at the St. Pete Times Forum, Lynch was roasted, presented with the key to the city and showered with enough accolades to render him more than slightly embarrassed.

He jammed with one of his favorite bands, the Warren Brothers. He sang *Sweet Home Alabama*. He hugged a long list of former teammates and city dignitaries, among them retired Gen. Tommy Franks, who commanded the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan.

By nightfall, the man who soon will begin a new life in Denver, clearly was moved by those who came to celebrate his old one in Tampa.

"It's been an emotional week for me," said Lynch, who leaves for Denver today for the start of mini-camp Friday.

"This is pretty symbolic of me closing this door here, for now. We're going. But to have something like this and to have fans show up like this is pretty special. This has been a special week."

Earlier in the day, as part of his annual John Lynch Foundation luncheon, the 32-year-old presented a series of awards and scholarships to students in the Tampa area.

But it was later in the afternoon that Lynch was stunned when he arrived at the outdoor staging area of the home of the Tampa Bay Lightning, only to find a free concert, in his honor, in full swing.

Then one by one, former teammates such as quarterback Brad Johnson, cornerback Ronde Barber, fullback Mike Alstott and receiver Joe Jurevicius took to the stage to reveal some behind-the-scenes moments with the five-time Pro Bowl selectee.

They made it clear what a critical role Lynch played in the franchise's rise to prominence.

Franks spoke of Lynch's dedication to military personnel. Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio, who named May 5 John

Lynch Day, said the presentation of the key had it's own symbolism.

"You may be going to Denver, but we know you'll be back to your real home one day, Tampa," she said.

Lynch barely could contain his emotions.

"This is just incredible," he said. "To get a key to the city. To have my family here with me and to have some of the people I respect more than anyone in the world. To feel the love and support that everyone has shown us through the whole ordeal, I just want to thank all these guys for being here."

When negotiations with the Buccaneers stalled, Lynch was given permission to talk to other teams. Eventually, he was released.

He signed a three-year, \$9 million deal with the Broncos on March 22.

"My first (workouts) at Mile High, when I was gasping for air, I said, 'This is different.' " he said. "So, to go into a new locker room, it felt like a new kid in a new school. It was different. But you adapt quickly because you have to. That's what this league is about, that's what life is about."

His teammates stressed that the Broncos' gain is the Bucs' loss.

"You can't really describe his leadership," said Johnson, who touted Lynch as the best teammate he has had in his 12-year career. "He does so much. Besides just the hits. Besides just the playmaking. Denver's getting a true, true leader."

Added Barber: "They are getting a guy who will enhance their team in the locker room. Leadershipwise, he can't be beat. That's going to be a void in our locker room. They are definitely getting it. That type of leadership got us a championship."

Predictably, the issue of the Broncos game at Tampa on Oct. 3 came up.

"He's going to come out and get this big standing ovation, and we can't fall into the trap with that either," Jurevicius said.

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The Denver Post

broncos

Mauck rising rookie at QB

Former LSU star shining

By Adam Scheffer
Denver Post Staff Writer

Tuesday, August 03, 2004 -

Matt Mauck enters the NFL with the distinction of being a higher draft pick in baseball than he was in football.

In 1997, the Chicago Cubs drafted him in the sixth round; in April, the Broncos drafted Mauck in the seventh round.

Less than a week into training camp, Mauck holds a more significant distinction.

When Denver released its first depth chart of the season Monday, Mauck was the most upwardly mobile player on it. Mauck passed quarterbacks Bradlee Van Pelt and Mike Quinn, and is threatening to challenge Danny Kanell for the backup job.

"I pay more attention to the depth chart at the end of camp," Mauck said between Monday's practice sessions. "The beginning of camp, I'm not too concerned about. The depth chart is more important for fans to look at. It can always change. I can't worry about it now."

Throughout the offseason, Broncos fans worried about who would back up starting quarterback Jake Plummer. Yet one of the primary reasons the Broncos declined to pursue any veterans in the post-June 1 free-agent days was the 6-foot-1, 213-pound Mauck.

At 25, he is the NFL's oldest rookie. Fortunately for the Broncos, Mauck is showing his age.

"He's very mature, beyond his years," offensive coordinator Gary Kubiak said.

"He's got a nice strong arm, very accurate. On his résumé, he's got pro baseball, a (BCS national) championship, experience in (LSU coach) Nick Saban's program. He got coached hard, and you can see all that in him this year. Up to now, it's very exciting. But there is still a long way to go."

Mauck could be the next great Denver seventh-round pick. Former tight end Shannon Sharpe, current tight end Byron Chamberlain and center Tom Nalen were drafted in that same round.

Like those former and current Broncos, Mauck probably should not have lasted until then. Supposedly wise football minds confirmed as much.

When Mauck was debating whether to leave LSU after his junior season last winter, he consulted with the NFL's draft advisory board on where he might be selected and was told the fourth round.

Had Mauck asked the Broncos, he might have heard a similar answer.

"We drafted him in the seventh round, but a bunch of us in the organization had him rated higher than that," Broncos quarterbacks coach Pat McPherson said. "We were pretty happy he was there. And he's definitely better than we thought he was. He's a good athlete, strong arm, real smart."

But then, defensive assistant and special-teams coach Kirk Doll already knew that. Before the Broncos hired him in March, Doll coached the past two seasons at LSU, where he watched Mauck lose two games in two years.

"That shows you he's a winner," Doll said of Mauck, who completed 229-of- 358 passes last season for 2,825 yards, 28 touchdowns and 14 interceptions.

Of all the plays Doll watched Mauck make the past two seasons, the one that stood out had as much to do with the quarterback's head as his arm. With 1:22 remaining in a tie game between LSU and Georgia in September, Mauck watched Tigers wide receiver Skyler Green break off his pattern and still knew where to deliver the football for a game-winning, 34-yard touchdown strike.

"And he's doing the same things that he did for us at LSU," said Doll, LSU's former assistant head coach. "He's making good decisions and competing."

One of Mauck's better decisions was giving up baseball after being switched from third baseman to catcher. After three seasons in the Cubs organization and reaching Single-A, Mauck surrendered the sport and signed up to play with Saban.

"I found out I wasn't any good," Mauck said.

And what has he found out about himself in this summer's training camp?

"I'm still debating," Mauck said.

While he might be unsure where he stands, others are not.

"For a rookie to come in and handle the system, he's been impressive," said Kanell, who could find himself in a battle for the No. 2 job. "He picked it up pretty fast, and he's shown a lot of poise. That was something that caught everybody's eye, that he picked up things pretty quick and he handled himself like a pro.

"A lot of it has to do with the fact that he's 25. But he's not your typical rookie."

Staff writer Adam Schefter can be reached at 303-820-5450 or aschefter@denverpost.com.

The Denver Post

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Mauck will forgo dental plan

LSU QB eager for shot in NFL

By Patrick Saunders
Denver Post Sports Writer

Tuesday, April 27, 2004 -

Dental school can wait. First, former LSU star Matt Mauck wants to sink his teeth into a career as an NFL quarterback.

"I definitely wanted to play in the NFL, that's the thing I wanted to do," Mauck said Sunday after the Broncos selected him in the seventh round of the draft. "Yes, I did graduate and dental school is something I want to pursue if football doesn't work out, but I'm totally committed to football and that's all I wanted to do. I'm excited about the opportunity."

The player who led LSU to a co-national championship last season will have plenty of competition for the Broncos' backup quarterback job. Already in place behind starter Jake Plummer are veterans Danny Kanell and Mike Quinn. Steve Beuerlein, a 39-year-old veteran, is mulling his future, but there is a good chance he'll retire.

The Broncos drafted another quarterback in Sunday's seventh round. Bradlee Van Pelt, the charismatic former Colorado State star, was selected 25 picks after Mauck.

Van Pelt's ties to the Front Range triggered plenty of local headlines and TV highlights, but Mauck plans on getting noticed when he arrives for the Broncos' first minicamp set for May 7-9. And he's not fretting that he didn't get picked until the wee hours of the draft.

"The last time I checked, there aren't too many people that even get the opportunity to get drafted," he said. "Anytime you have an opportunity to be able to play at this level, you have to be appreciative of it."

Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said he considers Mauck a bargain pickup.

"He's a guy that we thought was one of the better athletes in the draft," Shanahan said. "He's about 6-1 1/2, well over 200 pounds. I think he ran the 40 in 4.8 (at the NFL combine), which is impressive. We like the way he played the game. Obviously they won a national championship, and not only could he make all throws, but we thought he could run the ball well."

Mauck, who will be a 25-year-old rookie, has compiled an impressive résumé. He led LSU to a 21-14 victory over Oklahoma in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 4 and a share of the 2003 national championship. He also played three years of minor-league baseball in the Chicago Cubs' organization and graduated in December with a degree in kinesiology.

JOIN THE DISCUSSION!

New Broncos message boards

Ask LSU offensive coordinator Jimbo Fisher why Mauck can cut it as an NFL quarterback and he points to the 2001 Southeastern Conference championship game. LSU was a decided underdog to a second-ranked Tennessee team with national title hopes. When starter Rohan Davey was injured, Mauck, then a redshirt freshman, ran for two touchdowns and led the Tigers to a 31-20 victory. Mauck

completed just 5-of-15 passes for 67 yards but was named the game's MVP.

"It was the first time he ever played," Fisher recalled. "It was a national audience and big deal. He didn't have great numbers throwing, but the thing is, he came in and elevated the team. He made them believe in a second-team guy. He led us to victory against a great defense. That characterized everything about him. He's a winner, bottom line."

Mauck started 20 games at LSU and won 18 times. In 2003, he threw for 2,825 yards and 28 touchdowns and was named to the all-SEC second team behind former Mississippi star Eli Manning, the No. 1 pick in the draft.

Critics contend Mauck doesn't have the arm strength or accuracy to make it in the NFL. Fisher disagrees.

"I think his arm strength is good," he said. "Is it John Elway- like or great-great? No, I wouldn't say that, but I think he's got a very good arm. He makes all the throws."

The Denver Post

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Nalen lets others make noise for him

Broncos' Pro Bowl center plays with look of Hall of Fame candidate

By Patrick Saunders
Denver Post Staff Writer

Friday, August 27, 2004 -

With his scruffy beard, gruff manner and penchant for flannel shirts, tough Tom Nalen could be a lumberjack, a longshoreman or a New England fisherman.

Nalen is none of those, but that doesn't make the Broncos' five-time Pro Bowl center any less blue-collar. He was an unheralded seventh-round draft choice from Boston College who spent part of his 1994 rookie season on the practice squad. The first car he bought with his rookie money was not a Mercedes or a BMW, but an Isuzu Rodeo.

"He started with nothing, and he's been hungry from Day One," said wide receiver Rod Smith, who came into the NFL with Nalen. "He's a constant worker, he's smart and he's tough. That sucker is just one of those guys you'd follow into any game in any situation."

Simply put, Nalen is one of the best at a position often overlooked and unappreciated. But he doesn't want to talk about it.

Nalen disdains the spotlight and has become the enforcer of the longstanding credo that Broncos offensive linemen must stay out of the newspaper and off the nightly TV sports report. Nalen has nothing to say about himself. Fortunately, others on the team and around the NFL have plenty to say about Nalen.

"I think he is one of the best ever to play," Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said. "He doesn't have any weaknesses. He does a great job in the running game and does a great job in pass protection. He gives you everything he's got every game. And he plays hurt."

There are 11 centers in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Smith said Nalen belongs in the hallowed halls of Canton, Ohio, too: "When we were at (John) Elway's Hall of Fame thing, I said to Tom, 'Man, when you go in, are you going to invite me?' Tom's that type of player."

Small but special

Ask Broncos veteran defensive linemen Luther Elliss and Marco Coleman who the pre-eminent center of their era has been, and both say former Steelers star Dermontti Dawson, who retired in 2000 after a 13-year career that included seven consecutive Pro Bowls. But both Elliss and Coleman said Nalen is in Dawson's class.

