



Denver Broncos Postgame Quotes & Notes

Denver Broncos vs. Indianapolis Colts • INVESCO Field at Mile High • Saturday, Aug. 27, 2005

DENVER BRONCOS HEAD COACH MIKE SHANAHAN

On the play of RB Mike Anderson, who rushed for 159 yards and had a 93-yard touchdown run

"It was real nice to see Mike make a big play like that. It's very seldom to see a back in the National Football League break for 93 yards, and to see Mike do that was pretty impressive. I really had a chance to watch Mike in the offseason program, so you get a chance to evaluate a guy on a day-to-day basis. We really felt that Mike was in great shape, and we had no question in our minds that he was completely healthy."

On WR Ashley Lelie recording 104 receiving yards

"I think people forget that last year, he led the National Football League in yards per catch last year. He has been very good coming up with big plays and (generating) a lot of penalties against him and even when he didn't come up with the big play. We really thought he could take his game to a different level. He has become more consistent and he has been doing that in camp. He's not there yet by no means, but he's fighting for the ball and he's more aggressive. His intermediate routes are getting better and he's natural at the big play."

On the defense's play against Colts QB Peyton Manning

"You never stop that guy, very few teams stop him, and so it was a great challenge for us. I was a little disappointed in our offense because you can't go three-and-out four times and go 0-for-4 on third downs and slow that team up. You have to control the game offensively, but I was really pleased because the last time we played in the playoffs, we were 1-for-5 in the first half on third downs, and we were 0-for-4 today, so to beat a football team like that consistently, you have to do a better job on offense. Even though he had some big plays, they only had 17 points, and we understand what it takes to beat a team like that consistently, so I thought overall, we kept them from getting some big plays and obviously, we weren't perfect but we made some strides."

On the play of Broncos DE Trevor Pryce

"I don't know to be honest with you... There's so much more than watching the guy sack the quarterback. What does he do in the run game, how does he play the defense? I really have a hard time telling how a defensive lineman plays until I look at the film. The obvious is sacks, and Trevor had two last week and he played much better than he did against Houston, and I hope he played accordingly today."

On evaluating the play of rookies, particularly CB Darrent Williams

"That's a good question—a guy who's not afraid to compete. He goes out there and competes, he has good feel for the game, for different coverages, but he's going to make some mistakes. I just like the way he's aggressive, he's not afraid to challenge receivers and not afraid to try and make a big play... And he's got the speed to catch up and keep a guy from going the distance."

On Denver P Todd Sauerbrun

"He did a good job kicking off and he did a good job punting. I thought overall our special teams stepped up. We had three turnovers to zero and usually when you win that turnover battle you win most football games. The start of the second half was very indicative of the tide of the game changing."

DENVER BRONCOS QUARTERBACK JAKE PLUMMER

On RB Mike Anderson, who had a game-high 159 yards rushing

"Mike looked awesome tonight. That's a guy who's hungry to get out there and play. He and (WR) Ashley (Lelie) made some big plays tonight."

On Denver's offense

"We did move the ball well. It was nice to get some short fields. The turnovers that the defense and special teams forced were great, and we didn't turn the ball over on offense."

On his 10-of-16, 150-yard performance against Indianapolis

"The first series was kind of bad. I almost fell down and lost the ball. Those kind of plays are going to happen, but I think I bounce back well."



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DENVER BRONCOS QUARTERBACK BRADLEE VAN PELT

On his play against Indianapolis

"I made a couple more mistakes. I'm just making a lot of rookie mistakes right now. I'm getting frustrated, but I know I'm getting more comfortable slowly. I just let it roll off my back."

On the possibility of seeing increased playing time next week

"Hopefully, I do (get a lot of playing time next week). I'm getting more comfortable game by game. That's the best thing for me right now... to go out there and get those mistakes out of my system and learn from them."

DENVER BRONCOS DEFENSIVE TACKLE GERARD WARREN

On serving as the lead blocker for a Mike Anderson TD run

"It was a lot of fun. Any time you can contribute to something successful like scoring a touchdown, it's something I always look forward to."

On going against a no-huddle offense

"That's what off-season conditioning is for. (Strength and Conditioning) Coach (Rich) Tuten has done a great job with the system. Conditioning is not an issue."

DENVER BRONCOS SAFETY JOHN LYNCH

On Denver's young defensive backs

"Obviously, we'd like to have (CB) Champ (Bailey) back there, but I know he'll be ready by the season opener. The good thing is that there are a lot of positives that can come out of this. These kids are competing tremendously."

On the play of rookie CB Darrent Williams

"The word was, the primary reason we got him was because of his return ability. I don't want to be premature, and I'm not trying to anoint him something special, but I just like the kid's make-up. I like the way he goes about his work. He's not fazed by the pressure. Corner is a tough position to play, but he seems unfazed and wants to get better every play."

DENVER BRONCOS TIGHT END JEB PUTZIER

On his 28-yard touchdown reception in the fourth quarter

"I went in motion to the left. I kind of got lost in the offensive line, and (QB) Bradlee (Van Pelt) just lobbed it to me and I had open field in front of me. Before the play I told Bradlee, 'You'd better not run it.' I knew we were going to score a touchdown on that play."

POSTGAME NOTES

- Denver is 3-0 in the preseason for the first time since 2000; it's the fourth time in the Mike Shanahan Era that the Broncos have opened 3-0 (1996, 1998, 2000 and 2005), and the seventh time in franchise history overall.
 - Mike Anderson's 93-yard run was the longest scoring run in Bronco preseason history, and tied for the fourth longest overall scoring play in team preseason history.
 - Anderson (159 rush, 22 receiving) and Ashley Lelie (104 receiving) combined for 285 of Denver's 396 yards from scrimmage tonight—including 285 of the first 311.
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INDIANAPOLIS COLTS PLAYERS

WR Reggie Wayne

GENERAL—"We would have liked to have gotten a win, but we still have another preseason game so that's the way we have to look at it. I fumbled and we made some mistakes, we just have to find a way to put it all together."

OT Ryan Diem

GENERAL—"We got our offense rolling in the first half. We had some good drives and we got a two-minute drill in. Our offense really jelled tonight. Edgerrin ran the ball well and our running game was solid."

QB Peyton Manning

"I was happy we got into a good rhythm in the first half. We had a good mix of runs and passes, but we should have had four touchdowns, but offensively it was good to see."

ON DENVER DEFENSE—"I've always thought they'd had an excellent defense. In the two playoff games we won, we were just able to execute really well on offense. Once again, at the end of the season, they're going to be one of the top teams in the AFC."

RB Edgerrin James

GENERAL—"Don't worry about us, we will be alright. This was the first week we had to practice as a team."

ON THE BRONCO DEFENSE—"It's preseason, I don't know [how good they are]. If you go over there [Broncos lockerroom] they will tell you how good they are. They have a Miami guy [LB DJ Williams] so they have to be good. "

QB Jim Sorgi

ON THE FINAL TOUCHDOWN DRIVE—"It felt really good. This is the only stadium I've thrown a touchdown pass in, so it was nice to keep that going. We were down by 13 and got that and we hoped to get the ball again when we were down by six."

CB Jason David

ON IMPROVING THEIR OVERALL PERFORMANCE—"We need to defend better. We didn't play the way we wanted to. We need to stop the run on third down. We have got to practice better and we have to practice harder."
