

Where's everyone going?

Sunday determines final NFL playoff positions

The Kansas City Chiefs are stuck like no other National League football team this weekend.

While the Chiefs are locked in as a No. 5 AFC playoff seed, every other qualifier and contender can determine their spots in Sunday's regular-season finales.

San Diego could reach the playoffs with a win over Kansas City teamed with losses by Baltimore at Cincinnati and Miami, who plays at home against the New York Jets.

The Pittsburgh Steelers could also qualify with a win over Cleveland, but would also need losses from San Diego, Miami and Baltimore.

The Denver Broncos (12-3 record) still must win at old rival Oakland (4-11) to clinch that AFC No. 1 spot. A loss could push New England to No. 1 as long as the Patriots (11-4) beat Buffalo (6-9).

Amazingly, the Patriots could rise to No. 1 or still sink as low as No. 4. An upset loss to Buffalo could move Tom Brady who was facing Kansas City either Jan. 4 or 5 in Foxboro, Mass.

The NFC races are even more wide-open with two division titles

still to be decided with Green Bay (7-7-1) at Chicago (8-7) and Philadelphia (9-6) at Dallas (8-7).

The No. 1 seed could also change if Seattle (12-3) suffers another home loss to St. Louis (7-8) and San Francisco (11-4) wins at Arizona (10-5).

However, the Cardinals still have plenty to play for, as a win and New Orleans (10-5) loss would send those Saints home and Arizona into next week's wildcard round.

Basically, there are only three games on Sunday with no potential playoff impact: Detroit at Minnesota, Washington at the New York Giants and Tennessee at Houston. The other 13 games could all affect something.

So with that in mind, let's see what a few famous NFL experts and Times scribbler R.B. (Rumbly Bumblin) Headley predict for Sunday's finales.

The guest pickers are NFL Hall of Fame coach Mike Ditka, former Broncos great linebacker Tom Jackson, Super Bowl winning receiver Keyshawn Johnson and well-known talkshow host/former NFL tackle Mike Golic. All are currently analysts for ESPN.

The picks:

Packers at Bears
Ditka: Bears. Jackson: Packers. Johnson: Packers. Golic: Packers. R.B.: da Bears.

Eagles at Cowboys
Ditka: Eagles. Jackson: Eagles. Johnson: Eagles. Golic: Eagles. R.B.: How about them Cowboys? They lose the last big game again to the Eagles.

Niners at Cardinals
Ditka: Niners. Jackson: Niners. Johnson: Niners. Golic: Niners. R.B.: Cardinals.

Rams at Seahawks
Ditka: Seahawks. Jackson: Seahawks. Golic: Seahawks. R.B.: Seahawks.

Buccaneers at Saints
Ditka: Saints. Jackson: Saints. Johnson: Saints. Golic: Saints. R.B.: Saints survive.

Chiefs at Chargers
Ditka: Chargers. Jackson: Chargers. Johnson: Chargers. Golic: Chargers. R.B.: Lightning strikes.

Jets at Dolphins
Ditka: Dolphins. Jackson: Dolphins. Johnson: Dolphins. Golic: Dolphins. R.B.: Jets.

Ravens at Bengals
Ditka: Bengals. Jackson: Bengals. Johnson: Bengals. Golic:



Kansas City wide receiver Dwayne Bowe tumbled into the end zone against San Diego last month. Due to a concussion, Bowe will likely not play in the Chiefs' rematch at San Diego on Sunday.

Bengals. R.B.: Bengals.

Bills at Patriots
Ditka: Patriots. Jackson: Patriots. Johnson: Patriots. Golic: Patriots. R.B.: Bills in a shocker!

Finally, Broncos at Raiders

Ditka: Broncos. Jackson: Broncos. Johnson: Broncos. Golic: Broncos. R.B.: Raid, wait, I'm not that crazy. Take the Broncos.

These outcomes would set up Broncos and Seahawks as No. 1 seeds, close to fulfilling R.B.'s pre-season Super Bowl pick of Seahawks over Broncos.

Hit Faced holds lead in Colby Rec League

The Colby Recreation Department's volleyball league has been busy with 11 teams competing during these past few weeks.

A super-tight title race has developed between three contenders as Hit Faced (8-1) currently holds its slim half-game advantage over both Bird City Dairy (7-1) and Tubbs Chiropractic (7-1).

The complete league standings:

1. Hit Faced 8-1
2. (tie) Tubbs Chiro. 7-1
2. (tie) Bird City Dairy 7-1

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| 4. Safe Sets | 4-2 |
| 5. (tie) B-Hive | 5-4 |
| 5. (tie) Active Balance | |
| Chiropractic | 5-4 |
| 7. (tie) Lethal Ladies | 2-6 |
| 7. (tie) Rietcheck | 2-6 |
| 9. Spresser Excavation | 2-7 |
| 10. NW Children Associates | 1-4 |
| 11. Rhea | 0-8 |

League play will continue with matches until the post-season tournament begins Tuesday, Feb. 15.

The league championship match is set one week later on Tuesday, Feb. 22.

Marathon bombing tops stories in 2013

NEW YORK (AP) — The Boston Marathon bombing was selected the sports story of the year today in an annual vote conducted by The Associated Press.

Two pressure cooker bombs exploded near the finish line of the April 15 race in an area packed with fans cheering the passing runners. Three people were killed and more than 260 injured, including at least 16 who lost limbs.

Authorities say brothers Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev, ethnic Chechens from Russia who emigrated to the United States as children, planned and carried out the bombings in retaliation for U.S. involvement in Muslim countries.

Ninety-six ballots were

submitted from U.S. editors and news directors. Voters were asked to rank the top 10 sports stories of the year, with the first-place story receiving 10 points, the second-place story nine points and so on.

