# Broncos get back on track

#### By Tim Korte

AP Sports Writer SEATTLE — Kicker Rian Lindell has been Seattle's only scoring threat in its last two home games.

That was a big problem for the Seahawks on Sunday, and a break for the Denver Broncos.

Steve Beuerlein came off the bench to throw two fourth-quarter touchdown passes after Brian Griese left with a sprained knee, leading the Broncos to a 31-9 victory on Sunday.

Clinton Portis ran for 136 yards on 23 carries and Deltha O'Neal returned a late interception 22 yards for a TD as Denver (7-3) rebounded from an embarrassing 34-10 Monday night loss to the Oakland Raiders.

"The difference was a sense of urgency," said Rod Smith, who caught a 14-yard scoring pass from Beuerlein. "Everybody had to play a little bit harder."

It has been more than a month since the Seahawks (3-7) scored a homefield touchdown, and the offense continued to struggle Sunday. Matt Hasselbeck threw for 180 yards with two interceptions, and Seattle ran for only 51 yards.

"We've kicked four field goals the last two home games, and that's embarrassing," center Robbie Tobeck said. "That's why we've lost the last two home games.'

The visiting Washington Redskins won 14-3 two weeks ago, but the

of their first-half possessions during help." last week's 27-6 victory at Arizona.

the Cardinals was absent against Denver

"I really feel we have a good team. I really do," said fullback Mack Strong, who caught a TD pass when San Francisco won 28-21 in Seattle on Oct. 14. "From position to position, we're a better team than we're showing."

Seattle had three young linebackers -Orlando Huff, Marcus Bell and Tim Terry — making their first start together because of injuries. The Broncos ran for 202 yards against the NFL's worst rushing defense.

"Anytime you catch a team shorthanded, you have to shove it down their throats," Portis said.

The Broncos showed no sympathy, outscoring the Seahawks 21-3 in the fourth quarter after Seattle pulled to 10-6 on Lindell's 37-yard field goal with six minutes remaining in the third.

Coach Mike Holmgren's headset broke for one stretch of the fourth quar-Seahawks needed a different play at the line.

"I'm not going to put that on Matt," Holmgren said. "Anytime we have to change plays at the line of scrimmage, Hasselbeck said. "I wasn't perfect. I we need to have a plan. We need to have was far from perfect. I just wasn't on Seahawks were encouraged after go- good plays that we're going to. When the same page as my guys.'

ing on the road and scoring on all five we audibled today, it didn't seem to

Griese completed 17 of 27 passes for Any momentum generated against 194 yards with one interception. Beuerlein threw only two passes, both for TDs.

sports

Beuerlein went right to work when he entered.

After the Seahawks held on three running plays, he rolled right and tossed a 1-yard TD pass to diving tight end Patrick Hape, giving the Broncos a 17-6 lead on the first play of the fourth.

"It knocked my breath out when I did it, but it was worth it," Hape said.

The Seahawks needed to wake up after generating only 55 first-half yards. Their first three second-half possessions produced three field goals, but it wasn't enough scoring to keep pace with Denver's TD binge.

"We have the same problems. We don't score in the red zone," said running back Shaun Alexander, who gained 18 yards on 11 carries. "We haven't beaten a good team. We've only beaten bad teams.'

Hasselbeck came in completing 67 ter, causing communication problems. percent of his passes, ranking second But Holmgren blamed himself for in the NFC. But he struggled against Hasselbeck's options when the Denver'srush, unable to use one of his strengths by throwing on the run. He was sacked five times for minus-27 vards.

"I tried to play a smart game,"



## Chiefs slip past Bills, 17-16

#### **By Steve Brisendine**

AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo.— The Kansas City Chiefs have been victimized by late, close finishes, and they've also benefited from them. So, being .500 sounds just about

right. The Chiefs needed Eric Warfield's

interception with just over 4 minutes left, followed by Priest Holmes' dominant late ground performance, to beat the Buffalo Bills 17-16 on Sunday and even both teams' records at 5-5.

"They say you can't start a string unless you get one win," said Holmes, who reached the 1,000-yard mark (1,012) faster than any back in Chiefs history. "We finally got the one win, and we're excited."

Also important, Warfield said, is that Kansas City's much-maligned defense held an opponent under 20 points for the third straight game.

"The defense has been on a roll here," said Warfield, who broke on Drew Bledsoe's high pass and outjumped Peerless Price for the interception at his own 3-yard line. "I feel we have reached our comfort zone. Hopefully, we can stay in it and finish out the season this way."

Holmes, who ran for 104 yards on 31 carries, sealed the win with 49 yards on a 33-yard field goal by Mike Hollis. six carries after Warfield's pick.

quarter. We wanted to show that the running game is definitely serious here in Kansas City."

