



## Five Chiefs land Pro Bowl berths

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Dante Hall reported to training camp worried about getting cut. Now, he's headed for the Pro Bowl.

"I'm trying to stop smiling. I really am," said Kansas City's diminutive return specialist, beaming ear-to-ear. "But I can't."

He and four members of a Kansas City offense that leads the league in scoring were all named to the Pro Bowl Thursday, the most since six Chiefs were selected in 1997.

Right guard Will Shields, left tackle Willie Roaf, tight end Tony Gonzalez and running back Priest Holmes all led the AFC in fan voting at their positions.

But none was happier than Hall, the 5-foot-8, 180-pounder who was drafted in the fifth round in 2000 and spent 2001 in NFL Europe. A special project of coach Dick Vermeil, Hall fought his way onto the roster last summer after being switched from running back to wide receiver.

"It's just an unbelievable feeling. I never could think something like this could happen for me, going from struggling just to make the team to the Pro Bowl," Hall said. "You just can't imagine that, man. I'm really happy for (Vermeil) and my mom. If it hadn't been for his faith in me, I might not

even be in the league."

A Houston native, Hall has six touchdown plays this year of 49 yards or more.

Against Arizona on Dec. 1, he had a team-record 90-yard punt return for a touchdown.

The following week against the Rams, Hall had an 88-yard kickoff return and an 86-yard punt return for touchdowns. Then last week at Denver, he had a 75-yard catch-and-run for a TD before turning in what many felt was one of the most amazing plays they ever saw.

Taking a screen pass on the Denver 49, he darted left, then right, then left again. Then he went backward a couple of steps and darted back to his right, leaving defenders sprawled on the turf as he broke free into the end zone.

"That one in the Denver game, that's almost impossible to do," said Vermeil. "Dante Hall has come out of the blue. It's always more exciting for a young man who never expected to make it. He was overwhelmed when he first heard it."

Hall, who also has a 60-yard touchdown catch against Jacksonville, said he just "took off running" when Vermeil gave him the news.

"I couldn't believe it. Something just

told me to run," Hall said. "I can't put it into words. As a kid growing up, you just want to get to this level. And to think about the Pro Bowl? It's just unbelievable. The Lord's blessing me right now."

Holmes led the NFL in rushing last season and was leading this year when a hip injury put him out for at least this weekend's game. He received 747,297 fan votes, second in the overall fan vote behind only Green Bay quarterback Brett Favre.

He leads the NFL with 1,615 yards rushing, breaking the franchise record of 1,555 yards he set last season. He also has 21 rushing TDs, three shy of the NFL single-season record.

It's the eighth straight trip to the Pro Bowl for Shields, who was taken in the third round of the 1993 draft out of Nebraska and has started 157 straight games, the third-longest active streak in the NFL.

It will be the eighth Pro Bowl appearance for Roaf and caps an inspirational comeback. He was named to the elite squad seven times as a member of the New Orleans Saints.

Roaf joined the Chiefs in March in a trade with New Orleans after undergoing the kind of reconstructive knee surgery that has ended many careers.

## Broncos have two on Pro Bowl defense

DENVER (AP)—Defensive end Trevor Pryce and linebacker Al Wilson, two fixtures in a Denver Broncos defense that ranks seventh in the NFL this season, are going to the Pro Bowl.

Pryce and Wilson were selected to the American Football Conference team Thursday by a combined vote of the league's players, coaches and fans.

The game, between the stars of the American and National football conferences, will be played Feb. 2 at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu.

Pryce, making his fourth trip to the Pro Bowl, started for the AFC in 1999 and 2000 and was a reserve last year.

Wilson is making his second consecutive Pro Bowl appearance.

It was the fewest number of Broncos selected to the Pro Bowl since 1988,

when punter Mike Horan was the lone Denver representative. It also was the first time since 1989 that Denver did not have an offensive player selected.

Pryce went to the Pro Bowl the past three seasons as a defensive tackle and made a seamless transition to defensive end this season. He leads the Broncos with 8 1/2 sacks, most of them accumulated before opponents began double- and triple-teaming him.

Asked if he felt he played better at end or at tackle, Pryce said, "I think better at end. It's more natural for me. But you're farther away from the ball, and if the team runs the other way, that's hard on you. You're not going to make any plays when they run the opposite way."

