

NFL

Historic Super Bowl no matter the winner

By BARRY WILNER
Associated Press

PHOENIX — An historic Super Bowl is before us.

Next Sunday, Seattle goes for a second straight title, seeking to be the first team to repeat since the Patriots a decade ago. A victory, particularly a convincing one, would stamp the Seahawks as one of the great teams of the Super Bowl era.

Meanwhile, New England’s coach and quarterback chase a record-tying fourth Super Bowl ring.

Yet, as has been the custom this season, major distractions have taken focus away from the field.

As much as Tom Brady, Bill Belichick, Pete Carroll and Richard Sherman might want the spotlight to shine only on the game itself — and the potential achievements at hand — much of the buildup to the kick-off will be about anything but.

From the New England under-inflated balls saga to injuries for All-Pro defensive backs Sherman and Earl Thomas to Marshawn Lynch being fined yet again for his code of silence with the media, the 49th Super Bowl has taken on a circus atmosphere.

Which seems fitting given all that has gone wrong for the NFL off the field — even as pro football remains as popular as ever.

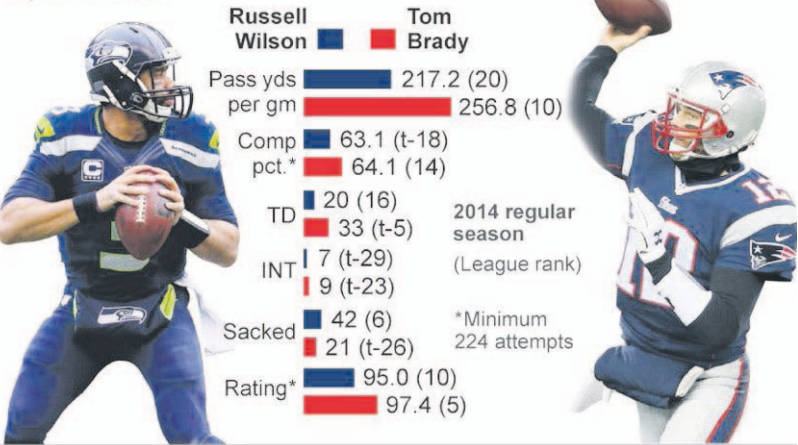
Just finding any comments about the matchup of the dynamic defense from Seattle and the potent offense from New England has been a chore. Everything else, it seems, has been in play.

Indeed, here’s how Seahawks All-Pro cornerback Sherman, recalling last year, describes the upcoming week:

“To us, it was just another week in the season, obviously. You’re with these guys 180 or 190 of the 365 days, so you get to spend a special

Their time to shine on the big stage

Russell Wilson hopes to lead the Seahawks to the first Super Bowl repeat since Tom Brady’s Patriots won back-to-back Lombardi trophies in 2004.



week with them. You get to know their families a little better because it’s not just them there, but it’s their families, their sons and daughters.

“A lot of times you don’t get to meet them during these weeks, we’re always at work from eight to six and everyone goes home. You get one day during training camp to meet people’s family, but that’s about it. So you have a good time getting to know people more.”

Notice, no mention of football.

But Sherman does insist the left elbow he hurt in the NFC title game will be no factor.

“If I had to slap my brother, I’d be able to do it,” he said jokingly.

Not much light-hearted stuff coming from New England. Not much football talk, either.

Belichick, who can equal Chuck Noll’s four Super Bowl rings as a head coach, is grilled about the air pressure in a football, not about the pass pressure Seattle can bring on Brady.

Brady, in turn, gets cross-examined about the weight of the foot-

balls, not about the weight of trying to reach Joe Montana/Terry Bradshaw territory with a fourth Super Bowl triumph.

“Obviously I’d much rather be up here talking about the Seahawks and preparing for the Super Bowl, which we’ve been trying to do for the last few days,” he said.

As for Lynch, while it’s certain the Patriots are scheming how to slow down Beast Mode, the league is trying to figure out what to do with him on media day and beyond. Lynch was fined \$20,000 Thursday for an obscene gesture in the NFC championship win over Green Bay.