Though Holmes had a 4-yard touchdown run for a 7-3 lead in the first quarter, the game-winner came from a more unlikely ballcarrier.

Quarterback Trent Green, limping with a twisted ankle and pained by sore ribs, scrambled 9 yards up the middle roughness for shoving Warfield after and slammed into a crowd at the goal line with 4:53 left.

"It took me a long time in my career to get on the field. Then, once I finally got there, I got hurt. So it's going to take quite a bit to get me out of the game," said Green, whose stint in St. Louis was cut short by a knee injury in the 1999 preseason and the emergence of Kurt Warner.

The Chiefs were helped on the game-winning drive by a pass interference call on Bills cornerback Chris Watson, giving them a first down at the Buffalo 19. It was one of several flags -both yellow and red — that hurt the Bills on Sunday.

In the second quarter, Kansas City successfully appealed what was first ruled a 9-yard touchdown catch by Eric Moulds. The replay showed that Moulds barely failed to get his left foot in bounds, and Buffalo had to settle for to pass Henry Marshall for the most

"They say football's a game of

Hollis finished with three field goals for Buffalo. His third, for a 16-10 lead late in the third quarter, capped a drive in which the Bills started at their own 20 and gained 101 yards in total offense.

They also committed 30 yards in penalties. Price was called once for holding and once for unnecessary a 9-yard catch.

"If that's a personal foul, then this game has gotten real soft," said Price, who also disputed the holding call.

Travis Henry had 126 yards on 24 carries for the Bills.

Morten Andersen kicked a 38-yard field goal in the second quarter, but was wide left from 45 yards early in the fourth.

Notes: The last three games between Kansas City and Buffalo have been decided by one point each, with the winning team scoring last and sealing the victory with a fourth-quarter interception.

Kansas City TE Tony Gonzalez caught two passes for 17 yards, moving him past Kimble Anders into fifth place on the Chiefs' career receptions list.

Gonzalez has 378 and needs 47 more catches in team history.

### **Colorado claims Big 12 North title**

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — Colorado accomplished what seemed so unlikely two months ago.

The Buffaloes clinched the Big 12 North title with a 41-27 win over Iowa State on Saturday night, advancing to the conference championship game for the second straight season.

The Buffaloes (8-3, 6-1 Big 12) got big performances in the fourth quarter from running back Bobby Purify and safety Medford Moorer, helping to compensate for the losses of Chris

Brown and Donald Strickland. Brown, the nation's leading rusher, departed in the third quarter with a 1:43 remaining to seal the win, capping bruised sternum after running for 127 yards and a touchdown. He was hos-

Strickland, Colorado's best defenreturn.

Kansas State quarterback Ell Rob-

erson ran for 228 yards, leading a Wild-

ing yards — the most against Nebraska

"That was probably the most disap-

Buffs overcame the setbacks. Purify scored on a 5-yard run with

cat ground assault that put up 415 rush-repped (in practice) closer to 100 times

per. Moorer returned a fumble 71 yards for a TD with 5:12 left. Colorado, the defending Big 12

### Wildcats send Huskers reeling, 49-13

this season.

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)-Following team. We anticipated we would play gest play of the game, a 91-yard secthree games in which Nebraska appeared to be improving, Kansas State sent the Cornhuskers reeling backward again Saturday with a 49-13 drubbing. It was the worst Nebraska loss since

Oklahoma humbled the Huskers 47-0 in 1968. "This team is kind of a situation pointing thing," Darlington said. "We a minimum."

where we go one step forward two steps predicated everything to control the back at times." Nebraska defensive run and we didn't do it. backs coach George Darlington said

pitalized overnight — but only so he would rest more comfortably than at home. sive back, went down with a sprained to No. 16 in the latest Associated Press ankle in the third period and also didn't

an 80-yard drive in which he carried on all six plays, including a 50-yard scam-

champion which climbed from No. 17 poll, will meet the winner of next week's Texas Tech-Oklahoma game in the Big But, as they have done all season, the 12 title game in Houston on Dec. 7.

ond-quarter sprint that made the score

than 25," Darlington said. "That's dis-

couraging when you have a situation

like that where you hoped to keep it to

Despite observations to the contrary,

Darlington said he believes the Husker

"The 91-vard run was a play we'd

14-0, was far from unexpected.

quite a bit better and we did not.'

Kansas State ran a few formations players continued to play hard Sunday. "That's typical when you're that Nebraska had not previously seen throughout Saturday's game, which playing a lot of inexperienced players. and Roberson scrambled for some saw Kansas State run up 21 unan-We were beaten by a very good football gains out of called passes. But his big-swered fourth quarter points to turn the

**Cowboys humble lowly Jayhawks** 

gino hadn't already planned on recruitng a few good-sized cornerbacks, he will now.