"First and foremost, there is Dermontti Dawson," said Elliss, with Detroit for nine seasons before coming to Denver this year. "He was amazing. He was quick, strong and fast. He was a cagy veteran. He knew all the tricks, and he had quite a multiple arsenal to get the job done. And I think Tom is right up there, for sure. The way he plays and the way he practices, the techniques he uses, he has a lot of Dawson's attributes."

Nalen's credentials are impressive. Last season, less than a year removed from a torn anterior cruciate knee ligament that wiped out the final nine games of his 2002 season, Nalen made the Pro Bowl for the fifth time. No other Denver offensive lineman has equaled that mark. Additionally, Nalen was named all-NFL by The Associated Press and Pro Football Weekly and offensive lineman of the year by the NFL Alumni.

At 6-feet-3 and 286 pounds, Nalen is one of the league's smallest centers. Maybe that's why Dawson admires him so much.

"Who are the best? I think (the Jets') Kevin Mawae and Tom Nalen," Dawson said from his home in Nicholasville, Ky. "Kevin is so fast, especially for such a big (6-4, 300 pounds) guy. Tom is lighter, but you still see him manhandle guys. He has the great strength and he never seems to get out of position."

The Bears' Olin Kreutz, 27, ranks among the NFL's best young centers. He's been selected to the Pro Bowl three times in six seasons. He credits Nalen for some of his success.

"I've watched a lot of film on Tom," Kreutz said. "I like to see the way he does stuff. We are similar in a lot of ways, so I like to see how he does things. I watch the way he uses his hands and how he moves his feet."

Key to ground game

Nalen, like Kreutz and Minnesota's Matt Birk, is accomplished at pulling out from center and moving down the line or up the field to take on defensive tackles and linebackers.

"Today's centers have to have skills and be athletic," Dawson said. "Because the center has evolved from just pushing guys out of the way to pulling on sweeps and screens and everything. They are doing a lot more with centers now."

Birk not only is considered an elite NFL center, he is a Harvard graduate. That doesn't mean a center requires an Ivy League education, but he needs a good head on his shoulders.

"No. 1, you have to be smart," Birk said. "In most offenses, the center makes all the line calls. You have to make sure everybody is on the same page. A center has to see blitzes coming and he's got to make split decisions. Before you snap the ball, you have to have everybody going in the same direction."

Nalen has had the Broncos' offense going in the right direction since he became a full-time starter in 1995, Shanahan's first year as Denver's coach. Since then, the Broncos have rushed for 20,150 yards, most in the NFL. In that span, Terrell Davis rushed for 2,008 yards and Clinton Portis twice broke the 1,500-yard barrier. Both have come and gone, but the Broncos' blue-collar center remains.

"You look at all of these supposedly great running backs that we have had, but that guy has been in the middle for every last one of them," Smith said of Nalen. "To me, Tom's the one who should be getting a lot more credit."



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Plummer's credo: Keep it simple

By Larry Weisman, USA TODAY

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Wild broncs can't be broken. So how about [Jake Plummer](#)?



Jake Plummer missed four games because of injury.

By Jack Dempsey, AP

The same things that bail him out of a tight spot — quick reflexes and a sense of when to bolt the pocket — often suck him in. (**Related item:** [Broncos' team report](#))

"I get in trouble sometimes when I try to do too much. Just me getting out of pressure and getting the ball back to the line of scrimmage is a positive play, and I've got to remember that and try not to do too much," says Plummer, beginning his second season as Denver's starting quarterback. "It'll come."

Shoulder and foot injuries kept him out of four games in 2003 after he left Arizona for Denver as a free agent. The fifth start he missed was the season finale, in which the Broncos, with nothing to gain, rested their regulars against Green Bay. Plummer was 9-2 as a starter and the Broncos won only once with him sidelined.

It's fair to no one to use [John Elway](#) as the measuring stick, but Elway wrapped up his career with two Super Bowl victories and the Broncos struggled (Bobby Brister, [Brian Griese](#)) after his retirement. In his first season with the club, Plummer was fifth in the NFL in passer rating (91.2) and played well, if not enough, to give the club hope he's Elway's long-term successor.

"I'll be surprised if he doesn't play at a much higher level than he did a year ago," coach Mike Shanahan says. "Jake is going to do things right. He played too good last year not to, and he's more comfortable with the system than he was a year ago."

Through four preseason games divided evenly between wins and losses, Plummer tossed no touchdown passes and four interceptions. Last season he threw 139 consecutive passes without an interception, completing 10 for touchdowns in that span. The measure of success, he says, won't necessarily be in individual numbers.

"I'm not too big on stats. The main thing for me is winning games," the eight-year veteran says. "If we go to the Super Bowl and I throw five touchdown passes this season, I'll be happy with that. If we go to the Super Bowl and I throw 30, that'll be great, too."

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Plummer cool and collected at camp

QB says pressure's off this time around

By FRANK SCHWAB THE GAZETTE

ENGLEWOOD c Compared to a year ago, Jake Plummer appears relaxed — or at least as relaxed as a Denver Broncos starting quarterback can be in the post-John Elway era.

Plummer arrived as an enigma. He was considered either a good quarterback for a poor Arizona Cardinals team or simply a poor quarterback who threw too many interceptions.

But his 9-2 record, 15 touchdowns and seven interceptions last season showed he was worthy of the Broncos' faith. And those around Broncos camp say Plummer, who has gained a firm knowledge of the offense, feels a little less pressure.

And Plummer agrees.

"I felt a lot more relaxed (coming to training camp this year), knowing what to expect," Plummer said. "Having a year under my belt — a year and a couple of months with another offseason — I feel real comfortable in the system.

"I kind of know the offense better so I can help these young guys out, too. It's a lot better feeling for me. More relaxed."

Offensive coordinator Gary Kubiak said the biggest difference is how Plummer occupies himself during camp. Plummer no longer has to cram between practices to learn the complex offense.

"He doesn't have to bury his head in his book," Kubiak said. "He understands what we're doing, he understands his reads, and he's a more relaxed person when he comes out here. It's easier for him mentally, so his physical skills take over."

Although Plummer says he is more relaxed and the team gushes about his overall ability, the caveat is that he is in a different role this season. In some ways, he has to prove himself again.

Shannon Sharpe isn't around anymore as a reliable security blanket. Until Quentin Griffin or someone proves to be a big-play threat at tailback, defenses can focus on the passing game more than last season, when Clinton Portis was a Pro Bowl runner.

And the receivers aren't a sure thing, given questions about Ashley Lelie's consistency and the group of unproven players battling for spots behind Rod Smith and Lelie.

The Broncos will ask more of Plummer this season. Yet Plummer said he doesn't burden himself with too much pressure.

"I got the guys believing in me, and for me I just have to keep doing what (Kubiak) and coach Shanahan tell me to do and run this offense as well as I can and everything will take care of itself," Plummer said.

The Broncos aren't expecting Plummer to carry the offense by passing the ball. Plummer might have to pass more this season than last — he averaged only 27.5 attempts per start and didn't have a 300-yard game — but Kubiak said the Broncos aren't going to change their offense too much, and "we're still committed to the run."

As for the guy running the offense, Kubiak said Plummer acknowledges there's room for improvement.

"I think he can be a lot better, and I think he feels the same way," Kubiak said. "I just think you're going to see a more relaxed guy."

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Plummer is back to try to plug the leaks

Quarterback ready for breakout in second season with Broncos

By Jeff Legwold, Rocky Mountain News
July 29, 2004

Rod Smith lives life on football's bottom line. He has been there, caught that.

Smith has championship rings and Pro Bowl seasons on his résumé, so ask him about most anything, including Denver Broncos quarterback Jake Plummer, and he's quick to dish.

"Jake is going to have a hell of a year," Smith said Wednesday. "Because he knows his personnel, working with them, he knows our system better. And the rest of us will adjust to him to make his job easier.

"We'll make him better. That's our job, to make him better."

There it is, in a nutshell. As Plummer prepares to enter his second season with the Broncos, most everyone, from coach Mike Shanahan on down, says the 29-year-old is ready for more.

Ready for more than his 2003 season, when he missed one game because of a shoulder injury and three because of a fractured foot - games in which the Broncos went 1-3.

Then came the 41-10 playoff loss in Indianapolis, and Plummer was left to see what a full off-season with the Broncos offense could do for him.

Though Plummer flashed marquee potential during a four-game stretch last season when he threw eight touchdowns and no interceptions, he believes last year was about learning the playbook and this year is about learning what he can do with those around him.

He said that, as he became more comfortable with his teammates, they became more comfortable with him.

"I think so, being around them, last year gaining their confidence and respect last year during the season," Plummer said. "Being here this whole off-season, not having to spend so much time slamming in the books learning the offense instead of spending time with those guys having some fun.

"I love my teammates, and I think we're all excited, including me, to get this thing going. All I can ask for is they respect me and have that confidence in me when I get out there. And I think I've got that."

Smith already has noticed.

"It's communicating without saying anything as compared to before, 'This is what I'm thinking, what are you thinking? What do you want me to do?' Asking him questions . . . ," Smith said on the first day of the Broncos' training-camp two-a-days.

"I mean, we were out here on our own for three months, catching, throwing passes, running routes and just getting the feel. We're just feeling it instead of talking about it."

There are personnel executives in the league who have been critical of Plummer's decision-making through the years, but even they recognize he spent six seasons in survival mode with the Arizona Cardinals before coming to the Broncos last season.

In his first two years in Arizona, Plummer was sacked a bone-numbing 101 times and often was not afforded the simple luxury of planting his back foot to throw.

For their part, Shanahan and Broncos offensive coordinator Gary Kubiak long have preached ball security, using shorter routes in a pinch instead of making a mistake down the field. In an offense used to moving the ball, that should help Plummer's game.

In his 11 starts last season, Plummer was sacked only 14 times; all came in six games against non-playoff teams (Oakland twice, Detroit, Chicago, Cleveland and San Diego).

Shanahan also continues to believe Plummer's ability to work when things don't go perfectly after the snap often can be the difference.

"That's what you love about the great quarterbacks: When everything breaks down, they can do something that you can't coach . . . ," Shanahan said. "We had that with John (Elway) and when I was in San Francisco, Steve Young and Joe Montana. If you have quarterbacks who can do things when everything breaks down, it separates those guys from the rest of the pack.

"I don't know how many sacks we had the year before - 44, 45 (actually 46) - and last year he had 14 against him. That's not just the offensive line; it's your quarterback - he can get rid of the ball, quick release, quick decisions."

Plummer's teammates know a lot was expected of him last season.

"I think people probably underestimate what that's all about, learning that playbook in one season," safety Kenoy Kennedy said. "To come into the off-season and the preseason and know what everybody does, which way everybody's going, is tough.

"You're the guy with the ball, everybody's looking at you to get everybody in the right place and get the ball in the right place. You watch him out here right now and you can see on our side of the ball he's a lot more comfortable with all of that."

legwoldj@RockyMountainNews.com or 303-892-2359

The Denver Post

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Pryce approaching 30 with new game plan

By Bill Williamson
Denver Post Staff Writer

Tuesday, August 24, 2004 -

Trevor Pryce turns 30 - a fairly advanced age in NFL tree-ring years - in 344 days.

Yet, 49 weeks shy of the landmark, Pryce finds himself doing everything he can to prolong his NFL career and ward off those tree rings.

"I can see a little bit of that light at the end of the tunnel," said Pryce, a four-time Pro Bowl defensive lineman for the Broncos. "So, I want to do everything I can to make sure I'm still effective after 30, and as many years after that as possible. I'm going to be 30 pretty soon, so I need to do things differently."

Pryce began to rededicate himself at the tender age of 28. An 8 1/2-sack performance last season broke a four-season Pro Bowl streak as Pryce found himself wearing down. He knew a change was necessary.

"I was breaking down in the 10th, 11th game of the season," said Pryce, who recorded only 1 1/2 sacks over the final five games. "I saw it happening. I knew I had to do something about it. I was beaten down. That's not good."

