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Broncos Defeat Oakland 21-17 With Last Quarter Score

Denver Defense Tough In Centennial Bowl Victory; McCloughan Has Fine Afternoon

By BOB HOUDESHELDT
Sports Editor

Long scoring drives paid dividends for the Denver Broncos as they defeated the Oakland Raiders 21-17 in a thrill-packed Centennial Bowl game at the North Platte High School Stadium Sunday.

The Broncos turned on the power at the outset and rolled up 14 points the first two times they had possession of the ball in the first quarter.

But they had to fight back to win with a fourth quarter touchdown drive which saw the Broncos go 80 yards in 12 plays for the winning points.

Broken Bow's Kent McCloughan came up with a fine defensive effort for the Raiders in the second quarter as he pirated a Steve Tensi pass on the Denver 40 and ran it down to the four before being shoved out of bounds to set up the first Oakland tally.

The former University of Nebraska star had a good afternoon as he successfully defensed two Denver passes from his left cornerback spot while intercepting one. He was credited with three tackles.

An estimated crowd of 6,500, short of the expected attendance, watched the game at the expanded high school stadium. It was the final American Football League exhibition game for the season for both teams as Denver chalked up their third straight win in four starts while Oakland finished 2-2. Denver will open their season next Sunday in Bear Stadium against the Boston Patriots.

It has been the best pre-season start for Denver in the short history of the team as Lou Saban has had a successful start in his first season of rebuilding the Broncos.

Steve Tensi aerials figured prominently in two of the Denver scores. The newly acquired quarterback tossed a 39-yard aerial to Neal Sweeney in the first series and then rifled a 42 yard pass to Eric Crabtree, voted the game's most valuable player, in the last drive to set up that touchdown.

Tensi wound up with 9 completions in 27 attempts for 190 yards. He had two intercepted.

The Broncos started off with a bang as Crabtree took the opening kickoff in the end zone and ran it back to the Denver 48 to start the initial drive.

It took just six plays and the Broncos were in for the score the big play being a Tensi to Sweeney aerial. Reserve quarterback Scotty Glacken capped the drive with a one-yard sneak with less than three minutes elapsed in the game.

Earl Mann toed the first of two placements and the Broncos were in front 7-0.

After the Oakland offensive failed to produce a first down in their series Denver came back to drive the ball 83 yards in 12 plays to strike paydirt again.

Floyd Little, rookie halfback from Syracuse University, was the big gun in this drive as the scatback picked up nearly half the drive's yardage on pass and running plays.

The 5-10 195-pound speedster, who in his opinion says there isn't much difference between the AFL and NFL, turned in some fine running as he plowed through tacklers after a big blocking assist by Neal Sweeney.

The fleet back also pulled down a 17 yard pass to put the ball in enemy territory on the 49.

Eight plays later Denver was on the scoreboard again as halfback Fran Lynch bowled over from nine yards out on a run straight up the middle. Mann converted and the Broncos had a 14-0 lead with 4:45 left in the first quarter.

The Raiders defense then buckled down to earn credit for setting up the initial score as McCloughan came up with the first of the team's two pass interceptions as he nabbed a Tensi aerial on the Denver 40 and scooted down the west sideline before being knocked out of bounds on the four.

Hewritt Dixon put the finishing touches on with the next play as he ran the right side to score standing up. Ageless George Blanda toed the mark and Oakland trailed 14-7 with 14:17 left in the half.

Blanda put the Raiders on the scoreboard again when he booted a 37 yard field goal midway in the second quarter. The Raiders had gained possession on the Denver 39 yard line when Willie Brown pounced on a Lynch fumble. A series of penalties and losses had pushed the ball back to the Oakland 38 when Daryle Lamonica tossed a screen pass to Dixon which was good for 28 yards to the Denver 34 where safety Jack Lentz made the stop.

Clem Daniels, a workhorse on the Raider offense all day, burst up the middle for 12 yards to the Denver 22. Dixon carried for two, Daniels went for one and Lamonica threw incomplete to Billy Cannon before Blanda slit the uprights with his 37 yard field goal. Oakland had closed the gap to 14-10 with 6:18 left in the half.

The Raiders rolled into the lead after Bill Fairbrand curled around a Errol Prisby fumble of a punt return on the Denver 8.

Linebacker Charles Myrtle nailed Dixon for a two yard loss on the first play before Lamonica hit Dixon for a 10-yard scoring strike with just 1:01 left in the half.

Blanda converted and Oakland went into the intermission with a 17-14 command.

The winning thrust by Denver came in the fourth quarter after a missed field goal attempt by Blanda was to the right giving the Broncos the ball on their own 20.

Highlighted by a 42 yard aerial from Tensi to Crabtree the Broncos went downfield in 12 plays with Glacken sneaking over from the one. Cookie Gilchrist booted the placement and Denver had their winning points with 8:41 left.

