

Rams hand Bears another loss, 21-16

ST. LOUIS (AP) — If Marc Bulger is headed back to the bench, he's going there in style.

The former unknown third-stringer led the Rams to their fifth straight victory, throwing for 347 yards and two touchdowns in a 21-16 victory over the Chicago Bears on Monday night.

The victory got the defending NFC champions, who began the year with five straight losses — four under Kurt Warner — back to .500 at 5-5.

Next week, it's Warner's job again. And Bulger, typically, wasn't complaining.

Even after throwing for an average of

nearly 300 yards per game with 12 touchdowns and only four interceptions during his five-game run. Even though his yardage total of 1,496 is a record through five career starts, and even though he leads the NFL in passer rating.

"I'm just happy to do what I did, and we have Kurt Warner coming back to be our starting quarterback," Bulger said. "I don't think anyone in this room is disappointed about that."

Warner, who missed five games plus the bye week with a broken right pinkie, got in for his first series since Sept. 29 when Bulger left for X-rays and pain-killing injections on a sprained

right index finger in the second quarter. The Rams went three-and-out.

"It was a little fast and I had to try to get reoriented," Warner said. "But it felt good to get back in there. It seems like it's been forever."

Rams coach Mike Martz said all last week that Warner would be back as the starter for next week's game at Washington, and he didn't waver after the game. Warner said he'd be "good to go," but was complimentary of Bulger.

"He's played tremendously and tonight was no exception," Warner said of Bulger said. "I appreciate all he's done."

The defending NFC champions are

trying to become the first team in NFL history to make the playoffs after an 0-5 start. On Monday, they became the second team ever to make it back to .500 after losing the first five games, joining last year's Redskins.

The battered Bears (2-8) have lost eight in a row. Last year, Chicago was 13-3.

Quarterback Chris Chandler was sacked seven times for 40 yards in losses, including once in the final series as the Rams' defense held. St. Louis has allowed an average of one touchdown per game during the winning streak.

Injury could sideline Griese for three weeks

DENVER (AP) — Brian Griese's sprained left knee will keep him out of Denver's lineup against Indianapolis next weekend and could sideline him for three weeks.

Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said his quarterback will not practice this week after being injured in a 31-9 victory over Seattle on Sunday. Griese was hurt late in the third quarter when defensive tackle Rocky Bernard rolled into his knee.

The Broncos initially said Griese could be out up to a month, but low-

ered the estimate Monday after an MRI exam showed a second-degree sprain of the medial collateral ligament.

Shanahan said the good news was that Griese didn't have much swelling or a dramatic loss of motion that typically comes with such an injury. He said Griese's return will depend on how quickly the ligament stabilizes.

Steve Beuerlein, who threw two four-quarter touchdown passes in relief of Griese, will start against the Colts on Sunday night.

Chiefs get a win, but gain no ground

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — After slugging it out with Buffalo to beat the Bills by a point, the Kansas City Chiefs awake today to find they gained not one inch of ground in the AFC West.

Denver (7-3), San Diego (7-3) and Oakland (6-4) also won on Sunday and remain ahead of the Chiefs (5-5) in what's become one of the most competitive divisions in a parity-filled NFL.

Luckily for the Chiefs, they still play all three of their division rivals one more time, on the final three weekends of the regular season.

"If we can stay healthy and keep growing as a football team, we'll be competitive," coach Dick Vermeil said Monday. "But we have to keep getting better."

Getting better seems to be the theme of the defense. Although it's still ranked No. 32 in the 32-team league,

the Bills, 49ers and Oakland Raiders have discovered how deceptive that figure can be.

Buffalo had only one TD Sunday's 17-16 Chiefs' victory, while the Bills' tandem of Eric Moulds and Peerless Price, the No. 2 and 3 wide receivers in the league, totaled just eight catches for 76 yards.

"Going into it, they were the strongest duo and these guys have similar catches with similar numbers and nobody has really been able to contain them," said Chiefs cornerback Eric Warfield.

"But we knew that Drew (Bledsoe) was a strong-armed guy and he liked to get the ball down the field. So we played a lot of zone to give them the short routes. But as long as you aren't giving up a big play, that's good. People are going to catch short routes and he dropped a lot of them off to the

running backs and a lot of short routes to the wideouts, and that's good."

Two weeks ago, San Francisco scored only 17 points on what is supposed to be the leakiest defense in the NFL. A week before that, Oakland had only 10.

Once again this week, the Chiefs are officially listed No. 32 in total defense. But that's including the first five weeks of the season and proves only that statistics can lie.

Vermeil said he's seen the improvement of the entire team coming around the past two Thursdays.

"Usually on Wednesday (practice) you're still sore from Sunday," Vermeil said. "By Thursday, you've worked out the soreness and you go back to work. Our two Thursdays the past two weeks have been back-to-back as good as I can remember as a head football coach."

"They demonstrated that Sunday."

In the meantime, 13 of the 16 AFC teams are .500 or better, including the Chiefs. It will probably take every one of the six remaining regular-season games before the picture can be unraveled.

"You can call it parity. I just call it tougher competition," Vermeil said. "More teams are better. I don't know if we're good enough to be the dominating team. I know we're good enough to beat anybody on any given Sunday."

"I think the dominate team in the National Football League will emerge over the next six games. There will end up being a dominant team, or two or three. But right now you'd have to say Denver and San Diego, both 7-3 records, are on the dominant side. How they handle the last six games will determine whether they remain dominant."

Nets blow out Nuggets, create dunk highlights

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — The New Jersey Nets played to the crowd in a blowout over Denver, and not all the Nuggets enjoyed the show.

Denver guard James Posey was a little annoyed after watching the Nets appear to try to create a dunking highlight film late in the third quarter of a 99-79 loss.

"You just never forget," Posey said. "They felt they could do it. It was the right thing to do, so they tried it. They just tried to get highlights. You just keep it in the back of your mind."

During one sequence with the Nets ahead by 28, Jason Kidd set up Kenyon Martin for an alley-oop dunk, Martin stole a pass and scored on a big breakaway dunk and Richard Jefferson scored on a reverse alley-oop dunk on another pass from Kidd.

The play that most annoyed the Nuggets was a fastbreak in which Kerry Kittles opted to throw a pass off the backboard to a trailing Kidd.

The play failed but it seemed to cross the line that separates showmanship from showing up an opponent.

Rookie Nuggets coach Jeff Bzdelik got off the bench quickly after the play and started to move to the Nets' end of the floor. He just as quickly turned and walked back to the bench.

Bzdelik insisted he was angry with his team rather than the Nets.

"The way my team played annoyed me. This is the NBA, it's a man's league," Bzdelik said. "Nobody feels sorry for you. That didn't concern me. We allowed that to happen."

The Nets said they were just playing the way they always do.

"We're all professionals here, we're not trying to embarrass anyone," said Kidd, who led the Nets with 24 points.

"We're out playing, a play presented itself and we tried it. It won't be the first or last time we try to do something out of the ordinary."

Martin and Kittles added 15 points apiece and the Nets forced 28 turnovers in handing the Nuggets their fourth straight loss.

New Jersey led by 15 after the first quarter, 26 at the half and 35 after three

periods.

Kenny Satterfield scored 15 points to lead the Nuggets, who have five rookies on their roster — the second-youngest in the league.

"It's just a pride thing," Satterfield said of the Nets' dunk show. "I mean, I'm pretty sure if we were on the other end doing that, I'm sure their coaches would say the same thing, they were just trying to embarrass us really."

Denver scored a franchise-low 53 points in a loss to Detroit on Saturday. It was the second-lowest total in NBA history since the inception of the 24-second shot clock, just four points off the league record set by Chicago in 1999.

Kidd made sure the Nuggets never threatened the Eastern Conference champions, hitting three 3-pointers, a jumper and a layup in a game-opening 19-7 run. He also assisted on Kittles' fastbreak basket.

The Nets kept their starters on the bench in the fourth quarter as fans called for New Jersey coach Byron Scott to put little-used Brian Scalabrine in the game. The second-year player had two points in 7 minutes.

Notes: The Nuggets didn't get to the foul line until Posey finished a three-point play with 7:02 left in the third quarter. ... Denver scored 31 points in the fourth quarter, breaking a streak of seven consecutive quarters it failed to score 20. ... In their loss to Detroit, the Nuggets scored 24 points in the second half. ... Denver's 28 turnovers were a season high. ... Play at the start of the second quarter was stopped after 11 seconds because the clock was going the wrong way. It read 12:11.

Kingsbury's numbers, success hard to ignore

By Owen Canfield
AP Sports Writer

In a year with no clear Heisman Trophy favorite, why not take a long look at Texas Tech's Kliff Kingsbury?

Or Chris Brown of Colorado, for that matter? Or Quentin Griffin of Oklahoma? Or Seneca Wallace of Iowa State? Or Eli Roberson of Kansas State?

They have all had outstanding seasons in the rugged Big 12 Conference, giving Heisman and all-conference voters plenty to think about.

"I don't know who it is," Texas A&M coach R.C. Slocum said Mon-

day when asked about a Heisman favorite from the league. "Maybe it's a compliment that we've got so many that one doesn't stand out, because we have so many who are having good seasons."

