

# Award surprises rookie

DENVER (AP) — Reflecting on a season replete with unforeseen accomplishments, Mike Anderson admitted the never expected to be Rookie of the Year. Neither, apparently, did many of the opposing defenses who failed to stop him.



The Denver Broncos running back, who went to training camp with a goal of merely making the team and playing on special teams, vaulted from third-string to starter because of injuries and finished his rookie season with 1,500 yards rushing and 15 touchdowns.

On Monday, Anderson's remarkable odyssey culminated in his selection as The Associated Press NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year.

In balloting by a nationwide panel of 50 sports writers and broadcasters who cover the NFL, Anderson received 40 votes. Baltimore running back Jamal Lewis got 10.

"I'm kind of speechless," Anderson said. "This award, it just sums up what kind of season it has been."

Quick to credit his line and the rest of the Broncos' offense, Anderson added, "It's a team thing. We did this together. When you're racking up those yards, you can't do it by yourself. It takes 11 guys to move the ball."

Anderson's 1,500 yards, which ranked fourth in the NFL this season, represented the fifth-best performance ever by an NFL rookie. Against one of the league's best defenses on Dec. 3, Anderson ripped New Orleans for 251 yards rushing — an NFL rookie record and the fourth-best single-game performance in league history.

## Area Schedule

**Wednesday, Jan. 3**  
Colby Community College wrestling vs. Lincoln, Ill. at Max Jones Fieldhouse in Goodland.

**Thursday, Jan. 4**  
Colby High School varsity and junior varsity wrestling hosts Goodland at 6:30 p.m.

St. Francis High School C-team basketball hosts Atwood at 6 p.m.

Call your sports news to the *Free Press*, 462-3963; fax 462-7749; or e-mail colbysports@nwkansas.com. Jay Kelley is sports coordinator.

## Shooting hoops



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

J.D. Donn went for the basket as Trey Barnett moved around for a shot at the Colby Elementary School gym on Saturday. The boys were shooting around after the last games of the Colby Recreation winter basketball league. The games were played 4-on-3 with teams switching around.

# K-State option runs past Volunteer defense

DALLAS (AP) — Tennessee still hasn't found a way to stop an option offense.

Kansas State (11-3) exploited the Volunteers' weakness, rolling up 297 yards on the ground against the top-rated rush defense in the Southeastern Conference en route to a 35-21 win Monday in the Cotton Bowl.

The Wildcats had watched film of Tennessee against option teams, and the script went just as planned.

"They weren't too good defending the option, so we knew we wanted to run that as much as we could today," Kansas State center Randall Cummins said. "We like to run the option all the time. Today they just gave us what we needed."

Wildcats quarterback Jonathan

Beasley carried the ball 17 times for 98 yards and handed off to running back Josh Scobey 28 times for 147 yards. Beasley also finished 13-of-27 for 210 yards.



The Vols (9-4), which saw their winning streak end at six games, had limited opponents to just 74.3 rushing yards per game and a season total of 817 yards.

Kansas State pounded away at Tennessee early and had 89 rushing yards by the end of the first quarter.

"We need to keep looking at what we could do better to defend the option," Tennessee coach Phillip Fulmer said. "I don't think they did anything we hadn't seen. The option makes you hesitant enough that you are always thinking about it."

# Wildcat receiver plays last game on home turf

DALLAS (AP) — As a kid, Quincy Morgan used to sneak into the Cotton Bowl to play pickup football games.

Morgan was back in the stadium near his childhood home Monday for the last game of his Kansas State career. He made seven catches for 145 yards and two touchdowns as the 11th-ranked Wildcats beat No. 21 Tennessee 35-21 in the Cotton Bowl.

"It's like the beginning and the end," Morgan said. "We used to sneak out here as kids and play. Now it was legal and a great way to go out."

After Tennessee tied the game at 7-7 early in the second quarter, Morgan

had touchdown catches on consecutive possessions to put Kansas State ahead for good.

"Quincy talked about this being his last chance," Wildcats coach Bill Snyder said. "What a better way to go out, a big game playing at home and making big plays."

While Morgan played just two seasons at Kansas State (11-3), the Cotton Bowl was also the final game for about two dozen seniors who were part of four straight 11-win seasons.

The 44 victories by the Class of 2000 were the most by a senior class ever at Kansas State.

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