But the Broncos defense had to stiffen to hang on to the victory during the remaining time but the deepest Oakland could penetrate was to the Denver 31. A 15 yard holding penalty, a three yard loss on a screen pass and two incomplete tosses had Oakland yielding the ball on the Denver 48.

The Raiders had possession twice more before the final gun but couldn't generate much of an offense.

A quick about face of events possibly saved the game for Denver when Willie Brown pilfered a Tensi pass on the Denver 24 late in the third quarter and ran it back to the three yard line where he fumbled and the Broncos Bob Breitenstein recovered.

The Broncos then pushed the ball to the eight where Bob Scarpitto punted out of danger.

Denver's secondary did a good job of defensing Lamonica's passing as the team was credited with 23 passes defended. Lentz was the top defender in this department with 5.

Linebacker John Huard gave Lamonica the roughest time, breaking in on several occasions to toss the veteran quarterback for losses.

Lamonica was tossed for losses seven times totaling 55 yards.

Cornerback Dave Grayson was the leading defender for Oakland as the 5-10, 185 pound athlete broke up six pass plays in his area and was credited with six tackles.

Willie Brown, who was a defensive back for Denver until traded this season, was credited with defending five pass plays.

Denver had a decisive edge in the statistic department, chalking up 18 first downs to Oakland's 14 and outrushed the foe 136-83. The Broncos passed for an additional 155 yards to the Raiders 93 for a total offense yardage of 291-176.

★ ★ ★

	Denver	Oakland
First Downs	18	14
Rushing Yardage	136	83
Passing Yardage	155	93
Return Yardage	97	162
Passing	27-9-2	30-10-0
Punts	4-43	6-40
Fumbles	3	2
Penalties	69	107

Denver	14	0	0	7—21
Oakland	0	17	0	0—17

SCORING

Denver — Glacken 1 yard sneak (Mann Kick) 12:06 left 1st quarter.

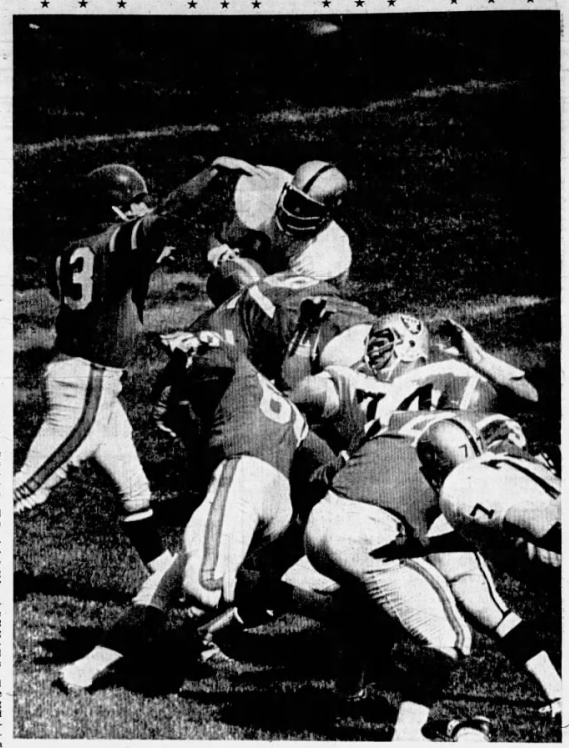
Denver — Lynch, 9 yd run (Mann Kick) 4:45 left, 1st quarter.

Oakland — Dixon, 2 yd run (Blanda Kick) 14:17 left 2nd quarter.

Oakland — Blanda 37 yard field goal, 6:49 left 2nd quarter.

Oakland — Dixon, pass from Lamonica (Blanda Kick) 1:01 left 2nd quarter.

Denver — Glacken, 1 yd sneak (Gilchrist Kick) 8:41 left 4th quarter.



Telegraph Staff Photos

PASS PROTECTION — Steve Tensi, newly acquired quarterback for the Denver Broncos has plenty of pass protection as he fires an aerial downfield. Putting a stop on the defense are Bob Breitenstein (76), Ernie Park (60) and Dave Behrman (54). Number 77 in the white uniform is Isaac Lassiter with number 74 being Tom Keating. Tensi threw nine completions in 27 attempts for 170 yards. He had two intercepted.

COMING THROUGH — Weaving his way through the foe while picking up yardage on a punt return in the second quarter is Denver's Errol Prisby (25). Closing in for the stop are Oakland's Pete Banaszak (40); Bob Kruse, a Wayne State College graduate (62) and John Williamson (52). In the right hand corner is Denver's Andre White.

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CHUGGING FOR YARDAGE — Oakland's leading ground gainer for the game, Clem Daniels, chugs for a few more yards in action in the second quarter. Daniels, a 6-1, 218-pound halfback picked up 71 yards in 12 carries for a 5.9 average to top all runners in the game. Attempting to put a stop to Daniel's journey is the Broncos Lonnie Wright (42), while Oakland's Lionel Taylor watches the action.

