

Sports

Batt sports picks the Super Bowl

Well, everybody else is doing it — why your friendly neighborhood *Battalion* writers and editors? The consensus seems to be the Denver Broncos over the Washington Redskins, and the reason is unanimous — John Elway.

The notable staffer picked what could only be considered a "dark horse," considering the team is not actually involved in the game. But, to each his own.

Winner: Vikings. Score: 31-29
Why: Ah, the Super Bowl! Bourbon Street! McMahoni! Oops mean, San Diego! Hoopla! The hype! Hoopla! Football in the air. It's the best time for couch potatoes everywhere. For the serious fan, it'll be a close call for a change, but I love that Viking. That Wade Wilcox can run just like Richardson and Anthony Carter can throw any ball thrown within a 25-mile radius. And what about that running back Darrin Nelson? He almost spells his name just like A&M's own Darren Lewis. Hey, the Vikings have already defeated three other teams better than them, that's one more?

All the Broncos have is John Elway and Steve Martin, Chevy Chase and Martin Short. What can three comedians do against those Purple People Eaters? Nothing if you ask me. Destiny is with the Vikes, wait a minute. Someone just told me Minnesota isn't playing in this year's Super Bowl, that changes a few things. I hope the bookie doesn't mind a slight change in game plan. Now what was Jimmy's number again?

Winner: Redskins. Score: 34-20.
Sometimes you've got to play the hunch. It's one of those times. With all the statistics and figures I have about this game, one in particular is popping into my mind. Washington Denver 1.
In 11 Redskin defenders vs. one John

Granted, Elway is the best quarterback — and probably the most dangerous player — in the National Football League. But he can't take his own handoffs.

The 'Skins will be able to contain Elway to some degree, and that should be enough for the win. Washington's offense is much more balanced than Denver's. If one player has an off game, even the quarterback, the others can pick up the slack. Denver goes as Elway goes, and if The Big Guy has an average game, the Broncos are suddenly extremely vulnerable.

Remember: games are most often won by the lines, not the quarterbacks. Washington



Hal L. Hammons
Assistant Sports Editor

should dominate the line of scrimmage on offense and defense.

And remember the intangibles. The NFC has won the last three Super Bowls in routs, and it was obvious that the regular season's three best teams were Washington, San Francisco and Chicago. New Orleans and Minnesota were quite likely numbers four and five. I wouldn't have thought twice about picking the Bears or 'Niners to beat Denver; I might have chosen the Saints or Vikings. And Washington beat out all of them.

Winner: Redskins. Score: 31-24
It seems all the news surrounding Super Bowl XXII is about NFL poster-child John Elway and those three Bronco receivers who are going around masquerading as three comedians. I hope the "Three Amigos" can laugh at themselves because that's what they may have to do after the Broncos lose their second Super Bowl in a row.

Who better than Speedy Gonzales, better known as Darrell Green to stop the Amigos?

Green has some buddies of his own, namely Dexter Manley, Charles Mann and Monte Coleman. Together they will frustrate Elway, stymie the Amigos and slow down the Bronco scoring machine just enough for the Doug Williams-led Skins to pull off their second Super Bowl win of the 1980s.

The Orange Crush defense of old is now just plain orange, and the mediocre Redskin offense should be enough to win on Sunday.



Curtis L. Culberson
Assistant Sports Editor

As for you die-hard Dallas fans who hate to see the Skins win, I sympathize. I would much rather see the Cowboys than their arch-rival Indians win the Big One, too. But unfortunately, it won't happen this year or any year in the near future.

For you Bronco and Elway fans, don't be surprised if you see John's picture on the back of a milk carton on Monday.

Winner: Denver Broncos. Score: 27-14.

Why: Why will the Broncos win? In a word — Elway. He's big. He's fast. And the arm? Well, to quote Eddie Murphy, he can go "DEEP, DEEP, DEEP" downfield. More important, he can do it consistently with accuracy. With Washington cornerback Darrell Green's health questionable, the Three Amigos may run the Redskin secondary silly. Even if he is healthy, he won't be able to cover all three at one time. Elway's mobility will negate the pass rush of Dexter Manley, Charles Mann and Dave Butz.

Against Minnesota in the NFC Championship game, the Redskins' offense was terrible. When Doug Williams wasn't overthrowing receivers, they were dropping balls. Washington played few teams with winning records this season. They certainly didn't face a team nearly as tough or an offense as dangerously potent as Denver's.

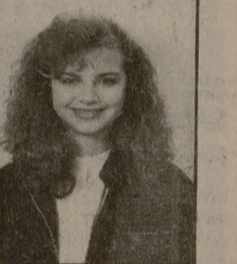
Winner: Broncos. Score: 31-17

Why: What is there to say about Super Bowl XXII than John Elway? He is a dangerous quarterback with a number of offensive weapons to choose from. He won't be contained by the Washington Redskins.

