

NFL

Denver acquires QB Sanchez from Philadelphia

By ARNIE STAPLETON
AP Pro Football Writer

DENVER — Mark Sanchez is getting a change of scenery and a new job description: replacing Peyton Manning.

Instead of being buried deep on Philadelphia’s depth chart, the veteran quarterback has a chance to lead Denver’s defense of its Super Bowl title.

He proved early in his career that he can take a team with a great defense on a deep playoff run and he’ll be asked to do the same in Denver if he emerges as the starter.

The Broncos acquired the seven-year veteran from the Eagles on Friday, a move Denver general manager John Elway calls the first step toward replacing Manning.

The Super Bowl champions were left without an experienced quarterback this week when five-time MVP Manning retired and Brock Osweiler signed with Houston as a free agent. So they have turned to Sanchez, who was acquired for a conditional 2017 draft pick.

“He brings veteran leadership & will compete,” Elway tweeted. “This is the 1st step in our process.”

Sanchez, 29, is due \$4.5 million next season in the final year of his contract.

He spent his first five NFL seasons with the Jets, helping them to the AFC championship game in his first two years by winning four road playoff games. But the fifth overall pick in the 2009 draft lost his job in New York and spent the last two seasons with the Eagles, starting 10 games and going 4-6 filling in for Nick Foles and later Sam Bradford.

The former star at Southern California



In this Nov. 26, 2015, file photo, Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Mark Sanchez passes during pregame of an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions, in Detroit.

AP Photo/Paul Sancya

has a 37-35 record as a starter in his seven NFL seasons. He joins Trevor Siemian, who took one snap last year as a rookie, as the only quarterbacks on Denver’s roster.

The Broncos had hoped to hand things over to Osweiler, Manning’s longtime apprentice. But they were outbid by the Texans, who signed Osweiler to a four-year, \$72 million contract Thursday. That deal includes \$37 million in guarantees for a quarterback who suffered four injuries in seven career starts, all in 2015.

Sanchez became expendable in Philadelphia when new coach Doug Pederson lured longtime Chiefs backup Chase Daniel with him to the Eagles from Kansas City for \$21 million over three years. Pederson said

Sam Bradford, who signed a two-year, \$36 million deal this month, would remain his starter.

Of course, Sanchez will have to win the starting job in Denver and Elway isn’t done addressing his QB needs. He’ll likely obtain another experienced passer and almost certainly will grab a QB in next month’s draft.

The Broncos won it all despite having the league’s second-lowest cumulative passer rating behind only the Rams.

In Danny Trevathan and Malik Jackson, they’ve lost two starters to free agency from their dazzling defense that led the way to a 24-10 win over Carolina in Super Bowl 50. But behind game MVP Von Miller, who

received the Broncos’ franchise tag, Denver should be in position to remain among the league’s elite defenses in 2016.

Elway isn’t just scrambling to replace his iconic quarterback. He’s facing the possibility of replacing 10 players who started in the Super Bowl, including lead running back C.J. Anderson, who signed a four-year, \$18 million offer sheet from the Miami Dolphins on Thursday.

The Broncos have five days to match Miami’s offer or they’ll lose him without compensation because they only placed the low-round tender worth \$1.671 million on him.

The higher tender would have paid Anderson \$2.355 million in 2016 or required another suitor to give them a second-round draft pick to pry him away.

Although he battled foot and ankle injuries last season, Anderson rushed for 720 yards and five TDs. He started in the Super Bowl and rushed for 90 yards and Denver’s only offensive touchdown.

The Broncos placed the higher tender on another one of their key restricted free agents, inside linebacker Brandon Marshall, who tweeted Friday: “So everybody’s getting a big contract except me I see.”

Of the 11 offensive starters in the Super Bowl, only center Matt Paradis, right tackle Michael Schofield and receivers Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders are locks to return. Schofield likely will move to guard or back up newly signed free agent Donald Stephenson.

The Broncos learned Friday they’ll have three compensatory picks in next month’s draft.