Pryce, heading into his eighth NFL season after being the No. 28 overall draft choice in 1997, began to fight the NFL aging process in the offseason. He said he has engulfed himself in Broncos strength coach Rich Tuten's offseason program, he has lifted weights more vigorously, he began taking vitamins, he changed his eating habits and he treats himself to postpractice cold baths, something he never did before.

"When I was 26, I'd practice and go eat a big piece of chocolate cheesecake," said Pryce, who weighs about 295 pounds. "Now I watch what I eat, and take vitamins. I had never taken a vitamin before, but all that stuff is important. I can see the results. I feel better out there. I lost just about 3 pounds, but I feel less chunky than I did. I just feel better all-around."

The result has been a strong training camp. Pryce admits he never was one for training camp in the past, but training camp 2004 was "almost bearable."

Defensive coordinator Larry Coyer said Pryce's new regimen fits him well.

"The great ones do the extra stuff that makes them special," Coyer said. "That's where Trevor is now. He is doing the extra things great players do. It is very fair to say Trevor is working harder this training camp than ever before in camp. And it shows. He had a great camp. He is one of our top guys, and his hard work is paying off for everyone."

Neil Smith, who is with the Broncos as a coaching intern, played with Pryce from 1997- 99, near the end of Smith's NFL career and

the first three years of Pryce's career after a stellar collegiate stint at Clemson. When they were playing together, Pryce was in the cheesecake phase of his career, not the cold-bath phase. Smith said it is evident Pryce feels like he is at the point of his career where he needs to spend more time on off-field care.

"He's at that age," Smith said. "Trevor knows he has to work on the details of the game more. I see him doing that. Trevor is a great player, and players can be great in their 30s. But they have to do the details. I see that he's doing that now."

Pryce enjoys his new outlook on the game.

"I feel great heading into the season," Pryce said. "I feel like I'm going to be strong all season, and that's important in this stage of my career."

Staff writer Bill Williamson can be reached at 303-820-5450 or bwilliamson@denverpost.com.

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Gut check

Trevor Pryce has traded fat for muscle, and the Broncos' end is ready to throw his weight around

By Lee Rasizer, Rocky Mountain News
July 24, 2004

Trevor Pryce may have discovered the holy grail vs. the bathroom scale.

Eat, then eat some more. Then buy a new wardrobe because the old one has been rendered useless.

Granted, it doesn't seem like much of a diet, until you consider his clothes are too loose, not too tight.

"I'm getting thinner, but I'm getting heavier," the four-time Pro Bowl defensive lineman said, beaming.

By Pryce burning fat and building muscle this off-season, his pants no longer fit properly, but he feels properly fit - more so than at any time during his seven previous NFL seasons.

High-protein foods, coupled with strength training and cardiovascular conditioning, have him carrying a comfortable 285 pounds as he girds for the opening of Denver Broncos training camp.

But while the figure he reads on the scale matches his 2003 weight, his figure isn't close to resembling the edition of last year. He has more energy, too. He'll need all of it for two-a-day practices that begin Wednesday.

"He weighs the same, but he's heavier musclewise, so therefore he'll be faster, quicker and stronger," Broncos strength and conditioning coach Rich Tuten said.

A first step was changing Pryce's dietary regimen, or what counted as one before this off-season. Pryce said

he had made it common practice to fast, sometimes for days at a time. Or he would load up on Pop-Tarts, bread or rice cakes out of the family pantry, then skip meals because he didn't feel hungry.

The result was that he ended up not only shedding fat, but muscle, too.

"My metabolism was all out of whack," Pryce said. "My body would just eat itself."

There was no need, really: Pryce already was doing a good enough job eating himself up inside without added help.

Pryce, 28, said in a recent interview with the *Rocky Mountain News* that he often has felt constricted by self-imposed anxiety on game days. The joy with which he played his first five years had been stripped away.

Pryce was able to pinpoint the reason, too: "They gave me a bunch of money."

A \$10.6 million signing bonus Pryce was given in 2001 was, at the time, the most lucrative for a Broncos defensive player in team history. It recognized Pryce's place as one of the best at his position but also turned up the heat internally and externally.

Pryce still largely has played at an all-star level since that time, but he realized this off-season that he couldn't continue approaching his profession as a "JOB" - the big-letter emphasis is Pryce's - "and a very hard job" at that.

So while increasing his muscle mass the past seven months, Pryce also began making efforts to shed this weight off his mind, too.

"I've got to stop taking it way too seriously. I take it way too personal," he said. "The years I played best and had satisfying years, I made it a game. So I'm trying to regress back to when I was young and not be so angry and so edgy when I play or practice."

Top performer

It would be difficult to notice that Pryce was stressed out during the past three years, given his on-field production. He was elected to the Pro Bowl in 2001, his final season as a full-time defensive tackle. He earned a similar honor the subsequent season as a defensive end and, despite missing out on a Hawaii trip last season, might have put together his best overall season.

"He had a great year," Broncos pass-rush coach Keith Millard said.

During one three-game stretch of 2003, coach Mike Shanahan called Pryce's play the best he has seen from a defensive lineman in his coaching career.

"He creates havoc among the offensive line because sometimes you need two guys to block him and it frees up other guys on the line twists and things like that," said John Tait, the former Kansas City Chiefs right tackle who signed with the Chicago Bears during the off-season.

"They're the ones who'll sometimes get the sack or the pressure on the quarterback, where Trevor is really the guy who probably caused it in the first place."

Pryce was credited with 8.5 sacks last season, tying him for second on the team with Reggie Hayward behind the since-departed Bert Berry (11.5). But the Broncos ranked 13th in the NFL with 36 sacks, 32 of them coming from the defensive line.

The latter figure was eight more than the front four recorded in 2002.

Much of the upswing can be attributed to Pryce, according to Denver coaches and others.

"It always starts with their front four, and Trevor's the guy who really shines," Tait said. "They've got some good athletes and good players there. But Trevor was always the guy that, when you went over the team and the scouting report, he was highlighted as the guy that needed to be taken care of and needed to account for, then everything else goes from there."

League officials apparently concur. In a poll of 22 pro personnel directors conducted this spring by *USA Today's Sports Weekly*, only Michael Strahan, Jason Taylor, Simeon Rice and Jevon Kearse were ranked higher among defensive ends. The publication's scouts rated Pryce third, behind only Strahan and Taylor.

But Pryce's accomplishments also sometimes tend to get lost, too. A CBS.SportsLine.com story touting the league's top 50 players failed to mention him.

"I don't think he gets the amount of publicity that he should get," Strahan said. "He's one of the hidden-gem linemen in the business. And if there's somebody you'd want somebody to model their game after, it would be a guy like him. He plays the run and the pass and can get it done as a tackle or an end."

Pryce's 58 sacks are fifth-most in the league since he became a full-time player in 1998. He trails only Strahan (82), Rice (75.5), Taylor (66) and Jason Gildon (60) during that period.

But unlike those other four players, Pryce has gotten most of his sacks (40.5) as a defensive tackle. The Broncos played him mainly at the strong-side end last season while often shifting him inside in obvious passing situations to provide a push up the middle.

"He rarely gets a chance to play one-on-one with anybody no matter where they move him on the field," said Strahan, who has studied Pryce on tape but hasn't met him. "And I always tell people it's very easy to be a player out there on the field, one of 11, but whenever you're one of that 11 and everybody's focusing on you every play, every down, and you can still make it happen? Then that's the mark of a great player. And that's what Trevor is in the way he plays."

Others paying attention to him is fine.

It's Pryce's own "laserlike" focus he could do without.

Good advice

Peter Schaffer, Pryce's agent, counseled Pryce on the responsibilities of a record-breaking contract shortly after brokering his client's \$58.9 million renegotiation in spring 2001.

Schaffer doesn't worry about any self-imposed pressure Pryce might have since felt, given the personal growth he has noticed from his client since that big payday.

"I've done a lot of major deals - Barry Sanders, Eddie George, Chad Brown, Samari Rolle - and any time you do a deal of this magnitude, you have to sit down with your player and say, 'Look, there's a corresponding obligation to perform on and off the field that comes with this type of contract, from off-season workouts to leadership in the locker room.' You want to make sure the player understands that but at the same time it doesn't consume him.

"And in Trevor's case, here's a man that's grown into an incredibly talented, bright and confident elder player in the NFL. And that's been a great thing to watch. Leadership matters to him."

At times during Pryce's career, that level of devotion was questioned. The knock on him early in the Broncos organization after he was selected with the team's No. 1 pick in the 1997 draft (28th overall) was that he had a penchant for coasting on talent, dominating when he chose. That reputation has faded.

"When he was young, he lacked maturity and had to learn what it was all about, and I think he did," Denver general manager Ted Sundquist said. "There was some success there when he helped us win the two Super Bowls. I think he enjoyed being a champion as a cog in the defense and realized he was a No. 1 draft

choice.

"And I think he recognized that we made a huge investment in him by giving him that contract. I just think Trevor is much deeper than people give him credit for sometimes, and it does matter to him how he's perceived by the fans, his peers and the media. And I just see a more focused, competitive player as he gets older."

He also has become wiser in many ways.

Pryce had begun making concessions to his body last season by getting frequent massages, stretching before workouts and taking pre- and post-practice dips into hot and cold tubs, all for the first time.

His eating habits were the next logical emphasis in a league where hits tend to add up quicker than the days on a calendar.

Pryce cut down on carbohydrates, fat and empty calories that created ups and downs in his energy level. He also worked like a demon in the weight room.

"He had the best off-season this year that he's had since he's been here," Tuten said.

While declining to divulge specifics, Tuten added that Pryce's body fat is at its lowest level in eight years. And he expects that change in Pryce's physique to transfer to the field.

"When he hits you, he'll be more of a force now because he's hitting you with more power and more solidness," Tuten said. "He's hitting you like a brick instead of a cotton ball."

But Pryce also is convinced that taking a load off mentally is equally as important as his physical transformation.

He called his decision to alter his outlook on football a "conscious decision to go out there and have fun on game day," tuning out everyone in the process, including coaches.

"I look at guys like the corner from St. Louis, Aeneas Williams. He looks like he doesn't have a care in the world and he plays well. He's an older guy, and he's made a lot of money in this league and he's under pressure," Pryce said.

"But when you watch him play, he's having a good time playing a game. I mean, how do you do it?"

"And I'm starting to watch a lot of basketball now, I don't know why, and you just watch these guys play and it's like, this game isn't as physical as ours, but when they make a shot or do something, they celebrate. When was the last time anybody saw me celebrate about anything? I'm not worried about celebrating - I'm doing my job. And you can't play like that."

A talk with Broncos middle linebacker Al Wilson helped reinforce that notion. He quizzed Wilson about how he was able to keep a smile on Sundays and simultaneously perform at a Pro Bowl level while balancing a sense of humor and focus during practice preparations.

The advice must have helped.

"I don't care about money anymore," Pryce said. "Just go play, win, lose or draw."

A new season

That won-loss record should hinge in large part on the performance of a revamped Broncos defense that dominated at times last season but was obliterated in a wild-card playoff loss January at Indianapolis.

Obscured somewhat in the splashy off-season acquisitions of cornerback Champ Bailey, safety John Lynch and others, along with the re-signing of Wilson, is that Denver fielded the NFL's fourth-rated unit in Larry Coyer's first season as defensive coordinator.

Pryce sees the potential with the group this summer but also is cautious. He said the Broncos defenses that have had the fewest expectations seemed to do the best during his career. This defense already is receiving its share of hype, so the jury is out.

"On paper, we look like the Monsters of the Midway right now," he said. "But until that day comes where we actually line up and play a real game, it's all speculation. How do we jell? And how do the guys adapt to the scheme Larry wants? Larry's defense isn't easy now. It's predicated on you doing your job and not worrying about everything else. The natural reaction for a football player is to try and do more than he has to do. You do that in our defense, you get killed."

Still, as Coyer sees it, a focused and, yes, happier Pryce can't help but reduce those chances. Even if the load on Pryce is lessened, expectations will resemble his current physique - still heavy.

"All I hope he does is that he's just aware of how good he is and takes that and puts it in other ways other than personal," Coyer said. "I hope he leads our football team by showing guys this is how you do this. Because truly, that's how some guys get the idea.

