

Out of Bounds

Super Bowl XXXIII shouldn't be Reeves vs. Shanahan

JASON SNYDER

If the media's job is to find the ultimate way to destroy everything good in sports, then they are doing a masterful job with the Super Bowl. Arguably the biggest event in all of sports, the NFL could have had the two weeks before the Super Bowl to tell of the shocking Atlanta Falcons and the fact that John Elway would be playing his last game.

But instead of asking Elway about his feelings toward the game and his career, the media is shooting questions about the stormy relationship Dan Reeves and Mike Shanahan had in Denver years ago. The press conferences are beginning to sound more and more like a trial as the coaches are being forced to answer questions about the matter.

For myself, I don't care about the bad relationship these two coaches had back when I was just learning the basics of football. Coaches all around the league, even now, have their disagreements. This isn't a new concept that has evolved with the growth of the league. We just pry at it a little more these days.

In fact, we have pried so much that fans are even beginning to take the side of the team with the coach that makes better arguments in the conferences. "Did you hear what Reeves did to Shanahan in Denver? And did you hear what Shanahan had to say about Reeves?" Who cares?! The more important questions that should be asked are, "Can you believe Reeves coached the Falcons to the Super Bowl after having quadruple bypass surgery weeks previously? Do you think Shanahan can coach the Broncos to two straight Super Bowl wins?" That's the only coach's storyline that should be focused on. Not what happened in the past, but what will happen in just three days.

So it's time to begin to focus on the positive stories as Super Bowl XXXIII approaches. And believe me, there are many of them.

1.) The Teams- Denver Broncos vs. Atlanta Falcons. This Super Bowl will bring together two teams with very different pasts, but also very similar game plans. The Broncos have always been known as a contender for the championship. In fact, the Broncos have five Super Bowl appearances as opposed to none for the Falcons. This year's Denver team returns most of last

percentage (58.1%-59%). And if you can believe this, Chandler leads in all categories (attempts, completions/%, yards, touchdowns, and rating) except interceptions (0-1) in the playoffs. But due to the pressures that Chandler faces and just the fact that he is facing a man called Elway who might be playing his last game...Advantage: Broncos

so far this postseason, catching 11 passes for 144 yards with 2 touchdowns. McCaffrey has only been on the receiving end of six passes for 118 yards and no touchdowns. The Falcons, however, use a running oriented offense which limits Mathis' effectiveness. In a close game, the Elway to McCaffrey connection might be more effective than the Chandler to Mathis attack. Advantage: Broncos

5.) The Defenses- The Broncos' defense has stepped up their defense for the playoffs, only allowing 13 points for their opponents. Neither Miami or New York were able to put any points on the board in the fourth quarter. The Broncos have only allowed one touchdown in the playoffs and have given up only 28 total rushing yards in two games. The Falcons have seemed to be slipping defensively, giving up 45 total points to the 49ers and Vikings. Atlanta has to be given credit though, as the Vikings broke the record for points in a season. The Broncos have proven they can step it up at anytime...Advantage: Broncos

As you can see, there are many important match-ups besides the battle of the coaches. The finale of John Elway's career and the Cinderella story of the Falcons should highlight Super Bowl XXXIII. With so much good that can happen in this game, why pollute it with irrelevant stories of two men that have gone their separate ways. Rather, talk of the successes of these two coaches. Not everything is bad in sports like the media seems to portray. There are actually stories that go beyond their dirt-digging. Reeves vs. Shanahan won't be written in NFL history. I think it will be a story of two even teams that put on a show for all of the nation to see. The media can watch the sidelines, but they'll be missing history.

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



season's Super Bowl championship team. The Falcons on the other hand, bring only two players with Super Bowl experience; Cornelius Bennett and Eugene Robinson. The season to this point seemed routine for the Broncos, while the Falcons had to continuously prove themselves week in and week out. Nobody thought that a team that went 3-13 just two seasons ago, could now be legitimate contenders for the Broncos. Advantage: Broncos

2.) The Quarterbacks- John Elway vs. Chris Chandler. Sounds simple, right? Denver's hero that has started in four Super Bowl already vs. a quiet man from Atlanta that has played for six teams in eleven seasons. Not that simple. Atlanta knows their key to winning the big game weighs heavily on the shoulders of Chandler. To this point, he has responded. And looking at the stats of Elway and Chandler, you'll see what I mean. During the regular season, Chandler finished with a higher QB rating, more touchdowns (25-22), more passing yards (3,154-2,806), and virtually the same completion