Hastings In Legion Finals

HASTINGS (AP)—Bob Wonka of Hastings spoiled Tulsa Coach Bob Boyer's strategy here Sunday night and sent Hastings into the championship game of the region 6 American Legion baseball tournament with a 3-2 win over Tulsa.

With two out in the eighth inning and runners on second and third Boyer ordered an intentional walk to Hastings' Dave Helmick. Wonka made the strategy backfire by lining a solid single to left-center to score Mike Hardin with the tying run and Steve White with the winning run.

Dick Pease scattered six Tulsa hits and fanned five in pitching Hastings into the championship game with Frank Forks, N.D., Monday night.

The winner will go to the national championships at Memphis, Tenn., starting Aug. 31.

Coach Dan Baird's Hastings team will be trying to avenge a 4-3 extra inning defeat inflicted by the North Dakotans in the first round.

Tulsa	000	101	000	—2	6	3
Hastings	001	000	02x	—3	4	0

Roy Smith and Jack Ford, Dick Pease and Randy Lippstreau.

West Tokyo Wins Little League World Series

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (AP)—A big sign was held high by a naturalized Japanese woman at the Little League world series Saturday. It read: "Do good job. Await Heaven's orders."

The West Tokyo, Japan, team apparently got the right orders. It went out and beat North Roseland of Chicago 4-1, and for the first time in the 21-year history of this annual series for 11- and 12-year-olds, the title went winging over the Pacific Ocean.

The Japanese team needed a little more than those orders from above to beat North Roseland's Bob Stratta, the youngster who pitched a no-hit, no-run game earlier in the competition.

TROUT FISHING AREA CLOSED

LINCOLN (AP)—Trout fishermen in western Nebraska will find another three miles on Nine-Mile Creek closed to trout angling late this year.

The Game Commission said about 1¼ miles on the upper end of the creek has been closed in the past from Oct. 1 to May 1 for the benefit of the spawning trout. Another three miles of the creek below that portion will now be closed from Oct. 1 through Dec. 31 to further enhance trout spawning success.

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MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WEEKEND RESULTS, STANDINGS

National League

	W.	L.	Pct.	G.B.
St. Louis	80	49	.620	—
Cincinnati	70	60	.538	10½
Philadelphia	67	59	.532	11½
Chicago	69	61	.531	11½
San Francisco	68	62	.523	12½
Atlanta	65	62	.512	14
Pittsburgh	61	68	.473	19
Los Angeles	59	68	.465	20
Houston	54	71	.412	27
New York	49	76	.392	29

Saturday's Results
Chicago at New York, 2, rain
Cincinnati 6-6, Houston 1-8
San Francisco 3-3, Atlanta 1-2
Philadelphia 1, Pittsburgh 0
Los Angeles 2, St. Louis 1, 12 innings

Sunday's Results
St. Louis 6, Los Angeles 2
Cincinnati 11, Houston 8
Philadelphia 2, Pittsburgh 0, 4½ innings, rain
Chicago 3, New York 1, 1st game 7 innings rain
San Francisco 2-1, Atlanta 0-4

Today's Games
New York at St. Louis, 2 twi-night
Houston at Chicago
Pittsburgh at Atlanta, N
Philadelphia at Cincinnati, N
Los Angeles at San Francisco, N

Tuesday's Games
Houston at Chicago
Pittsburgh at Atlanta, N
Philadelphia at Cincinnati, N
New York at St. Louis, N
Los Angeles at San Francisco, N

American League

	W.	L.	Pct.	G.B.
Minnesota	72	56	.563	—
Boston	73	57	.562	—
Chicago	71	57	.555	1
Detroit	71	58	.550	1½
California	65	62	.512	6½
Washington	61	69	.469	12
Cleveland	61	70	.466	12½
Baltimore	57	69	.452	14
New York	58	71	.450	14½
Kansas City	54	74	.422	18

Saturday's Results
Boston 6, Chicago 2
Cleveland 5, Minnesota 2
Detroit 5, Kansas City 2
Washington 4, New York 3
California 5, Baltimore 4, 2nd game, rain

Sunday's Results
Boston 4-0, Chicago 3-1
New York 8, Washington 2
Minnesota 6, Cleveland 3
Kansas City 2, Detroit 1
California at Baltimore, rain

Today's Games
Cleveland at Kansas City, N
Chicago at Washington, N
Boston at New York, N
Detroit at California, N
Baltimore at Minnesota, N

Tuesday's Games
Detroit at California, 2, twi-light
Cleveland at Kansas City, N
Baltimore at Minnesota, N
Chicago at Washington, N
Boston at New York, 2, twi-light

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