

SCOUTING REPORT

Broncos at Chiefs » 11 a.m. today » KCNC-4

By Lindsay H. Jones, The Denver Post

GamePlan

When the Broncos run



John Leyba, The Denver Post

Broncos running back Selvin Young, above, rushed for more than 100 yards in each of his two starts against the Chiefs last season. Young is still looking for his first 100-yard game this year. The Chiefs' run defense has been shaky — allowing 204 yards per game — and is ranked No. 31 in the NFL.

Edge: Denver

When the Chiefs run

Kansas City running back Larry Johnson four times has rushed for more than 100 yards against Denver and had his breakout game of the season last week at Atlanta when he rushed for 121 yards. Still, the Denver run defense has been solid and is allowing only 106 yards per game.

Edge: Denver

When the Broncos pass

The Broncos are throwing for just over 300 yards per game and quarterback Jay Cutler and receiver Brandon Marshall are both in the top two in the league in passing and receiving yards. An interesting matchup will be when Denver rookie receiver Eddie Royal goes against Chiefs rookie corner Brandon Flowers. The two were teammates for four years at Virginia Tech and both were second-round picks in the 2008 draft.

Edge: Denver

When the Chiefs pass

Damon Huard will return at quarterback after being replaced by Tyler Thigpen last week. Combined, the Chiefs' quarterbacks (including Week 1 starter Brodie Croyle) have thrown three touchdowns and six interceptions. The Broncos' pass defense has been disappointing and is ranked last in the NFL. Something has to give here.

Edge: Push

Special teams

Denver's special teams have improved week to week and gave their best performance in kicking and coverage last week against New Orleans. Kicker Matt Prater is 5-for-5 on field goals. Kansas City kicker Nick Novak is 1-for-2.

Edge: Denver

InjuryReport

Broncos

Out: WR Darrell Jackson (calf), DT Josh Shaw (groin), RB Ryan Torain (elbow).

Questionable: DT Dewayne Robertson (knee). **Probable:** LB Boss Bailey (ankle), DE Elvis Dumervil (finger), LB Louis Green (hamstring), S Marquand Manuel (thumb), QB Patrick Ramsey (right elbow), WR Eddie Royal (ankle).

Chiefs

Out: QB Brodie Croyle (right shoulder), LB Donnie Edwards (shoulder), CB Patrick Surtain (shoulder).

Questionable: PR B.J. Sams (hamstring). **Probable:** DE Tamba Hali (knee).

ByTheNumbers

68-18

The combined score of Denver's two wins against the Chiefs in 2007. Denver leads the NFL with 38 points per game, while the Chiefs are scoring 10.7 a game.