Time after time, Oklahoma State quarterback Josh Fields stood almost flat-footed and flung the ball toward 6foot-2 Rashaun Woods. Time after time, Kansas' 5-foot-10 cornerbacks leaped in futility.

It took Fields only two quarters Saturday to erase an Oklahoma State record for touchdown passes that had stood for 58 years. The first three went to Woods. Fields wound up hitting six touchdown passes.

Now, armed with a 55-20 conquest of the lowly Jayhawks, the Cowboys (5-5, 3-3 Big 12) can meet their goal of

### ap top 25

By The Associated Press

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The Top Twenty Five teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Nov, 16, total points based on 25 points for a first place vote through one point for a 25th place vote and previous ranking: Pvs

	Record	Pts
1. Miami (74)	9-0	1,850
2. Ohio St.	12-0	1,766
<ol> <li>Washington St.</li> </ol>	9-1	1,628
4. Oklahoma	9-1	1,622
5. Iowa	11-1	1,617
6. Georgia	10-1	1,472
<ol><li>Southern Cal</li></ol>	8-2	1,341
<ol> <li>Notre Dame</li> </ol>	9-1	1,284
9. Alabama	9-2	1,264
10. Kansas St.	9-2	1,171
11. Texas	9-2	1,124
12. Michigan	9-2	1,060
13. Virginia Tech	8-2	847
14. Florida St.	8-3	796
15. Penn St.	8-3	755
16. Colorado	8-3	754
17. Pittsburgh	8-2	638
18. Maryland	9-2	637
19. Florida	8-3	572
20. Colorado St.	9-2	511
21. LSU 22. TCU	7-3	344
22. TCU	8-1	246
23. Boise St.	10-1	212
24. Texas Tech	8-4	145
25. UCLA	7-3	121
Others receiving votes: Auburn 75 N.C. S		

Others receiving votes: Auburn 75, N.C. State 43, West Virginia 33, Oregon 20, Marshall 17, Arkansas 14, Virginia 14, Washington 13, Texas A&M 9, Tennessee 7, Hawaii 6, Air Force 5, Kentucky 4, N. Illinois 4, South Florida 4, Oregon St. 3, Iowa St. 2.

LAWRENCE (AP) — If Mark Man- being bowl eligible in coach Les Miles' second season by beating either Baylor or Oklahoma, two home games to fin-

> ish their regular season. "It was a very good effort for our team," said Miles. "We came in and took care of business like we wanted to. We had some advantages when it came to our offense and special teams."

The Jayhawks failed to win a conference game at home for the second straight year. Kansas was hampered by injuries to their safeties and by the fact that Zach Dyer had been moved from safety back to quarterback, where he started the season.

But it was an obvious mismatch all day long as the shorter Kansas defensive backs tried to deal with the taller Cowboy receivers.

"It looked like some playground plays," said Mangino, whose Jayhawks (2-9, 0-8) brought a dismal end to his first season as coach. "The quarterback just wound up, threw some balls in the air and he went up and got 'em."

Woods got his third TD catch just 1:17 into the second quarter, giving Oklahoma State a 20-7 lead that went to 27-7 with Fields' 35-yard touchdown pass to John Lewis on the Cowboys' next possession.

"We really took over the game offensively," said Woods, the Big 12's leading receiver.

"Josh was really accurate out there today and he proved to everyone that when he has some time to throw, he can really be one of the elite quarterbacks in the game.'

Fields, a 6-1 sophomore, wound up 17-of-26 for 354 yards, raising his season total to 2,235 yards and making him just the second Oklahoma State quarterback to pass for more than 2,000 in a season. His scoring passes ranged from 7 yards to 69 and were one shy of the Big 12 single-game record.

Even Fields felt sorry for Kansas. "Kansas had a tough season," he

said. "They battled through a lot, but we didn't take them lightly.

contest into a rout.

'I kept running out of bounds and inches," said Moulds, whose 7-vard stopping the clock, and they kept tell- TD catch against backup cornerback ing me, 'Man, you're crazy. Just get Corey Harris with 23 seconds left in the down," Holmes said. "At the same first half put the Bills up 13-10. "Sometime, we wanted to take it in for a score. body told me I should wear size 11 We wanted to dominate the fourth shoes instead of size 12.'

Sherman DIGITAL 1203 Main - Phone 899-6103 Harry Potter & The Chamber of Secrets (PG): Scary moments; some creature violence; mild language Nightly 7:00