College Basketball

Mountain West will stick with 11-team tournament

By JOHN MARSHALL
AP Basketball Writer

LAS VEGAS — Mountain West basketball coaches complained when the conference’s presidents disregarded their vote on keeping the men’s and women’s basketball tournament at 11 teams.

Now the coaches are getting their wish.

The Mountain West Conference board of directors voted on Friday to abandon a plan to reduce the postseason tournaments to eight teams, protecting the original 11-team format.

“The Mountain West Board of Directors committed to a traditional format for the MW Basketball Championships which includes all Conference teams,” a statement read. “This course of action ensures the best possible decisions for the Conference as a whole, its individual member institutions, the student-athletes and their many fans across the Western United States.”

The decision was welcome news for many of the conference’s coaches.

The coaches were asked last year if they would be in favor of trimming the tournament to eight teams and they voted 11-0 in favor of keeping the bracket in its current format, according to documents obtained by GoWyoGo.com.

Conference presidents apparently disregarded the coaches’ vote and announced in December that the men’s and women’s tournaments will drop to eight teams in 2017.

That didn’t sit well with many of the coaches who believe every team should get a shot at earning the conference’s automatic NCAA Tournament bid. They also were concerned that an eight-team tournament would reflect poorly on the conference as it tries to compete with the Power Five leagues.

“You play a season to get a chance to play in the postseason,” San Diego State coach Steve Fisher said during this year’s MWC tournament. “All our coaches feel that way, cause that’s what the players deserve, that opportunity to come and play.”

Still, no everyone was in favor of sticking with 11 teams.

Colorado State women’s coach Ryun Williams, whose team is the No. 1 seed in this year’s tournament, would like to see the regular-season champion get the automatic berth.

The Rams are 48-6 over the past three seasons, yet had not been to the NCAA Tournament until winning the MWC Tournament on Friday.

“To have to go win a tournament when you grind it out for 18 games, that to me, that’s your best team,” Williams said. “That’s the team that should go to the NCAA Tournament. Anything can happen in a three-day tournament. That’s March Madness. It’s built for upsets. It’s just a tough position to be in when you’re that top seed and to weather that.”

College Basketball

Seton Hall beats No. 5 Xavier 87-83 in Big East semifinal

By RACHEL COHEN
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Seton Hall’s Angel Delgado muscled the ball through the basket to set up a three-point play, and then kissed his biceps in celebration.

The Pirates were too strong for fifth-ranked Xavier on Friday in their

87-83 victory in the Big East Tournament semifinals. They earned their first berth in the championship game since 1993 — before all but one of their current players were born.

“These guys are tough,” coach Kevin Willard said. “I wouldn’t want to play the five guys that are out there on the court.”

Khadeen Carrington had 23

points and seven rebounds and fellow sophomore Isaiah Whitehead added 20 points and eight assists as third-seeded Seton Hall beat the Musketeers for the second time in less than two weeks.

The Pirates face third-ranked Villanova in Saturday’s championship game.

“This is what we talked about

SCOREBOARD

Local slate

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL	
Today	Hermiston vs. Marist Catholic (at Gill Coliseum, Corvallis), 9 a.m.

PREP BASEBALL	
Monday	Dufur at Riverside, 4 p.m.
Tuesday	Hermiston at Ridgeview, 4 p.m. College Place (WA) at Mac-Hi, 4 p.m. Weston-McEwen at Heppner, 4 p.m. Southridge (WA) at Pendleton, 4 p.m.
Thursday	Riverside at Irrigon, 3:30 p.m. Union at Stanfield (DH), 4/6 p.m. Mac-Hi at Weston-McEwen, 4:30 p.m.
Friday	Joseph at Pilot Rock (DH), 11 a.m./1 p.m. Dufur at Umatilla (DH), 2/4 p.m. Pendleton at Hanford (WA) (DH), 3/5 p.m. Central Catholic at Hermiston, 4 p.m.
Saturday, March 19	Weston-McEwen at Dayton (WA), 2 p.m.