"He may or may not be one of those guys that's going to jump up and down and scream and holler. That's not Trevor Pryce. But when it comes time to go, his performance is going to be such where a guy can look over at him and say, 'Holy (cow), look at this guy.' "

Who knows? This season Pryce might even smile back in appreciation of such a compliment.

rasizerl@RockyMountainNews.com

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Rocky Mountain News

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He's about end result

Awkward running form draws laughs, but tight end Putzier is making positive strides

By Lee Rasizer, Rocky Mountain News

August 27, 2004

They called him Herman Munster.

And with a square, 6-foot-4 build and a stiff, wobbly running style that borders on the, well, unusual, Jeb Putzier never tried to suggest he should be called anything else during his time at Boise State University.

Besides, if the cleats fit . . .

"He'd wear these big, old black, heavy high-top shoes and he'd be running and stomping them into the ground," Chris Petersen, the offensive coordinator at Boise State, recalled with a laugh this week. "Meanwhile, he's beating his guy, and we'd all say, 'There goes Herman heading down the field.' "

They don't call Putzier "Herman" anymore.

His Denver Broncos teammates prefer to address him as "Cowboy," a nod to the tight end's Idaho roots and wardrobe that, at times, will include full Western gear, down to the boots, bolo tie and hat.

But Putzier can just as easily dress down.

His preseason attire features concert T-shirts ranging from Led Zeppelin to Metallica to Ted Nugent, usually accompanied by Idaho Spuds or Sam Rosti Farms trucker hats.

His favorite clothing bears the John Deere symbol.

And, yes, players still poke fun at the way he runs.

"Like a wounded antelope," defensive end Trevor Pryce said.

"Ugly as hell," wide receiver Rod Smith said.

Putzier's attire might not land him in *GQ*. His form isn't suitable for *Runner's World*. But behind his style, or lack thereof, substance is emerging.

In a crowded field of contenders at tight end, Putzier might be developing into a valuable downfield weapon for the Broncos this season.

He always has had the hands for the job. He was a wide receiver who didn't switch to tight end until his final year of college.

It has been Putzier's subpar blocking and the presence of Shannon Sharpe and Dwayne Carswell at his position in Denver that have kept him off the field the past two seasons.

Now, with Sharpe in the broadcast booth and Carswell at offensive tackle, an opportunity has presented itself and Putzier appears to be taking full advantage. He has worked hard at improving his in-the-line blocking skills, something he rarely was asked to do at Boise State. And he has snared throw after throw in training camp.

So, while Byron Chamberlain is Denver's starter at tight end at the moment, Putzier is positioning himself as a possible No. 2.

In Denver's 19-3 victory at Seattle on Saturday, Putzier played extensively. He paired with Jed Weaver behind Chamberlain and Patrick Hape in two-tight-end formations and ran the second half in five-wide-receiver sets.

Heading into the Broncos' home preseason game tonight against the Houston Texans (7, CBS 4), Putzier is third on the team with five catches in three games for 49 yards and a touchdown.

"Time will tell," Broncos offensive coordinator Gary Kubiak said of Putzier's future role. "We've got a couple more preseason games to play, and we'll see how he plays.

"But he's definitely worked himself into a position where he deserves those reps. He's had a good camp. He's busted his butt.

"But he's got a long ways to go. He ain't even close to where we need him to be as a player. Hopefully, he'll keep working as hard as he's working."

A former walk-on

Applying himself never has been a problem for Putzier. He essentially lived in the Boise State film room after joining the team as a walk-on.

"He was one of those guys there morning, noon and night," Petersen recalled. "In the summertime, he'd be eating peanut butter and jelly sandwiches watching special-teams tape, let alone offensive tape. He was just that kind of guy."

Every couple of weeks, Putzier would buy a loaf of bread, a huge jar of peanut butter and a jar of jelly - "Jam was too expensive," Putzier said - and park himself in the coaches' chairs. That is, until he'd get into trouble.

"I got peanut butter on their pants, just everywhere," Putzier said with a smile.

He leaves the PB&J at home nowadays. Instead, he brings Chipotle to the Broncos' meetings rooms, along with his old work ethic.

Herman Munster, who toted a hefty metal lunch pail to work daily on the 1960s TV series *The Munsters*, would be proud.

"Jeb's a blue-collar guy," said Smith, a former practice-squad player who also fits the working-class description. "He's from Idaho in the backwoods, and a potato farmer, probably, riding his horse to work. But I really like him, because his character, I think, is key.

"He just wants a chance, and he's going to go all out. And the sucker never gets tired. I don't understand it.

"He's constantly working and constantly trying to get better."

Deceptive skills

Putzier's lack of flair actually masks the fact he is so well-conditioned and can move extremely well for a big man. Style points aside, Putzier was timed at 4.65 seconds in the 40-yard dash coming out of college - at 255 pounds.

"Basically, he comes out there and it's like, 'Oh, this guy can't run,' then here he comes," Broncos quarterback Danny Kanell said.

Added Putzier, "When our new guys come in, our safeties say, 'Jeb's not a normal tight end, OK? Get ready to run.' I always go all out, and maybe I look ridiculous doing it, but oh well, it works."

On the other hand, Putzier has gotten only limited opportunities to showcase those abilities.

He has played in only seven games in his first two NFL seasons, and all four of his career catches came last season. He has been declared inactive 20 times since Denver selected him in the sixth round of the 2002 draft.

Mainly, it comes back to those blocking struggles.

But who could blame him? Putzier didn't get into a three-point stance until his senior year of college. And even though he was listed as a tight end as a senior, he really was a glorified receiver, aligned as a split end, slot receiver or H-back on most occasions.

Putzier has been tutored extensively by Carswell and others on developing his understanding and abilities in Denver's blocking schemes, and he has made improvement.

"I can do it to an extent, I think," Putzier said. "I've got a long ways to go still. And I don't want to be just one of those guys who just gets the job done. I want to be the best at it."

Sharpe wasn't considered a dominant blocker, either, but he improved during his time in the league. Putzier is trying to follow that path.

If he succeeds, Kubiak said, "Jeb's got the tools to become a great player."

'Not a good-looking guy'

Even so, fans won't ever confuse the two players. Sharpe oozed style; Putzier . . . not so much.

"I'm not a good-looking guy. I run really funny," Putzier said with a chuckle. "His body compared to mine, they're just going to laugh at. You won't see me doing too many commercials with my shirt off or

something. So it's definitely a different avenue."

At least Putzier has traded in his old high-tops for a new, if not particularly fresh, pair of cleats. A Reebok representative told the tight end his understated leather shoe model is worn by only one other NFL player: Peyton Manning. The quarterback's cleats are white, not black.

The old Munster shoes still are around, though. They're in a closet at Putzier's mom's house in Idaho. The shoes, which he purchased for \$20 as a junior in high school, serve as a reminder of his past.

Petersen and the folks at Boise State are hoping soon for another remembrance:

"Tell him we're looking forward to him doing the Herman stomp in the end zone."

Cowboy up.

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The Denver Post

broncos

Rushing game a gamble

Broncos' backfield scheme favors quick, explosive running backs

By Patrick Saunders
Denver Post Staff Writer

Friday, May 07, 2004 -

When rookie Tatum Bell steps onto the practice fields at Broncos headquarters for the opening of minicamp today, he will tread on hallowed ground.

It's the same turf where Clinton Portis, a cocky kid from the University of Miami, discovered that an NFL running back needs more than attitude, moves and breakaway speed to make it big. Portis learned his lessons well, rushing for more than 1,500 yards in each of his first two NFL seasons.

But Portis no longer is a Bronco. Traded to Washington for Pro Bowl cornerback Champ Bailey, Portis now wears Redskins burgundy and gold. Which raises the central question of the Broncos' 2004 season: Which running back will fly the orange and blue colors? The answer likely depends on which running back masters the Broncos' system.

Will it be veteran Mike Anderson, the starting fullback who wants another crack at tailback? Second-year scatback Quentin Griffin? Garrison Hearst, the 33-year-old with the Pro Bowl pedigree?

Since Mike Shanahan took over as coach in 1995, the Broncos' system has cranked out 20,150 rushing yards during the regular season. That's the most by any NFL team from 1995-2003. Bell, the second-round draft choice from Oklahoma State, is well aware of the Broncos' tradition of raising thoroughbred running backs.

"When I come in, I can't be the weak link," Bell said this week from his home in DeSoto, Texas. "I have to keep up my end and just keep the tradition going. I mean, the Broncos have a tradition of great backs. T.D. (Terrell Davis), Clinton Portis, Olandis Gary, Mike Anderson - they have a great track record."

'Trained seals' at work

Conventional wisdom states the Broncos simply plug a running back into their game plan and watch him churn out yards and postseason awards. It's not that simple. It requires an athletic, mobile offensive line adept at zone blocking, along with a running back adept at reading what the line is doing.

Davis was the first to master the system. He did it so well he rushed for 2,008 yards in 1998 and was named NFL MVP. When Davis was felled by a severe knee injury in 1999, Gary stepped in and rushed for 1,159 yards. In 2000, when Davis and Gary were injured, Anderson transformed himself from a raw sixth-round draft pick into a vital cog in the system. He rushed for 1,487 yards and was named the league's offensive rookie of the year.

Anderson said he will have the edge regaining the starting tailback job because he understands Denver's system, and because he long ago let go of his college habits.

"It's different at this level," said Anderson, who averaged a school record 102.4 yards per game in

his two seasons at Utah. "In college, you are pretty much running off natural ability. Whenever you see daylight, you just take it. That's college ball. In the pros, everybody is fast and everybody has a job to do. Your linemen block a certain way, and you have to follow that. If you don't the play is dead."

Mark Schlereth, the Broncos' starting left guard from 1995-2000, said there are a number of essential elements in the Broncos' running game. The first is zone blocking. It usually begins with two, but sometimes three, offensive linemen working together. The center and guard, along with the tackle and tight end, work in combination to control an area. They emphasize double-teaming defensive linemen along the line of scrimmage, then one blocker slides off the double-team and takes on a linebacker.

"Basically, it starts with everyone on the line coming off on the same angle, with the same type of steps," said Schlereth, now an analyst for ESPN. "It's almost like a bunch of trained seals working together. And what you are taking control of is, basically, a zone along the line."

Working in concert with his linemen, the running back must scan the line, pick his hole quickly, make one cut and head up field. The Broncos' stable traditionally has been stocked with north-south running backs. Backfield dancing is not allowed in the Broncos' scheme.



Second-round draft pick Tatum Bell says he has to keep up with the Broncos' tradition of great running backs.

Special / David Pellerin

"You get your nose pointed downhill," Schlereth said. "It's preached and it's taught every single day in practice. It's one cut and go upfield."

Shanahan has said he would consider a running back by committee this season, but would like to see one back emerge as the Broncos' go-to guy.

"If you have one guy that you call your 'stud buffalo,' that you say is your guy, and he wants the rock in his hand, wants to carry it 35 or 40 times a game, then obviously we could go in that direction," Shanahan said after trading Portis to Washington.

Bell said he wants to become that "stud buffalo." He has the speed to make it in the NFL. He once was clocked at 4.26 seconds in the 40-yard dash, making him the fastest running back in the 2004 draft. In that regard, he's much like Portis, who ran away from defenders once he got past the line of scrimmage.

But to put up Portis-like numbers, Bell must learn to run the Broncos' way.

"I think Tatum Bell is really going to have to adjust," Schlereth said. "He's a speed guy. They keep saying that Tatum Bell has had some success between the tackles, but I think he's had success outrunning people on the edge and going 65 down the sideline."

Schlereth added that sometimes it is difficult to convince a young running back that he can't outrun defenders and simply sprint around the corner.

KEY DATES

Today through Sunday: Minicamp includes one practice a day, plus a lot of classroom work. Rookies are

"The problem is, there are no blind sisters of the poor in the National Football League," Schlereth said. "Every guy can run, every guy can hit and every guy can play. So your ability to get around the corner has been drastically reduced when you get to the NFL."

introduced to the system, and the team begins installing its playbook.

