

Broncos' win means Chiefs are chumps?

The Denver Post

Unlike the Kansas City Frauds, Peyton Manning is the real deal. On a gimpy ankle, Manning threw for 323 yards against an overrated defense. But, truth be told, Denver beat Kansas City 27-17 in an AFC West showdown Sunday night where the outcome was never really in doubt for a very simple reason:

In a league ruled by quarterbacks, Denver has one capable of leading his team to the Super Bowl.

Kansas City has grit, desire, toughness and all those qualities of a team trying to hide an obvious flaw: Alex Smith's arm isn't strong enough to wrestle with Manning or any other elite NFL quarterback.

Was the No. 1 defense in the NFL, the calling card of K.C., enough to shut down Manning and the Broncos? Please, don't make Denver receiver Demaryius Thomas laugh.

"We scored 27 points," said Thomas, chuckling.

Props to the Denver defense, improving with each week. Linebacker Von Miller is back from suspension and soon to return is perennial Pro Bowl cornerback Champ Bailey.

But here's what makes Kansas City a fraud as a championship contender in 2013: an inept offense. Oakland, Jacksonville and every one of the previous nine teams on Denver's schedule scored more points against the Broncos than K.C. was able to muster.

Kansas City can't win the Super Bowl for a reason that coach Andy Reid certainly knows deep in his heart. His offense is too elemen-



Denver Broncos wide receiver Demaryius Thomas puts a stiff arm into the face of Kansas City defensive back Kendrick Lewis Sunday night during the 27-17 Broncos victory.

ary. Quarterback Smith is the football equivalent of Ambien. He eases a coach's worries. Nothing bad ever happens. But not much exciting happens. And next thing you know, you're sound asleep on the sofa.

Smith graduated summa cum laude from the Bob Griese School of Game Management. This was a fine way to play quarterback, in 1972. But the game has changed. Unless the NFL rolls back the clock 40 years before the next Super Bowl, the Chiefs won't be in it.

Denver is back on top in the AFC West, and controls its destiny in the race for the conference's No. 1 seed.

Forget Kansas City.

What awaits the Broncos is the toughest challenge:

Tom Brady is a quarterback fully capable of matching Manning's touchdown pass for touchdown pass. Reid might well be coach of the year for giving one of the NFL's great cities a reason for renewed hope, but he is no Bill Belichick when it comes to devising ways to frustrate Manning.

Kansas City was never the main threat to the Broncos for AFC supremacy. That is the job more suited to New England.

Hey, Frauds.

You served a noble purpose, forcing the Broncos to win with more grit than glamour.

Now, go sit on the porch, young pups, and leave the real AFC fight to the big dogs.



Colby Community College guards Deja Cato (2) and Ariel Hutchinson (0) helped the Trojans attack for 33 second-half points Saturday night, but not enough to overcome a tough first half.

Cold shooting costs Colby throughout loss to Knights

By R.B. Headley

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Just like Facebook friends, youth can be an overrated asset when checking facts that make a coach feel old.

"We missed 14 layups and 13 or 14 free throws. There's no excuse for that," coach Antowin Edwards said about his Colby Community College Trojans' 55-43 home loss to North Platte Community College Saturday night. "They try hard. They always try hard. They're young. It's going to be a battle all year with a young team that's still learning how to win."

The Trojans (1-6 record) have learned how to make exciting late comebacks. When Amanda Miller swished a three-point shot, Colby trimmed an 18-point deficit down to four (41-37).

Yet the other 20 three-pointers were missed (1-for-21 overall). A 10-point first half further doomed any Colby victory plans.

On Thursday, the Trojans sliced Lamar (Colo.) Community College's 18-point lead to five before falling short.

"Being all freshmen, I think one thing is some are looking at whether they are scoring the ball, rather than whether we are scoring the ball," Edwards observed. "One person takes it upon themselves to score 25 points, and that's not working out. We had had several ladies who weren't paying attention to what we needed to have done in the first half."

