

DENVER BRONCOS

QUARTERBACK

The Peyton Manning era in Denver is over, capped with a Super Bowl victory. The Brock Osweiler era in Denver is also over, seemingly before it really ever began, as he signed a free-agent contract to be the quarterback in Houston. In 2016, the reigns of the Super Bowl champions will be turned over to either Mark Sanchez, Trevor Siemian, or first round draft choice Paxton Lynch. Either way, none of these folks makes my top 20, and you must also factor in that the Broncos might play some "musical QBs" during the 2016 season.

RUNNING BACKS

The Broncos running back situation is a time share between CJ Anderson and Ronnie Hillman. Last year many were high on Anderson, but I didn't trust the situation and had him at least 10 slots lower than other magazines. The basic reason is I simply don't trust Denver to pick one guy and stick with him through thick and thin. It's almost as if Denver feels like Anderson and Hillman are interchangeable. Whether or not Anderson and Hillman are the same for the first 95 yards, inside the opponents 5 yard line, Hillman and Anderson are not the same. Denver clearly favors Hillman at the goal line, and for good reason. Hillman out carried Anderson 9 to 3 inside the opponents five; and while Hillman converted five of his 9 goal line chances, Anderson converted on just one of his 3 attempts. Because of the uncertainty, the time sharing situation between the two and the fact that the guy who gets the majority of carries (Anderson) only gets 25% of the goal line chances, I can't put either Denver running back in my top 20.

WIDE RECEIVERS/TIGHT ENDS

Despite the fact that Denver had inconsistent quarterback play last season, Demaryius Thomas made his numbers with respect to receptions (102) and yards (1300+). Thomas did fall off when it came to touchdowns (6) and that's a big deal. Saying that a wide receiver did everything but score touchdowns is a little like asking Mrs. Lincoln "other than the shooting how did you like the play?". I downgraded Thomas a few spots because I'm concerned that with his current quarterback situation, he may not reach double-digit touchdowns. Emmanuel Sanders is the other starting wide receiver. In approximately 14 games Sanders averaged 10 targets per contest and so still has good value, especially in a PPR format. He makes my top 30 wide receivers. Like Denver's QB situation, the tight end position is also in flux. Owen Daniels was released and Vernon Davis signed with Washington. The Broncos did re-sign Garrett Graham and Jeff Heuerman is back from injury. I'm not sure you can bank on either player to make a fantasy impact for you in 2016.

DEFENSE/SPECIAL TEAMS

At presstime, Von Miller is embroiled in a contract dispute, but I'll assume something gets worked out. Even if Miller sits, Denver is still obviously an elite unit, and as you saw in the Super Bowl, they can take over any game. The Broncos are one of my top three defenses along with Arizona and Seattle.

Quick Hits by
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THE LAST 3 YEARS

OFFENSE

	2015	2014	2013
SCORING	22.2 (#19)	28.7 (#1)	35.7 (#1)
Home	21.6 (#17)	34.5 (#1)	39.5 (#1)
Away	22.8 (#11)	22.9 (#9)	36.2 (#1)
YARDAGE	356 (#16)	403 (#4)	457 (#1)
Home	365 (#17)	413 (#4)	456 (#1)
Away	346 (#14)	393 (#6)	459 (#1)

DEFENSE

	2015	2014	2013
SCORING	18.5 (#4)	22.1 (#16)	24.9 (#22)
Home	18.5 (#9)	20.8 (#15)	22.5 (#20)
Away	18.5 (#5)	23.5 (#17)	27.4 (#21)
YARDAGE	283 (#1)	305 (#3)	356 (#19)
Home	247 (#1)	318 (#8)	344 (#19)
Away	319 (#2)	292 (#2)	369 (#21)

DEFENSIVE/SPECIAL TEAMS TD's

	2015	2014	2013
TD's SCORED (D/ST)	5/1	3/0	2/3
TD's ALLOWED (D/ST)	3/0	2/1	2/1

REDZONE OFFENSE

	2015	2014	2013
ATTS/GAME	7.7 (#20)	10.7 (#4)	4.3 (#1)
Home	7.0 (#25)	11.9 (#3)	4.6 (#2)
Away	8.4 (#15)	9.5 (#7)	3.9 (#3)
TD's/GAME	1.3 (#27)	2.4 (#1)	3.1 (#1)
Home	1.3 (#27)	3.4 (#1)	3.3 (#1)
Away	1.4 (#25)	1.5 (#16)	2.9 (#1)

INSIDE THE 20 - PLAY BY PLAY

Opp	Q	Dn/Dist	YL	Play	Result	Players	Gained
BAL	4Q	2nd & 5	17	RUN	RUSH	Hillman	-4
WIN	4Q	4th & 3	15	FGA	GOOD	McManus	33yd FG
19-13							
@KC	2Q	1st & 10	19	PASS	incomp	Manning to Green	0
	2Q	2nd & 10	19	PASS	COMP	Manning to Norwood	3
WIN	2Q	3rd & 7	16	PASS	COMP	Manning to Sanders	TD
31-24	2Q	1st & 10	15	RUN	RUSH	Hillman	7
	2Q	2nd & 3	8	PASS	COMP	Manning to Norwood	7
	2Q	1st & 1	1	RUN	RUSH	Hillman	0
	2Q	2nd & 1	1	PASS	COMP	Manning to Green	TD
	4Q	1st & 10	19	PASS	incomp	Manning to Caldwell	0
	4Q	2nd & 10	19	PASS	incomp	Manning to Norwood	0
	4Q	3rd & 10	19	PASS	COMP	Manning to Sanders	TD
@DET1Q							
	1Q	1st & 10	13	RUN	RUSH	Anderson	4
WIN	2Q	2nd & 10	13	PASS	int	Manning to Daniels	0
24-12	2Q	1st & 2	2	RUN	RUSH	Thompson	1
	2Q	2nd & 1	1	RUN	RUSH	Hillman	TD
	4Q	1st & 10	15	RUN	RUSH	Anderson	2
	4Q	2nd & 8	13	RUN	RUSH	Anderson	2
	4Q	3rd & 6	11	PASS	COMP	Manning to Daniels	TD
MIN							
	1Q	1st & 5	15	RUN	RUSH	Anderson	0
	1Q	2nd & 5	15	PASS	incomp	Manning to Thomas	0
WIN	1Q	3rd & 5	15	PASS	incomp	Manning to Daniels	0
23-20	1Q	4th & 5	15	FGA	GOOD	McManus	33yd FG
	2Q	1st & 5	18	RUN	RUSH	Anderson	0
	2Q	2nd & 5	18	PASS	COMP	Manning to Thomas	1
	3Q	1st & 3	3	PASS	incomp	Manning to Sanders	0
	3Q	2nd & 3	3	RUN	RUSH	Hillman	2
	3Q	3rd & 1	1	RUN	RUSH	Hillman	0
	3Q	4th & 1	1	PASS	COMP	Manning to Daniels	TD
@OAK							
	1Q	1st & 10	14	RUN	RUSH	Anderson	2
	2Q	2nd & 8	12	PASS	COMP	Manning to Sanders	5
WIN	2Q	3rd & 3	7	PASS	incomp	Manning to Daniels	0
16-10	2Q	4th & 3	7	FGA	GOOD	McManus	25yd FG
	2Q	3rd & 2	18	PASS	COMP	Manning to Norwood	4
	2Q	1st & 10	14	PASS	COMP	Manning to Hillman	5
	2Q	2nd & 5	9	PASS	incomp	Manning to Hillman	0
	2Q	3rd & 5	9	PASS	int	Manning to Daniels	0
	3Q	1st & 10	16	PASS	COMP	Manning to Thomas	12
	3Q	1st & 4	4	RUN	RUSH	Anderson	1
	3Q	2nd & 3	3	RUN	RUSH	Anderson	1
	3Q	3rd & 2	2	PASS	incomp	Manning to Thomas	0
	3Q	4th & 2	2	FGA	GOOD	McManus	20yd FG
CLE							
	1Q	1st & 10	11	RUN	RUSH	Anderson	1
	1Q	2nd & 9	10	RUN	RUSH	Anderson	1
WIN	1Q	3rd & 8	9	PASS	COMP	Manning to Norwood	-1
26-23	1Q	4th & 9	10	FGA	GOOD	McManus	29yd FG
	3Q	1st & 10	15	RUN	RUSH	Hillman	5
	3Q	2nd & 5	10	PASS	incomp	Manning to Sanders	0
	3Q	3rd & 5	10	PASS	COMP	Manning to Anderson	3
	3Q	4th & 2	7	FGA	GOOD	McManus	25yd FG
	OT	4th & 3	16	FGA	GOOD	McManus	34yd FG
GB							
	1Q	1st & 7	7	RUN	RUSH	Hillman	0
	1Q	2nd & 7	7	PASS	COMP	Manning to Thomas	6
WIN	1Q	3rd & 1	1	RUN	RUSH	Hillman	TD
29-10	2Q	1st & 15	15	RUN	RUSH	Hillman	TD
	4Q	1st & 10	12	RUN	RUSH	Hillman	1
	4Q	2nd & 9	11	PASS	incomp	Manning to Hillman	0
	4Q	3rd & 9	11	PASS	COMP	Manning to Anderson	5

