

# New rating system grades quarterbacks

Now that the National Football League lockout is over, ESPN has come up with a new way for itself and football fans to obsess over the game.

ESPN unveiled a new way to statistically rate quarterbacks Friday by airing a special called "Total QBR," which stands for Total Quarterback Rating, to better explain how the new system works.

The previous quarterback rating system was called the NFL Passer Rating and it has been the way we grade quarterbacks since 1973. I believe Peter Keating, an ESPN Insider, has explained best how the rating is determined: "It takes completions, passing yards, touchdown passes and interceptions, all on a per-attempt basis, compares each to a league-average figure, and mashes them into one number... It just averages them together, which tends to bias scores heavily in favor of QBs who complete a lot of short passes, driving up completion percentage without necessarily generating more yards or points."

The passer rating is definitely out-dated, especially since football has transformed and changed so much since the '70s, so I think it's smart to develop a new system that accurately portrays the quarterback position.

For example, many analysts and broadcasters also criticize the system for not accounting the yards and touchdowns generated by a quarterback's legs, and many quarterbacks, including Michael Vick and Aaron Rodgers, acquire a lot of yards this way. It seems unfair that a quarterback would not be given the credit for the things they do outside of throwing the football.

Another issue with the system is the maximum possible rating, which comes out to 158.3. Seriously? How accurate can a rating be if the perfect rating includes three-tenths of a point? This seems highly illogical and makes it hard for the average person to figure out right off the bat whether a quarterback is good or not.

So to fix these problems, the Total QBR has added more factors in grading a quarterback, and has made the scoring simple, going from zero to 100, with an average quarterback having a score of 50. The new



Kayla Cornett

## On the Sidelines

factors now include win probability, dividing credit and clutch index.

Win probability is a score based on all of the quarterback plays and how much they contribute to a win. The system is able to figure this out because expected point totals for almost any situation are already determined and can then be applied to every type of play the quarterback would be involved in.

According to ESPN.com, dividing credit is how the "Total QBR factors in such things as overthrows, underthrows, yards after the catch and more to accurately determine how much a quarterback contributes to each play."

The clutch index then determines how critical a certain play is based on when it happens in a game and factors it into the score.

These new ways to grade a quarterback really take into account everything a quarterback does on the field instead of just the things associated with passing, as the passer rating does.

The Total QBR will be used by analysts each game this season, and then a quarterback's rating will be determined for the whole season.

Hopefully, this new system will give fans, coaches and players a more accurate idea of who's the best in the league, according to the numbers, but also show that it takes more than just passing to make a great quarterback.

*Kayla Cornett is the sports reporter for the Colby Free Press. She has been interested in sports her entire life and has been writing about sports since high school. She is a native Coloradoan.*

## On the run



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press  
The Colby Community College cross country team started a race during the meet held on campus last year. Many of last year's team members are returning, including Edward Limo, the runner from Kenya.

# Rockies beat Cincinnati 3-2, hand Reds fifth loss in six games

CINCINNATI (AP) — Esmil Rogers did a little bit of everything. It was just enough for the Colorado Rockies.

The right-hander pitched just well enough for six innings and turned in a key hit and fielding play as the Rockies sent the Reds to their fifth loss in six games with a 3-2 win on Tuesday night.

Troy Tulowitzki hit a two-run homer and Dexter Fowler had two of Colorado's five hits while driving in the go-ahead run for the Rockies, who have won three of four.

Rogers (6-1) allowed eight hits and two runs with six strikeouts and two walks to win his third consecutive start.

"I just want them to give me the

opportunity to pitch," said Rogers, who started his career as a shortstop. "I know I can do it. I'm not thinking about it. I'm just trying to make my pitches."

He did while shutting down the Reds with runners in scoring position. They went 0 for 9 with runners in scoring position.

"Credit Esmil with a gutsy performance," Rockies manager Jim Tracy said. "His pitch count got up there, because of the amount of traffic he dealt with."

Cincinnati's failure in the clutch left Dontrelle Willis still looking for his first win in six starts since being called up from Triple-A on July 10.

Matt Reynolds, Josh Roenicke and Rex Brothers combined for

two scoreless innings of relief before Rafael Betancourt pitched the ninth for his first save of the season and 20th of his career.

