

Coach to meet with Broncos

DENVER (AP) — Denver Broncos coach Mike Shanahan will meet with his team before deciding the fate of wide receiver Eddie Kennison, who told the coach he was retiring and then reconsidered.

The meeting with players and coaches will be on Wednesday, Shanahan said Monday, and their input will factor into a final decision.

Kennison was declared inactive for Sunday's game against San Diego after telling Shanahan on Saturday night that he had lost his passion for the game and no longer wanted to play.

That announcement — 16 hours before the Sunday kickoff — caused Shanahan to order Kennison to leave

the team hotel.

"I've never heard of a player retiring the night before a game," Shanahan said, noting that coaches and backup receivers scrambled to fill the unexpected void.

Asked after Sunday's game whether there was any possibility that Kennison could return to the team, Shanahan answered emphatically, "No."

Softening his stance on Monday, Shanahan felt he owed it to Kennison's teammates to reveal the contents of his conversations with the receiver.

Shanahan said Kennison called him Monday, requesting a meeting.

"We sat down and talked, and he said he's unretiring," Shanahan said

Chiefs not liking bye week after loss

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Chiefs can use the rest that comes with a bye week. They don't much relish having two weeks to think about Sunday's 27-7 loss to the New York Jets, though.

"It's bad, because we just came off this game, and it's going to sit with us for two weeks now," defensive end Eric Hicks said. "But it's good because we have so many people banged up. We can get away from football for a little bit and be fresh."

The Chiefs (2-7) had hoped to capitalize on the previous week's 25-20 win at San Diego — a victory that snapped a four-game losing streak.

"We thought we could go to New York and play much better than we did," Hicks said. "After a strong win like we had in San Diego, we needed to come back and put two (good games) together."

Instead, Kansas City's defense gave up 113 yards rushing and three touchdowns to Curtis Martin, the NFL's leading rusher — and failed to put significant pressure on quarterback Vinny Testaverde, who was 17-for-27 for 170 yards.

"It's one of those things where you start trying hard to make a play and all of a sudden, you get yourself out of

position here and there and you end up making it worse," cornerback Ray Crockett said. "I think all of us did that a couple of times today. All of us were like, 'I've got to make a play,' and only made it worse. It's frustrating."

Kansas City's offense, meanwhile, committed four turnovers — including three more interceptions thrown by Trent Green. Opponents have 16 interceptions against him this season, the most given up by any NFL quarterback.

But while coach Dick Vermeil was still frustrated on Monday by his team's overall performance, he continued to defend Green — the player whose acquisition from the St. Louis Rams cost the Chiefs their first-round pick in the 2001 draft.

"I was really proud of him late in the game," Vermeil said. "He audibled to go patterns down in the end zone, trying to throw a touchdown pass late in the game."

Two of the interceptions weren't Green's fault, Vermeil said.

"The first one was a tipped ball," he said. "The second one, he's trying to hit a home run down the hole to Tony Gonzalez, and the defensive lineman hit him when he threw the ball. He lost all the steam on the ball... I don't hold him accountable for those first two."

Fans want slugger to stay

ST. LOUIS (AP) — In a city where baseball fans tend to bleed Cardinal red, heroes often are the big stars — few bigger than Mark McGwire, the redheaded slugger with even a short, local stretch of Interstate 70 in his name.

But now McGwire says he's hitting the road and retiring, leaving many disappointed in the rearview mirror of a career that included 4 1/2 homer-filled seasons in a city that embraced him — never more than in 1998 when his 70 home runs smashed the single-season mark and revived the game.

"It won't be the same without him, that's for sure," 23-year-old Steve Hochlander lamented Monday in the Cardinals Clubhouse team apparel shop he manages in Union Station. A life-size McGwire cardboard cutout stands in the store's front window.

"Everyone was just so happy when he came to the plate," Hochlander

added, a Cardinals cap on his head. "It just won't be the same."

Such was the prevailing separation anxiety Monday among Cardinal fans digesting life without Big Mac, forearms rippling, digging into the Busch Stadium batter's box and sending a pitch into orbit.

"It really hasn't sunk in," said 51-year-old Levester Regans Sr., a lifelong Cardinals fan at work Monday shining shoes not far from Hochlander's shop. "It won't feel bad until the season starts and he's not there."

Regans' nagging question: Big Mac, won't you reconsider?

"I hope he don't retire. I think he's got some baseball left in him," Regans says, like other Cardinals fans convinced McGwire remains capable, even in diminished health the 38-year-old slugger cited as key in his opting to quit.

"Whether he was at peak perfor-

mance or not, people still came to see him play," smitten by the lure of the long ball, said Earl Niemeyer, a 37-year-old banker from Bowling Green, Mo.

Heck, John Scroggins says, consider McGwire's last season. While hitting just .187, he still managed 29 homers as he struggled to recover from a knee injury that also cost him half of 2000.

