

Broncos dream of big payoff

DENVER (AP) — When the Denver Broncos resume practice this week in preparation for the Super Bowl, they'll find a message on the blackboard in the meeting room.

Arranged vertically are the figures \$10,000, \$18,000 and \$36,000, with the sum of \$64,000. Presumably none of the players will be asking the \$64,000 question: What does it mean? It's the amount of money each Bronco player gets in playoff cash if Denver beats Washington Jan. 31.

The Bronco organization is hoping the simple math problem computes better than a previous monetary demonstration. In 1984, officials arranged a stack of \$1 bills totalling the amount the players could earn throughout the playoffs. But the message didn't take; Denver promptly lost to Pittsburgh 24-17 in the first round.

Denver Coach Dan Reeves had a different kind of visual aid for his players the day before the AFC championship game against Cleveland on Sunday.

Reeves arranged his six championship rings on the lectern in the meeting room — five of which he won as a player and coach with the Dallas Cowboys — and told his players that when their careers are over, the sentiment of a championship ring will mean more than anything else a player might attain.

"What I told them was I had played or coached in 10 championship games before Sunday," Reeves said. "I made \$80,000 (in playoff money), but all of it is gone. When you have a family, it goes pretty fast. But the fact that you played in one — nobody can ever take that away from you. I wanted to impress that on them."

Wide receiver Steve Watson

said Reeves told the players that "this is what can happen to you if you work hard. You can have a lot of these."

This time it worked, as the Broncos defeated Cleveland 38-33 to make their second straight trip to the Super Bowl.

Reeves is the first to admit that it has been an improbable journey.

The retirements of four defensive starters, major injuries to seven other key players and the disruption of the strike did not bode well for a return Super Bowl engagement.

"Somehow, this team overcame those things. Whenever we got an injury, somebody came in and did the job for us. We got solid performances from people we never even counted on," Reeves said.

"Mike Freeman is our starting center, and he wasn't even on the team at the start of the season.

Vets plus kids win for Skins

HERNDON, Va. (AP) — Take 16 veterans with Super Bowl experience, add about 30 young, spirited players who are itching to get there, and you've got the Washington Redskins' formula for a successful season.

"We've got a lot of youthful guys who have really contributed to this team, and we have a good blend of veterans," center Jeff Bostic said. "When you've got that combination, you're going to go places."

Like San Diego, to play the Denver Broncos in the Super Bowl.

Veterans such as Bostic, Dave Butz and Dexter Manley were with the Redskins when the team went to consecutive Super Bowls in 1982 and 1983. While their performances this season helped Washington make a return trip, they were no less valuable than some of the team's younger players.

On offense, rookie running back Timmy Smith had a team-high 138 rushing yards in the Redskins' two playoff victories, and second-year receiver Ricky Sanders proved to be a more than adequate substitute for the injured Art Monk.

On defense, eighth-round draft pick Clarence Vaughn had four tackles and a sack in the NFC title game against Minnesota, first-year linebackers Kurt Gouveia and Ravin Caldwell combined for three tackles and two sacks against the Vikings, and rookie Brian Davis recovered a fumble.

"Our defensive coaches did a great job on the game plan," Redskins Coach Joe Gibbs said. "We incorporated a lot of young guys who weren't playing that much, and they showed up and did a great job."

"Really, the advantage we have here is that we have 16 guys who have been to the Super Bowl and knew what it took to get there," Gibbs continued. "And yet we had a majority of young guys who had never been there, were hungry, and decided they were going to do whatever it takes. And they fed off the older players' experience."

While youth was a factor, it is impossible to overlook the performance of some of the veterans who were anxious to return to the Super Bowl and wipe away the taste of their last trip, a humiliating 38-9 loss to the Los Angeles Raiders.

Meanwhile, Gibbs said he plans to make a few changes in the team's training schedule. In 1983 the players had no curfew to adhere to, but this time will be decidedly different, with a curfew around midnight.

Cotton

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produced the winning points against Arkansas, but Richardson couldn't pass well enough to get any points on the board (though he did have a sure TD pass dropped by Gurley).

Stump returned to action and led A&M to a clinching touchdown, for which he got carried off the field by Sherrill, as well as getting the starting berth versus TCU.

In what Sherrill called a good performance, Stump completed 9 of 27 passes against the Frogs for less than 200 yards with one TD pass and three interceptions (which should have been four; a official mistakenly called pass interference on TCU to negate another one).

The bumbling, stumbling, fumbling Aggies managed to defeat TCU 42-24 because they got every bounce of the ball in the contest.

