

Sports

Redskins punish Broncos in Super Bowl

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Doug Williams, Timmy Smith and Ricky Sanders ripped apart the Denver defense in a record 35-point, 356-yard second quarter as the Washington Redskins won the Super Bowl by routing Denver Broncos 42-10 and shutting down John Elway.

Washington spotted Denver a 10-0 lead, then came behind for the seventh time in 14 wins this year to win the NFC its fourth straight lopsided victory in the Super Bowl.

It was the Redskins' second Super Bowl victory in 14 years. And it was an eerie reprise for the Broncos.

Denver Head Coach Dan Reeves said his team was humiliated by their 39-20 loss to the New York Giants in their year's game, a contest in which they led at halftime but were outgained 200 yards to 2 over the next 20 minutes.

Safety Bruce Smith said that was a haunting, this one was a possession.

Williams, the Most Valuable Player, was playing for more than 24 hours after a root canal on a molar, and he had an abortion.

Smith, 306 in the first half. Only six other quarterbacks have passed for 300 yards in a full Super Bowl game.

The four TD passes by the first black quarterback to play in this ultimate game tied the record for a Super Bowl.

The 35 second-quarter points — on just 18 plays — were 14 more than the Super Bowl record for a quarter and the most in a single period in NFL playoff history.

They used just 5:47 to score them and scored on 10 straight possessions, failing only when Williams threw the ball on the last play of the half.

Smith, a surprise starter for George Rogers, threw for 131 yards in the first half, five more than he had in the entire regular season. He finished with 204 yards in 22 carries, including his first two pro touchdowns.

That broke Marcus Allen's record of 191 set in the Raiders' 38-9 rout of the Redskins in 1984.

Sanders, who caught two of the four TD passes, had 131 yards on receptions in the first half and finished with a record 193 yards and nine receptions.

The 356 yards gained by Washington in the second quarter was just 17 less than its season-long average for an entire game and its six touchdowns set a Super Bowl record.

It didn't start that way.

The Broncos scored on their first offensive play, a 10-yard pass from Elway to Ricky Nattiel, and added two more points on their second possession on Rich Odom's 24-yard field goal.

But then came the boom, an offensive noise louder than the noise from the formation of jets that flew over the stadium at the close of the national anthem.

It was equaled by a defense that limited Elway to 15 completions in 15 attempts during that period, and held him four times and picked off three of his passes.

Forty-three seconds into the second quarter, Williams threw an 80-yard touchdown pass to Sanders. Less than four minutes later, it was a 27-yarder to Gary Sanders, a 58-yard TD run by Smith, his first pro touchdown, a 50-yarder to Sanders and an 8-yarder to Clint Stenerud.

It hardly looked like that at the start.

Beginning with the 56-yard touchdown pass from Elway to Nattiel on their first play from scrimmage, the Broncos befuddled the Redskins in the first quarter with just about everything in their diverse playbook.

While Washington was starting its first five possessions at its own 20 or worse and open receivers were dropping passes, Denver was moving up and down the field.

There was a halfback pass to Elway, the first reception by a quarterback in Super Bowl history; a quarter-

back draw, shovel passes and runs when Washington was looking for the pass.

But the Broncos couldn't finish off what they started.

Their second drive stalled at the Washington 7 and resulted in a field goal, their third was thwarted when Alvin Walton, the strong safety who had 2½ sacks, dropped Elway for an 18-yard loss, pushing the Broncos out of field goal range.

After Washington went 1-2-3-punt on its first series, Elway went boom — and it was 7-0 Broncos just 1:57 into the game.

It was the simplest of patterns, Nattiel on a fly, streaking right by Barry Wilburn, who later had two interceptions. Nattiel caught the ball in stride at the 7 and fell over the goal line as Wilburn tackled him too late.

It was the earliest touchdown in Super Bowl history, 3:39 earlier than the previous mark, when Dallas scored against Pittsburgh 12 years ago, 4:36 into the game.

The Redskins got one first down on the next series, but Steve Cox had to punt again and back came the Broncos on a 61-yard drive on which Elway did everything — pass, run and catch, the latter a 23-yard reception from running back Steve Sewell, to whom he had handed off.

But Elway was thrown for a 1-yard loss on a third-down quarterback draw and the Broncos had to settle for Karlis' 24-yard field goal that made it 10-0, 5:51 into the game.

Washington continued to start in bad field position — its first four possessions began inside its 20 and it fifth began at the 20.

The Redskins were also killing themselves; Clark, Sanders and Kelvin Bryant all dropped passes in the first quarter, and a holding call on Don Warren erased a 25-yard run by Smith.

Finally, they did something right, starting the second period the way the Broncos started the first.

On their first offensive play of the quarter, Williams, who missed two plays on the previous series when he slipped and suffered a hyperflexed left knee, hit Sanders on an 80-yard touchdown play to cut it to 10-7.

Sanders raced by Mark Haynes — the way Nattiel beat Wilburn — and caught the ball in stride at the 37 and raced home. The play tied the Super Bowl record for the longest pass set by Jim Plunkett of the Raiders against the Eagles in 1981.

Now it was time for another reprise of last year — Karlis missing from 43 yards out on a field goal set up by Elway's 23-yard run after breaking what appeared to be a sure sack by Dexter Manley.

Two plays later, Smith broke through a huge hole off right tackle and raced by Tony Lilly on his 58-yard TD romp. That made it 21-10 with 6:27 left in the half.

Then, 2½ minutes later, it was Williams again to Sanders, who went in motion to the left, cut diagonally across the field, and caught the ball all alone at the five for TD No. 4.

No. 5, the 8-yard pass to Didier, came after Wilburn picked off an Elway pass at his own 21. Seven plays later, on third and 4, Williams lofted it softly to his tight end in the corner to tie the TD pass record and shatter yet another record — points in a quarter in any playoff game.

Williams' record-breaking game helps Skins QB gain MVP honors

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Doug Williams' slice of Super Bowl history has nothing to do with black and white, except for the print in the record book: 340 yards and four touchdown passes.

No other quarterback, black or white, ever did better.

Williams, the first black quarterback to start a Super Bowl, drove the Washington Redskins to a 42-10 rout of the Denver Broncos Sunday night. All week, Williams refused to make this a matter of race and he maintained that posture after being named the game's most valuable player.

"I didn't come here to be the first quarterback to start a Super Bowl," Williams said. "I just want to be the quarterback of the

Washington Redskins."

Washington Coach Joe Gibbs echoed those feelings.

"Hopefully, we're at the point now where most people were looking at players, not colors anymore."

Williams wiped out any racial considerations with a record-breaking performance that matched or broke marks established by three of the greatest Super Bowl quarterbacks in history.

Between them, Bradshaw, Montana and Plunkett own eight Super Bowl rings.

Ironically, Williams got rolling after leaving the game with an injured left knee near the end of the first quarter. He was replaced for two plays by Jay Schroeder.

"On the sidelines, I felt I could walk and set up," Williams said. "No matter what the pain, I was going back in."

Williams struggled through a tough first quarter as Denver jumped into a 10-0 lead.

The 340 yards broke the record of 331 set by San Francisco's Joe Montana in 1985. The four touchdowns — all in a remarkable second-period explosion — tied the record of Pittsburgh's Terry Bradshaw in 1979.

Williams-to-Sanders 80-yard TD keyed Redskin 2nd-quarter attack

SAN DIEGO (AP) — It was Doug Williams' dream pass, Ricky Sanders' fantasy catch, a perfectly thrown ball caught in stride and a breakaway run for an 80-yard touchdown.

It came with stunning, unexpected suddenness, just 53 seconds into the second quarter, and was the opening salvo in the most ferocious one-period attack in Super Bowl history.

If there was a single play, a single moment that presaged Washington's 42-10 victory Sunday over Denver, it was that simple, elegant pass from Williams to Sanders at a time when the Redskins were struggling.

Only moments before, Washington seemed doomed. The Redskins trailed 10-0 and Williams lay on the turf clutching a painfully strained left knee.

He had gone back to pass and hyperflexed his knee, bending it backward in a way it's not designed to go. He crumpled to the ground for a 10-yard loss on the Redskins' 25 while the hearts of Washington fans sank.

After a few minutes on the turf, Williams got up slowly and jogged off to show he wasn't seriously hurt. Jay Schroeder, who hadn't played in a month, came in with the Redskins facing second-and-20 on the 25.

Denver greeted Schroeder with a blitz and a sack.

It all changed, though, within a couple of minutes. After an exchange of punts, Washington took over on their 20. Williams returned to the game with a play that called for Sanders to sprint straight out down the right sideline against cornerback Mark Haynes.

Williams took the snap, stepped back a few paces and threw a hard spiral that Sanders snared on the run on Washington's 48.

From there, it was a foot race — Sanders versus Haynes and free safety Tony Lilly.

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