# sports

## Chiefs' second quarterback a tough choice

RIVER FALLS, Wis. (AP) — There's no doubt who the number one season, but the battle for the number two spot is still too close to call.

Trent Green has validated the Chiefs' decision to acquire him from the St. Louis Rams in April. But neither Bubby Brister nor Todd Collins has stepped up as the leading contender for the backup position.

"I can't tell you which is the best guy right now," head coach Dick Vermeil said after practice Wednesday. "I think only game day will decide that and there's pros and cons on both guys. Bubby is one of those broken play, big son games and what we've watched as said. "Like I told them, you could go ing a regular-season contest.

play guys. Todd is a more disciplined, they've matured in the program. But to an opening high school game all stay-within-the-scheme-and-play-allquarterback will be for the Chiefs this the-way-through-the-execution guy. I'm real anxious to watch them play."

see extensive action in the team's exhibition opener against the Washington Redskins on Sunday. He said he'll wait to make a final decision on the training camp has been taking the snap backup quarterback situation at the end of the pre-season.

"Both of them are going to suit up every ballgame anyway," Vermeil said. "Which guy is going to be the designated second guy or not will be depen-

pleased with Bubby. I like his presence, his leadership, his impromptu ability Vermeil said both quarterbacks will to make a play when things break down. It will be interesting to see how it works.'

Brister's biggest obstacle so far in from center. He had trouble during Tuesday's practice handling snaps from backup centers Brian Waters and Brad Kubik and stayed late after practice to work on the exchange.

dent on how they do in these pre-sea- more so than I've ever seen," Vermeil team, but has never taken a snap dur-

quarterback-center exchange problem. We just have to correct those problems."

Brister has appeared in just 11 games over the last four seasons with Denver and Minnesota. He'll turn 39 on Aug. 15, making him the oldest active quarterback in the league.

On the other hand, Collins has the most tenure with the Chiefs than any quarterback on the roster. The sevenyear veteran out of Michigan has spent "It's been a big problem at this camp, the previous three seasons with the

I'm not disappointed in Todd, and I'm through this valley and may not see a to see more action in games before a everybody is doing." decision will be made on who will be the back-up to Green.

playing time," he noted. "Todd hasn't Horne all missed practice due to injuplayed football in a long time and neither has Bubby."

Vermeil said he was confident both quarterbacks will settle into the Chiefs' new offensive scheme

"Leadership can be improved, and skills within leadership can be improved and enhanced as you go along," he said. "But normally it stems from Minnis participated in drills with the gaining confidence in yourself and quit receivers and also took part in a handworrying about yourself and the things ful of 11-on-11 sets.

Vermeil said both quarterbacks need you're doing and try to move into what

Notes: Fullbacks George Layne and Jermaine Williams and wide receivers "Todd and Bubby both need some Dante Hall, Larry Parker and Tony ries. On the defensive side, defensive linemen Dan Williams and Terdell Sands, linebackers Larry Atkins and Wes Robertson and safety Brad Trout all watched from the sidelines Rookie wide receiver Marvin "Snoop" Minnis saw his most extensive action since twisting an ankle last Thursday night.

### Broncos' tight end may start at fullback in pre-season Howard Griffith, the lead blocker for said the toughest part about bouncing neck, and Smith and Carter just re- morning, I thought, 'Man, there goes Mike Shanahan yelled, "I'm tired of

GREELEY, Colo. (AP) — After signing with a new team, Patrick Hape faced the task of learning a complicated offensive system. His study time recently doubled.

Hape, who signed with Denver expecting to play tight end, could be the starting fullback when the Broncos play their first preseason game Saturday against the Dallas Cowboys.

"Just playing it by ear right now," Hape said Wednesday "We're not sure stuff done.'

three straight 1,000-yard rushers, has back and forth is absorbing the Denver missed more than a week of practice playbook at both positions. because of a pinched nerve in his neck. The nerve is causing numbness and pain in his left arm.

recovering from off-season ankle surgery, and free-agent acquisition Tony Carter has been limited during training camp because of a sore shoulder.

Hape began his career as a fullback yet. We have a couple more days to get with Tampa Bay in 1997 before playing more extensively at tight end. He

"I had to start two or three days ago learning the plays from fullback," he said. "It's mental. Being at fullback is Backup fullback Detron Smith is physical, too, but I'm used to doing that and whatever I can do to help the team...

Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said tight end Desmond Clark can also play fullback if necessary.

Griffith was in Los Angeles on Wednesday to see a specialist about his

cently returned to practice.

"I wish all those guys were healthy,"

Hape said. "I wish it didn't happen this way.' Note: No one will mistake it for Cal Ripken's "Iron Man" streak, but Bron-

cos defensive tackle Maa Tanuvasa had a pretty good thing going until Wednesday.

Tanuvasa missed his first training camp practice in seven years because of a sprained ankle.