In November, he was nailed for \$50,000 for not adhering to the league media policy. Another \$50,000 from 2013 that was withheld with the expectation he would cooperate in the future also was collected because, well, Lynch didn’t speak up when required to.

Some folks in the NFL offices must be wondering what else could happen to shift the focus from Patri-

ots-Seahawks.

What the football-watching world hopefully prefers is to get back to the machinations on the 100-yard gridiron. Such as the key showdown between All-Pro tight end Rob Gronkowski and Seahawks safety Kam Chancellor, perhaps the only defender who can somewhat match Gronk’s power and speed.

Such as how Seattle avoids the pitfalls that plagued it for much of the NFC title game, when it fell behind 16-0.

And how high-priced Patriots cornerback Darrelle Revis performs in his first Super Bowl after seven seasons of falling short (on the field if not at the bank).

There’s also what some have dubbed “Pete’s Revenge,” recalling how Carroll was canned by the Patriots after the 1999 season and replaced by Belichick. Carroll went on to phenomenal success at Southern California even as his successor was turning New England into a power. He’s displayed no animosity toward the Patriots organization — anything otherwise would have fit in with the theme of the 2014 season and the past few weeks, of course.

“It was a real challenge,” said Carroll, who went 28-23 in three seasons with the Patriots. “It’s a great place to be in sports: a great town, a great following, much like it is here (in Seattle). Just tremendous support and all, really heartfelt.

“That was the old days and all of the old facilities; it wasn’t quite as nice as it now, I am sure. Still, the whole setup was really exciting to be around, they had such history. It didn’t work out. We did some good stuff while we were there, but it didn’t work out and time to move on.”

Yep, maybe it’s time to move on from all the tangential stuff and concentrate on what the Super Bowl is supposed to represent: football.

Pro Bowl kickers face PAT squeeze in narrow goal-post gap

Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Kickers Adam Vinatieri and Cody Parkey are going to have to narrow their focus and kick a little harder to convert an extra point in Sunday’s Pro Bowl.

The NFL will narrow the goal posts from the current 18.6-feet to 14 feet. In addition, the kick will be moved back to the 15-yard line, making it about a 33-yard field goal.

Vinatieri, at 42 the oldest Pro Bowl member, doesn’t like the idea.

“Other people might enjoy that,” he said. “For me, I’m a traditionalist. Don’t change it unless it needs to be changed. The league has never been more successful. The fan base has never been greater. But the deciding powers are way above me.”



• Sunday, 5 p.m.
• TV: ESPN

The NFL is experimenting with making the PAT more difficult because they are virtually automatic now.

Over the past five seasons, Indianapolis’ Vinatieri hasn’t missed one in five years, going 196 for 196. Parkey, a rookie for Philadelphia, made all 54 of his attempts.

“I don’t prefer it but it is what it is,” Parkey said after the team practiced at Scottsdale Community College on Friday. “It’s going to be way harder. It’s the kind of situation where there are so many good kickers in the league that I guess made it look easy. They’ve got to find other ways to make it harder. No matter what it is, we’ll accept the challenge.”

For field goals, the posts will expand to their normal width.

DAWGS: Crafton crafty in Bulldogs win

Continued from 1B

Keegan Crafton led Hermiston with 21 points, and coach Jake McElligott was able to turn to his reserves to close out the fourth quarter.

That plan didn’t quite go as expected as The Dalles (1-15, 0-1 CRC) chipped away at a 26-point deficit to make the final score more respectable.

McElligott said the Bulldogs (4-11, 1-0) were too inconsistent for his liking, but still maintained a 12 to seven-point lead throughout the contest.

Dillon Zimmerly added 12 points for Hermiston, which led 23-16 at halftime.

Cody Conlee led The Dalles with 18 points. It was the eighth loss in a row for the Riverhawks.

HERMISTON 54, THE DALLES 42

HHS (4-11)	9	14	15	—	54
TDHS (1-15)	4	12	6	20	— 42

HERMISTON — Keegan Crafton 21, D. Zimmerly 12, C. Knutz 8, C. Smith 4, A. Nailion 3, T. Neal 2, L. Gammell 2, C. Lloyd 2, C. Flores, J. Ruiz, Salinas.

