

Nuggets edge out Supersonics

DENVER (AP) — Chauncey Billups loves playing at McNichols Sports Arena.

The second-year guard is averaging 15 points at home, five more than his average on the road.

"I've gotten more aggressive at home," said Billups, who scored a career-high 32 points in Thursday night's 113-110 victory over Seattle.

Billups' backcourt partner, Nick Van Exel, also had a big game against the Sonics with 31 points.

"Billups and Van Exel were hitting shots we would like them to take, pressuring deep with the shot clock running down," Seattle coach Paul Westphal said. "It seemed like one dagger after another."

Billups was 10-for-18 from the field, including 4-of-9 on 3-pointers. Van Exel was 11-for-23, including 6-of-10 from long range. It was the first time two Denver guards scored 30 or more points in the same game since Michael Adams (32) and Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf (32) did it on Dec. 29, 1990 against Washington.

"It is nothing more than his confidence," Denver coach Mike D'Antoni said of Billups. "If he has his confidence, he can have nights like this any time he wants."

Antonio McDyess had 19 points and nine rebounds for Denver, which was 30-for-36 from the foul line.

"You can't expect McDyess to be Superman every night and when he isn't it helps to have the performances Chauncey and Nick gave us," D'Antoni said. "I don't know how you can be better than Chauncey and Nick."

Gary Payton had 33 points and 11 assists for the SuperSonics, who dropped to 4-11 on the road this year.

Detlef Schrempf added 16 points for Seattle (15-15), which hasn't been at .500 this late in the year since the final game of the 1990-91 season when the team finished 41-41.

"Eventually you run out of time," said Seattle's Hersey Hawkins. "We can't keep spotting them 10-point leads and expect to come back."

McDyess made two free throws to put Denver up 111-108 with 20 seconds left. Payton then missed a 3-point attempt and Schrempf misfired on a running one-hander for the Sonics.

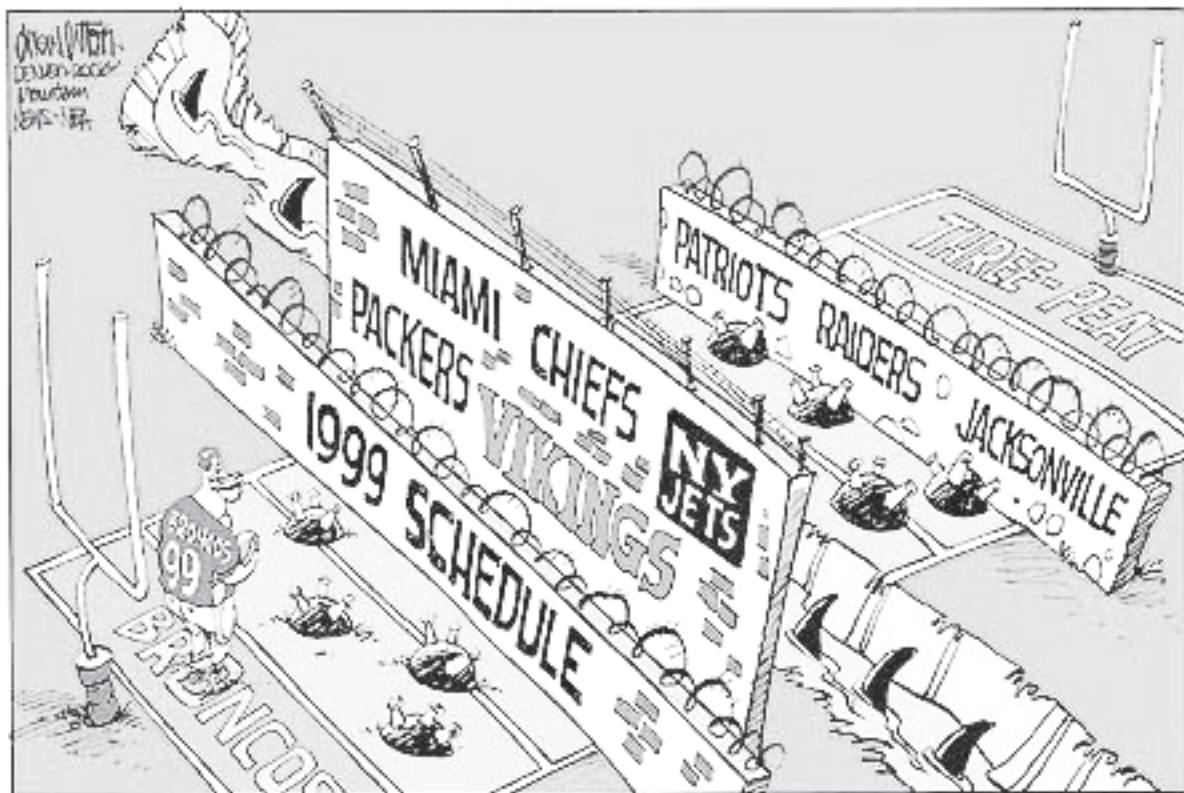
Van Exel hit consecutive 3-pointers to put Denver up 77-66 midway through the third period, but seven points by Schrempf in the last 3:12 got the Sonics back to 85-81.