When all the marbles for the SWC

title were on the line, the senior QB produced a fumble and interception that each led to a Texas field goal. Richardson, except for a few plays in the first half, remained on the bench until the fourth quarter, when the score was tied at 13.

Only when Stump got hurt did Bucky return. In eight plays he led them to the promised land. All of the plays were running ones, though the coaches had said all year that running alone would not win games.

It came as no surprise that Stump was expected to start the Cotton Bowl and had been the only QB quoted in the A&M media release sent out following the Texas win.

What a shock it was to all of us in the media when Richardson was announced as the starting quarterback the week of the game — and then *did* start!

Notre Dame supposedly was

going to stifle any kind of running attack that the Aggies could offer, so why start Bucky?

Likely because the coaches wanted to win. And Richardson went out and notched two touchdowns on the ground, was the game's leading rusher, and was the overwhelming choice for Offensive MVP.

Pavlas played his best game, too, and deservedly got some mention for MVP. But Richardson's poise under fire, great quickness of foot and overall leadership led the SWC champs to their largest margin of victory in a bowl game (previous best was a 37-14 beating of Florida in the January 2, 1977 in the Sun Bowl).

The kid simply makes things happen on the field and deserves every opportunity to take charge of an offense that has the capability of taking the Aggies to a National Championship.

Aggies

(Continued from page 10)

as high school seniors. With running backs like these and a talented line, the offense should be able to grind out yard after yard on the ground.

Since only two receivers are graduating, the passing game should be just as potent. The loss of tight end Sylvester Morgan is lessened by the emergence of Brian Ross and two-point specialist Wally Hartley. Both starting wide receivers, Rod Harris and Gary Oliver, return, as do their backups, Percy Waddle and Tony Thompson. Hopefully, fans will see more of Harris and Thompson's "Cotton Bowl Bump."

What else can you say about the "Wrecking Crew," the defense that led the SWC and shut out the Notre Dame offense after the five-minute mark of the second quarter? The "Crew" is only going to get better.

A&M's brash, young defense is led by first-team All-America John

Roper and the rest of the linebackers. This part of the defense was an unknown quantity before the season began, since the previous set graduated straight into the professional ranks. Roper and Dana Batiste had starting experience, but Aaron Wallace was an untested sophomore and Adam Bob's only claim to fame was a couple of touchdowns scored as a sophomore short-yardage running back.

Now, after a successful season and 36 combined tackles in the Cotton Bowl, the linebackers have proven they are among the elite.

Defensive coordinator R.C. Slocum must be happy to have all three starters return, but he must be ecstatic not to lose any linebackers from both the first and second team.

The defensive line, however, is not as fortunate. The Aggies lose two starters in two-time All-SWC performer Sammy O'Brien and Guy Broom. The Aggies do return

Terry Price and Leon Cole, both of whom have extensive playing experience, and Sherrill has recruited well in this area.

The defensive secondary loses All-America Kip Corrington and All-SWC player Chet Brooks. Even so, the secondary appears set for seasons after their stifling of Heisman Trophy winner Tim Brown in the second half of the Cotton Bowl, and four of them even have more tackles than Tim Brown.

But before the Aggies start talking about national championships and dynasties, they should think about LSU in Baton Rouge, Arkansas in Fayetteville and the win-deprived Longhorns in Austin. In fact, before they even talk of a fourth Cotton Bowl appearance, they should think about getting a season-opening victory for Sherrill against someone besides Texas-El Paso.

Brad Marquardt is a senior journalism major.

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- Secretary

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3. Your cumulative grade point average at A&M is a 2.0.
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If you have any transfer courses that were completed by the end of the Fall 1987 semester or before, which will enable you to meet the 92 hour requirement, it is your responsibility to see that Transfer Admissions, Heaton Hall, receives an official transcript from the school attended. These transfer credits must be entered onto your A&M transcript before January 29, 1988. After that date, it will require 95 hours to qualify for a ring.

If you will complete 95 hours and all the other requirements at the end of the current spring semester, please come by the Ring Office, Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center after February 5 to sign up for a preliminary eligibility check. Further details will be available at that time about placing your application for a ring order during the semester.

Any student that has already met the requirements and wishes to order a ring in January, must come to the Ring Office and fill out the form for eligibility to be verified. This must be done at least 2-3 days in advance of ordering. January 29 is the deadline for ordering a ring for receipt prior to May graduation. February 26 is the deadline for the receipt prior to August graduation. Office hours are 8:00-5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday.