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Broncos, Skins get ready Elway, Williams miles apart, 2 contracts in sharp contrast

DALLAS (AP) — One of the two starting quarterbacks in this year's Super Bowl makes twice as much as the combined salaries of his three star receivers, and the other makes less than his backup.

Denver Broncos quarterback John Elway had a 1987 total compensation of \$1 million — \$300,000 more than backup wide receiver Steve Watson. The *Dallas Morning News* reported Wednesday.

Elway makes more than twice as much as the combined salaries of wide receivers Vance Johnson, who made \$236,000, Ricky Nattiel with a \$175,000 salary and Mark Jackson with \$85,000.

Washington Redskins quarterback Doug Williams makes \$325,000 less than backup quarterback Jay Schroeder. Williams, who started and played the whole way in playoff victories over Chicago and Minnesota, had a \$475,000 base with \$150,000 deferred through 1989-96.

Schroeder, in the first year of a three-year, \$2.7 million contract signed before this season, had a 1987 base of \$800,000, which was

\$200,000 more than wide receiver Art Monk.

The 1987 salary list compiled by the National Football League Players Association and obtained by the *Dallas* newspaper shows that Elway and Schroeder, with vastly different roles in Super Bowl XXII, are by far their team's highest-paid players.

The 1987 compensation figures are base salary plus reporting and roster bonuses. The figures do not reflect the salary lost during the strike, which for players who did not cross the picket line, equaled 25 percent of their base salary.

None of the Redskins crossed, but a handful of Broncos did, including Watson.

For Elway, who would have earned \$1 million in 1987, his strike contribution for staying out the 24 days was \$250,000. He lost more to the strike than all but 13 of his teammates would have made if there was not a strike.

Jackson is Denver's second lowest-paid starter behind center Mike Freeman at \$82,000. Jackson was a

No. 6 draft choice in 1986 and the second year of a three-year contract.

He caught the tying touchdown at the end of "the drive" last week in Cleveland and had an 80-yard touchdown in Denver's 38-33 victory over Cleveland Browns in Sunday's Championship Game.

Washington defensive Charles Mann, with a \$250,000 base, is the Redskins fifth highest-paid defensive lineman and 10th highest-paid defensive player.

Elway, meanwhile, completed his final year of his five-year, \$5 million contract he signed as a rookie in 1983. His new deal, negotiated by Marvin Demoff, who also negotiated the start of the 1987 season, is the richest in NFL history in years, \$12.85 million.

Elway will receive a \$1.5 million signing bonus, which is the highest in NFL history. His base salary for 1988 is \$1.4 million, escalating to \$1.8 million in 1993. The contract is guaranteed.

Skins' coaches planning defense to stop Elway's passing, running

HERNDON, Va. (AP) — It was strategy day. The plotters: Washington Redskins coaches. The target: John Elway. The objective: stopping him in the Super Bowl.

"Elway's the key feature in the game plan, obviously," Redskins linebacker coach Larry Peccatiello said. "We'll be conservative at times and at other times we'll be aggressive, but you've got to mix it up when you play against a guy of his caliber."

While the players enjoyed their second straight day off Wednesday, Redskins coaches huddled inside the team's practice facility, watching films and devising strategy against

the Denver Broncos' quarterback.

Players will get their initial look at the game plan on Thursday when they report for practice for the first time this week.

The last time Denver played the Redskins, in December 1986, Elway threw for 282 yards to rally the Broncos from a 13-0 deficit to a 31-30 victory. Washington, obviously, is working to prevent him from pulling off an encore in the Jan. 31 Super Bowl.

The Redskins' offensive strategy also is influenced by Elway, who has been called a "one-man gang" by Washington Coach Joe Gibbs.

"We have to get a good idea of our offense so we can keep it off the field," Gibbs said. "We can control the ball, we can keep it away from Elway."

"He's one of the best quarterbacks who's ever played. He got a slow start last time we played Denver, and he still got a lot of points."