PREP SOFTBALL	
Monday	Riverside at Pilot Rock, 4 p.m.
Tuesday	Ridgeview at Hermiston, 4 p.m. Hanford (WA) at Pendleton, 4 p.m.
Thursday	Union at Echo, 3 p.m. Riverside at Irrigon, 3:30 p.m. Umatilla at Heppner, 4:30 p.m. Weston-McEwen at Mac-Hi, 4:30 p.m.
Friday	Central Linn at Pilot Rock, 9 a.m. Weston-McEwen vs. Scio (at Pilot Rock), 11 a.m. Weston-McEwen vs. Central Linn (at Pilot Rock), 1 p.m.
Saturday, March 19	Liberty at Hermiston (DH), 3/5:30 p.m. Kamiakin (WA) at Pendleton (DH), 3/5 p.m. Enterprise at Pilot Rock, 5 p.m.
Saturday, March 19	Scio at Pilot Rock, 11 a.m. Weston-McEwen vs. Enterprise (at Pilot Rock), 1 p.m. Weston-McEwen at Pilot Rock, 5 p.m.

PREP TRACK & FIELD	
Thursday	Pendleton, Hermiston, Mac-Hi, Riverside, Umatilla, Weston-McEwen, Stanfield, Pilot Rock, Irrigon, Heppner, Helix at Buck Track Classic, Noon

PREP TENNIS	
Tuesday	Hermiston at Hanford (WA), 4 p.m. Mac-Hi at College Place (WA), 4 p.m.
Thursday	Helix, Weston-McEwen at Umatilla, 4 p.m.
Saturday	Hermiston boys at AC Davis (WA), 3:30 p.m.

PREP GOLF	
Tuesday	Hermiston, Pendleton girls at The Dalles, 10 a.m.
Thursday	Heppner at Willow Creek, 2 p.m. Mac-Hi at Milton-Freewater, 2:30 p.m.
Friday	Pendleton, Hermiston boys at The Dalles, 10 a.m.

COLLEGE BASEBALL	
Sunday	Clackamas at Blue Mountain (DH), 11 a.m./2 p.m.
Saturday, March 19	PBA at Blue Mountain (DH), 11 a.m./2 p.m.
Sunday, March 20	Olympic at Blue Mountain (DH), 11 a.m./2 p.m.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL	
Sunday	Blue Mountain at Clark (DH), Noon/2 p.m.
Friday	North Idaho at Blue Mountain (DH), 2/4 p.m.
Saturday, March 19	Spokane at Blue Mountain (DH), Noon/2 p.m.

Basketball

OSAA

Boys

6A Consolation
Jesuit 66, WESTVIEW 54
Sheldon 67, CLACKAMAS 61

6A Semifinals
WEST LINN 75, Jefferson-Portland 69
SOUTH MEDFORD 47, South Salem 45

5A Consolation
CHURCHILL 69, Springfield 39
MOUNTAIN VIEW 81, Parkrose 61

5A Semifinals
WILSONVILLE 67, Summit 43
LIBERTY 54, Corvallis 52

4A Consolation
COTTAGE GROVE 68, Henley 41
Astoria 69, MARSHFIELD 61

4A Semifinals
PHILOMATH 61, Gladstone 46
SEASIDE 56, Scappoose 48

Girls

6A Semifinals
South Salem 58, JESUIT 46
TIGARD 50, Canby 35

5A Semifinals
SILVERTON 37, Corvallis 36
SPRINGFIELD 46, La Salle Prep 43

4A Consolation
BROOKINGS-HARBOR 55, Madras 44
BANKS 47, Seaside 36

4A Semifinals
CASCADE 52, La Grande 47
Sutherlin 40, MAZAMA 38

TOURNAMENT	NCAA
American Athletic Conference	
Quarterfinals	
Memphis 89, Tulsa 67	
Temple 79, South Florida 62	
Tulane 72, Houston 69	
UConn 104, Cincinnati 97, 4OT	
Atlantic 10 Conference	
Quarterfinals	
Davidson 89, St. Bonaventure 86, OT	
Dayton 69, Richmond 51	
Saint Joseph's 86, George Washington 80	
VCU 85, UMass 70	
Atlantic Coast Conference	
Semifinals	
North Carolina 78, Notre Dame 47	
Virginia 73, Miami 68	
Big 12 Conference	
Semifinals	
Kansas 70, Baylor 66	
West Virginia 69, Oklahoma 67	
Big East Conference	
Semifinals	
Seton Hall 87, Xavier 83	
Villanova 76, Providence 68	
Big Sky Conference	
Semifinals	
Weber St. 83, North Dakota 78, OT	
Big Ten Conference	
Quarterfinals	
Michigan 97, Nebraska 86	
Michigan 72, Indiana 69	
Michigan St. 81, Ohio St. 54	
Purdue 89, Illinois 58	
Conference USA	
Semifinals	
Middle Tennessee 99, Marshall 90	
Old Dominion 89, W. Kentucky 77	
Mid-American Conference	
Semifinals	
Akron 80, Bowling Green 66	
Buffalo 88, Ohio 74	
Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference	
Semifinals	
Hampton 89, Savannah St. 55	
SC State 67, Norfolk St. 65	
Mountain West Conference	
Semifinals	
San Diego St. 67, Nevada 55	
Pacific-12 Conference	
Semifinals	
Oregon 95, Arizona 89, OT	
Southeastern Conference	
Quarterfinals	
Georgia 65, South Carolina 64	
Kentucky 83, Alabama 61	
LSU 84, Tennessee 75	
Texas A&M 72, Florida 66	
Southland Conference	
Semifinals	
Stephen F. Austin 104, Houston Baptist 68	
Texas A&M-CC 79, Sam Houston St. 76	
Southwestern Athletic Conference	
Semifinals	
Jackson St. 74, MVSU 68	
Southern U. 81, Texas Southern 73	
UC Davis 81, UC Riverside 72	
Second Round	
Louisiana-Lafayette 90, South Alabama 68	
Texas-Arlington 72, Texas St. 63	
Western Athletic Conference	
Semifinals	
New Mexico St. 78, UMKC 64	

Women	
Friday's Games	
TOURNAMENT	
America East Conference	
Championship	
Albany (NY) 69, Maine 58	
Big Sky Conference	
Semifinals	
Idaho 86, E. Washington 71	
Idaho St. 69, North Dakota 54	
Big South Conference	
Quarterfinals	
Liberty 68, Charleston Southern 53	
Presbyterian 58, Gardner-Webb 51	
Radford 72, High Point 57	
UNC Asheville 70, Campbell 42	
Big West Conference	
Semifinals	
Hawaii 76, Long Beach St. 60	
UC Davis 81, UC Riverside 72	
Colonial Athletic Association	
Semifinals	
Drexel 58, Northeastern 45	
James Madison 68, Delaware 47	
Conference USA	
Semifinals	
Middle Tennessee 69, Marshall 41	
Old Dominion 66, UTEP 54	
Horizon League	
Second Round	
N. Kentucky 76, Valparaiso 53	
Wright St. 81, Youngstown St. 54	
Mid-American Conference	
Semifinals	
Buffalo 88, Akron 87	
Cent. Michigan 86, E. Michigan 71	
Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference	
Semifinals	
Coppin St. 81, SC State 62	
NC A&T 63, Hampton 54	
Missouri Valley Conference	
Quarterfinals	
Drake 89, Evansville 53	
Missouri St. 70, Indiana St. 45	
N. Iowa 46, Bradley 45	
S. Illinois 73, Loyola of Chicago 64	
Mountain West Conference	
Championship	

