

# Out of Bounds

JASON SNYDER

## Broncos begin to feel the pressures of perfection

For the past month, I've tried to avoid the issue. For weeks, I've put it off. For days I've gone back and forth in whether or not I should actually do it. And even now I am getting a funny feeling in my stomach as I am in the process of playing games with history. I am officially, not by choice but by necessity, "jinxing" the Denver Broncos in their bid for only the second undefeated season in NFL history. And now, in my world of superstitions, I can only cross my fingers and hope that the Broncos can trounce all over those evil spirits and write their names in the NFL record books.

At 13-0, the Broncos are considered the biggest story in the NFL this season. With each week that passes they continue to meet each challenge their opponents have thrown at them. But the road to perfection is steadily getting more and more difficult.

This past weekend appeared to have the makings for an upset. Entering Mile High Stadium were the 5-7 Kansas City Chiefs. Now this might not sound like a challenge for the Broncos, but considering the bad blood between the division rivals, some doubt must have popped into the heads of Denver fans around the nation.

Adding to the fire between the two teams was their ugly game on Monday night two weeks ago. The Broncos, behind the arm of backup Bubby Brister, decisively won the game 30-7. But on the final drive of the game, the Chief's defense was called for five personal fouls. Three by their defensive leader in sacks Derrick Thomas. After Broncos' tight end Shannon Sharpe took out the legs of a Kansas City defensive lineman, Thomas took offense and on three occasions yanked Sharpe around by the facemask.

Naturally much hype followed which highlighted the match-up this past weekend. The stage was set for an upset with revenge on the minds of the Chiefs. The confidence of Kansas City proved to be more than the Broncos have had to deal with all year. Quickly, they jumped on the Broncos taking an early 14-0 lead, which began to put much doubt as to whether or not Denver could continue their bid for perfection in '98.

Throughout the game, the Broncos looked more and more vulnerable as they entered the fourth quarter trailing for the first time all season. Jason Elam who

already matched that record? I don't think so. Of course I can't punish the '72 Dolphins because they played less games at that time, but I also can't compare a team that only played 17 games with a team that would have to play 19 in order to win the Super Bowl.



You can't blame the Chiefs for what happened next. It was just John Elway and the Broncos at their best. Two touchdown passes in the closing minutes, including one to Sharpe who was covered tightly all game by the KC defense, gave Denver the win and kept perfection intact.

In the Broncos' goal to win the Super Bowl, the win gave them a first round bye and home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. The home-field advantage should prove important with the Broncos riding a 23 game winning streak at Mile High.

In terms of where the Broncos rank in history, the win was the 18th straight which ties them with four other teams for the most consecutive wins including the playoffs. But even more important is the company that the '98 Broncos join with their 13-0 record. Only two other teams have started their season at 13-0, the 1934 Chicago Bears and the 1972 Miami Dolphins.

You don't hear much about the 1934 Bears because of their 30-14 loss to the New York Giants in the NFL Championship. But in the same way, if the Broncos were to lose, they would also be forgotten over time. In order to be remembered forever, Denver must go undefeated. To me, that sounds disappointing and unfair because of the domination and excitement that the Broncos have brought to the league this season. It doesn't seem fair that a team that could go 18-1 would be forgotten, while a team that went 17-0 will always be remembered. Sure the Broncos will show up in football trivia for many years, but they might never have the distinction of being only the second team to go undefeated throughout the season.

What if the Broncos would go 17-0 then lose their 18th game? Does that mean that the '72 Dolphins still deserve more credit even though the Broncos

already matched that record? I don't think so. Of course I can't punish the '72 Dolphins because they played less games at that time, but I also can't compare a team that only played 17 games with a team that would have to play 19 in order to win the Super Bowl.

But before I write a one in the loss column of the Broncos, we need to look at the road that lies ahead. Not meaning to overlook the New York Giants this weekend (but I will anyway), the big day for the Broncos comes on Monday, December 21 against the Miami Dolphins. The Dolphins would like nothing more than to save their franchise's distinction

of being the only undefeated team in history. For the Dolphins, it would be a fairy tale come true. For myself and most of the other fans in the NFL, it would be considered a great feat for a team that is only trying to be remembered for a historic season.

If the Broncos escape that game still undefeated, then a win against the Seattle Seahawks the following week would give Denver an undefeated regular season. With the AFC playoff race looking like it is, the next Denver opponent is unknown. But the Broncos will have a week's rest and home-field advantage as they enter their first game of the playoffs, which could spell disaster for their opponent.

As the weeks pass by, the Denver Broncos are riding a cloud a "mile high." The only danger in that, is that just one loss would result in an even harder fall. The price of perfection in this day and age is much more costly than ever before. The media attention and everyone's eyes looking at the Broncos' wild ride is enough pressure, but adding in the pressure of their own personal goal of the Super Bowl could be too overwhelming. But with the NFL riding the back of the Broncos, a loss would hurt the league as a whole. But continued success and the ultimate dream of perfection for the Broncos would be a perfect way to bring to a close this remarkable 1998 year in sports and kick off 1999 in historic fashion.

