

Holmes' season may be over

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The season may be over for Priest Holmes, a hip injury leaving him tantalizingly close to some major NFL records.

"I would say there's a good chance it's over," coach Dick Vermeil said Wednesday night after talking with doctors.

Earlier Wednesday, Vermeil had said the league's rushing leader was definitely out for Sunday's game against San Diego. But specialists in Kansas City, New York and Florida all studied the results of an MRI and agreed the injury to the right hip is not serious.

"The doctor said in two days, you might feel like, 'Hey, I want to run,'" Vermeil said. "It's up to Priest. It may be six days. It may be three weeks. At this time, I won't just automatically put him on injured reserve."

As for the regular-season finale at Oakland a week from Saturday, Vermeil said, "I think it's doubtful."

Before he left the game in the third

quarter at Denver on Sunday, Holmes appeared on the verge of one of the greatest seasons ever by a running back.

The defending NFL rushing champion is just two touchdowns away from Marshall Faulk's single-season record of 26. His league-leading 2,287 yards from scrimmage this year is the fourth-best in league history and within sight of Faulk's record of 2,429.

But Vermeil made it clear he would not want his star running back to risk further injury by getting on the field before he's fully healthy. At 7-7, the Chiefs' playoff chances are dim.

"We're just not going to fool around," Vermeil said.

Holmes left the game Sunday when he was pulled down awkwardly after a 56-yard run that boosted his rushing total for the season to a franchise-record 1,615 yards, passing Miami's Ricky Williams for the league lead.

"At least we know there's no serious

damage. When he feels good, he can go again," Vermeil said. "How long that takes, we don't know. I'm certainly not going to push him. I would be very cautious."

Doctors generally suggest extra care with hip injuries because of the possibility of further damage.

"The whole situation is disappointing to him," Vermeil said. "But he knows himself what's at stake and we're just not going to fool around."

The embodiment of a team player, Holmes nevertheless had been excited about the possibility of breaking the records. But Vermeil said Holmes isn't a selfish player who would be disappointed by the missed opportunity.

"In my conversation with him ... we really didn't discuss how he felt about maybe not being able to continue to move toward NFL records," Vermeil said. "I think he has proved what he can do, to himself. I don't think he feels he has to prove it to anybody anymore."

Woodsen key to Oakland defense

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP) — Rod Woodson was so busy making sure Oakland's secondary was in sync last week, he mixed up his own assignment a couple of times.

The 37-year-old safety has been the constant among the Raiders' defensive backs this year. He's the only one in the unit to start every game. Because of injury week after week, Woodson has been forced to take a huge role in keeping the order.

"I did more talking last week than I wanted to," said Woodson, whose 98-yard interception return for a touch-

down sparked Oakland last month in its Monday night win at Denver.

It was the second-longest interception return in team history.

Woodson will be called upon again this Sunday, when the Raiders (9-5) play the Broncos (8-6) for the second time with a chance to secure a playoff spot if everything goes right.

Oakland's win at Denver snapped a four-game losing streak, then the Raiders won five in a row before losing at Miami last weekend.

The Raiders' other Woodson — cornerback Charles Woodson — has

insisted he will play Sunday despite having a crack in the fibula of his right leg. He has missed the past two games, and that's after he already was sidelined for seven weeks with a broken right shoulder.

But he did not practice Wednesday. Even if he does return, the Raiders will be short-handed.

Cornerback Tory James is doubtful after having surgery last Thursday to repair a fractured right fibula. Rookie cornerback Phillip Buchanon is out for the year with a broken left wrist.



Go Cowboys!

Goodland High Sports This Week:

Cowboys Wrestling Sat., Dec. 21, 9 a.m. - Holiday Wrestling Classic - both junior varsity and varsity (There will be a league dual with Hoxie before the tournament begins)

Cowgirls & Cowboys Basketball Fri., Dec. 20, 5:30 - p.m. at Goodland hosting Quinter (No other games until the new year - holiday break.)

Brought to you by:



Go Cowgirls!



Nuggets lose sixth straight to Mavs

DENVER (AP) — James Posey was missed within hours of being traded by the Denver Nuggets.

Posey was sent to Houston in a three-team deal just before the Nuggets lost 80-75 to the Dallas Mavericks on Wednesday night.

"The trade left us with a starting backcourt, one that was undrafted (Junior Harrington) and one taken in the second round (Vincent Yarbrough), to work against Steve Nash and

Michael Finley," coach Jeff Bzdelik said. "This left us with a learning process and we are learning the hard way."