Kingsbury's numbers are Heisman-like, to be sure, and he also has led the No. 24 Red Raiders to within a victory of the Big 12 South title, something few would have expected when the season began.

"I believe he deserves the recognition," said Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops, whose team faces Kingsbury this week for the South Division title.

"He's a tremendous player. I'm sure there's a lot of other quarterbacks around who wouldn't do it near as well as he has."

Kingsbury has completed 68 percent of his passes for 4,455 yards and 41 touchdowns. He had six TDs Saturday in a 42-38 victory over then-No. 4 Texas that knocked the Longhorns out of the chase for a conference or national title.

He threw 60 passes against Texas without being intercepted — only 10 of his 634 passes this season have been picked off.

"You've got to do something to get him off his rhythm, and we couldn't do it," said Texas coach Mack Brown. "That's the best I've ever seen him play."

Brown, Stoops and other coaches on the Big 12's weekly conference call said it would be tough to name one league MVP or Heisman candidate from the Big 12. Stoops touted his tailback, Griffin, a 1,000-yard rusher who has six straight 100-yard games. Brown said his quarterback, Chris Simms, deserves consideration.

Chris Brown, who leads the nation in rushing with 1,744 yards, has helped lead Colorado to the North Division title. Iowa State's Wallace was mentioned as a Heisman front-runner when

the Cyclones were 6-1, although they have since lost four of five. Roberson's play has been a big reason why Kansas State has surged of late.

Baylor coach Kevin Steele hasn't seen Wallace this year. But his team has faced Brown, Roberson, Kingsbury, Simms and Griffin the past five weeks.

"They're all great players and with what they're asked to do, they do it very well," he said. "To pick one of 'em, I don't have to so I'm not going to."

Colorado coach Gary Barnett said a league's strength will generally result in no clear individual being produced.

"Those things just happen, you don't produce 'em," he said. "Some guy catches fire and has a great year."

But as he has done all season, Texas Tech coach Mike Leach said Kingsbury is clearly the choice as the league's top player.

college basketball ap top 25

By The Associated Press
Monday

1. Arizona (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 19 Western Kentucky, Saturday.

2. Kansas (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. Holy Cross, Tuesday.

3. Texas (1-0) did not play. Next: vs. Stephen F. Austin, Saturday.

4. Alabama (1-0) did not play. Next: vs. Alabama State, Friday.

5. Pittsburgh (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. Duquesne, Saturday.

6. Duke (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. Army, Saturday.

7. Oklahoma (0-1) did not play. Next: vs. UC Irvine, Friday.

8. Florida (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. Louisiana Tech, Tuesday.

9. Michigan State (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. North Carolina-Asheville, Friday.

10. Oregon (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. Grambling State, Sunday.

11. Xavier (1-0) beat St. Peter's 87-48. Next: vs. Stanford, Wednesday.

12. Maryland (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. Miami (Ohio), Sunday.

12. Mississippi State (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. Louisiana-Lafayette, Saturday.

14. Connecticut (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. Quinnipiac, Saturday.

15. UCLA (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. San Diego, Tuesday, Nov. 26.

16. Marquette (1-0) did not play. Next: vs. Coppin State, Friday.

17. Kentucky (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. Arizona

State, Monday, Nov. 25.

18. Georgia (0-1) did not play. Next: vs. Belmont, Saturday.

19. Western Kentucky (0-0) did not play. Next: at No. 1 Arizona, Saturday.

20. Missouri (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. American, Friday.

21. Gonzaga (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. Hofstra, Friday.

22. Indiana (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. Massachusetts, Monday, Nov. 25.

23. Cincinnati (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. Tennessee Tech, Saturday.

24. Minnesota (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. North Carolina-Asheville, Sunday.

25. Tulsa (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. New Mexico State, Saturday.

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bowling results


Happy Our Bowling
Nov. 14, 2002

Collingwood split with KMA 2 and 2. Pocket Rockets over Nelson Splicing 3 to 1; Rasure Do It Center over B&B Electric 2.5 to 1.5

High Game Team: 851; High Game Ind: Lynn Abbott: 243; High Series Team: Rasure Do It Center: 2402; High Series Ind: Charlie Babcock: 652.

Standings End 1st segment

Rasure Do It Center	30.5	13.5
KMA	30	13
Pocket Rockets	22	22



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Friday, Nov. 22 - Junior High Basketball Pre-Season Tournament at Brewster 3 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 23 - Junior High Basketball Pre-Season Tournament at Brewster 10 a.m.; High School Football State Playoffs (to be announced)

Monday, Nov. 25 - High School Scholars Bowl at Grinnell 3:45 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 26 - 2nd Grade POW - WOW

Wednesday, Nov. 27 - Dec. 1 - NO SCHOOL THANKSGIVING BREAK

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