The marathon attack received 761 points and 67 first-place votes. It was also second in

The top five stories were grim: terrorism, performance-enhancing drug use, legal settlements, murder charges. The first on-field action came in at No. 6 — the Boston Red Sox's worst-to-first World Series title, though even that was tinged by the city's heartache less than seven months earlier.

Lance Armstrong's admission of doping, an NFL concussion settlement, baseball drug bans and New England Patriots tight

end Aaron Hernandez's arrest on murder charges completed the top five.

After the Red Sox at No. 6, football took the next two spots. The Baltimore Ravens' unlikely Super Bowl championship run earned No. 7, while college football's surprising BCS finalist Auburn Tigers claimed No. 8.

Auburn plays No. 1 Florida State for the national title on Jan. 6.

The Monte Te'o hoax about a girlfriend of this All-American linebacker from Notre Dame who did not exist and the Miami Heat's repeat NBA title finished this Top 10.

Colby alum makes K-State bowl roster

Colby High alum Adam Weber is listed on the Kansas State roster entering Saturday night's Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl against Michigan in Phoenix, Ariz.

Weber's shown as a 5'5" 207-pound junior fullback, who joined the K-State program last spring after earning all-conference honors during two seasons at Garden City Community College.

The 2010 Colby High grad was an all-league, three-sport athlete during his Eagles career.

The son of Colby's Raymond

and Shirley Weber wears No. 34 for Kansas State.

He hasn't gotten a carry or pass reception this season, according to available Kansas State stats. Weber does have the build of a Wildcat back, as leading rusher John Hubert stands 5'7" and backup Robert Rose is listed at 5'4".

Kickoff for the Wild Wings Bowl is 9:15 p.m. on ESPN.

Both Kansas State and Michigan bring 7-5 season records into the contest.

Wildcats part of super-busy bowl week

Associated Press college football writer Ralph Russo and *Free Press* couch potato R.B. (Ridiculously Bloated) Headley both stumbled out of the gate during Saturday's opening bowl games.

Both posted just 1-3 records, so there's plenty of room for improvement as the bowl season continues to really just warm up.

Really Bad-boy Headley hopes he can gain ground if Kansas State can beat Michigan in Saturday night's Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl. Russo has already tied his allegiance to Michigan, which will not play quarterback Devin Gardner because of a foot injury.

However, there are many more bowl picks to make before New Year's Day. Here a few more to fill the remaining space on today's sports page.

Russo also offers a reason to watch each of these remaining 27 bowl games. More appear next week.

Military Bowl: Marshall (9-4) vs. Maryland (7-5).

Russo: Why watch? Marshall plays fast, has a good offense and bad defense. The possibility of playing a 49-48 game is always high. Maryland, 49-48. R.B.: Why stop at 49-48? That might soon become halftime scores as the new don't hit anyone too hard rules gain momentum. Maryland 51-50.

Texas Bowl: Minnesota (8-4) vs. Syracuse (6-6)

Russo: Why watch? After all the excitement in that Military Bowl, you might need a nap. Gophers rank 97th in the country for yards per play; Syracuse is 102nd. Minnesota 17-10. R.B.: I enjoy Gophers' old-school ground and pound. Plus this state needs some happiness if there are any Minnesota Yike!-ing fans remaining besides me. Minnesota 24-17.

Fight Hunger Bowl: Brigham Young (8-4) vs. Washington (8-4). Russo: Why watch? The last time we saw BYU linebacker Kyle Van Noy in a bowl game, he scored two touchdowns, blocked

a punt and had 3 1/2 tackles for loss. Washington 31-21. R.B.: You promote all that and still pick Huskies? I'll take a mild upset with BYU winning 30-28.

Pinstripe Bowl: both say Notre

Dame over Rutgers. Belk (whatever that is) Bowl: North Carolina over Cincinnati. Russell Athletic Bowl: Both also take Louisville over Miami in an entertaining game.



COLBY
FREE PRESS

785-462-3963 • 155 W. 5th • Colby

Your #1 source for local news, classified's, sports and weather!

Call 785-462-3963 For Information On Subscription Rates.

• WE OFFER SPECIAL RATES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS •

• Local area news • Comics • Bridge • Crossword Puzzle • Weather
• Sports • Features • Statehouse Coverage • Diverse Editorial Page

Delivered by Carrier in Colby.

By mail in the following counties: Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Logan, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman, Wallace and Thomas counties.

CARRIER RATES:
\$85 per year
\$35 for 3 months

BY MAIL NW Kansas:
\$95 per year
\$39 for 3 months

DISCOUNT COUPON

\$5.00 OFF

A NEW SUBSCRIPTION TO THE COLBY FREE PRESS


NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Mail coupon with your check to: The Colby Free Press, 155 W. 5th, Colby, KS 67701.



YEAR END SAVINGS ON NEW GMC'S!



2014 GMC SIERRA 1500 SLT CREW CAB 4WD
#G7464: Jet Black, Leather, 612 miles...

2014 1/2 Ton Pickups

- Double and Crew Cabs up to \$4500 in rebates + \$500 Finley Motors Rebate = \$5000.
- Regular Cabs up to \$4000 in rebates + \$500 Finley Motors Rebate = \$4500.

2014 3/4 Ton Pickups

Regular Cabs and Crew Cabs up to \$3000 in rebates + \$500 Finley Motors Rebate = \$3500.

FINLEY MOTORS INC.

1520 Highway 27, Goodland, KS 67735 • Toll free: (800) 525-3701 • "Your volume & variety dealer!"

WWW.FINLEYMOTORSINC.COM