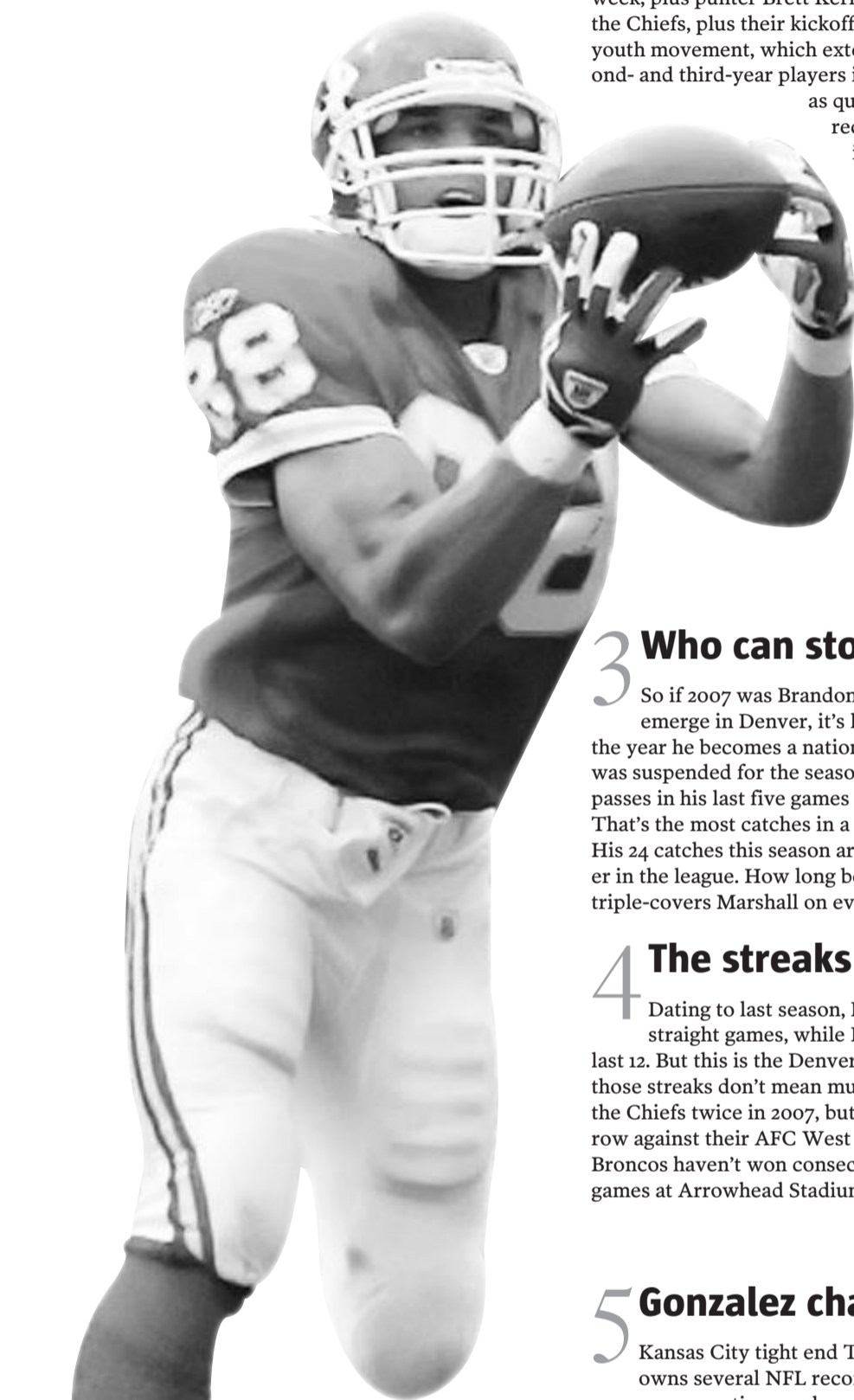
114

Consecutive starts by Denver's Casey Wiegmann, the longest streak among active NFL centers. Of those starts, 111 were for Kansas City.

1-5

Broncos record at Arrowhead Stadium in September

5 things to watch



Chiefs tight end Tony Gonzalez

Shane Keyser, Kansas City Star file photo

1 Judgment day for pass D

OK, so the Broncos' passing defense ranks dead last in the NFL after allowing an average of 315 yards per game. But most of that came against San Diego and New Orleans — and two of the league's best quarterbacks. But now Denver plays the Chiefs, whose passing game is ranked No. 28. This game could be a chance for the pass D to get back on track. If it doesn't, no more excuses.

2 A kid's game

The Broncos and Chiefs have a combined 25 rookies on their rosters, with Denver having 10 and Kansas City 15. Three started for the Broncos last week, plus punter Brett Kern, while four started for the Chiefs, plus their kickoff returner. Denver's youth movement, which extends to a litany of second- and third-year players in prominent roles, such as quarterback Jay Cutler and receiver Brandon Marshall, is paying off, while Kansas City ... well, is still in the midst of some serious growing pains.

3 Who can stop Marshall?

So if 2007 was Brandon Marshall's year to emerge in Denver, it's looking like 2008 will be the year he becomes a national star. Marshall, who was suspended for the season opener, has caught 55 passes in his last five games dating to last season. That's the most catches in a five-game span. Ever. His 24 catches this season are the most by any receiver in the league. How long before a team double- or triple-covers Marshall on every down?