The Broncos were denied a victory in last year's contest, and it won't happen again this year. Maybe it's a mistake to underestimate what the Redskins can do, but I doubt it.



Anthony Wilson
Sports Writer



Cray Pixley
Sports Writer

Ag baseball led by returning core

By Anthony Wilson
Sports Writer

As the 1988 baseball season approaches and the Texas Aggies look to improve on a 44-win season, three returning players become the focal points of the team.

On offense, it's Scott Livingstone. On defense, it's Chuck Knoblauch. And on the mound, it's Sean Snedeker.

For the team to play well and challenge for the Southwest Conference title, each must play at least as well as he did last season.

In 1987, third baseman Livingstone hit .403 with 19 home runs and 76 runs batted in. Livingstone won every award and was named to every All-Everything team imaginable.

Livingstone's 1987 was a career for most collegiate players. Improving on a season like that will be difficult, but Livingstone said he doesn't feel any pressure. "It's going to be tough to re-

peat a year like I had last year," Livingstone said. "I had a good freshman year, a terrible sophomore year and a good junior year. I don't want to have a bad senior year. But I don't think it'll be any problem."

"I always want to live up to great expectations. And I always want to play to the best of my ability. I think any pressure I have is what I put on myself."

Livingstone said he put a lot of pressure on himself to perform well last season so that he would be selected high in the professional baseball draft. When he didn't play well, he got down on himself, he said. Livingstone was drafted by the Oakland Athletics, but decided to return to A&M for his senior season when he and the A's "didn't hit it off too well."

After missing 10 games last season with a separated shoulder and getting food poisoning while playing in the Pan American games in Cuba this summer,

Livingstone says he is 100-percent healthy. He said he is ready for pitchers who will be bearing down on him.

"I hope they do (bear down on me)," he said. "Last year a lot of them didn't want to throw to me. They didn't know about John (Byington) because he was a freshman. Now they know about him and they're going to have to throw to me because he's just as big a threat. It's going to be interesting to see how they handle it."

"We've got 'Big John' Byington behind me," he continued. "I have to give him a lot of credit because teams don't want to face him so they have to throw to me. He helps me in that way."

Offensively, the Aggies lost only Ever Magallanes off a team that hit .347 in SWC play. Livingstone thinks everyone has improved during the off-season.

"I think we're better," he said. "We've got the three sophomores — (Terry) Taylor, Knob-

lauch and Byington — and they can all hit and with power. We've got (Tim) McWilliam and a lot of the new guys. We're going to be a lot better-hitting ball club."

After having an outstanding freshman season in 1985, Livingstone's batting average dropped 31 points the next year. He said he doesn't think Taylor, Knoblauch or Byington will fall victim to the sophomore jinx.

"I tell them not to live off the year before," Livingstone said. "You've just got to keep building and getting better and better. That's definitely showing in them. I don't see the sophomore jinx in the making in those guys. They can control their own destiny."

Knoblauch will be trying to control the infield position vacated by All-SWC shortstop Magallanes. Knoblauch, who played centerfield last season, hasn't played shortstop since his

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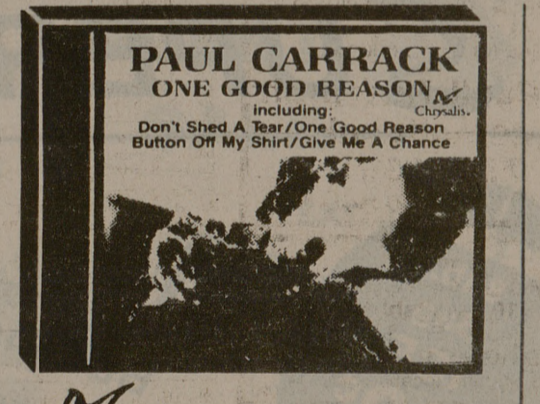
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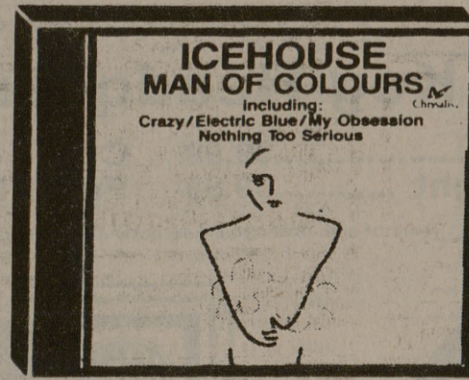
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