THE DALLES — Coby Conlee 18

3-point field goals — HHS 5, TDHS 1. Free throws — HHS 3-9, TDHS 15-18. Fouls — HHS 17, TDHS 14. Fouled out — none.

BUCKS: Strong first half drives win

Continued from 1B

(11-5, 1-0 CRC) with 14 points and Darian Lindsey added eight points, eight assists and eight steals. Kristin Williams (eight points, three blocks) and Kiana Sperl (nine points, nine rebounds) controlled the paint, and Bodmer added four steals.

Hood River Valley (5-11, 0-1) only had one player reach double digits in scoring. They were led by Kelsey Wells with 14.

Pendleton, which led 31-16 at halftime, will host The Dalles next Friday in its next game.

PENDLETON 60, HOOD RIVER VALLEY 34

PHS (11-5)	15	16	11	18	60
HRV (5-11)	11	5	7	11	— 34

PENDLETON — Marlene Bodmer 14, K. Sperl 9, D. Lindsey 8, K. Williams 8, H. Greb 6, K. McGlothlan 5, S. Greb 3, L. Taylor 3, D. Clem 2, C. Hoffman 2, J. Thompson

HOOD RIVER VALLEY — Kelsey Wells 14, M. Lara 5, M. Bloomster 4, K. Davidson 3, J. Mattson 3, M. Malone 3, B. Weekly 2.

BUCKAROOS: Eagles make 14 threes

Continued from 1B

“We let that hurt us more than it should instead of moving onto the next play,” Broaddus said of controversial calls. “We got caught up in the frenzy of it all, I guess.”

Pendleton took a 19-18 lead with 1:09 left in the first quarter and held it until Tyrone Stintzi completed a 12-0 Eagle run with a left angle three-pointer to make it 64-62 in the fourth. The triple was sandwiched between two other Eagle three-point makes that catalyzed the Eagle defense even more.

Hood River Valley converted 14-of-24 three point tries.

“They shot the lights out tonight. Probably half of those were unguarded. We weren’t up pressing. We weren’t up guarding. We

were just caught in the middle doing nothing,” Broadus said.

“We just didn’t have our hands up,” Green added.

Pendleton center Wes Persinger was held out of the first half due to illness which caused him to miss the previous two days of practice. Persinger started the second half and played the game’s remainder.

With the 6-foot-6 center back in the lineup, Pendleton opened the second half on a 11-2 run. He had nine points and seven rebounds in the second half.

James Bradt was second to Green in scoring with 15 points. Caden Smith had 12 rebounds, but was held to just eight points.

The Buckaroos also lost on Tuesday, when Irrigon’s Adrian Romero made a game-winning basket with less than a second re-

maining. The week of defeat will provides a crucial point in the Buckaroo season, Broaddus said.

“We’ll see how we respond,” he said. “It’s easy to be great when everything is going well. When you have a little adversity, we’ll see what our character is made of. We’ll see how we respond and bounce back or if this sends us into a downward spiral.”

The Buckaroos will test their resolve at The Dalles next Friday.

HOOD RIVER VALLEY 82, PENDLETON 72

HRV (8-7)	18	13	18	33	— 82
PEN (9-6)	23	13	20	16	— 72

HOOD RIVER VALLEY — Kuechman 2, Zeigler 6, Buckley 7, Walker 0, Ellsworth 13, Stintzi 14, Skyler Hunter 15, Kennedy 5, Gibbs 11, Tegman 9.

PENDLETON — Sonny Green 22, M. Freeman 0, Q. Cockburn 0, K. Quinn 6, T. Hancock 8, D. George 0, W. Persinger 9, W. Morris 0, C. Smith 8, J. Bradt 15, L. Winterton 4.

3-point field goals — HRV 14, PEN 4. Free throws — HRV 8-14, PEN 16-24. Fouls — HRV 18, PEN 17. Fouled out — K. Quinn (PEN), C. Smith (PEN). Technical fouls — Hood River Valley coach.