4 The streaks

Dating to last season, Denver has won four straight games, while Kansas City has lost its last 12. But this is the Denver-Kansas City rivalry, so those streaks don't mean much. The Broncos beat the Chiefs twice in 2007, but haven't won three in a row against their AFC West rival since 1991-92. The Broncos haven't won consecutive regular-season games at Arrowhead Stadium since 1976-79.

5 Gonzalez chasing Sharpe

Kansas City tight end Tony Gonzalez already owns several NFL records for tight ends, such as career receptions and season receptions, but he's closing in on former Bronco Shannon Sharpe's NFL record of 10,060 receiving yards. Gonzalez needs only 50 more yards to pass Sharpe, and has averaged 56.6 yards per game in his 12-year career. Gonzalez admitted last week it would be nice to set the record against Sharpe's former team. Nicer still, he said, would be to break the record in a Kansas City win.

The Picks



WEEKLY GUEST PICKER (1-2)

Jan Stenerud, Hall of Fame place-kicker Stenerud, the first pure place-kicker to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, played for the Chiefs from 1967-79. He is ranked ninth on the league's all-time scoring list with 1,699 points; his personal-best field goal was a 55-yarder vs. Denver in 1970. Stenerud, 65, lives in Colorado Springs and works for Howard Needles Tammen & Bergendoff, the architectural firm that designed Invesco Field.

Chiefs 21, Broncos 17

"There is no question the Broncos are the better team. (The Chiefs) are 0-3, but in this league, things happen," Stenerud said. "If they are ever in a time that they are fighting for their lives, it is now."



Jim Armstrong (2-1)

Broncos 30, Chiefs 17 Yeeegads! Chiefs 10-1 in Vegas to lose out.



Lindsay H. Jones (3-0)

Broncos 32, Chiefs 20 Young Broncos too much for even younger Chiefs.



Mark Kiszla (3-0)

Broncos 21, Chiefs 17 K.C. coach Herm Edwards, once so entertaining in HBO's "Hard Knocks," has a career that's headed "Six Feet Under."



Mike Klis (2-1)

Broncos 27, Chiefs 19 This should be a breakout game for Selvin Young.



Woody Paige (3-0)

Broncos 45, Chiefs 0 Ahem.

BRONCOS STARTERS

OFFENSE

No.	Player	Pos.
15	Brandon Marshall	WR
78	Ryan Clady	LT
50	Ben Hamilton	LG
62	Casey Wiegmann	C
73	Chris Kuper	RG
74	Ryan Harris	RT
89	Daniel Graham	TE
19	Eddie Royal	WR
6	Jay Cutler	QB
35	Selvin Young	RB
48	Peyton Hillis	FB
5	Matt Prater	K

DEFENSE

No.	Player	Pos.
60	John Engelberger	LE
63	Dewayne Robertson	LT
79	Marcus Thomas	RT
92	Elvis Dumervil	RE
55	D.J. Williams	WLB
58	Nate Webster	MLB
97	Boss Bailey	SLB
24	Champ Bailey	LCB
32	Dré Bly	RCB
33	Marquand Manuel	SS
20	Marlon McCree	FS
1	Brett Kern	P

CHIEFS STARTERS

OFFENSE

No.	Player	Pos.
82	Dwayne Bowe	WR
76	Branden Albert	LT
54	Brian Waters	LG
64	Rudy Niswanger	C
73	Adrian Jones	RG
77	Damion McIntosh	RT
88	Tony Gonzalez	TE
81	Devard Darling	WR
11	Damon Huard	QB
27	Larry Johnson	RB
42	Mike Cox	FB
9	Nick Novak	K

DEFENSE

No.	Player	Pos.
90	Turk McBride	LE
93	Tank Tyler	LT
72	Glenn Dorsey	RT
91	Tamba Hali	RE
53	Demorrio Williams	LOLB
55	Pat Thomas	MLB
56	Derrick Johnson	ROLB
39	Brandon Carr	LCB
24	Brandon Flowers	RCB
49	Bernard Pollard	SS
44	Jarrad Page	FS
2	Dustin Colquitt	P