"After meeting with the trainers this

to no avail.

my streak," Tanuvasa said. Broncos strength coach Rich Tuten tried to coax Tanuvasa onto the field,

"Rich told me to go out there, take one rep and then shut it down," Tanuvasa said.

Tanuvasa has missed just one game over the past five seasons and none since an injury kept him out of action in 1997. The injury: a sprained ankle.

scuffles in the morning practice, coach

it," and then called his team together. "If you have that during a game, you've got to be poised enough where you can keep that intensity, but you still keep your emotions in check. If you lose those emotions in a game, it can cost you a 15-yard penalty," Shanahan said. Though nothing is finalized, Shanahan said his starters likely will get 12-15 plays in the team's exhibition game Saturday at Dallas. Former Broncos EXTRA POINTS: After some minor defensive end Alfred Williams attended practice Wednesday afternoon.

#### baseball scoreboard

	В	y T	he As	sociate	ed Press	West Division					(K.W
	Amerio	can	Lea	gue			W	L	Pct	GB	De
	East	t Di	visio	n		Seattle	83	31	.728	—	9), 6:
	١	Ν	L	Pct	GB	Oakland	64	50	.561	19	To
New York	6	58	46	.596	_	Anaheim	59	55	.517	24	13-3)
Boston	6	64	49	.566	3 1/2	Texas	49	65	.430	34	Ch
Toronto	5	53	61	.465	15	Wednesday's Games					
Baltimore	4	48	67	.417	20 1/2	Cleveland	d 8, Minne	esota	2, 10 ir	nings	
Tampa Bay	/ 3	38	76	.333	30	N.Y. Yank	cees 16, T	ampa	Bay 1	0	De
Central Division					Baltimore 4, Kansas City 1					(Byro	
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Cleveland	6	54	49	.566	_	Seattle 12	2, Toronto	4			5-8),
Minnesota	6	53	50	.558	1	Oakland 6, Boston 1					
Chicago	5	56	56	.500	7 1/2	Chicago White Sox 15, Anaheim 1					
Detroit	2	48	64	.429	15 1/2						Ćĥ
Kansas Ci	ty 4	44	70	.386	20 1/2	2					

(K.Wilson 5-2), 6:05 p.m.
Detroit (Sparks 8-6) at Texas (Helling 8-
9) 6·35 n m

- pronto (Escobar 3-5) at Seattle (Garcia
- 8), 8:05 p.m. nicago White Sox (Lowe 6-2) at Ana-
- (Valdes 7-6), 8:05 p.m. Friday's Games etroit (Weaver 10-10) at Kansas City
- d 4-4), 6:05 p.m. leveland (Woodard 1-1) at Texas (Davis
- 6:35 p.m. Y. Yankees (Lilly 3-4) at Oakland (Lidle
- 8:05 p.m. nicago White Sox (Garland 4-4) at Se-
- (Sele 12-3), 8:05 p.m

National League										
East Division										
	W	L	Pct	GB						
Atlanta	64	49	.566	—						
Philadelphia	62	51	.549	2						
Florida	57	56	.504	7						
New York	53	61	.465	11 1/2						
Montreal	48	66	.421	16 1/2						
Central Division										
	W	L	Pct	GB						
Chicago	65	47	.580	_						
Houston	63	50	.558	2 1/2						
St. Louis	57	55	.509	8						
Milwaukee	47	64	.423	17 1/2						
Cincinnati	47	65	.420	18						
Pittsburgh	43	69	.384	22						

#### West Division Pct GB W L Los Angeles 65 49 .570 1 1/2 Arizona 50 .558 63 San Francisco 63 51 .553 2 San Diego 54 59 .478 10 1/2 46 67 .407 18 1/2 Colorado Wednesday's Games Chicago Cubs 2, Colorado 1 Houston 2, Atlanta 1, 12 innings Arizona 7. Florida 1 Montreal 6, St. Louis 5, 11 innings Los Angeles 9, Pittsburgh 4 Philadelphia 4, San Diego 3

Cincinnati 11. San Francisco 9

N.Y. Mets 5, Milwaukee 4

#### Todav's Games St. Louis (Morris 13-7) at Montreal (Ohka

- 0-1), 5:05 p.m. Los Angeles (Park 11-7) at Pittsburgh
- (Ritchie 8-10), 5:05 p.m. San Francisco (Ortiz 12-6) at Cincinnat
- (Winchester 0-1), 5:05 p.m. Houston (Oswalt 9-2) at Atlanta (Burket
- 9-8), 5:35 p.m.
- Friday's Games San Francisco (Estes 8-6) at Chicago
- Cubs (Lieber 14-5), 1:20 p.m
- Houston (Astacio 6-13) at Florida
- (Burnett 8-7), 5:05 p.m. Colorado (Chacon 6-6) at Cincinnat (Reitsma 5-11), 5:05 p.m.

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