



MONDAY NIGHT NOTES

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RIVALRY IN THE ROCKIES: CHIEFS-BRONCOS MEET ON MNF

A rivalry rich with Super Bowl titles, Pro Football Hall of Famers, raucous stadiums, and memorable moments continues this Monday night when the Denver Broncos host the Kansas City Chiefs in the 90th meeting between the clubs.

The home team has won eight of the past nine in the series and the Broncos have won seven September home games in a row. However, the Chiefs have managed victories in their past three Monday nighters away from Arrowhead Stadium with either **PRIEST HOLMES** or **LARRY JOHNSON** rushing for more than 100 yards in all three of those wins.

Rushing the football has had a heavy hand in outcomes between these clubs. In each of Kansas City's past four wins at Denver, the Chiefs allowed less than 150 rushing yards. Conversely, in Denver's past four home victories over the Chiefs, the Broncos have rushed for more than 150.

Models for effective rushing attacks, in the past five seasons both clubs stand among the NFL's elite in rushing yards per game:

TEAM	RUSH YDS/GAME SINCE 2001
Denver Broncos	140.5
Pittsburgh Steelers	139.2
Atlanta Falcons	137.4
Kansas City Chiefs	135.3
Baltimore Ravens	127.7

"We're playing a football team that was No. 1 in the National Football League last year on offense," says Denver head coach **MIKE SHANAHAN**, who has led the Broncos to an 8-3 (.727) *MNF* home record since 1995. "If you don't play well, they are going to score a lot of points."

The Chiefs' head coach laments his history in Denver. "As a head coach here I have a perfect record up there: 0-4," quips **DICK VERMEIL**. "We've had some very productive offensive games in Denver but we've never been able to really slow them down enough to beat them. So we know what we have to do."

The Broncos displayed Mile High resolve last week to rally from a 14-3 halftime deficit and defeat San Diego 20-17 on a 41-yard field goal by **JASON ELAM** with five seconds remaining. Stingy defense has been the primary fuel propelling Kansas City to a 2-0 start. If the Chiefs can hold Denver below 100 rushing yards, it will mark the first time since 1998-99 that KC has strung together three such games in a row.

Denver receiver **ROD SMITH** has nine 100-yard receiving games against the Chiefs – six more than he does against any other team. Although Kansas City has not surrendered triple-digit yards to Smith in five of their past six meetings, no active player has more *Monday Night Football* receptions than Smith. In addition, with 55 receiving yards, Smith (9,945) will become the second undrafted player (**GARY CLARK**) in NFL history to reach 10,000 yards.

Most Monday Night Football career receptions by active players:

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	GAMES	RECEPTIONS
Rod Smith	Denver	20	95
Torry Holt	St. Louis	14	90
Terrell Owens	SF-Philadelphia	19	88
Keyshawn Johnson	NYJ-TB-Dallas	14	73
Isaac Bruce	St. Louis	14	65

Not to be overlooked is Kansas City kick returner-wide receiver **DANTE HALL**. The NFL Europe vet has scored four of his 13 career touchdowns against the Broncos. Denver is the only team to surrender a touchdown to Hall as a receiver, punt returner and kickoff returner. Two of Hall's three 100-yard receiving games have come at the Broncos' expense.

MONDAY NIGHT MUSINGS – KANSAS CITY CHIEFS AT DENVER BRONCOS

FÚTBOL AMERICANO

- “The passion for American Football starts with the kids.”

That is the message Kansas City Chiefs tight end **TONY GONZALEZ** and Pro Football Hall of Famer **ANTHONY MUÑOZ** send to Hispanic children in a new public service announcement in Spanish focusing on the NFL Youth Football Program that begins airing this weekend.

The NFL Youth Football Program provides children with the opportunity to learn about the game while they play it.

The PSA will be seen on ESPN Deportes as well as on video screens at NFL stadiums leading up to the October 2 game in Mexico City between the Arizona Cardinals and San Francisco 49ers – the first NFL regular-season game played outside the United States.

EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE

- The Denver Broncos cheerleaders visited three bases in the war zone in Afghanistan this summer to entertain American soldiers. They had no idea what a profound effect the trip would have on the troops and themselves.

“It was an eye-opening trip,” says cheerleader **KIM TAYLOR**. “The soldiers are doing great things over there. They are improving the lives of the Afghanis.”

Since the visit, hundreds of letters have poured into the Broncos’ offices thanking the team for the cheerleaders’ entertainment and time. “Every chance we got we talked to the soldiers because we wanted to let them know they are appreciated,” says cheerleader **KELLY TROESTER**.

GRADE “A” STUDENT

- Broncos safety **NICK FERGUSON** knows the value of a college degree. “If this was one of those MasterCard commercials, I’d say it would be priceless,” the Denver Broncos safety says jokingly.

Many of the NFL players who earned their college degrees this spring did so through the **CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM** of the NFL Player Development Department headed by NFL Vice President and Pro Football Hall of Famer **MIKE HAYNES**. NFL Player Development was created in 1991 by Commissioner **PAUL TAGLIABUE** to assist players and their families in their lives off the field.

Ferguson was one semester short from graduating with a business administration degree from Georgia Tech when he entered the NFL in 1997. To pick up the 15 credits he needed, Ferguson went home to McDonough, Georgia this offseason and commuted 40 minutes each way to Atlanta. “Just knowing I completed my degree, that is self-fulfillment,” he says.

In the past five offseasons, more than 150 players have earned their degrees through the Continuing Education Program, with at least 175 enrolling in courses each year. “All of our research shows that players with college degrees tend to make more money during their careers, play longer, and make better decisions,” says Haynes.

FERTILE GROUND

- No team since the NFL Europe League returned as an all-European league in 1995 has allocated more players to the program than the Chiefs. Over the past 11 seasons, Kansas City has sent 109 players to clubs overseas, thanks in large part to one of the NFL’s great proponents, Chiefs President/GM/CEO **CARL PETERSON**.

“We are tremendous supporters of what NFL Europe does for the NFL,” says Peterson. “Over 11 years, the Chiefs have averaged 10 allocations per year to the league. In return, we have seen an average of three players per season make our 53-man roster. We have had 17 NFL Europe starting players and three Pro Bowlers. All those guys got their first breaks in NFL Europe and that makes us very proud,” says Peterson.

Chiefs Pro Bowl players such as wide receiver-kick returner **DANTE HALL** (Scotland 2001), linebacker **GARY STILLS** (Frankfurt, 2001) and guard **BRIAN WATERS** (Berlin, 2000) all got much-needed game experience that would help propel them to Hawaii.

Linebacker **RICH SCANLON** hopes to be the next in line of Chiefs players who translated NFL Europe success to the NFL. Scanlon led NFL Europe this spring with 94 tackles and was named the league’s defensive MVP. He currently is tied for the most special teams tackles for the Chiefs (three).