*Snyder is the sports editor for the Beacon. Out of Bounds appears weekly on this page.*

## Know Your Lions...

### #14 Carrie Nestor

By Jason Snyder



Position: Point guard

Height: 5'5"

Class: Junior

Junior guard Carrie Nestor has helped jump-start the Behrend Lions to a successful start to their 1998-99 season with her strong all-around play at the point guard position. With the Lady Lions off to a 3-2 start, Nestor has already proven herself as both a leader and a talented athlete on the basketball court.

Returning as a starter, Nestor once again has the Lady Lions in contention for an Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference Championship. In her first five games of the 1998 season, she has compiled 59 points amounting to 11.8 ppg. But Nestor's ability doesn't stop in the scoring column. She is fourth on the team in rebounding, averaging 5.8 rebounds per game and leads the team in assists with 27 for 5.4 apg.

For her career, she is fourth all-time in both assists and steals for the Behrend Lions with 249 assists and 163 steals. She also leads the women with 13 steals in '98.

Already this season, Nestor has been named and AMCC Athlete of the Week and has been named to the ECAC Weekly Honor Roll.

### # 3 Jason Paloskey

By Matt Buser

Position: Point guard

Height: 5'10"

Class: Senior

Jason Paloskey is a 4-year starter here at Penn State Behrend. He currently leads the team with an average of 15.4 points per game. He is shooting 56% (28/50) from the field, including an outstanding 57% (17/30) from three-point range. Paloskey has made great strides on and off the court since his arrival at Behrend.

"Jason is an outstanding offensive player, and has been since his freshman year. He really has developed as more of a complete player and as a student athlete," Coach Dave Niland said of Paloskey. "He has gone from being a typical freshman to someone who will go on and be pretty successful when he leaves here.

"I'm pretty proud of him. He's had a terrific career here, and I know he'd like to end it in even better fashion," Niland continued. "He'll be considered on of the best to play that spot here, and his numbers reflect that." He's closing in on 1,000 points (he has 964 to rank 12th all-time), his shooting percentage, and three-point shots (126 ranks him third).

"It's a good story. I'd like all our freshmen to look at what he has accomplished, not only on the court, but also academically. In the big picture he has developed as a total person, and I think basketball has helped him."

## Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week

Name: Carrie Nestor  
Sport: Women's Basketball  
Class: Junior  
Position: Guard  
Date: December 7 - December 14

Carrie Nestor, a junior guard, has been named the Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week. Nestor helped lead the Behrend Lions to a 2-1 week and earn third-place at the Penn State Behrend Winter Classic.

On Wednesday, December 2, Nestor scored 18 points and added five rebounds in Behrend's 71-57 win over Washington and Jefferson College. She recorded 10 points, six rebounds and four steals in the Behrend Lions 61-54 loss to Grove City. In the consolation game of the Winter Classic, Nestor led the team to a 67-63 victory by scoring 20 points and adding eight rebounds and five assists against Albright College.

On the year, Nestor is averaging 11.8 ppg, 5.8 rpg and 5.2 apg. She also has 13 steals and is shooting 58% from the floor. In her career, Nestor ranks fourth in assists with 268 and fourth in steals with 169. She is also in the top twenty for free throw attempts, free throws made and free throw percentage (3rd).

## The Behrend Classifieds

I would like to thank the Behrend community for your generous donations. Because of your support, we were able to help many families in the Erie area that needed some assistance. It was a lot of hard work, but it was so incredibly worth it. We were also able to give many clothes and toys to local shelters for women.

I would like to send a special thank you to the following:

Police and Safety, thanks for the muscles.

Mr. Jack Burke, thank you for making room for the clothing. Misc. for making the signs. Mrs. Anne-Marie Welsh. Mrs. Loretta Brandon. Our Maintenance Department. Eric Rodrigues. Dawn Holzer. Lisa Fuhrman

And last but not least, the sisters of Alpha Sigma Alpha. You all pulled together in a wonderful way. Thank you for all of your time, support, and being true to your word. I still can't believe how much stuff you sorted! We did a great thing and the best part is that it was a team effort. What would I have done without you?

Sandi Smith  
Police and Safety

Hey Babydoll,  
Just wanted to say HI, and tell ya that I love you!! And thanks for a GREAT weekend.  
ME

Students and employees of Penn State Behrend are invited to submit a free classified ad in *The Beacon*. Types of ads may include personal messages and items for sale. Maximum classified length is 25 words. Persons who submit ads must state their affiliation with Behrend. Classifieds are meant for individual use. Official notices and group events should be submitted to the Calendar editor. Businesses must pay regular advertising rates. *The Beacon* can not guarantee the publication of all classified submitted for space purposes. Classifieds should be sent to the Classified editor at *The Beacon*, Reed Building or dropped off at *The Beacon* offices, or sent to behrcoll4@aol.com. Deadline for submission for publication in that week's paper is Monday at 5:00PM.

## INTRAMURAL ROUNDUP

### Intramurals

#### 5 vs. 5 Basketball

M, W  
-Sign ups are in fall semester  
-play begins spring semester

Registration Deadline:  
December 11

Spring semester Intramural schedules are available in the IM office.