June 2-4 and June 9-11: Team camps include one practice a day. Team will continue installing the playbook, and players will work on individual skills. It's a tuneup before training camp.

June 5-6: Broncos Fan Fair at Invesco Field at Mile High. An opportunity for fans to meet and interact with Broncos players.

July 27: Players report to Broncos' Dove Valley complex for training camp. Two-a-day practices begin July 28 with a squad of about 80 players.

Aug 8: Legendary quarterback John Elway will be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

Aug 9: Hall of Fame Game in Canton, Ohio. Broncos vs. Washington Redskins in Broncos' preseason opener (6 p.m. MDT).

Sept. 12: Regular-season opener. Broncos vs. Kansas City Chiefs at Invesco Field at Mile High (6:30 p.m. MDT).

Bell said he is ready for the transition.

"Coming out of college at Oklahoma State, my head coach came from the pros, so we kind of ran similar plays and schemes," Bell said, referring to OSU coach Les Miles, a former NFL tight end. "We kind of ran a similar scheme to the Broncos, so I kind of have a feel for the offense a little bit. Now I just have to get with the coaching staff and tweak my game and keep working.

"Plus, I know what's coming. I was at the Senior Bowl and I knew that those holes closed up fast and I know that the NFL holes close up even faster. My approach is to get my mind ready."

A matter of clicking

Even if Bell embraces the system, he's bound to experience growing pains. During Portis' rookie training camp, running backs coach Bobby Turner was constantly in Portis' face, scolding the rookie for dancing in the backfield or trying to burn around the corner. A few games into the regular season, Portis caught on and rushed to offensive rookie of the year honors. The same thing happened to Anderson. In the third game of the 2000 season he rushed for 187 yards in Denver's 33-24 victory at Oakland.

"Everything just clicked," Anderson recalled. "I told Clinton the same thing; there is going to come a time when it just clicks. That was the same thing that was passed on to me from Terrell and Olandis. You aren't going to have to think about it, you will just do it. The game will be flowing, you'll get into it and it will happen."

For the Broncos to succeed in 2004, it will have to happen for somebody. The competition begins today.

Staff writer Patrick Saunders can be reached at 303-820-5459 or at psaunders@denverpost.com.

System check

Since Mike Shanahan took over as coach in 1995, the Broncos' system has produced one of the NFL's best running games. In the past nine seasons, the Broncos have rushed for 20,150 yards, the most in the league. They have produced an NFL MVP - Terrell Davis, 2,008 yards rushing in 1998 - and two offensive rookies of the year - Mike Anderson with 1,487 yards rushing in 2000 and Clinton Portis with 1,508 in 2002.

It's more than the running backs that make this machine run. Here are some other components of the system:

North-South running: Running backs are trained to make one cut and get upfield. Dancing in the backfield and trying to skirt around the corner are not tolerated.

Stretch plays and cutbacks: The Broncos run a lot of plays that start out looking like sweeps to the outside but actually are set up for the running back to scan the line, then make one quick cut back against the flow.

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Durable backs: A starting tailback must be able to carry the ball 25 or more times a game, often running between the tackles, where he will absorb a lot of hits.

Offensive linemen: The Broncos' linemen are athletic, relatively light and masters of zone blocking. They're technicians who don't overpower defenses, but wear them down through the course of the game. Plays that gain 2 or 3 yards in the first quarter might gain 20 or 30 in the fourth.

Wide receivers: Wide receivers are expected to block, or they don't play. Their job is to seal off backside pursuit by cornerbacks and safeties. If a 5-yard gain turns into a 65-yard touchdown, one of the wide receivers probably threw a key block.

Quarterback: The Broncos run a ball fake on nearly every run. The reason? The fake freezes the backside defensive end, who often is left unblocked so that Denver's linemen can double-team other defenders. Naked bootlegs by quarterback Jake Plummer often are used to keep the defensive end honest and limit the defensive end's backside pursuit. Sometimes Plummer is the only one in the Broncos' huddle who knows the bootleg is not a fake. Former Broncos line coach Alex Gibbs used to chew out Hall of Fame quarterback John Elway for not carrying out a proper play-fake.

Multiple formations: Shanahan and offensive coordinator Gary Kubiak change formations frequently so defenses aren't sure which direction the run will go.

Making of thoroughbreds

Since Mike Shanahan became coach in 1995, the Broncos have had a history of success playing rookie running backs. Four backs have rushed for more than 1,000 yards during their rookie seasons. Three of those four were late-round draft picks:

Year Name Draft position

1995 Terrell Davis Round 6; 196 overall - Rushed for 1,117 yards; had 49 receptions

1999 Olandis Gary Round 4; 127 overall - Rushed for 1,159 yards; had 21 receptions

2000 Mike Anderson Round 6; 189 overall - Offensive rookie of year; 1,487 yards rushing

2002 Clinton Portis Round 2; 51 overall - Offensive rookie of year; 1,508 yards rushing

2003 Quentin Griffin Round 4; 108 overall - Rushed for 345 yards, 4.3 average over final two games

2004 Tatum Bell Round 2; 41 overall - Hopes to fill void left by Portis trade

Broncos' stable

The trade of Pro Bowl running back Clinton Portis to the Washington Redskins opened the door for fierce competition for the Broncos' starting running back job. Here are the contenders:

Mike Anderson: The veteran fullback wants another crack at running back. He has slimmed down

and is ready to run. Anderson rushed for 1,487 yards as a rookie in 2000.

Tatum Bell: The rookie second-round draft pick from Oklahoma State was the fastest running back in the 2004 draft. The questions: How fast can he pick up the system? Can he survive the pounding in the NFL?

Reuben Droughns: A versatile cog in the machine, he can play fullback or running back and return kicks. If Anderson wins the RB job, Droughns likely would be the starting fullback.

Ahmaad Galloway: The former Alabama star spent his rookie season on injured reserve rehabbing his knee. Galloway is honing his game, playing for the Scottish Claymores in NFL Europe. He is worth watching.

Quentin Griffin: The versatile, lightning-quick second-year back ran for 136 yards at Indianapolis last season in place of Portis, who was injured. The question is, can a 5-foot-7, 195-pound scatback carry the load for a whole season?

Garrison Hearst: The former 49er is 33 years old, but the Broncos hope he still can grind out some yards. Despite a career marred by injuries, Hearst has posted four 1,000-yard seasons (1995, 1997, 1998 and 2001) and has been to two Pro Bowls.

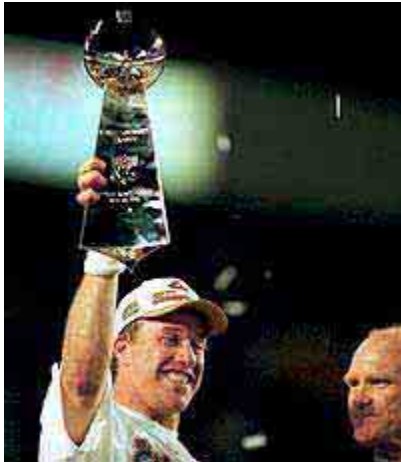
Cecil Sapp: The former Colorado State star played in one game as a rookie last season. He has to impress the coaches early to gain reps on the practice field.

BRONCOS' SHANAHAN STILL ONE OF THE BEST

BY **DAN POMPEI**
The Sporting News
 Jun. 7, 2004 10:52 a.m.

The criticism has become so common, it's almost a cliché: Mike Shanahan is nothing without John Elway.

Yes, and Emeril is nothing without butter. Willie Nelson is nothing without that old guitar. And Santa Claus is nothing without flying reindeer.



John Elway went out on top after leading the Broncos to victory in Super Bowl XXXIII.

Andy Lyons/Getty Images

coaches and hire him.

These are the facts: Since Elway's retirement five years ago, Shanahan has coached the **Broncos** to a 44-36 record; the team has had only one losing season — finishing fifth, second, third, second and second in the AFC West — and has made the playoffs twice, only to be knocked out in the first round both times.

Not bad. Not great. Certainly not great given the expectations in Denver, where the Broncos won back-to-back Super Bowls in Elway's last seasons.

But what did anyone expect? The Broncos not only lost Elway, they also essentially lost running back Terrell Davis, the former NFL most valuable player whose last 1,000-yard rushing season coincided with Elway's final season. Now you're taking away butter and sugar.

And Shanahan was left with a talented roster that was missing a difference-maker. The Broncos' subsequent performances have reflected that. That's not to say the Broncos have not been consistently well-prepared and well-coached. Even though Shanahan is a big-picture guy, he does pay attention to every detail. He's extremely organized and anticipates as well as any coach. He works like a bumblebee. If the Broncos would fire him tomorrow, there would be a line of teams willing to fire their



Brian Griese flopped as Mike Shanahan's handpicked successor to John Elway.
 Doug Pensinger/Getty Images

"Mike Shanahan is one of the best," **Seahawks** coach Mike Holmgren says. "Everyone knows it. Ask anybody about him, and they'll tell you he's outstanding. He's very disciplined, very thorough. He communicates well with his players. His teams play very hard, very hard."

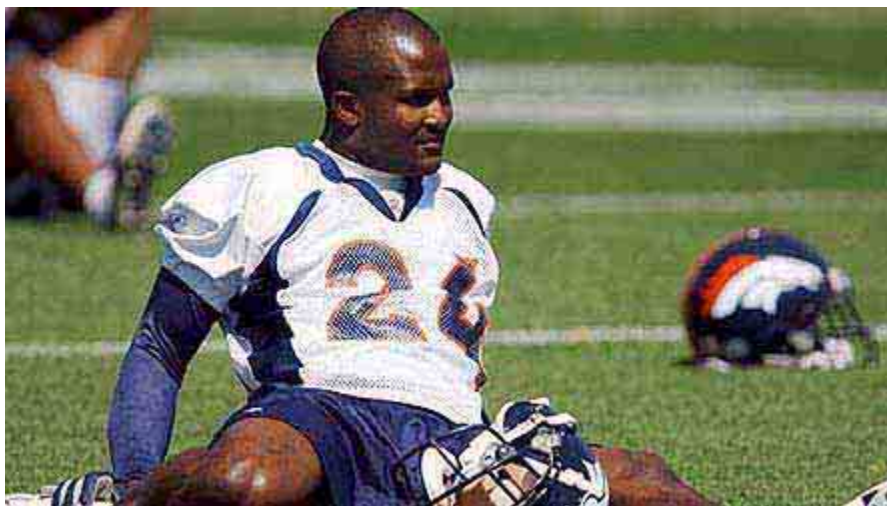
Shanahan remains one of the NFL's premier offensive minds. "Mike does as good a job as anybody in the league in attacking defenses with his offensive personnel," **Titans** coach Jeff Fisher says. "Look at what he does on third down, and in critical situations, or how he runs the football. He does as nice of a job as anybody in the league from a game-planning standpoint."

At times, Shanahan's coaching has been brilliant. Remember the Broncos' 31-17 road victory over the **Colts** in a must-win game last December? At other times, his decisions have been questionable. His choice to rest a number of key players against the **Packers** in the regular-season finale looked regrettable one week later when the Broncos lost to those same Colts, 41-10.

Shanahan might not be getting as much help from his assistants as he once did. He has lost some coaches with pedigrees, including Mike Heimerdinger, now the Titans offensive coordinator; Karl Dorrell, now the head coach at UCLA; Ray Rhodes, now the defensive coordinator of the Seahawks, and, most regrettably, Alex Gibbs, now the offensive line coach of the **Falcons**.

Some of these veteran coaches — Gibbs in particular — might have felt more comfortable challenging Shanahan than some of the coaches currently on the Broncos' staff. Shanahan is something of an icon in Denver, and some assistant coaches might be too intimidated to stand up to him. Without an open exchange of opinions and ideas, however, Shanahan won't be as effective as he could be. Synergy almost always is a force in the best game plans.

In addition to making contributions to game plans, Gibbs was a lightning rod for the team. Shanahan isn't much of a motivator, and nobody else on the staff really has taken on that role.