HERMISTON: Edmiston three triggers run

Continued from 1B

doing things they weren’t supposed to,” but he was hoping they would figure out The Dalles’ dribble-drive offense and collapsing man defense.

“They’re smart enough to figure that out,” he said. “Sometimes it just takes a couple knockout attempts to wake us up.”

Hermiston have a few knockout attempts of their own in the fourth, and most of them landed.

Right out of the gate in the fourth, Edmiston hit a 3 to put

the Bulldogs up 39-31, and they wouldn’t look back. Headings followed that up with a layup off one of 15 Riverhawk turnovers, and the Bulldogs outscored The Dalles 15-5 in the final period.

The last time Hermiston lost in the Columbia River Conference was in 2012-13 when The Dalles pulled it off. Drotzmann doesn’t plan on reliving that.

“We don’t plan on losing CRC this year,” she said. “We know that everyone’s gonna come at us

because we’re No. 1 in the state, and everyone’s gonna play a good game against us. We can’t just expect easy games. It’ll be a good challenge.”

HERMISTON 51, THE DALLES 36

TDHS (8-7)	5	11	15	5	31
HHS (13-3)	10	10	10	15	51

THE DALLES — K. Hoylman 3, T. Telles 8, J. Thomasian 0, I. Taylor 0, L. Cimmiyotti 7, M. Goslin 0, B. McCall 7, K. Conkin 11, J. Bonihan 0, K. Jensen 0.

HERMISTON — S. Moore 2, S. Gilbert 0, A. Drotzmann 10, M. Foley 2, M. Juul 5, J. Edmiston 8, K. Padilla 6, T. Headings 10, R. Andreason 0, M. Lind 0, K. Harrison 0, J. Gutierrez 1, S. Ramirez 7.

3-point field goals — TDHS 4, HHS 5. Free throws — TDHS 6-12, HHS 4-8. Fouls — TDHS 10, HHS 9.

RESER’S: Bulldogs in eleventh after first day

Continued from 1B

normally have. Some of our guys I count on to win are not competing. (I’m) just trying to get through the day.”

The few remaining wrestlers who were still competing in the consolation portion of their bracket ended up getting eliminated in the last round of play Friday night.

The consolation bracket has been a point of pride for the rival school to the west.

Hermiston’s reigning state

champions, 195-pound Sam Colbray and 113-pound Liam Tarvin, cruised to semifinals matches that will take place Saturday morning.

But Bulldogs coach Shaun Williams was not concerned with the championship bracket. It was the consolation bracket — the “back side,” as he called it — that Williams said is crucial for his team’s success moving forward.

“That’s where you win a lot of tournaments,” he said. “The

guys that lost, that are not in the championship round, they need to come through and place. There are a lot more matches in the back side, and you can pick up a lot of bonus in the back side. They’ve just got to battle.”

Six Hermiston wrestlers reached the fourth round of the consolation bracket, with three of them — Bob Coleman (170), Jesse Rodelo (220) and Brock McDonough (160) — advancing into Saturday’s final rounds of the consolation

College Basketball

Moore leads ‘Wolves to win

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Blue Mountain women’s basketball team won its third game in a row with a 71-58 thumping of Yakima Valley on Friday in NWAC East play.

Mar’Shay Moore led the way with 18 points for the Timberwolves (10-5, 3-1 East), Savannah Heugly added 14 points, 10 rebounds and five assists, and Cydney Bolton added eight assists.

Blue Mountain shot just 38.4 percent from the field, but Yakima was mired at 34.9 for the game. Each team finished with 50 rebounds.

BLUE MOUNTAIN 71, YAKIMA VALLEY

YVCC (4-14)	58	—	71
BMCC (10-5)	30	28	— 58

YAKIMA VALLEY — Myleah Musgrave 10, T. Merkle 9, H. Ceja 9, A. Yarlott 7, M. Villegas 6, L. Iosai 5, A. Hayes 4, M. Kasumu 4, S. Yates 4.

BLUE MOUNTAIN — Mar’Shay Moore 18, S. Heugly 14, R. Gerlinger 11, B. Gregory 7, C. Bolton 7, J. Desautel-Ootsey 6, K. Reyna 6, L. Chung 2.