"You've got to get pressure on him and keep him in the pocket," line coach LaVern Torrence said. "That makes it tough because you have to be aggressive, yet you have to leave your lanes because he's right by you."

Reeves' Super Bowl experience says defense will be key to game

DENVER (AP) — Denver Broncos Coach Dan Reeves has played or coached in six Super Bowls.

Heading into his seventh — against the Washington Redskins on Jan. 31 in San Diego — he has a pretty good idea what it takes to win, and wonders if his team might be wanting in one particular area.

"Championship games are won by great defenses," Reeves said. "Washington played great defense on Sunday," in a 17-10 NFC championship game victory over Minnesota.

"Our defense didn't play well in the second half," Reeves said of the 38-33 triumph Sunday over Cleveland in the AFC title game.

"Cleveland scored touchdowns on

four straight possessions against us. I can't remember anyone ever doing that to our defense."

Denver's defense bears little resemblance to units of recent years. For one thing, such stalwarts as Louis Wright, Steve Foley, Tom Jackson and Rubin Carter have retired. Injuries have sidelined defensive backs Mike Harden and, until recently, Dennis Smith and Randy Robbins.

Somehow, the defense has held together, even managing a few outstanding efforts this season. But its vulnerability was exposed by the Browns.

While the Bronco players took

their second straight day off Wednesday, Reeves and his coaches studied film of the Minnesota-Washington game, as well as recent Redskins games against the Browns and Dallas and a 1986 game in Mile High Stadium.

"The one thing that stands out about the Redskins is that they're well coached," Reeves said. "You could vote year in and year out for a guy doing a great job, it would be (Washington Coach) Joe Gibbs. He's won over 70 percent of his playing in a tough division. Pettibone does a great job with the defense, too."

Flores retires from Raiders, blacks among leaders for job

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tom Flores, saying he was worn out after nine years in the pressure cooker, retired as coach of the Los Angeles Raiders Wednesday.

"I've won. I think it's time to smell the roses. It's time for me to step aside," Flores said. "I have no regrets. I've experienced just about everything you can."

Flores, 50, guided the Raiders to a 5-10 record in 1987, their worst showing in 25 years.

Overall, his teams had a 83-53 regular-season record. They won three AFC West championships in his nine years as head coach. In the postseason, his teams were 8-3.

But the Raiders, who managed the only two Super Bowl wins by AFC teams in the 1980s, lost 14 of their last 19 games. They were 8-4 in 1986 before losing their last four games to fall out of playoff contention.

"I'm not burned out, I'm just tired," Flores said at a packed news conference. "It's time to go

on to another challenge. Obviously the nine years of the pressure cooker have worn me out a little bit, so I'm going to take a little rest."

Team owner Al Davis said it was Flores' decision to step down and indicated it would be a while before he would name a replacement, although it has been speculated that he might hire a black.

"No one asked Tom Flores to retire," Davis said. "This is what he wanted to do. Tom will continue to serve the Raiders as an advisor, special projects, and will always be a part of our organization."

"I would hope that the Raiders would have a new head coach by the league meetings in March. I haven't thought about it and I won't discuss it. The last time it took about a month. It's a very big, a very tough decision."

Davis was asked about the possibility of hiring a black coach.

"I would say that with all our great records, one characteristic

of the Raiders is that race, creed, and even sex has never interfered," he replied. "I'm going to choose the best person who can lead the Raiders."

If Davis does hire a black, it would be the first of his race to lead a head coach in the modern NFL.

Among those rumored as possible successors to Flores are San Francisco assistant Dennis Green, Raiders assistants Charley Sumner, Art Shell and Art Brown, and Pittsburgh assistant Tony Dungy. Only Sumner is white.

Flores, the NFL coach of the year in 1982, spent 13 seasons with the Raiders as a quarterback and assistant coach before retiring as head coach in 1979.

The Raiders won the Super Bowl following the 1980 and 1983 seasons but haven't won a playoff game since overpowered Washington 38-9 in the Super Bowl in January of 1984.

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