Pryce said being selected "means that people around the league recog-

nize what I can do. This is my fourth time. I'm glad to be going, but I'm thinking of bigger things right now. I'd rather go to the playoffs. It's good to have recognition, but the season is not over yet."

Wilson, who leads the Broncos with a career-high 171 tackles, said his second selection feels better than his first.

"It's like I made it this year," Wilson said. "I was an alternate last year. For me to have the opportunity to actually be picked, as a player, to really make the team, it's a great honor for myself, as well as for my teammates."

"I felt like I was having a good year. At the same time, I felt there were things I definitely could have done better, there were plays I felt I should have made at times that I didn't make."

## Cowboys, Cowgirls play for wins before holidays

The Cowboys and Cowgirls will play their final game of the year tonight when they host the Quinter Bulldogs at Max Jones Fieldhouse beginning at 3:45 p.m.

Saturday the Cowboy wrestlers will host the Holiday Classic at Max Jones this weekend, featuring wrestlers from eight teams beginning at 9 a.m.

Tonight, the Cowgirls will try to extend their winning streak to six games as they head into the holiday break. Tonight's game will be the last of the year, concluding the first quarter of the basketball season.

Coach Connie Livengood believes the girls are playing well, but says this game will be another test. The Cowgirls have wins over Imperial, Neb., two over Burlington, plus Holyoke, Colo., McCook, Neb., and Ottawa, who they defeated to win the Topside Tipoff.

The Cowboys have a 3-2 record with wins over Holyoke and two over Burlington. They lost to Imperial in the season opener, and to Ottawa in the Topside Tipoff boys championship.

Cowboys Coach Jon McClean says he is pleased with the performance of

his team, and feels the fast-paced style of play makes them competitive and fun to watch.

The Cowgirls' varsity game is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m., and the Cowboys' junior varsity will play at the same time in the Junior High gym. The Cowboys' varsity game is scheduled to begin about 7 p.m., and the Cowgirls' junior varsity will play in the Junior High gym.

Saturday morning, the Cowboys will wrestle Hoxie in a league dual beginning at 9 a.m., and at 10:30 a.m. the first round of the Holiday Classic will begin.

Hoxie, Ulysses, Leoti, Burlington, Scott City, Hill City and Dodge City

are coming for the tournament. They will have pool duals, with the winners moving on to the championships at 3:30 p.m.

The tournament features some of the top wrestling teams, with Goodland ranked second in the state in Class 4A, Hoxie ranked first in 1-2-3A and Burlington last year's Colorado 3A state champion. Scott City is a perennial powerhouse in 4A and Dodge City is a very strong 6A team.

Coach Randy Bahe said he is hoping to have some of his injured wrestlers back for this tournament. When they went to Burlington on Saturday, the Cowboys were short six varsity wrestlers and finished seventh.

## Avs win first game under new coach

DENVER (AP)—Patrick Roy stopped 31 shots to help Tony Granato win his NHL coaching debut as the Colorado Avalanche beat the Edmonton Oilers 2-1 Thursday night.

Granato, who replaced Bob Hartley on Wednesday, was known as a feisty player in his 13 NHL seasons and that seemed to rub off on the Avalanche.

Colorado came out hitting from the start and peppered Edmonton goalie Tommy Salo with 29 shots to win for just the fourth time in 16 home games.

Alex Tanguay and Dean McAmmond each scored to make up for the absences of stars Peter Forsberg and Joe Sakic, who have missed three games.

Roy seemed to see everything the Oilers fired at him, making even the most difficult saves look easy.

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# Christmas

## ON US

### \$2,000 Give Away is Saturday, December 21, 2002

### \$1,500 first prize and \$500 second prize

The VFW will host Santa from 12 noon until 2 p.m. at the VFW hall.  
Santa Claus will have goodies for all girls & boys.  
Then at 2 p.m. the Goodland Daily News will have their **GRAND PRIZE DRAWING**  
In front of the Chamber of Commerce building on East 11th (if we have adverse weather the drawing will be held at Central School).  
It's still not too late to get your tickets.

**The deadline for collecting tickets is 1 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 19 at the following merchants:**

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