Willis retired the first 10 batters before Fowler lined a single up the middle in the fourth. Carlos Gonzalez forced Fowler at second, but Tulowitzki lined a 0-1 pitch 351 feet into the first row of the seats in left for his 22nd homer and a 2-1 Colorado lead.

The Rockies regained the lead in the fifth, loading the bases with one out on Wigginton's single to left, Iannetta's walk and a bunt single by Rogers. Eric Young Jr. grounded into a forceout at the plate, but Fowler gave Colorado a 3-2 lead with a single to center.

# Depth chart reveals Broncos' starters

By Arnie Stapleton  
AP Pro Football Writer

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Tim Tebow is winning Denver's quarterback competition — for the No. 2 job behind starter Kyle Orton.

The Broncos released their depth chart Monday in advance of their preseason opener at Dallas this week and there was no change in the order from a year ago: 1. Orton; 2. Tebow; 3. Brady Quinn.

Orton has been taking almost all the first-team snaps with Tebow and Quinn sharing work with the second and third units.

Tebow is winning the popularity contest.

The crowds at the team's Dove Valley headquarters are dotted with Tebow jerseys — his No. 15 is one of the league's best-sellers — while it's hard to find an Orton

jersey. Even the team's pro shop had 60 adult Tebow jerseys for sale Monday and just five of Orton's No. 8 jerseys.

There's a similar disparity in the stands, and Orton was asked after Monday's nearly three-hour workout about Tebow being the people's choice.

"Thank God the people don't make the decisions on who's starting," Orton said. "That's really all I've got to say about it."

Orton said his job is to win over his teammates and the coaching staff and "my last goal is to win over the fans."

And winning football games, "that's how you win over everybody," Orton said.

As for the preseason opener Thursday night, Orton said he doesn't necessarily want to play

more than usual given the lack of team work during the 4½-month lockout.

"No, I think you want to go out and play successfully and once you've had some good success, get off the field," Orton said. "And whether you had the OTA reps or not, still your No. 1 goal is to get your best players into the first (regular season) game. So, hopefully we can go out, have a little success, get a little confidence going and get off the field."

Plenty of rookies will get some meaningful snaps against the Cowboys.

Von Miller, the second overall pick in the draft, is listed as the starter at strongside linebacker and rookie Rahim Moore is the starter at free safety. Rookie Orlando Franklin is listed atop the depth chart at right tackle.

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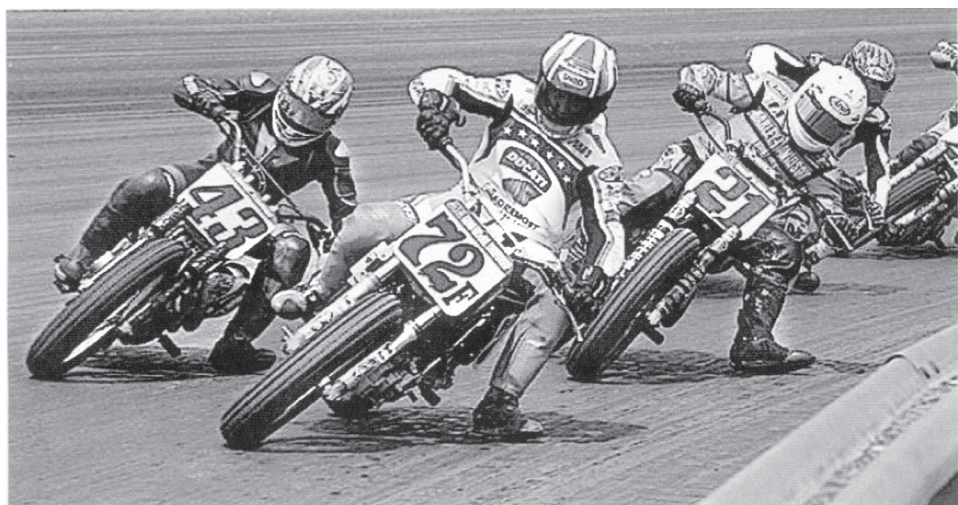
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