Finley scored 31 points and Steve Nash added 14 of his 18 points in the second half as Dallas dealt the undermanned Nuggets their sixth consecutive loss.

"Mike's been on fire and really carried us for large portions of both tonight and last night," Nash said. "That's what he does for stretches of the season every year."

don't think we could have won the game without him."

Finley shot 12-for-27 and had 27 points after three quarters. Nash was 8-for-8 from the free-throw line as Dallas defeated the Nuggets for the fifth straight time.

Nowitzki played with a sprained right ankle. Nash had a variety of nagging leg injuries.

"In a game where everybody is not 100 percent, everybody has to pick it up," Finley said.

Juwan Howard led the Nuggets, who dressed 10 players, with 21 points. Denver shot only 36 percent, and Harrington and Yarbrough combined for 12 points and six of Denver's 21 turnovers.

Nowitzki, 1-for-9 through three quarters, hit a 3-pointer with 5:53 remaining to put the Mavericks ahead 74-60. After Finley's 3-pointer pushed the lead to 77-65, Donnell Harvey's dunk and a basket and two free throws got the Nuggets within 77-71 with 1:57 left.

Cowgirls lose to Benkelman

The Cowgirl 'C' team traveled to Benkelman Thursday, but despite playing hard, they lost 32-14.

"The girls played hard, but the shots just weren't falling," said Coach James Nelson. "We got our first loss to even our record at 1-1."

Chelsea Gray and Briana Taylor were the high scorers for the Cowgirls with 5 points each. The other scoring was from Tatum Schultz and Megan Rubio, who had 2 each.

The next action for the team will be 3:45 p.m. Friday, when they face the

Quinter Lady Bulldogs at Max Jones Fieldhouse. The junior varsity and varsity teams will follow the 'C' team games.

Individual stats for the Cowgirls:

Schultz — 2 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist

Gray — 5, 6, 4, 1

Bailee Guyer — 0, 4, 2, 0

Rubio — 2, 4, 2, 1

Kali Reitchcheck — 0, 6, 1, 0

Andrea Grieve — 0, 2, 0, 0

Taylor — 5, 4, 1, 0

Emily Burkett — 0, 0, 0, 1

Megan Stefan, Megan Sheldon, Morgan Titus, Gami Cloyd and Abby Murray also played.

UCLA names Bronco as head coach

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former UCLA wide receiver Karl Dorrell was hired as the Bruins' 15th head coach, becoming the fourth black coach in Division I.

In his third year as wide receivers coach for the Denver Broncos, the 39-year-old Dorrell succeeds Bob Toledo,

fired nine days earlier after seven years on the job.

The head coaching job will be the first for Dorrell, who coached 12 years at the collegiate level, including seven as an offensive coordinator before being hired by the Broncos.

Santa makes appearance at Topside Tipoff



A new look?

Before the boys championship game at the Topside Tipoff on Saturday, Santa Claus made an appearance to bring the basketball for the game, and he announced he had a special presentation for announcer Dale Schields. Schields was surprised, but took the wig in good humor, and wore it for the first half of the game.



Avalanche fire head coach for listless season start

DENVER (AP) — The Colorado Avalanche fired coach Bob Hartley, just two seasons after he led them to their second Stanley Cup title in six years.

Team spokesman Hayne Ellis said Hartley will be replaced by assistant coach Tony Granato.

Colorado, 10-8-9-4, is fourth in the Northwest Division with 33 points — 10 behind leader Minnesota. The Avalanche have struggled the most at home, winning just three of 15 games.

Hartley, who was promoted from Hershey in 1998, is Colorado's all-time wins leader at 193-109-48 in 4 1/2 sea-

sons with the Avalanche. He was 49-31 in the playoffs and got the Ava-

lanche within one game of the Stanley Cup finals last year.

darts results

Wednesday Nite Darts Week 8

Lounge Lizards over 3MTA3 14-2

Acme Darts over Diggin It 11-5

Confused over Dart Sharks 11-5

Bad A's over Silver Bullets 10-6

4th Round Outs: Duane Hanke-4, Melody Abbott-1, Casey Lee-1, Mark Wear-1.