Champ Bailey was one of several good pickups by Denver this off-season.

Associated Press

The Broncos' coaching would not be scrutinized so closely if Shanahan had made better personnel decisions. His greatest failings have been in player investment. The Broncos' draft record is distorted by some high-profile whiffs. If receiver **Ashley Lelie** does not come on this year, the Broncos will have missed on four of five first-round picks from 1998 to 2002.

Like other head coaches with control over personnel, Shanahan minimized character and became infatuated with the talents of free agents such as **Daryl Gardener**, **Dale Carter**, **Chester McGlockton** and Leon Lett. He also identified **Brian Griese** as Elway's successor and signed him to a lucrative long-term deal.

It appears Shanahan has learned from his mistakes. Over the current offseason, the Broncos have acquired high-character players such as safety **John Lynch**, cornerback **Champ Bailey**, running back **Garrison Hearst** and defensive tackle **Luther Elliss**.

Some of the grumbling about Shanahan is inevitable because of how long he has been in Denver. The 10-year Rule states that no NFL head coach should stick around past 10 years because the environment becomes stale without change. And a little change indeed might invigorate the Broncos. They might be better served, for example, giving competent general manager Ted Sundquist more say over personnel matters and allowing Shanahan to focus more on coaching.

Shanahan is entering his 10th year with the Broncos. But he's special enough to be an exception to any rule.

Senior writer Dan Pompei covers the NFL for Sporting News. Email him at pompei@sportingnews.com.

BRONCOS TRAINING CAMP PREVIEW

LEGACY

Mike Shanahan takes a look at his successes, failures and this season

By FRANK SCHWAB THE GAZETTE (Colorado Springs)

ENGLEWOOD - Mike Shanahan doesn't look far ahead very often and he rarely reminisces about past accomplishments. But the Denver Broncos coach knows what winning another Super Bowl could do for him.

Twelve coaches, including Shanahan, have won at least two Super Bowls. Chuck Noll, Joe Gibbs and Bill Walsh are the only men to win more than two, making it a very prestigious group.

"Depending on how many years I coach — I don't know if it's going to be 10 years, 15 years — but if I can put a couple of Super Bowls together in that time, I got a chance to maybe separate myself from a number of guys," Shanahan said during an interview with The Gazette. "If I don't, then I'll be with a lot of guys that have won two Super Bowls."

On Wednesday, Shanahan begins his 10th training camp as head coach of the Broncos. He'll turn 52 on Aug. 24.

Shanahan doesn't show any signs of slowing down in his pursuit to bring Denver another title, or that he wants to do anything else. He said as long as he's enjoying coaching he'll continue to do it, and desire hasn't been an issue for him yet.

"I enjoy the time off I get, but I'm ready to go back to work," said Shanahan, who still puts in 100-hour weeks although he said he quit counting hours long ago. "Some people don't enjoy going back to work; I enjoy it.

"I enjoy the preparation. I enjoy the work. Because that gives you a chance to reach the pinnacle."

And Broncos owner Pat Bowlen has given Shanahan leeway most pro sports coaches never get. Last August, Bowlen signed Shanahan to a lucrative extension that runs through 2008. When the extension was signed, Bowlen said Shanahan, who is surpassed only by Pittsburgh's Bill Cowher (13th year) and Tennessee's Jeff Fisher (11th year) in current tenure with one team, could coach in Denver as long as he wanted to coach.

"Hopefully that (extension) won't take him through the end of his career and he'll end up coaching longer than that," Bowlen said last August. "I've said all along that he's my guy and I want to keep him here."

Bowlen threw his full support behind his coach even as the criticism of Shanahan gets louder every year.

The Broncos and Shanahan haven't won a playoff game since John Elway retired. Denver hasn't won a division title since 1998, or ever hosted a playoff game at Invesco Field at Mile High, which opened in 2001.

Shanahan brushes aside the criticism. He said he saw Elway go through it when he spent so many years chasing a championship, and now the pressure is on him. Shanahan said he just sees it as part of his job.

"When people say 'You haven't won a Super Bowl in five years,' or 'You haven't won a playoff game (since Elway retired),' I understand there's going to be heat with that," Shanahan said. "That's part of it. And there should be heat. But all of a sudden you go out there and you win one, then everyone says 'Oh, he's been rebuilding for five years, he switched the team around.'

"The expectation level around here is very high. If people weren't saying that, that means we wouldn't have achieved some of the success we've achieved. That goes with the

territory, and I expect that.”

The years since Elway retired have been a mixed bag for Shanahan.

On one hand, the challenge of retooling a championship team that had several aging veterans such as Elway, Gary Zimmerman, Mark Schlereth, Howard Griffith, Steve Atwater and Tyrone Braxton, has been enjoyable to Shanahan.

“Not many guys are able to do that and keep their jobs,” Shanahan said.

But the losses have hurt, especially the past couple of years. He said he felt the Broncos had a chance to go deep in the playoffs in 2002. But Denver lost four games in which it either led or was tied in the fourth quarter and barely missed the playoffs.

“(Losing those games) was devastating, because I thought we had a legitimate chance to do something very special,” Shanahan said. “The one two years ago was probably as disappointing of a year as I’ve had.”

Last year the Broncos got back in the playoffs, only to lose 41-10 at Indianapolis. Sitting in his office 6½ months later, Shanahan hasn’t completely gotten over what he considered to be a grave error in judgment.

He decided to play starting cornerback Kelly Herndon although Herndon had a broken hand, because they didn’t have much quality depth beyond Herndon. Herndon bravely tried to play, but he was ineffective with one hand and Colts quarterback Peyton Manning had a nearly perfect day against the Broncos.

“We played Kelly, which was the biggest mistake we’ve made since I’ve been here because we would have been better playing a guy that’s never played before, because (Herndon) just couldn’t get the job done,” Shanahan said. “We were hoping he would get it done, and we put too much pressure on him and he couldn’t do it. But he was so tough that he believed he could do it. But we should have been smarter than that, to even put him out there.”

Although Shanahan said the Broncos had been close the past couple years, he didn’t stick with the status quo for this season. Instead, he made one of the biggest trades in NFL history.

He sent running back Clinton Portis, a Pro Bowler last year who rushed for 3,099 yards in two Broncos seasons, to Washington for Pro Bowl cornerback Champ Bailey and a second-round draft pick.

Trading away one of the most dynamic backs in the league leaves Shanahan — who has final say over personnel — open for a lot of criticism, but that wasn’t going to stop him from doing it.

“I know Clinton is going to have a heck of a season with the Washington Redskins,” Shanahan said. “But I felt the need of this football team was to get a dominating corner. A dominating corner. You win championships with defense. You can get to the playoffs, but very seldom do you win with a great offense and an average defense.

“To get a guy like Champ is something that doesn’t occur very often. With Clinton not happy with his contract and Clinton not being here in the offseason (workout) program the year before and the possible problems that I saw coming with Clinton, I said, ‘This could be a slam dunk. The only guy I’ll trade Clinton for is Champ Bailey.’ ”

The first part of Shanahan’s legacy in Denver is unquestionably being the coach who guided the franchise to its first two championships and helped Elway achieve his ultimate goal. The second part of his legacy hasn’t been determined but Shanahan is ready to see what the future

brings.

“The fun part is trying to repeat and do something again with the same organization,” Shanahan said.

“That’s been something that I’ve enjoyed the challenge of. Obviously we haven’t gotten there yet, but I think we will.”

CONTACT THE WRITER: 476-4891
or fschwab@gazette.com

IN HIS WORDS

On whether he prefers coaching or handing personnel moves:

"It's always been coaching. You have to go out and do the other things (personnel) to have success on the field. But without question, the thing I enjoy is the Xs and Os on the football field. The other part is a pain in the (expletive). But it's a necessary evil."

On receiving criticism for Denver's five-year stretch without a playoff win:

"I don't care what sport you're in, you have to win. If you don't win you're going to get criticized. If you don't realize that, then you haven't been in the profession very long."

On the Broncos fortunes following Super Bowl XXXIII:

"You never say you're rebuilding a team, but we won those two Super Bowls, we were getting a little older too. . . . So I feel very fortunate that not only have we won a couple, but we've been able to change most of the guys on the team and I think we have a legitimate shot to compete."

On what has changed since he became coach of the Broncos in 1995:

"I don't know if you change. You get a little smarter as time goes on. You realize some of the mistakes you make that you're hopefully, if you look back on your mistakes, you say 'If I'm ever put in that position again I'm going to learn from the mistakes I've made.' "

On when he'll retire from coaching:

"If I get tired of what I'm doing. If I get tired, if I think someone could do a better job or I feel like I'm not performing at the level I think I should, then Pat (Bowlen, Broncos owner) will decide, 'I got to go get somebody else.' "

On how often he thinks of the two Super Bowls he won as coach:

"I can honestly say I've never looked at a Super Bowl game, a repeat of it, except for the Green Bay game (Super Bowl XXXII). That's because someone sent us a video when we were in (Hawaii) on vacation. I sat back and watched it. I can say that's the only Super Bowl I've watched. I can't say why. You're getting on to the next game. When you start looking at the past, it's hard to get ready for the future. You see so many people talking about what they've done and not what they're going to do, it's something that's not my nature."

On trying to control his emotions on the sideline:

"You want to keep your poise in the game because you need to concentrate on what you're doing. Some people get all emotional and start throwing things, and once you start acting that way, the players start acting that way. There's always a time for showing emotion. During a game is not the time to be yelling or ranting or raving."

On when he decided he wanted to be a coach:

"Fourth grade, I decided I wanted to coach. I didn't know what level I was going to coach at. Physical education teachers were really a big influence in my life when I was young where I lived. So I always spent time with those people and respected them and decided at a young age that I would like to do that."

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Sooner and Later, Money Matters

Savvy Athletes Skip Living Large to Fund Post-Glory Years

By Thomas Heath
Washington Post Staff Writer
Monday, June 21, 2004;Page D01

Denver Broncos wide receiver Rod Smith is breaking the mold. An 11-year veteran and Pro Bowl player, Smith isn't a stereotypical, big-spending sports star. He banks about \$1 million of his \$2.5 million pre-tax annual salary, lives in a \$228,000 house near Denver, shops at WalMart, hasn't bought a new suit in three years, doesn't support hangers-on and owns no jewelry.

Smith, 34, is a self-described "student of money" and a leader of a growing group of professional athletes who adhere to a relatively modest lifestyle, practice wise financial planning and save prodigiously.

"Guys are scared of money," said Smith, who recently addressed NFL rookies about managing money. He has saved nearly half of his \$11 million signing bonus two years ago and has not settled on a post-football career. "Money is so technical. I've seen so many guys come through and they lose millions of dollars because they just don't know."

Professional athletes' salaries have skyrocketed over the past two decades. The average baseball salary has grown from \$329,408 in 1984 to approximately \$2.3 million in 2002. NFL salaries have gone from \$225,600 in 1984 to \$1.25 million last year.

With that kind of money, even average players can sock away enough cash during short-lived careers to build a solid financial foundation for years to come, although financial planners say most athletes must plan on having another career when their playing days are over. The problem for the majority of athletes, however, is that even though leagues and teams stress responsible money management, most athletes lack even basic discipline and fritter away their money, managers say.

"We have had players go out and buy five homes within the same 12 months their first year," said Steve Piascik of Piascik & Associates, a tax accounting firm that handles finances for more than 70 professional athletes.

"They go out and get their bonus, buy a house or two for mom, one for their girlfriend, brother, sister. We have had players go through all of their money in two years and have nothing left."

"Most are not saving nearly enough," said Kathy Lintz, a St. Louis-based financial adviser who manages money for nearly 100 athletes and consults with the NFL and the Los Angeles Rams. "The balance between what they want to do today and how they want to live today, juxtaposed with how much it takes to save to sustain that lifestyle from age 35 to 85, is just a huge challenge. The party line is, 'If I go and have a good career, I shouldn't have to work any more.' The goal should be to take advantage of the opportunity to accumulate a great base for the rest of your life. You still need to find your life's work."