"I was just wanting them to go in,"

Van Exel said. "I was getting open shots because of their defense and I knocked them down when they came to me."

McDyess gave Denver a 101-90 lead with 6:32 left on a basket and free throw, but Payton answered with four points and Schrempf and Olden Polynice each had baskets as Seattle closed to 101-98.

Billups scored 15 points on 5-for-7 shooting in the first quarter and McDyess had 13 points as the Nuggets took a 35-30 lead. Denver was 12-for-12 from the free throw line in the period. ^Notes@: Denver's Keon Clark was placed on the disabled list due to a partially collapsed lung. ... Seattle hasn't lost consecutive regular-season games to the Nuggets since 1988-89. ... Denver (9-23) didn't get its ninth win last year until its 72nd game, when the team was 9-63.



Chiefs 1999 schedule includes first game against Baltimore Ravens

WICHITA (AP) — Bill Belknap, athletic director at Wichita State since 1993, announced his retirement Thursday, effective June 30.

Belknap, who recently turned 60, said he was retiring because his age would not allow him to make a long-term commitment to the administration of Donald Beggs, who took over as chancellor Jan. 1.

"I didn't think that it was particularly fair to stay based on that, and after I thought about it, the fairest thing was to tell him, seek his counsel and to give him the opportunity to select his own person," Belknap said.

Belknap, who originally wanted to retire in December, said his decision was unrelated to turmoil involving the men's basketball team and star player Maurice Evans.

Belknap took action against coach Randy Smithson after Evans left the team Jan. 26 for eight days, complaining that players felt demeaned and isolated by the coaching staff.

A university investigation ordered by Beggs found that Smithson had violated NCAA practice limits. Smithson was reprimanded, his contract was not routinely extended as it had been and he and his coaches were not given pay raises. Practices were ordered below NCAA limits.

Evans, a prized recruit from Wichita who had suggested he and other players might quit the team, announced after the season that he would stay at Wichita State.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Chiefs announced a 1999 schedule Thursday that includes nationally televised Sunday night and Saturday games from Arrowhead Stadium.

The Chiefs open the season at Chicago on Sept. 12 in what will be coach Gunther Cunningham's first regular season game.

Kansas City will play Sunday night against the Minnesota Vikings on ESPN on Dec. 12, and play the Pittsburgh Steelers the following Saturday on CBS in Arrowhead.

The Chiefs first-ever game against the Ravens at Baltimore will also be nationally televised.

The Chiefs preseason schedule is Sunday, Aug. 15, Tennessee, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 21, Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.; Thursday Aug. 26, at Jacksonville, 7 p.m.; and Friday, Sept. 3, at San Diego, 7 p.m.

The regular season schedule is Sunday, Sept. 12, at Chicago, noon; Sunday, Sept. 19, Denver, 3:15 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 26, Detroit, noon; Sunday, Oct. 3, at San Diego, 3:15 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 10, New England, noon; Thursday, Oct. 21 at Baltimore, 7:20 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 31, San Diego, noon; Sunday, Nov. 7, at Indianapolis, noon; Sunday, Nov. 14, at Tampa Bay, noon; Sunday, Nov. 21, Seattle, noon; Sunday, Nov. 28, at Oakland, 3:15 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 5, at Denver, 3:15 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 12, Minnesota, 7:20 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 18, Pittsburgh, 11:40 a.m.; Sunday Dec. 26 at

Seattle, 3:05 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 2, Oakland, noon.

The Chiefs open date is Oct. 17.

PHOENIX (AP) — Neifi Perez drove in four runs and the Colorado Rockies tied the Milwaukee Brewers 7-7 in a game called after nine innings on a cold, wet Thursday.

It was the last day in Arizona for both teams.

Perez, who went 3-for-5, had RBI singles in the third and seventh innings and a two-run infield single in the fifth.

