

# Goodland boy wins in K.C.

A Goodland boy won the Kansas City Chiefs' regional punt, pass, kick team competition and will go on to the national competition before an NFL playoff game in January.

Bobby Miller won in Kansas City with a 106-foot, nine-inch punt; a 140-foot, eight-inch pass; and a 97-foot, nine-inch kick for a total of 345 feet, two inches.

He and Erika Gonzales competed in the regional competition before the Chiefs-Broncos game at Kansas City's Arrowhead Stadium on Sunday, Dec. 16. Gonzales did not qualify for the national competition.

Gonzales won the local competition for girls 10-11 in September with 222 feet, nine inches from the combined scores of a punt, pass and kick.

Miller won the Goodland contest for boys 12-13 with 469 feet, 10 inches.

The two went to Scott City for the sectional competition Oct. 6, where they won their age divisions. When all the other sectionals were complete, they were still on top and thus qualified for the team competition.

The top four scorers from all the first-place finalists in each age division from the team competitions go on to the national competition.



# Issel walks away

DENVER (AP) — Dan Issel accepted a buyout and resigned as head coach and president of the Denver Nuggets on Wednesday, two weeks after he was suspended for making an insensitive ethnic remark to a spectator.

The announcement came after Issel and general manager Kiki Vandeweghe finalized the details of Issel's departure in private meetings.

"We reached a settlement with him, the terms of which will remain confidential," Vandeweghe said at a news conference. "We are very thankful for his years of service here and we wish him well."

Assistant coach Mike Evans, who has been serving as interim coach, will remain in charge of the team.

Issel had been on a leave since Saturday, hours before he was to return after a four-game suspension.

Issel made the remarks Dec. 11 as he walked off the court after a loss to the Charlotte Hornets. The coach responded to a taunt from the fan by yelling back, "Go drink another beer, you Mexican....," adding an expletive at the end of the sentence.

# Broncos wiped out by injuries

DENVER (AP) — Denver Broncos defensive tackle Trevor Pryce believes this year's team is more talented than the two Super Bowl winners he played on. Injuries, however, wiped out that advantage.

Injuries to wide receivers, running backs and offensive linemen — particularly wideouts McCaffrey and Rod Smith and running back Terrell Davis — kept the Broncos from being more than a .500 team.

At 7-7, Denver plays out the string in its final two games, having been mathematically eliminated from the playoffs on Sunday and realistically eliminated a week earlier.

Asked on Wednesday if the roster needed an overhaul in the off-season, Pryce said, "We should keep the same 56 guys we've got. This is the best team, talent-wise, that I've been on. I've won two Super Bowls (in 1997 and 1998), and I think we are much more talented at a lot of positions than we were on those teams. That's just the truth."

So is the problem exclusively health-related?

"That's all it is," he said.

# Chiefs tight end says football's his first love

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — All-pro tight end Tony Gonzalez broke his silence Wednesday and insisted that he has no desire to give up football for an NBA career.

He is, however, increasingly frustrated at an offensive system that has curtailed the production that's sent him to the Pro Bowl the past two seasons. And he does hope to get a 10-day tryout with an NBA team this winter.

"Football is my love. Football is what I'm going to do," said Gonzalez, whose off-stated desire to play in the NBA has resurfaced in his contract year with the Kansas City Chiefs.

"I'm a football player first. I would never, ever, EVER consider giving up football for basketball. That would be stupid of me."

Through 14 games, Gonzalez has 63 catches for 830 yards and four touchdowns. While being named All-Pro the past two seasons, he averaged about 85 catches, 1,000 yards and 10 TDs.

Sources have said he was dis-

pleased with the initial contract offer the Chiefs made recently. If the team puts the franchise tag on him, they would have to pay him only the average of the top five tight ends, a position group that is one of the league's lowest-paid.

"I want to stay here," he said. "I want to make it work. It's like I have unfinished business here in Kansas City," he said.

He would prefer not to get the franchise tag. But it would tie him to the Chiefs for only one more season.

By putting the franchise label on him, would the Chiefs be taking a chance on losing him the following year to free agency?

"Tough question," he said. "I couldn't answer you right now because I'm not in that situation. If they franchise me this year, I play the one-year contract, we turn it around, which I think we are going to and we have a great year, then I would definitely want to stay here."

"I want to stay here. That is my No. 1 goal right now. I want to be a Chief for life."

# Nebraska seeks redemption in national championship

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The usually formidable Nebraska defense has had nearly five weeks to think about the 62-point, 582-yard barrage delivered by Colorado in the Cornhuskers' last game.

At least two senior starters are just happy they get a chance at redemption in the Rose Bowl.

"I've never been embarrassed to be a part of this program, part of the Blackshirt tradition here. That day, I was," linebacker Jamie Burrow said Wednesday, as the Cornhuskers prepared for the national championship game against Miami on Jan. 3.

"It was depressing, we knew we got whupped," cornerback Keyuo Craver said. "I was out there and I didn't know what was going on. They were killing us, they just shoved it down our throats. We learned from that."

The Cornhuskers better hope so, because the Hurricanes (11-0) averaged more than 43 points this season.

Nebraska (11-1) entered the Nov. 23 game at Colorado unbeaten thanks in great part to a defense that had allowed 127 points (11.5-point average) to rank second in the country in scoring defense.

But it was obvious early on that the

Cornhuskers were in big trouble.

"Colorado was just clicking on all cylinders," Burrow said. "We didn't execute. Probably nine of our 11 starters had their worst game of the season. We had to adjust on the fly, and we didn't."

Colorado scored two touchdowns before 3 1/2 minutes had elapsed.

# bowling results

<b>Wednesday Night Men's Scratch Classic League Dec. 26</b> Pro Line over Fitzgibbons 13-7 Weber Kennel over Bowladium Lanes 11-9 L&M Steel over Western Kansas Valley 13-7 Sigco over Basgall Construction 14-6	Mex & Company over Our Team 3-1 McDonald's over Half Fast Four 3-1 Goodland Development Corp. over Sun America 4-0 Charlie's Angels over Weis Oil 3-1 The Grannies & The Gramps over Blind Team 4-0
<b>Individual high game:</b> Jerry Amthor-244 <b>Individual high series:</b> Jerry Amthor-872	<b>Women's high game:</b> Shelly Thompson-187 <b>Women's high series:</b> Shelly Thompson-486
<b>Team high game:</b> Fitzgibbon's Inc.-609 <b>Team high series:</b> Pro Line-2313	<b>Men's high game:</b> Larry Cearley-224 <b>Men's high series:</b> Larry Cearley-568
<b>League Standings:</b> 1. Sigco 14, 6; 2. and 3. Pro Line and L&M Steel 13, 7; 4. Weber Kennels 11, 9; 5. Bowladium Lanes 9, 11; 6. and 7. Fitzgibbon's and Western Kansas Valley 7, 13; 8. Basgall Construction 6, 14.	<b>Team high game:</b> Goodland Development Corp.-813 <b>Team high series:</b> Goodland Development Corp.-2380
<b>Thursday Night Mixed League Dec. 20</b>	<b>League Standings:</b> No. 1 The Grannies & The Gramps 13-3; No. 2 Mex & Company 12-4; No. 3 Goodland Development Corp. 11-5.

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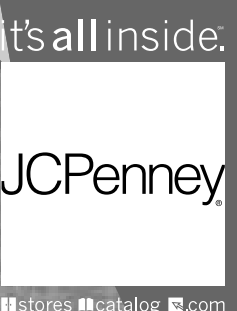
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