

SPORTS

Broncos become model franchise for others to copy

MIAMI—Like the leather helmet and affordable Super Bowl tickets, the days of the NFL dynasty are gone.

The reasons are fairly simple: parity, salary cap and a constant green light for free-agency traffic. In this league, coaches are fired at the proverbial drop of a hat and players are willing to jump from team to team for raises that baseball free agents would find insulting.

But out from this mountain of mediocrity and movement spring the reigning two-time Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos, a team that has become the next-best thing to being a dynasty in the making. The Broncos instead are the NFL's newest "model franchise"—and just in time.

In Green Bay, Mike Holmgren is history and possibly so is the Packers' most successful run since Vince Lombardi. In Dallas, Jerry Jones can't stay off the sideline and the Cowboys can't stay in the playoffs.

In Pittsburgh, the Steelers didn't even make it into the postseason, and nobody is quite sure if there is a couch big enough in Pittsburgh for

Kordell Stewart to get his head on straight. In San Francisco, the team is old and the owner is persona non grata with the commissioner.

Meanwhile, the Broncos have successfully accomplished what only the Packers, Dolphins, Steelers (twice), 49ers and Cowboys have done. They won back-to-back Super Bowls. And now the remaining NFL franchises are poised to do what they always do after a Super Bowl copy the winner.

But the trouble there is the Broncos are more than just a balanced team, with playmakers on both sides of the ball and a legendary quarterback who may or may not return next season.

The Broncos have the NFL's reigning MVP in Terrell Davis, the league's hottest coach in Mike Shanahan and one of the NFL's top four or five owners in Pat Bowlen.

Who said there's no such thing anymore as a free lunch? The "Broncos way" of doing things that may be best exemplified by Shanahan's decision to provide each player with a breakfast and a lunch, compliments



(Above left) Shanahan definitely had something to smile about as he dominated his old boss Dan Reeves and the Falcons. (Above) As fans show their appreciation, a parade was set for the Bronco's in Denver. (Above right) John Elway sets his sights on retiring a winner, as he won the votes for Super Bowl MVP.

of the team, not only before a game but every practice day as well.

Small thing. Big results.

As soon as Elway does retire, Bowlen is prepared to offer the 38-year-old quarterback a piece of the team. Elway has responded by saying he would be interested in being a Broncos' minority owner, although he has been a little too busy over the past 16 years to think much about it.

"It would be a natural," Bowlen told the Denver Post this past week, referring to selling a small part of the team that he has owned since 1984. "I'm not selling very much of it to anybody, I can tell you that." Bowlen and Shanahan, they see the big picture. Bowlen sees Elway as more than just a wealthy man with a good head for business. He sees Elway as a lifetime Bronco.

Riverside Little League Sign-Ups

Baseball/Softball - Ages 5 to 16
Ainsworth United Church in church basement
2941 NE Ainsworth Portland, OR
Thursday, February 4, 1999 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 10, 1999 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Registration Fee: \$45
Maximum of \$90 per family
3 pieces of verification
Address required

For more information call:
Player Agent - Rhonda Williams: 286-0383
Player Agent - Vicki Davison: 283-8739
President - Narsha Gruhler: 281-4663

Surprise adjournment of arbitration hearing

MONTE CARLO, Monaco—The arbitration hearing into the drug case against Mary Slaney was surprisingly adjourned Sunday until April 24.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation gave no reason for the adjournment.

Slaney's lawyers and the IAAF both agreed to the decision.

"It was agreed that more time was needed to examine the case,"

IAAF spokesman Giorgio Reineri said.

It had been expected that the case in which Slaney was suspended then reinstated would be decided early this week. The hearing began Friday.

Slaney, considered the best women's distance runner in U.S. history, gave a urine sample during the 1996 U.S. Olympic trials that showed a testosterone-

epitestosterone (T-E) ratio above the 6-1 limit.

The IAAF suspended Slaney, claiming that USA Track & Field was slow investigating the matter.

USATF imposed its suspension. But Slaney challenged the ruling, and in September 1997, the U.S. federation cleared her.

The IAAF later also cleared Slaney to compete, but referred

the case to arbitration. Slaney was world champion at 1,500 and 3,000 meters in 1983.

Peninsula Little League 1999
(Serving the Youth of Inne: North and Northeast Portland)

Boys & Girls - 5 to 16 years of age.

REGISTRATION

Peninsula Park Community Center —
(700 N Portland Blvd.)

Saturday - January 30, 1999 10 am - 2 pm
Tuesday - February 2, 1999 6:30 - 8:30pm
Thursday - February 4, 1999 6:30 - 8:30pm
Saturday - February 6, 1999 10 am - 2 pm
Tuesday - February 9, 1999 6:30 - 8:30pm

Matt Dishmen Community Center —
(77 NE Knott St.)

Saturday - January 30, 1999 10 am - 2 pm
Tuesday - February 2, 1999 6:30 - 8:30pm
Thursday - February 4, 1999 6:30 - 8:30pm
Saturday - February 6, 1999 10 am - 2 pm
Tuesday - February 9, 1999 6:30 - 8:30pm

Self Enhancement Incorporated (SEI) —
(3920 N Kerby St.)

Tuesday - February 2, 1999 6:30 - 8:30pm
Thursday - February 4, 1999 6:30 - 8:30pm
Saturday - February 6, 1999 10 am - 2 pm

Blazer's Boys & Girls Club —
(5250 NE M.L.K. Jr Blvd.)

Tuesday - February 2, 1999 6 pm - 8 pm
Thursday - February 4, 1999 6 pm - 8 pm

Portland Police Precinct —
(449 NE Emerson St.)

Saturday - January 30, 1999 10 am - 2 pm
Saturday - February 6, 1999 2 pm - 5 pm

Tee-Ball
5 & 6 years old
For questions please contact
Michael Smith
529-8441

Challenger Program
(All ages with special needs)
For questions please contact
Nancy Smith
725-2232 (voice mail)

Softball Programs
Minor - ages 7 - 9 years old
Major - ages 10 - 12 years old
Senior - ages 13 - 16 years old
For questions please contact
Derrick & Lynn Butcher
281-7328

Baseball Program
Farm - ages 7 & 8 years old
Minor - ages 7 - 9 years old
Major - ages 10 - 12 years old
Junior / Senior - ages 13 - 16 years old
For questions please contact
Brian Butcher
735-9158

Things to bring when you sign-up
✓ Birth certificate
✓ Proof of address
in Oregon Driver License
15000 Bill
✓ Name & Number of Doctor
✓ Name & Number of Insurance carrier

Family Rates
\$30 for 1 player
\$50 for 2 players
\$75 for 3 or more players
\$5 late fee
for sign-ups after February 9th

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