"I don't think his skills warrant retirement," said Scroggins, a retiree and lifelong Cardinals fan planning to soon move to St. Louis from Little Rock, Ark. "He could still hit 35 to 40 home runs."

Before McGwire, Scroggins says, "the Cardinals were just another baseball team. McGwire coming from Oakland aroused the interest in Cardinals. He created excitement."

McGwire for months had softened the blow to Cardinals fans, strongly hinting several times last season his playing days were numbered.

Players, owners fight cuts

NEW YORK (AP) — Lawyers for players and owners met again to go over their disagreement on management's plan to eliminate two teams next year but did not set a schedule for arguing the case.

The meeting was required by the collective bargaining agreement that expired last week. Later this week, the sides probably will schedule dates to argue their positions before Shyam Das, baseball's permanent arbitrator.

Players sought for All-Star camp

The Ten-Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp is accepting applications from boys and girls 10-19 who want to attend the camp next summer.

Individual applications are being accepted from boys and girls ages 10-19 and team applications from teams of boys ages 14-19.

The camp is by invitation only and college basketball scholarships are possible for some of the players. Players from 48 states and seven foreign countries attended the 2001 camp.

Past participants include Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Vince Carter, Jerry Stackhouse, Grant Hill and Antawn Jamison.

Applications are being accepted until April 15. For a free brochure, call (704) 568-6801.

football scoreboard

By The Associated Press

American Conference						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	6	2	0	.750	180	161
N.Y. Jets	6	3	0	.667	184	182
New England	5	4	0	.556	206	171
Indianapolis	4	4	0	.500	224	224
Buffalo	1	7	0	.125	133	216
Central						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	6	2	0	.750	135	90
Baltimore	6	3	0	.667	157	139
Cincinnati	4	4	0	.500	133	166
Cleveland	4	4	0	.500	144	133
Jacksonville	3	5	0	.375	144	128
Tennessee	3	5	0	.375	139	196
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Oakland	6	2	0	.750	216	167
Denver	5	4	0	.556	218	198
San Diego	5	4	0	.556	222	172
Seattle	4	4	0	.500	152	185
Kansas City	2	7	0	.222	171	199
National Conference						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	5	3	0	.625	193	115
N.Y. Giants	5	4	0	.556	165	150
Washington	3	5	0	.375	111	193
Arizona	2	6	0	.250	109	183
Dallas	2	6	0	.250	129	167

Central						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	6	2	0	.750	174	115
Green Bay	6	2	0	.750	188	117
Tampa Bay	4	4	0	.500	159	136
Minnesota	3	5	0	.375	155	213
Detroit	0	8	0	.000	127	217
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
St. Louis	7	1	0	.875	255	129
San Francisco	6	2	0	.750	202	182
Atlanta	4	4	0	.500	155	164
New Orleans	4	4	0	.500	175	162
Carolina	1	8	0	.111	132	217
Sunday's Games						
Atlanta 20, Dallas 13						
Miami 27, Indianapolis 24						
St. Louis 48, Carolina 14						
Green Bay 20, Chicago 12						
N.Y. Jets 27, Kansas City 7						
New England 21, Buffalo 11						
Tampa Bay 20, Detroit 17						
Jacksonville 30, Cincinnati 13						

Brewster All-Star Booster Club

Thursday, Nov. 15 – WKLL Instrumental Clinic at Wallace Co. High School, 1 p.m.; Concert, 6 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 16 – JH BB Preseason Tournament at Brewster, 3 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 17 – JH BB Preseason Tournament at Brewster, 10 a.m.

Monday, Nov. 19 – HS Scholar's Bowl at Grinnell, 3:45 p.m.; B.O.E. Meeting 7 p.m.

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Goodland All-Star Booster Club

Tuesday, Nov. 13 – 3rd Grade Music Program, Central School 7 p.m.; 7th Boys BB with Colby, HS Gym 3:30 p.m.; 8th Boys BB with Colby, JH Gym 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 14 – JH Scholars Bowl at Atwood, 4 p.m.; Central Site Council Meeting, 4 p.m.; Tech Committee Meeting, 3:45 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 15 – HS Indoor Marching Band Concert, 7:30 p.m. at the High School Auditorium.; 7th Boys BB with Quinter, HS Gym 3:30 p.m. (A & B); 8th Boys BB with Quinter, JH Gym 3:30 p.m. (A & B)

Friday, Nov. 16 – FCCLA Cluster Meeting at Nashville, TN; Nu Phi Mu Craft Fair at the MJFH, 7:30 p.m. - 11 p.m. (set up); DECA National Central Regional Conference, Kansas City, MO; 7/8 Boys BB "B" Tournament at Colby, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 17 - Nu Phi Mu Craft Fair, MJFH 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.; FCCLA Cluster Meeting at Nashville, TN; DECA National Central Regional Conference, Kansas City, MO

Monday, Nov. 19 – Goodland Scholars Bowl, 3:45 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 20 – 7/8 Boys BB at Oakley, 3:30 p.m.

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