BRONCOS LEADERS

	PASSING										
	Att	Com	Pct	Yds	TD	Int	LG	RATE			
Cutler	108	73	67.6	914	8	2	72	110.6			
Denver	109	73	67.0	914	8	2	72	109.7			
Opp.	107	77	72.0	978	6	1	74	114.9			
	RUSHING										
	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD						
Young	26	179	6.9	49	1						
Hall	23	117	5.1	16	0						
Pittman	19	44	2.3	13	4						
Denver	82	391	4.8	49	5						
Opp.	73	318	4.4	42	3						
	RECEIVING										
	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD						
Marshall	24	321	13.4	35t	2						
Royal	18	194	10.8	29	2						
Scheffler	11	168	15.3	72	2						
Denver	73	914	12.5	72	8						
Opp.	77	978	12.7	74	6						
	SCORING										
	1	2	3	4	OT	TOT					
Denver	28	44	20	22	0	114					
Opp.	6	30	17	31	0	84					
	Touchdowns Kicking										
	Tot	Ru	Rc	Rt	XP	Att	FG	Att	LG	SF	Pts
Pittman	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
Denver	14	5	8	1	14	14	5	5	52	0	114
Opp.	10	3	6	1	9	10	4	6	43	1	84
	FIELD GOALS										
	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+						
Prater	0/0	2/2	1/1	1/1	1/1						
Denver	0/0	2/2	1/1	1/1	1/1						
Opp.	0/0	2/2	1/1	1/2	0/1						

CHIEFS LEADERS

	PASSING										
	Att	Com	Pct	Yds	TD	Int	LG	RATE			
Thigpen	69	28	40.6	279	2	4	30	38.3			
Croyle	19	11	57.9	88	0	0	20	69.6			
Huard	16	10	62.5	135	1	2	68	70.6			
K.C.	105	50	47.6	507	3	6	68	47.6			
Opp.	64	38	59.4	475	2	0	70t	92.9			
	RUSHING										
	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD						
L. Johnson	58	217	3.7	48	1						
Charles	15	73	4.9	13	0						
Kansas City	79	341	4.3	48	1						
Opp.	111	612	5.5	50	6						
	RECEIVING										
	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD						
Bowe	15	182	12.1	30	2						
Gonzalez	15	129	8.6	20	1						
Charles	6	45	7.5	15	0						
K. Smith	5	27	5.4	8	0						
Darling	3	89	29.7	68	0						
Kansas City	50	507	10.1	68	3						
Opp.	38	475	12.5	70t	2						
	SCORING										
	1	2	3	4	OT	TOT					
Kansas City	0	10	7	15	0	32					
Opp.	28	17	21	20	0	78					
	Touchdowns Kicking										
	Tot	Ru	Rc	Rt	XP	Att	FG	Att	LG	SF	Pts
Bowe	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Kansas City	4	1	3	0	4	4	1	2	40	0	32
Opp.	9	6	2	1	9	5	5	56	0	58	
	FIELD GOALS										
	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+						
Novak	0/0	0/0	0/1	1/1	1/1						
Kansas City	0/0	0/0	0/1	1/1	1/1						
Opp.	0/0	2/2	1/1	1/1	1/1						

TEAM STATS

	Broncos	Chiefs
Total offense	432.0 (2)	258.3 (23)
Rush offense	130.3 (10)	113.7 (16)
Pass offense	301.7 (2)	144.7 (28)
Total defense	421.7 (30)	357.0 (25)
Rush defense	106.0 (15)	204.0 (31)
Pass defense	315.7 (32)	153.0 (4)
Turnover margin	E (14t)	-1 (19t)
Points/game	38.0 (1)	10.7 (30)
Opp. points/game	28.0 (28)	26.0 (24)
Punting (gross)	49.4 (2)	48.2 (6)
Punting (net)	42.6 (10)	43.9 (6)

Stats Complete rosters, team leaders. denverpost.com/broncos