Colorado St. 55, Fresno St. 54	
Patriot League	
Semifinals	
Army 76, Lehigh 46	
Loyola (Md.) 65, Bucknell 53	
Southland Conference	
Second Round	
McNeese St. 88, Lamar 78	
Sam Houston St. 78, Stephen F. Austin 70	
Southwestern Athletic Conference	
Semifinals	
Alabama St. 64, Grambling St. 50	
Southern U. 62, Texas Southern 54	
Sun Belt Conference	
Semifinals	
Troy 96, Arkansas St. 89	
UALR 63, Louisiana-Lafayette 52	
Western Athletic Conference	
Semifinals	
New Mexico St. 58, Utah Valley 44	
Texas Rio Grande Valley 73, CS Bakersfield 72,	
20T	

NBA				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
Toronto	43	20	683	—
Boston	39	27	591	5½
New York	27	40	403	18
Brooklyn	18	47	277	26
Philadelphia	9	56	138	35
Southeast Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Miami	38	27	585	—
Charlotte	36	28	563	1½
Atlanta	36	29	554	2
Washington	30	34	469	7½
Orlando	28	36	438	9½
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Cleveland	46	18	719	—
Indiana	34	30	531	12
Detroit	33	32	508	13½
Chicago	32	32	500	14
Milwaukee	27	38	415	19½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
x-San Antonio	55	10	846	—
Memphis	39	26	600	16
Houston	33	32	508	22
Dallas	33	32	508	22
New Orleans	24	40	375	30½
Northwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Oklahoma City	44	21	677	—
Portland	34	32	515	10½
Utah	30	35	462	14
Denver	27	38	415	17
Minnesota	21	45	318	23½
Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
x-Golden State	58	6	906	—
L.A. Clippers	42	22	656	16
Sacramento	25	39	391	33
Phoenix	17	48	262	41½
L.A. Lakers	14	52	212	45

xclinched playoff spot

Friday's Games	
Philadelphia 95, Brooklyn 89	
Charlotte 118, Detroit 103	
Houston 102, Boston 98	
Miami 118, Chicago 96	
Memphis 121, New Orleans 114, OT	
Minnesota 99, Oklahoma City 96	
Utah 114, Washington 93	
Orlando 107, Sacramento 100	
Golden State 128, Portland 112	
L.A. Clippers 101, New York 94	
Saturday's Games	
Indiana at Dallas, 11 a.m.	
Miami at Toronto, 4 p.m.	
Detroit at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.	
Houston at Charlotte, 4 p.m.	
New Orleans at Milwaukee, 4:30 p.m.	
Memphis at Atlanta, 4:30 p.m.	
Oklahoma City at San Antonio, 5:30 p.m.	
Washington at Denver, 6:30 p.m.	
Phoenix at Golden State, 7:30 p.m.	
Orlando at Portland, 7:30 p.m.	
Sunday's Games	
Cleveland at L.A. Clippers, 12:30 p.m.	
Utah at Sacramento, 3 p.m.	
Indiana at Atlanta, 3 p.m.	
Milwaukee at Brooklyn, 5 p.m.	
New York at L.A. Lakers, 6:30 p.m.	

Hockey NHL									
EASTERN CONFERENCE									
Atlantic Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Boston	69	38	23	8	84	210	187		
Florida	67	37	21	9	83	187	163		
Tampa Bay	68	39	24	5	83	186	163		
Detroit	67	33	23	11	77	170	179		
Montreal	68	32	30	6	70	186	199		
Ottawa	69	31	30	8	70	198	211		
Buffalo	69	27	33	9	63	164	188		
Toronto	66	22	33	11	55	159	199		
Metropolitan Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Washington67	49	13	5	103	217	155			
N.Y. Rangers67	39	22	6	84	192	177			
N.Y. Islanders65	37	20	8	82	183	177			
Pittsburgh67	35	24	8	78	183	177			
Philadelphia66	32	23	11	75	170	177			
Carolina	68	31	26	11	73	168	188		
New Jersey68	32	29	7	71	151	177			
Columbus68	28	32	8	64	180	211			
WESTERN CONFERENCE									
Central Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Dallas	69	41	20	8	90	223	199		
St. Louis	69	40	20	9	89	278	196		