White Night: Barbara Phillips, Christie Powell, Angel Corke

Low Tons: Mark Wear-9, Duane Hanke-8, Kevin Delano-7, Nan Linnell-5, Lana Jackson-4, Rodney Corke-4, Mel Bracelin-4, Eric Smith-4, Aaron LeRoux-3, Monty Phillips-3, Tony Dickey-3, Casey Lee-3, Melody Abbott-3, Cindie Yarger-2, Teresa Dickey-2, Mark Sieck-2, Ed Ginn-2, Jen Schamberger-1, Jeff Badgett-1, Patricia Smith-1, Cassandra Dawdy-1, Carlene Hachmeister-1, Audrey Huthansel-1, Brandi Scott-1, Tina Wilson-1, Louie Yarger-1.

Wins: Duane Hanke-7, Teresa Dickey-5, Jeff Badgett-4, Casey Lee-4, Mark Wear-4, Nan Linnell-4, Kevin Delano-4, Aaron LeRoux-3, Tony Dickey-3, Cindie Yarger-2, Mike Yarger-2, Carlene Hachmeister-2, Audrey Huthansel-2, Rodney Corke-2, Lana Jackson-2, Tina Wilson-2, Jen Schamberger-1, Monty Phillips-1, Nikki Quain-1, Patricia Smith-1, Chris Dawdy-1, Melody Abbott-1, Mel Bracelin-1, Brandi Scott-1, Ed Ginn-1, Louie Yarger-1.

Standings: 1. Confused 118-42; 2. Lounge Lizards 87-73; 3. Bad A's 84-76; 4. Silver Bullets 76-84; 5. Acme Darts 71-73; 6. Dart Sharks 68-92; 7. Diggin It 65-95; 8. 3MTA3 54-106.

Internet tonight!

899-2338

bowling results

Wednesday Night Men's Scratch Classic League December 18, 2002

Fitzgibbons over Western Ks Valley 16-4

Witzel & Rhea tied Sunflower Satellite 10-10

Bowladium Lanes over Weber Kennel 18-2

Basgasll Construction over Sigco 15-5

ProLine over L & M Steel 12-8

Individual high game: Don Seeger-256

Individual high series: Don Seeger-885

Team high game: Bowladium Lanes-626

Team high series: Basgasll Construction-2287

League Standings: Bowladium Lanes 97.5-22.5; Basgall Construction 75.5-44.5; L & M Steel 67.5-52.5; Sigco 67.53; Weber Kennel 67.53; Fitzgibbons 56-64; ProLine 53-67; Witzel & Rhea 44.5-75.5;

Wednesday Night Mixed League December 18, 2002

The Gamblers over Palace Barber Shop 3-1

Guzzlin Socializers over Phillips Brothers 3-1

JIBG over Shear Dimensions 3-1

The Pits over Blind #10 4-0

D&G Clan over Fun Lovers 4-0

Men's high game: Melvin Musil Sr.-225

Men's high series: Melvin Musil Sr.-611

Women's high game: Iris Bennetts-185

Women's high series: Marilyn Snethen-507

Team high game: Shear Dimensions-717

Team high series: Shear Dimensions-1964

League Standings: Guzzlin Socializers, Shear Dimensions, The Gamblers

Annual Goodland Holiday Classic Dual Tournament

at the Max Jones Field House
Saturday, December 21, 2002
Beginning at 9 a.m.

Featuring some of the areas top wrestling teams:

Goodland (currently ranked 2nd in 4A; 2002 4A Runner-up):

Hoxie (currently ranked 1st in 1-2-3A; 2002 1-2-3A State Champions):

Burlington (Colorado's 2002 3A State Champions):

Scott City (a perennial powerhouse in 4A):

Dodge City (very strong 6A contenders):

Ulysses (tough 4A competitors):

Hill City (1-2-3A): Leoti (1-2-3A)



9:00 a.m. Goodland/Hoxie League Dual/exhibition duals by other teams

10:30 a.m. 1st round Dual Tournament with two four team dual pools

Pool A: Ulysses, Leoti, Burlington, & winner of Goodland/Hoxie Dual

Pool B: Scott City, Hill City, Dodge City, & loser of Goodland/Hoxie Dual

12:00 - 12:30 p.m. Break

12:30 pm. 2nd round pool duals

2:00 p.m. 3rd round pool duals

3:30 p.m. Championship & Consolation of Dual Pools (1st Pool A vs. 1st Pool B: 2nd Pool A vs. Pool B; 3rd Pool A vs. 3rd Pool B; 4th Pool A vs. 4th Pool B)

Concessions available all day by Wrestling Enthusiasts Club.

Advertising provided by the Wrestling Enthusiasts Club.