3.) The Running Backs- Terrell Davis vs. Jamal Anderson. Just the story of these two players is enough to get the respect of fans around the nation. It doesn't sound like players chosen in the sixth and seventh rounds of the NFL Draft should be in the spotlight for the Super Bowl. But Davis and Anderson have proven that they are the premiere backs in the NFL. Davis became only the fourth man in NFL history to run for over 2,000 yards for the season. Last year, he battled a migraine to lead the Broncos to the Super Bowl win and be named Most Valuable Player. Anderson finished second in rushing yards this season to Davis, with 1,846. He can also take credit for "Dirty Bird Fever" sweeping the nation. Due to his durability and heart.. A surprising advantage: Falcons.

4.) Receivers- Ed McCaffrey vs. Terance Mathis. Statistically, these two receivers are equal. Both caught 64 passes during the regular season for over 1,000 yards. However, Mathis has made more of an impact

BEHREND BRIEFS

Lion Ambassadors winners at Student Organization Night

The Lion Ambassadors took full advantage of Behrend's Student Organization Night in Eric Hall. The organizations in attendance at the Lady Lions' basketball game against the Washington and Jefferson Presidents were able to enter a raffle for a free pizza party at halftime.

At the half, with Behrend leading the game 24-15, Behrend Director of Athletics Brian Streeter drew the Lion Ambassadors as the winners. Because of their loyalty to Behrend athletics, they will get eight pizzas and pop.

Lion Ambassador member Sarah Edwards, 02, Communications, commented on the night saying, "I enjoyed watching the ladies win and I will also enjoy eating the pizza. It's all about Behrend, baby!"

Greek Night packed with activities

On Saturday, January 30, Eric Hall will be a busy place as it will be hosting Greek Night. The men and women basketball teams will be hosting a double-header against AMCC opponent LaRoche.

The women will tip-off the night at 6:00 p.m. as they hope to remain unbeaten in AMCC play. The men will then attempt to stay on the heels of AMCC leading Pitt-Bradford as they too will battle LaRoche at 8:00 p.m.

Along with the double-header, there will be a 3 on 3 competition and the finals for the three-point shootout that was started on January 26. The women's competition was already decided as Amy LaRocca beat out Michelle Mackanos for a gift certificate to Damon's. The men's finals will have Lee Ericson and Anthony Armstrong battling during halftime of the men's basketball game.

Fan participation is strongly encouraged as the Lions' basketball program continue to excel in AMCC play.

Buck shooting up three-point list

Tiffany Buck needs only one three-pointer to tie Becky Swartz for second on the all-time three-point list at Behrend. The next women's basketball game will be this Saturday against LaRoche on Greek Night.

GREEK NIGHT AMCC Doubleheader



Behrend
VS.
LaRoche



Erie Hall

Women - 6:00 p.m. Men - 8:00 p.m.

Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week

Name: Jen O'Lare
Sport: Women's Basketball
Class: Sophomore
Position: Forward
Date: January 18 - January 25

Jen O'Lare, a sophomore forward, has been named the Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week. O'Lare has helped lead the Behrend Lions to a perfect 4-0 AMCC record and 11-6 overall.

On Wednesday, O'Lare was 4 x 7 from the floor and 10 of 10 from the free throw line in the win over Pitt-Bradford. O'Lare earned 18 points, four rebounds, and had three assists. Saturday night the Behrend Lions traveled to Pitt-Greensburg and won 66-46. O'Lare had another strong game with 14 points, 5 rebounds, 4 assists and a steal and block.

On the year, O'Lare is leading the team in scoring at 11.9 ppg and second in rebounds at 6.5 a game. She also shoots 49% from the field and 70% from the charity-stripe.

O'Lare is a graduate of Bethel Park High School.

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INTRAMURAL ROUNDUP

Intramurals

SPRING 1999

Ping Pong Singles and Doubles
Singles - Men and Women, Doubles - Men, Women, and Coed
Registration Deadline: **January 29th** at 4:00

Recreation

3-Point Shootout
The finals will be on January 30, during halftime of the men's basketball game.



Spring semester Intramural schedules are available in the IM office and on the Reed and Erie Hall IM boards.