3-point field goals — BMCC 5-13, YVCC 2-6. Free throws — BMCC 10-17, YVCC 12-22. Fouls — BMCC 22, YVCC 18. Fouled out — Kasumu (YVCC), Gregory (BMCC).

EASTERN OREGON 78, OREGON TECH 66

— At LaGrande, thirteen made three-pointers carried the Mountaineers (16-5, 8-2 CCC) to a victory over the Owls (16-6, 5-5 CCC) Friday night in CCC play.

Jordan Klebaum led the Mountaineers (16-5, 8-2 CCC) with five 3-pointers, to account for her 15 points. Maloree Moss scored 16 points, hitting two 3-pointers.

EASTERN OREGON 78, OREGON TECH 66

OT (16-6)	66	—	78
EOU (16-5)	36	42	— 78

OREGONTECH — K. Leveque 18, M. Whitestone 10, C. Thibault 9, T. Armstrong 8, A. Vanderbrink 0, C. McIsaac 7, B. Garrett 4, M. Cottier 4, R. Matteri 2, M. Drzyach 2, K. Habrick 2, K. Hasagen 0.

EASTERN OREGON — M. Moses 16, J. Klebaum 15, N. Osborne 9, A. Rogers 9, M. Laan 8, M. Ah-You 11, K. Hill 5, K. Larson 5, M. Freeman 0, L. Quintana 0, J. Yarde 0, A. Knight 0, L. Wells 0.

3-point field goals — OT 9, EOU 13. Free throws — OT 5-6, EOU 9-13. Fouls — OT 16, EOU 16. Fouled out — R. Matteri (OT).

MEN’S BASKETBALL

YAKIMA VALLEY 82, BLUE MOUNTAIN 69

— At Pendleton, Mac Wood led four Yaks in double digits with 27 points and Yakima Valley (3-15, 1-3 East) earned its first win in NWAC East Region play on Friday.

Blue Mountain (4-12, 0-4) lost its fourth game in a row and was led by Coleman McElroy with 17 points.

YAKIMA VALLEY 82, BLUE MOUNTAIN 69

YVCC (3-15)	41	41	— 82
BMCC (4-12)	34	35	— 69

YAKIMA VALLEY — Mac Wood 27, B. Cleverings 17, A. Robbs 13, D. Trammell 10, M. Williams 6, M. Clark 2, T. Satterwhite 2, S. Donovan 2, C. Bussey 2, D. Eubanks 1.

BLUE MOUNTAIN — Coleman McElroy 17, L. Meyers 16, M. Mueller 11, J. Schultz 10, J. Wells 8, J. Rivas 4, J. Christensen 3, J. Bell.

3-point field goals — BMCC 8-27, YVCC 11-25. Free throws — BMCC 5-11, YVCC 17-24. Fouls — BMCC 21, YVCC 13. Fouled out — Wells (BMCC).

EASTERN OREGON 66, OREGON TECH 61

— At LA GRANDE

— De’Sean Mattox drained a three-pointer 51 seconds left to lift the Mountaineers (12-4, 4-6 CCC) to victory over the Owls (12-8, 5-5 CCC).

Mattox led EOU with 17 points, including four three-point makes. He added seven rebounds.

EASTERN OREGON 66, OREGON TECH 61

OT (12-8)	61	—	66
EOU (12-4)	32	34	— 64

OREGONTECH — L. Moore 14, K. Waits 13, J. Johnson 7, B. Bautista 5, A. Flint 5, S. Simpson 10, D. Schramm 3, T. Van Kirk 2, B. Beard 2, C. Faust 0, J. Carvalho 0.

EASTERN OREGON — K. Mattox 17, C. Rada 12, B. McGriff 9, K. Johnson 6, M. Carne 6, D. Edwards 14, C. Parrot 2, A. Strock 0, M. Loupe 0.

3-point field goals — OT 5, EOU 12. Free throws — OT 4-10, EOU 8-9. Fouls — OT 12, EOU 11.