North Platte didn't exactly light the Colby Community Building on fire, shooting just 31 percent from two-point range and missing more than half of its free-throw attempts (13 for 27).

The score was just 9-5 nearly 10 minutes into Saturday's game.

However, the Knights outscored

Colby 21-5 to take a 26-10 lead into intermission.

Deandra Williams' inside basket started a better second half for the home team.

Semaj Blanton and Loren Evans also scored with quick, smooth post moves near the hoop.

Williams' offensive rebound and putback pulled the Trojans with 39-31.

Colby High alum McKenna Ortner's jumper made it 41-34, and Miller followed with that one three-point bomb moments later.

However, turnovers and missed opportunities helped North Platte soon regain a 10-point advantage of 51-41.

The Trojans didn't get within 10 again.

Colby (43) — Amanda Miller 7 points, Semaj Blanton 6, Deandra Williams 6, Deja Cato 6, Loren Evans 5, Sierra Green 4, McKenna Ortner 4, Tori Biddle 3, Ariel Hutchinson 2. Rebound leaders: Williams 16, Evans 8. Assists: Cato 3. Steals: Blanton 5, Biddle 3. Blocked shots: Miller 2, Williams, Hutchinson.

North Platte (55) — Davontaye Merritt's game-high 16 points led the Knights.

Trojan men run into trouble at Air Force

Branden Williams' 22 points could not keep the Colby Community College men from losing 76-61 to Lamar (Colo.) Community College on Saturday.

After winning their first five home games, the Trojans slipped to 5-2 as Lamar avenged an 84-77 Ambassador Classic loss at Colby one week earlier.

Williams shot a brilliant 5-for-6 from three-point range during Saturday's rematch at the Air Force prep tournament.

Power forward Ramon Johnson muscled inside to hit four of his six two-point baskets.

However, the Trojans only shot 37.3 percent overall and also missed nine of 19 free throws. Top scorer Jeremiah Ingram was limited to four points, playing only 16 minutes before fouling out.

Lamar (2-5 record) followed a 35-30 first half with an even stronger final 20 minutes (41 points).

On Friday, Colby suffered an 88-74 defeat against host Air Force JV. Williams scored a team-high 18 points while Ingram netted 17.

The Trojans will make another road trip to Trinidad (Colo.) Community College Tuesday evening. They'll resume the home schedule Saturday night (7:30 p.m.) against KSU-Salina.

Trojan leaders from Saturday's game:



The Colby Community College pep band has provided plenty of atmosphere during home basketball games so far this season.

Colby (61) — Branden Williams 22 points, Gage Deis 11, Ramon Johnson 10, Terry Starks

5, Jeremiah Ingram 4, Joey Meyer 4, Kyle Summers 3, Jamal Jones 2. Rebound leaders: Deis 8, Justin

Talley 4. Assists: Starks 3, Jones 3. Steals: Starks 2. Blocked shots: Deis, David Tait.

Dramatic kick puts K-State in bowl talk

The Kansas City Star

MANHATTAN, Kan. Before Saturday, Jack Cantele had never attempted a game-winning kick.

He grew up playing golf, sinking pressure putts at high school tournaments. But none of that compared to what he faced in the final moments of Kansas State's 33-31 victory over TCU at Snyder Family Stadium on Saturday.

With seconds remaining in a wild, back-and-forth game, a sell-out crowd focused solely on him. If Cantele, who switched to football midway through high school, connected on a 41-yard field goal, the Wildcats would win their fourth straight and become bowl eligible. If he missed, K-State would go down in a hard defeat.

TCU led by one, thanks to a clutch 56-yard field goal of its own from Jaden Oberkrom with

2:13 to go. Now it was Cantele's turn to answer.

"It went right down the middle," said Cantele, a sophomore. "That was probably the best kick of my life."

Cantele said he knew the kick was good the moment the ball left his foot, and it took the fans sitting in the south end zone only a few seconds to realize the same. Everyone cheered, and the Wildcats got so carried away they got penalized for unnecessary celebration.

"I didn't realize I had four field goals in that game," Cantele said. "All I can remember is that last one."

