

Kansas City comeback victory bounces San Diego in OT

■ **FOOTBALL:** Rookie wins game for Chiefs with 87-yard punt return

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Steve Bono did his best Joe Montana imitation. Tamarick Vanover did the rest.

Vanover, a rookie who played in the CFL last season after leaving Florida State early, returned a punt 86 yards for a touchdown 7:27 into overtime Monday night, giving the Kansas City Chiefs a 29-23 victory over the San Diego Chargers.

The Chiefs, who won their third overtime game this season, had tied the score with 15 seconds left on a 78-yard drive engineered by Bono, who had understudied for Montana in Kansas City and San Francisco.

An 18-yard pass to Derrick Walker, followed by Lin Elliott's extra point, forced the fifth overtime game this weekend — an NFL record.

Then Neil Smith came alive in overtime, twice sacking Gale Gilbert, who replaced the injured Stan Humphries at quarterback for San Diego. After the second, Darren Bennett punted and Vanover,

who could have made a fair catch, grabbed the ball at the 14, evaded three Chargers tacklers and broke left around the wall.

He broke free about his own 35, evaded Bennett at the San Diego 40 and sailed into the end zone in an electrifying sprint for his second TD — he had a 90-yard kickoff return for a score against Seattle.

"I'm feeling joy right now," Vanover said. "I've been waiting all my life, I've been waiting all my life."

Kansas City raised its record to 5-1, tying the Chiefs for the best mark in the NFL with Dallas and Oakland.

John Carney kicked a 29-yard field goal with 1:12 left to give the Chargers (3-3) a seemingly safe 23-16 lead. Just over three minutes earlier, Humphries had put San Diego ahead 20-16 with a 4-yard TD toss to Shannon Mitchell.

But Bono, who was 27 of 41 for 329 yards, drove the Chiefs 79 yards in eight plays in just 51 seconds with no timeouts, finding Walker from 18 yards out in the end zone to tie the game with 15 seconds left.

It was Montana-like drive, with Bono

hitting Lake Dawson for 27 yards on the sideline and eventually finding Webster Slaughter for 16 to the San Diego 23. A 5-yard offside penalty put it on the 18, and after one incomplete pass, Bono found Walker.

Humphries, who left at the end of regulation with a bruised right shoulder, was 24 of 34 for 315 yards and continually made big third-down plays, including a 44-yard pass to Ronnie Harmon that set up Carney's field goal.

The score was 13-13 at the half and the teams played through a scoreless third quarter before Elliott's 49-yard field goal 2:41 into the fourth gave the Chiefs a 16-13 lead.

But the Chargers came back, stumbling a bit but moving the ball.

On third-and-8 on his 28, Humphries scrambled for 13 yards, then the Chargers got a first down on third-and-13 when the Chiefs' James Hasty was called for illegal contact.

Then, on a first down from the Kansas City 49, Humphries found Shawn Jefferson behind Dale Carter and he took it to the 4. On first down, he rolled out and flipped to Mitchell, the backup tight end,

for the TD.

The first five possessions of the game resulted in scores and Andre Coleman, San Diego's kick returner, set up the only two touchdowns in the half.

Coleman's 54-yard return set up the Chargers on the Chiefs' 37 and led to Natrone Means' 2-yard TD run that gave the Chargers a 10-3 lead 3:36 into the second period. But after Elliott cut it to 10-6 with a 21-yarder, Coleman fumbled at his 22 on the return and Martin Bayless recovered, setting up Bono's 1-yard TD pass to Kimble Anders that made it 13-10.

The Chiefs seemed set for another score when Raylee Johnson sacked Bono and forced a fumble that Shawn Lee recovered at the Chargers' 30. That led to the drive that ended with Carney's 36-yard field goal. The kick came after a 15-yard facemask call on Hasty put San Diego in field-goal range.

Each team used its first possession to eat up clock with little result — field goals by Carney and Elliott. The Chargers used 19 plays to take the opening kickoff 63 yards and the Chiefs retaliated by going 67 yards in 14 plays.

WEDNESDAY'S TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

■ **CHICAGO WHITE SOX**—Acquired Jeff Darvin, pitcher, from Seattle to complete the July 18 trade that sent Warren Newsom, outfielder, to the Mariners, National League.
■ **FLORIDA MARLINS**—Reinstated Bryan Harvey, John Johnstone and Vic Darenbourg, pitchers, and Darrell Wiltmore, outfielder, from the 60-day disabled list.

BASKETBALL

■ **NEW YORK KNICKS**—Waived Greg Butler, center; Jamal Faulkner, forward; and Herman Alston, guard.

HOCKEY

■ **BINGHAMTON RANGERS**—Announced Eric Flinton, left wing, was recalled by the New York Rangers and loaned to Charlotte of the ECHL.
■ **CAPE BRETON OILERS**—Released Steve Gibson, left wing, and Ole Kjenstad, center.

■ **WORCESTER ICECATS**—Received Jamie Rivers, defenseman, on loan from the St. Louis Blues.

EAST COAST HOCKEY LEAGUE

■ **JOHNSTOWN CHIEFS**—Waived Matt Yingst, Brad Turcotte, Jake Mueller, Rob Mercunas, Andy MacIntosh, Paul Lambiot and Mike DeGurse, forwards; Rob Milliken, defenseman; and Tim Back and Kevin Kelly, goalies.

■ **ROANOKE EXPRESS**—Waived Scott Barber, goalie; Colin Anders, defenseman; and Brett Dunleavy and Andrew Sherman, forwards.

■ **TALLAHASSEE TIGER SHARKS**—Waived Josh Singewald, goalie; Andy Stewart, defenseman; and Eric Brown and Shayne LeBreton, forwards.

ROWING

■ **U.S. ROWING**—Named Curtis Jordan and Mike Tesi men's assistant coaches for the 1996 Olympic team.

SOCCER

■ **MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER**
■ **MLS**—Named Jim Trecker special advisor for communications. Announced that

Dean Linke, director of communications, will become vice president of operations for the Denver franchise.

COLLEGE

■ **ARKANSAS-LITTLE ROCK**—Promoted Gary Hogan, baseball coach, to associate athletic director.

■ **COLLEGE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**—Announced the entry of Northeast Louisiana, UNLV and San Jose State as associate members.

■ **CALIFORNIA**—Named Karen Rosenzweig assistant media relations director.

■ **DARTMOUTH**—Named Guy Perron and Rob Abel men's assistant hockey coaches.

■ **FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON**—Named Pete Squires men's and women's track and field and cross-country coach.

■ **LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY**—Named Gregory Fox sports information director.

■ **SOUTHWEST TEXAS STATE**—Named Jim Elgas men's full-time assistant basketball coach.

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