Lintz calculates that athletes can draw a maximum of 5 percent annually from their retirement savings once their career is over, with 4 percent even more desirable in order to make their nest egg last. That means an athlete must save \$2 million just to give himself or herself an \$80,000 annual income.

"That's not enough to live in a million-dollar house and cover most of their expenses in order to stay there a long time," she said. She encourages clients like Smith and Anthony Pleasant, a defensive end with the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots, to plan for jobs after their careers are over so they can stretch their savings over a longer span.

Pleasant banks around \$300,000 of his \$1 million salary in a good year. At 36, he is nearing the end of his career and hopes to work in a construction industry job that will pay him about \$50,000 to \$70,000 annually when he retires.

"If you can get a job that pays you benefits as well as [health] insurance, you won't drain all your investments," said Pleasant, who has saved several million dollars over his 14-year career, including \$250,000 in his 401(k). "Football has been a steppingstone to get ahead in life . . . a job, not a career."

It's a similar view shared by former NBA guard Cory Alexander, 30, who still earns about \$1 million a year playing basketball in Rome and has put enough aside to assemble a group of automotive and real estate businesses in Richmond that he hopes to run the rest of his life.

"I wanted to establish the businesses because I knew five years from now I would not be playing basketball," he said.

Alexander said it took years of smart saving to fund his businesses. And it wasn't easy. He splurged nearly \$100,000 on a Toyota Land Cruiser and a Dodge Viper when he signed with the San Antonio Spurs for about \$560,000 a year after coming out of the University of Virginia in 1995.

Alexander quickly got on a savings track when then-teammate David Robinson told him to take advantage of his money-earning sweet spot and not try to keep up with everybody else. Alexander lives well beneath his means, with a \$1 million home outside Richmond, where he resides with his wife and daughter. His net worth is in the single-digit millions.

"The budget is the most important thing, especially for someone not making the huge money," said Alexander, who eventually signed a seven-year contract with the Denver Nuggets for more than \$10 million before he was bought out of the deal. "I was making great money at 21 years old. I was a millionaire. My income was high from 21 to 30, so I had to make my money then and be able to allow it to carry me through the rest of my life."

That's the kind of thinking that financial advisers are trying to instill in the players. Lintz, Piascik, Steve Trax of SFX Financial Advisory Management Enterprises, Inc., and Frank Zucca of Octagon Financial Services are all working with athletes, trying to give them the financial coaching they will need for the rest of their lives.

"My biggest concern is that . . . [my clients are] not trying to keep up with their teammates or what society expects," Trax said.

Most advisers charge their clients a fee equal to about 1 percent of the athlete's investments or net worth.

Former Cleveland Cavaliers star center Brad Daugherty said the one mistake he made was giving his former Little League coach \$10,000 in seed money for a cosmetics start-up. Daugherty has resisted giving his family members jobs or straight out cash.

Daugherty started saving in his rookie season of 1986, saving \$5 million in his first four years in the NBA by living like someone who earned \$50,000 per year instead of the \$1 million the Cavaliers were paying him. He earned another \$500,000 or so a year from an endorsement deal with Reebok.

"I rented an apartment in Cleveland for \$625 a month," said Daugherty, who even drove a complimentary Chevy Blazer from an area auto dealer rather than buy his own car. "I had nothing to spend my \$1 million

salary]on. I was a single guy. I had nothing to buy."

Daugherty, who splits his time between a home in Florida and a 65-acre farm near Asheville, N.C., began investing in car dealerships while playing for the Cavaliers. He now owns interests in four Ford Motor Co. dealerships, including one of the largest Ford agencies in the United States, and is estimated to be worth tens of millions of dollars;he has 65 percent of his investments in municipal bonds and the rest in blue-chip stocks.

Pleasant, the Patriots' defensive end, doesn't have nearly as much money as Daugherty but he saved enough to keep his three children in private school and pay for a beautiful home in Cornelius, N.C. He also owns another home in Florida, where his sister lives.

When Pleasant got his first signing bonus for \$132,000 in 1990, he was tempted to go out and buy the BMW 850 he had longed for while playing football at Tennessee State. But the bonus shrunk to \$96,000 after taxes, so Pleasant decided to put the money in the bank and save it for a house.

"I said, 'I can't live in a car.' So if I put the money into a house, I can live in a house," said Pleasant, who started with the Cleveland Browns in 1990.

Matt Light, 25, a starting left tackle for the Patriots, banked about \$500,000 of a \$1.3 million signing bonus when he was drafted from Purdue University in 2001. Though he still has most of that money, Light could end up with \$10 million in the bank if he gets a double-digit signing bonus when his contract is up next year and is healthy enough to save most of his salary the next several seasons.

"I try to save as much as possible," said Light, who owns modest homes in Boston and in his home town of Greenville, Ohio. "When we get the next deal done I'm going to try and save well more than half of my bonus."

Smith is sitting back and watching his investments grow, looking for a new place to put his money. He is eyeing a Subway franchise and a car wash. In a good year, the stock market can boost his worth by a million or two. He owns real estate in Atlanta and 20 units in Texas, where his sister runs the properties.

"I have a great life. I do what I want, when I want," said Smith, who grew up poor in the Chicago projects. "A lot of guys say I'm cheap. On the street you may look better. But you look at me in the bank, I look better than you."

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Many happy returns?

Broncos leaning to Droughns, Luke to bring back kicks

By Lee Rasizer, Rocky Mountain News
August 25, 2004

The battle for return jobs with the Denver Broncos has played out much like the attendance pattern of major league baseball teams that quickly fall out of the pennant race.

In April, there were plenty of bodies everywhere you looked.

In August, only a few have stuck around until the finish.

As the Broncos head into preseason game No. 4 Friday night against the Houston Texans, some experimenting continues on special teams.

Younger players still might get looks but barring a late push,

Reuben Droughns appears set to run back kickoffs and Triandos Luke likely will return punts, inheriting the full-time roles vacated, respectively, by the departed Chris Cole and Deltha O'Neal.

Droughns, listed first on the depth chart for kickoff returns, did not get an opportunity in the first two preseason games with Adrian Madise receiving most of the work and rookie Roc Alexander being handed a couple of opportunities to show what he could do.

Luke also got two runbacks in the second half on kickoffs during Saturday's win at Seattle.

Still, Droughns did nothing to suggest he'll be bumped from the full-time role in two chances against the Seahawks. He netted 20 and 46 yards on those attempts, the latter representing the longest return by a Denver player during the Broncos' 1-2 start.

And as special teams coach Ronnie Bradford put it, "Right now, if we started the season, it'd be Reuben."

One reason is that Droughns' straight-ahead, physical style meshes perfectly with the job description, even if he doesn't have classic breakaway speed.

Droughns averaged 24.4 yards last season on 12 returns, with a long of 36 yards, when Cole battled ankle, shoulder and rib injuries.

Another clue Droughns might keep the job is that Madise, who leads the Broncos with five kickoff returns (for a 21.6 average), has been slipping down the depth chart at wide receiver. He can't return kicks if he doesn't make the team's final roster.

During Tuesday's practice, the Broncos twice went to three wide-receiver sets during the team period and Madise wasn't included in either group. Instead, he was part of the scout team. His practice repetitions have dropped significantly since the start of training camp.

"Quite honestly, I can't afford to get frustrated because you lose focus on what's going on," said Madise, who debuted as a kick returner in the 2003 regular-season finale vs. Green Bay and had an 83-yard effort on one runback.

"What I do is pick it up in other areas. The reps I'm not taking, I go and I watch them in the film room and try and pick out mistakes they made. I live through their reps at this point. That's just the hard truth."

As for the kickoff return job, Madise, a 2003 fifth-round pick, added, "Right now on the depth chart I'm second, so that's exactly where I see myself. And until that changes, that's where I'm going to see myself."

Droughns, meanwhile, sees himself possibly getting more work before the end of the preseason to get more comfortable with his steps, reads and blockers before the regular-season opener Sept. 12.

"I want it. It's something I want to do because it gives me a chance to get the ball in my hands and try to make something happen," Droughns said of the kickoff return position. "Obviously, I'm confident in myself that I can do something back there."

Alexander (28.0) is second behind Droughns (33.0) in kickoff return average but also is on the bubble to make the final roster, likely battling with third-round pick Jeremy LeSueur for the final spot in the secondary. Luke had a pair of 24-yard runbacks in the second half Saturday.

"We'll get great production out of Reuben," Bradford said. "But there's always a point where you have to take a look at some of the young guys and see if somebody steps forward."

Luke already has taken a giant leap at punt returner.

A sixth-round rookie from the University of Alabama, Luke never returned punts in college except for a few practice repetitions. He did it in high school but said that "doesn't count, because those kicks aren't nothing compared" to those in the NFL.

He has shown a penchant to head north and south with the ball, something O'Neal struggled with in the latter part of his Broncos career. His 12.4 average on five punt returns currently ranks fifth in the NFL.

"The kid looks natural," Bradford said. "He's got great hands and made smart decisions back there, fair catching when he has to and taking advantage of returns when the ball's been kicked to him. We're happy with the whole situation."

Bradford added he'd still like to give other players, such as receiver Atnaf Harris, a look on punt returns. But as of now, the way Luke has looked so far, "I'd have to line him up there" on opening day.

Luke spent the summer working with Broncos punter Micah Knorr to increase his comfort level and has heeded advice about when to fair catch the ball from both Champ Bailey and Rod Smith, the veteran receiver who filled in on punt returns after O'Neal was benched in 2003.

Luke has taken to the position quickly.

"Most definitely," he said. "It's a way to get yourself on the field. You've got open field to run and to show what you can do. I think it'll help you on offense, too, once they can see what you can do with the ball in your hand. I'll continue to try and make plays out there."

Getting their kicks, and punts

2004 preseason statistics of Denver's returners:

- Punt returns

Ret FC Yds Avg Long

Luke 5 4 62 12.4 22

Adams 2 2 13 6.5 8

Madise 1 0 0 0.0 0

- Kickoff returns

Ret Yds Avg Long

Madise 5 108 21.6 35

Alexander 2 56 28.0 34

Droughns 2 66 33.0 46

Luke 2 48 24.0 24

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The Denver Post

broncos

Sharpe's successor not limited to one

By Bill Williamson
Denver Post Staff Writer

Wednesday, August 25, 2004 -

One player can't replace Shannon Sharpe, but a gaggle of tight ends may.

To replace a legend, a franchise must become creative. The Broncos' tight end group is a perfect example of a team trying to come up with a solution for how to replace a future Hall of Famer.

Denver decided one player couldn't replace Sharpe, who retired in May to become a game-day studio host at CBS. Instead, the Broncos have assembled a group of capable players. A veteran receiver here, a couple of stout, experienced blockers there, a young potential starter over there.

"We think we have a pretty good group there," offensive coordinator Gary Kubiak said. "We think we have the right fit."

The Broncos often will use a multi-tight end set, as they have shown in the preseason.

Veteran Byron Chamberlain - a key role player on the Broncos' Super Bowl-winning teams - was signed for his solid hands and has been starting all preseason. However, another free-agent acquisition, Jed Weaver, from San Francisco, often will play in a blocking role.

Third-year pro Jeb Putzier has been a training camp standout, has great hands and likely will see plenty of action. He will play the receiver's role along with Chamberlain. Patrick Hape, a reliable eight-year veteran, blocks well and played extensively in a 19-3 victory Saturday at Seattle. Veteran O.J. Santiago also was signed but has not been playing as much as the others. Santiago is the only tight end (other than long snapper Mike Leach) not to make a catch in the preseason.

While Hape was on the team last year, Chamberlain, Weaver and Santiago were signed in the offseason to be part of the unit, post-Sharpe. Putzier was drafted in 2002 with the future in mind. The Broncos and Putzier's agent, Joe Linta, have postponed talks about a long-term deal. Still, Linta said Putzier wants and expects to be a Bronco for the long-term.