Three seconds remained on the clock, and TCU, 4-7 in the Big 12 and 2-6 in the Big 12, still technically had a shot at a miracle finish, but no one seemed to care.

"I am proud of them," K-State

coach Bill Snyder said, "and the fact that they came back and won the back-and-forth ballgame. I certainly am awfully proud of Cantele."

This was a big moment for Cantele. But it was even bigger for K-State.

Before Saturday, the Wildcats, 6-4 and 4-3, hadn't won a close game. K-State's previous five victories all came in blowout fashion.

The Wildcats took that step by driving to the TCU 24 in the final 2 minutes. They started the drive on their own 32, and Snyder turned to Waters, who threw for 234 yards and two TDs, to lead the offense. He looked shaky on his first play but then hit Curry Sexton over the middle for a 28-yard gain.

Then he found Tyler Lockett for 12 yards, and K-State was in field-goal range. The next few plays were intense, with a negative run

from Waters and a false-start penalty that dropped the Cats back to the edge of Cantele's range. But Waters hit Lockett for 8 yards on third down, and the stage was set for the game-winning field goal.

Lockett, Sexton and Trammie Thompson were, perhaps, K-State's biggest playmakers. Though Daniel Sams rushed for 109 yards and a touchdown, Lockett caught eight passes for 123 yards and a touchdowns while Thompson grabbed two balls for 85 yards and a touchdown.

Lockett's effort was made more impressive by the fact that he caught a 74-yard touchdown pass in the first quarter while going against Jason Verrett, the Big 12's top cornerback. On the play, Lockett beat Verrett with a stop-and-go route. Verrett jumped in front of him as he faked the stop, and Lockett ended up wide open.

Trojan wrestler gets six wins in tourney

Ronald Wells ripped off four consecutive wins and finished 6-2 overall to lead the Colby Community College wrestlers at a Colorado Mesa Tournament on Nov. 9.

Wells delivered his wins in the 133-pound weight class while Caliv Ochs conquered four 157-pound foes (4-2 overall).

Brian Wood was victorious

in three of his five 165-pound matches for coach David Nordhues' team.

Colby High alum Beau Brown went 0-2 at 165.

The Trojans were scheduled to compete in a University of Northern Colorado tournament on Saturday at Greeley, Colo. Results will likely appear this week.

Jayhawks are No. 2, Spartans take No. 1

NEW YORK (AP) — Michigan State is No. 1 in The Associated Press poll for the first time in 13 years.

The Spartans moved up one spot Monday after beating top-ranked Kentucky last week. They took the No. 1 spot by a wide margin, receiving 51 first-place votes from the 65-member national media panel.

"I think it's a privilege," coach Tom Izzo told The AP on Monday, several hours before Michigan State hosted Portland. "If we handle it well, we'll see how long we can hang on. And if we don't, we'll learn something from that. We don't get a banner or a ring for this, but it's good for our program. It's also good for the guys on this team to add to their collection of accomplishments."

This is Michigan State's first time leading the rankings since a two-week run in 2000-01, when the Spartans reached the Final Four.

Their only other time at No. 1 was a two-week stint in 1978-79, the season Magic Johnson carried

the Spartans to the national title.

"Being No. 1 now gives us a chance to see how we'll handle our goal of being No. 1 at the end of the season," Izzo said. "We have to learn how to deal with the pressure and status of being where we are right now. But I don't think by any means this will be like playing with a 40-pound weight on our shoulders."

Kansas, which beat Duke in the nightcap of Tuesday's Champions Classic in Chicago, moved from fifth to second and received seven first-place votes.

Louisville stayed third and drew the other seven first-place votes.

"We've been in the top five a lot, but we haven't won a big game early quite like we did last week," Izzo said. "We've earned this, but I know Kansas or Louisville could be No. 1 right now. Duke and Kentucky are really good, too."

Pre-season No. 1 Kentucky dropped to fourth and was followed by Arizona, Duke, Oklahoma State, Ohio State, Syracuse and VCU.