The Rockies blew a five-run lead before scoring twice in the eighth on RBI singles by Angel Echevarria and Perez to make it 7-5.

But the Brewers rallied with two outs in the ninth when Eddie Zosky singled home Geoff Jenkins from second and scored on Lou Collier's triple off Jerry Dipoto.

Brandon Cromer then grounded out to second, but there were no extra innings because both teams had flights to catch.

Perez singled home Darryl Hamilton, who led off the third with a triple, and scored on Dante Bichette's single off David Weathers to make it 2-0. With the bases full in the fourth, Perez hit a ground ball into the hole at second and beat pitcher Eric Plunk to the bag for a two-run infield single and a 4-0 lead.

County receives \$75,000 for local access road

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age building on the fairgrounds. They suggested the building could also be used for the poultry exhibitions during the fair.

House presented the preliminary plans which call for a 50x100 building. He said the carnival committee is seeking a community service grant. The carnival committee would like to put

the building where the existing poultry building is located.

According to Townsend, the present poultry building is not in great shape, and is sliding off its foundation. He said since the property is within the Goodland city limits any new building it will have to meet the city codes. Frankenfeld and Townsend said they did not have a problem with the carnival committee and the fair board pursuing the grant for the project.

Bryce Cole, representing the historical society, asked the commissioners to donate two older computers to the society to allow the old records to be scanned onto a disc. This would allow the information to be put on the computer rather than having to carry the heavy books from place to place to make copies.

With a scanner, one computer can be placed in the basement where the books are and the other would be at the society office at the Chamber building. Cole said the documents would be scanned in the basement and then the diskette could be taken back to the office. He said if the society were to ever have the computers updated, they would give the computers back to the county.

Townsend made the motion to donate the two computers to the historical society. Frankenfeld seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Terry Sandoval, from Kansas Cellular, presented a proposal on their preferred plan or associate plan. He said the plan could benefit the county employees and their immediate family members without any cost to the county.

Kansas Cellular will allow any employee of Sherman County to participate in the program, and Sandoval, said adding the additional phones into the program, it also results in reduced monthly rates for the phones owned by the county.

Each phone would have 50 minutes of free air time, and all time used above the 50 minutes would go into a pool and the minutes accumulated in the pool would result in a per minute savings to everyone being billed. He said there would be no long distance charges for the 785 area code, and it would be 29 cents per minute for other area codes in Kansas. It does not apply to Colorado.

Sandoval said the county would not be responsible for any of the employee's bills. Those wishing to participate would sign a 2-year commitment with Kansas Cellular, and bill the individual at their home address.

Townsend and Frankenfeld decided it would be better to wait until Davis was present to make a decision. Both felt the program would be a benefit to the employees, and could be offered without any cost to the county.

The next regular meeting will be 8 a.m. Tuesday, April 13, in the Commissioner room on the first floor of the Sherman County Courthouse.

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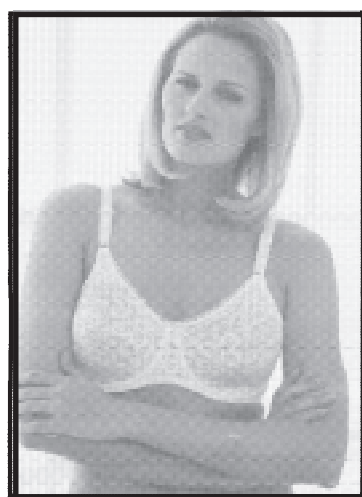
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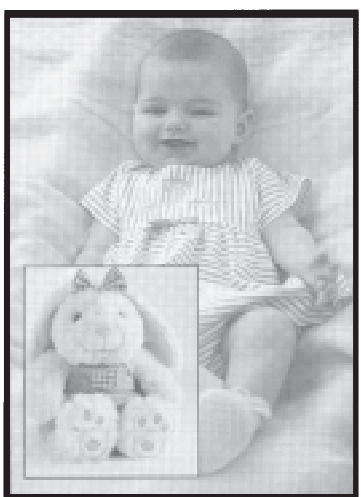
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Regular prices reflect offering prices which may not have resulted in actual sales. Sale prices on regular-priced merchandise effective through Saturday, April 3, unless otherwise noted. Percentages off represent savings on regular prices, as shown. Any event designated as a "Sale" always excludes Special Buys, Red-Ticketed Clearance Merchandise, Items sold every day in multiples of two or more and Value Right Items, which are sold at our best price every day. Selection of merchandise varies by store. Selected women's coordinates and men's suits available only at larger JCPenney Retail Stores.

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