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TIGHT END BATTLE

BYRON CHAMBERLAIN

6-feet-1, 242 pounds

Years in NFL: 10

What he's shown in camp:

"I really see this group as one of the best in the league," Chamberlain said. "There is so much experience and different values each guy brings. To me, I don't see myself as the starter. I see us all as major contributors because everyone is going to play."

With so much talent - Chamberlain, Weaver, Hape and Santiago have combined for 137 career starts - Kubiak said the toughest issue will be finding room for them all. Because each tight end has a specific role, the team likely will choose to keep as many as four, the number

Chamberlain has shed nearly 30 pounds in less than a year. He has emerged as a starter because of solid hands.

JED WEAVER

6-4, 258

Years in NFL: 6

What he's shown in camp: Weaver has just one catch, for 35 yards, in the preseason. But he is a solid blocker and will play a role.

JEB PUTZIER

6-4, 256

Years in NFL: 3

What he's shown in camp: Putzier may be the Broncos' tight end of the future. He has been outstanding in the preseason.

PATRICK HAPE

6-4, 262

Years in NFL: 8

What he's shown in camp: Hape played extensively in the game at Seattle. He is a fine blocker.

O.J. SANTIAGO

6-7, 265

Years in NFL: 7

What he's shown in camp: Veteran can't crack the rotation, and likely won't make the cut.

it carried much of last season. The final 53-man roster must be set by Sept. 5.

"We have some tough decisions to make in the next week," Kubiak said.

Last week in Seattle, the Broncos used a lot of multi-tight end sets as the team concentrated on run blocking. Thus, Weaver and Hape got much of the action. The previous week at Buffalo, more passes were thrown to the tight ends. Putzier led the team with four catches.

Kubiak said the schemes and the tight ends' ability to adapt to defenses will allow Denver to match up against any defense and continue the rich Denver tradition at the position.

"We have a lot to make up with the loss of Shannon," Putzier said. "But as a group, we can do it because we all offer something different and we'll all get a chance to contribute our way."

Staff writer Bill Williamson can be reached at 303-820-5450 or bwilliamson@denverpost.com.

The Daily Camera

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Watts proving to be electric for Broncos

By Dave Southorn, For the Camera

August 28, 2004

DENVER — Darius Watts' high school teammates in Atlanta called him "Spider."

If the preseason is any indication of his abilities, then opposing defenses might want to start making some calls to the Orkin man.

Advertisement

The rookie wide receiver out of Marshall has used his lanky 6-2, 190-pound frame that gave him his nickname and his 4.4-second 40-yard dash speed to become one of Denver's more exciting players during the preseason.

He continued his strong play Friday night in making two receptions — both for huge gains. Watts caught a first-quarter Jake Plummer pass on third-and-5 for 31 yards, and hauled in a 45-yard second-quarter Plummer pass that he came back for and snared in front of Houston rookie Dunta Robinson, a first-round pick.

That is two catches for 76 yards, a nice 38-yard-per-catch average. Watts leads the Broncos with 13 catches for 222

yards in Denver's four preseason games. He also took a third-quarter reverse for 13 yards and a first down that eventually led to the touchdown that put Denver ahead for good.

"It felt good to make some big plays. Just to be out there and playing is still exciting to me," Watts said. "But to be making the plays I did, that just makes it better."

While his talents have both coaches and his teammates raving, it is an intangible that has gained the respect of one of the game's best pass catchers.

In his 10th season, Rod Smith has seen his fair share of young receivers come and go, but there is something besides talent that has separated Watts from those who have come before him. Smith said that Watts has been more than eager to learn from the Bronco veteran and the desire to be at a level like Smith's has Watts acting more like he's 32 than 22.

"He's one of those guys you look forward to working with," Smith said. "He's hungry and he strives for perfection. If he drops a ball in practice, it just messes up his whole day. I like seeing that. He tries to get better and he has done a good job of coming in here, working a lot with the first team and growing up quickly."

As quick as he is on the field, Watts has quickly been establishing himself as not just simply Denver's receiver of the future, but also their receiver of the present. Watts has seen the bulk of his work come with the first team and he has been pushing third-year receiver Ashley Lelie for more playing time. Lelie said that having the rookie coming up quickly in his rear-view mirror will make for a better Lelie and a better Denver squad.

"I'm all for it," Lelie said. "It's going to make us all better. It's going to make our team better. It's going to make our receivers better."

As impressive as Watts has been, there is no getting around one simple fact: It is still the preseason. Anything can happen between now and the regular season, a fact not lost on Watts. He knows that a good preseason and a bad regular season will not win any points with coaches, fans or teammates. Watts is anxious to kick off the regular season against Kansas City on Sept. 12, and help Denver to

wins that matter.

"Hopefully I can take what I have done into the regular season," Watts said. "It has been great so far and I am looking forward to being able to do more."

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The Denver Post

Watts already electrifying

Rookie catches on quickly at camp

By Adam Scheffer
Denver Post Staff Writer

Thursday, July 29, 2004 -

When the Broncos used a second-round draft choice on Marshall's Darius Watts, they envisioned the type of ooh-and-ahh plays the wide receiver turned in Wednesday during training camp's opening practice.

First Watts beat right cornerback Lenny Walls along the left sideline for a long reception.

Minutes later, Watts beat left cornerback Champ Bailey along the right sideline for an even longer reception.

Two big plays resulted in one lasting impression.

"Look at Darius Watts," quarterback Jake Plummer said between practices. "He looks like he has the makings of something that can turn out pretty nice. I think it's fun to be involved in that. And when I retire five or six years from now, and he's just tearing up the league, I can sit back and say, 'Hey, I was there when he was just a rookie.'"

Even as a rookie, the Broncos will need Watts to contribute. Heading into a preseason that kicks off a week from Monday night in Canton, Ohio, against the Washington Redskins, Denver is uncertain who will emerge as its No. 3 wideout. Beyond veterans Rod Smith and Ashley Lelie, Denver has no proven reliable receivers.

The 6-foot-2, 188-pound Watts is vying to be one. He is vying to be the one.

"What was he, a second-round draft pick?" Smith asked. "Yup, we've got to get something out of him. We've got to get a lot out of him. I honestly think he'll make a nice impact for us. Hopefully it's a nice impact, but I'm going to say 'nice' and keep it moderate, because I don't want to put any pressure on him.

"He's off to a heck of a start. But when the lights are on, that's when you get a feel of who these guys are and how much they'll contribute for you. But right now, I like his chances, I really like his chances. I want to see him in those preseason games."

Chances are, Denver will get plenty of looks. The Broncos are likely to give Watts as much playing time this preseason as any other wide receiver. And if that wasn't enough, Watts wants even more.

Watts already is volunteering to play on every special-teams unit that needs help. It is his way of trying to validate the four-year, \$2.645 million contract, including a \$1.265 million signing bonus, the Broncos awarded him this week.

"They say if you're not starting, you want to get on the special teams," said Watts, who started 40 games at Marshall, where he caught 272 passes for 4,031 yards and 47 touchdowns. "You hear that around the locker room, that special teams is a big part of this.

"They say if you're not starting and you want to get on this roster and dress and go to the games, special teams is a big part of it. So I'll block punts, block field goals, whatever they want. I plan to do everything."

For now, Watts is adapting to life as a pro. He is figuring out how to beat media coverage that he can struggle with, immersing himself in his playbook, asking Smith for advice, trying to learn the nuances of his profession. There are plenty.

When director of pro personnel Rick Smith handed Watts his signing bonus this week, the receiver didn't know how to react at becoming an instant millionaire. Nor is he likely to figure it out anytime soon.

"I still go to Wendy's and get 99-cent bacon cheeseburgers," Watts admitted. "I don't go to Applebee's or something. I guess once I get out and start knowing I have the money in the bank, it might be a little different. But it still feels like I'm poor."

Adam Schefter can be reached at 303-820-5450 or aschefter@denver-post.com.

The Denver Post

nfl draft

Handling the hype

Williams has history of rising above crowd

By Patrick Saunders
Denver Post Sports Writer

Sunday, April 25, 2004 -

First-round draft choice D.J. Williams is now a Broncos rookie, but once upon a time he was a man among boys.

Playing for powerhouse De La Salle High School in Concord, Calif., Williams rushed for 1,974 yards and made 130 tackles in his senior season. In his high school career, he rushed for a school-record 42 touchdowns - 33 rushing, five receiving, three punt returns and one kickoff return.

Some called him the next Bo Jackson. USA Today named him its defensive player of the year. So did SuperPrep magazine.

Then Williams got a gold star from John Madden, the "Monday Night Football" analyst and former Oakland Raiders coach. Madden, speaking at De La Salle's athletic banquet, called Williams the only player he had ever seen who could jump straight from high school into the NFL. When then-Raiders linebacker Richard Harvey watched Williams play and echoed Madden's sentiments, the hype intensified.

But the Broncos' new linebacker never bought into that story line. He went to the University of Miami and played four years. He even played fullback as a freshman, rushing 18 times for 142 yards (7.9-yard average) and two touchdowns.

Although the Madden comment has stuck with Williams ever since his high school days, Williams tries to shrug it off.

"I didn't take that literally," Williams said Saturday. "It just meant I had lot of talent."

Not rushing things

There is irony here. Saturday, a record 15 underclassmen were selected in the first round of the draft. And had it not been for last week's U.S. Supreme Court ruling, Ohio State's Maurice Clarett and Southern California sophomore Mike Williams would have entered the draft early with only one season of college football under their belts.

But Williams said he never thought he could make the jump from high school to the pros. He admitted he was still rough around the edges when he arrived at Miami.

"There was so much to learn," Williams said at the NFL combine in February. "High school was just about chasing the ball. You don't even see how defenses work, how offenses work. Never in my dreams did I think I could skip college and go to the pros.

"The size of these guys at the next level is a lot bigger. It's a lot more than high school."

Williams stayed and learned plenty at Miami, a football factory that has replaced Penn State as "Linebacker U." Heading into Saturday, 15 Hurricanes linebackers had been drafted by NFL teams. In recent years, that group has included such standouts as Ray Lewis, Mike Barrow, Dan Morgan and Jessie Armstead.

Coming from that tradition bolstered Williams' belief he can make it big in the NFL.

"It gives me a lot of confidence," Williams said. "Guys come back and tell us what it's like at the next level. During the summertime, Mike Barrow is there working out with us, showing us little things to make us better. I think it makes it a lot easier and with the guys we go against in practice every day."

Joining Williams in the first-round parade Saturday was fellow Hurricanes linebacker Jonathan Vilma, selected by the New York Jets as the 12th overall pick in the draft. At the NFL combine, Vilma was asked if Williams, his good friend, could play inside linebacker as well as outside.

"Yeah, he can play inside, outside," Vilma said. "He could play safety, defensive end, whatever he wanted. He's a great athlete."

Which is exactly what the Broncos need in a linebacker.

"He's been very productive for three years at the linebacker position," Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said. "He's about 250 pounds and he runs a 4.6, which is pretty impressive. One of the reasons why we brought him in is, defense is usually made up of speed and he's an excellent hitter, very similar to some of the linebackers that we've had here through the years."

Chance for fast track

In fact, Shanahan said he expects Williams to compete for a starting job at outside linebacker this season.

"He's got a great chance," Shanahan said. "He's got all the physical attributes. You have to do it on the field. I don't want to put the kibosh on him, but with John Mobley going through his injury and obviously with Ian Gold's situation, we felt like we needed some depth there and we felt like there was a great opportunity to pick up a guy."

Gold is a free agent and likely won't be re-signed, and Mobley is coming off a neck injury. So the Broncos need a player who can come in and make things happen. Williams said he is that kind of player.

"I love big hits, and I love causing havoc on the other side of the ball," said Williams, who finished his senior season with 82 tackles and six sacks.

The former running back has 4.55 speed in the 40-yard dash, and the Hurricanes used that speed to their advantage whenever they could. They used him as a personal protector in punt formation during his senior season and he broke away for two long runs on fake punts. He scored on a 61-yard run against Temple and ran 31 yards on a similar play against Florida State. In the 2003 season opener against Louisiana Tech, he returned a fumble 78 yards for a touchdown.