Opp	Q	Dn/Dist	YL	Play	Result	Players	Gained
GB	4Q	4th & 4	6	FGA	GOOD	McManus	24yd FG
@IND							
	3Q	1st & 10	18	PASS	COMP	Manning to Anderson	4
	3Q	2nd & 6	14	PASS	COMP	Manning to Thomas	3
loss	3Q	3rd & 3	11	PASS	incomp	Manning to Fowler	0
27-24	3Q	4th & 3	11	FGA	GOOD	McManus	29yd FG
	4Q	1st & 10	15	PASS	COMP	Manning to Thomas	6
	4Q	2nd & 4	9	RUN	RUSH	Hillman	3
	4Q	1st & 1	1	PASS	COMP	Manning to Daniels	TD
KC							
	4Q	2nd & 8	18	PASS	COMP	Oswieiler to Caldwell	6
	4Q	3rd & 2	12	PASS	sack	Oswieiler to	-8
loss	4Q	1st & 10	16	PASS	sack	Oswieiler to	-7
29-13	4Q	3rd & 10	16	PASS	COMP	Oswieiler to Latimer	15
	4Q	1st & 1	1	RUN	RUSH	Hillman	TD
	4Q	1st & 10	15	PASS	incomp	Oswieiler to Caldwell	0
	4Q	2nd & 10	15	scramble	-	Oswieiler	8
	4Q	3rd & 2	7	PASS	incomp	Oswieiler to	0
	4Q	4th & 2	7	PASS	COMP	Oswieiler to Caldwell	TD
@CHI							
	2Q	3rd & 4	15	PASS	COMP	Oswieiler to Davis	9
	2Q	1st & 6	6	PASS	incomp	Oswieiler to Thomas	0
WIN	2Q	2nd & 6	6	FGA	GOOD	McManus	24yd FG
17-15	3Q	2nd & 3	18	RUN	RUSH	Hillman	7
	3Q	1st & 10	11	RUN	RUSH	Hillman	1
	3Q	2nd & 9	10	RUN	RUSH	Anderson	0
	3Q	3rd & 9	10	PASS	COMP	Oswieiler to Norwood	8
	3Q	4th & 1	2	RUN	RUSH	Hillman	0
	4Q	1st & 10	12	RUN	RUSH	Hillman	2
	4Q	2nd & 8	10	PASS	incomp	Oswieiler to	0
	4Q	3rd & 8	10	PASS	COMP	Oswieiler to Latimer	TD
NE							
	2Q	2nd & 1	19	RUN	RUSH	Hillman	TD
	4Q	1st & 10	15	RUN	RUSH	Anderson	TD
WIN	4Q	1st & 10	10	RUN	RUSH	Anderson	3
30-24	4Q	2nd & 7	7	PASS	COMP	Oswieiler to Caldwell	4
	4Q	3rd & 3	3	PASS	incomp	Oswieiler to Thomas	0
	4Q	4th & 3	3	FGA	GOOD	McManus	21yd FG
	4Q	1st & 8	8	RUN	RUSH	Oswieiler	1
	4Q	1st & 4	4	PASS	COMP	Oswieiler to Caldwell	TD
@SD							
	1Q	1st & 3	3	PASS	COMP	Oswieiler to Thomas	TD
	2Q	2nd & 3	13	RUN	RUSH	Hillman	2
WIN	2Q	3rd & 1	11	RUN	RUSH	Caldwell	3
17-15	2Q	1st & 8	8	RUN	RUSH	Hillman	2
	2Q	2nd & 6	6	scramble	-	Oswieiler	1
	2Q	3rd & 5	5	PASS	incomp	Oswieiler to Davis	0
	2Q	4th & 5	5	FGA	GOOD	McManus	23yd FG
OAK							
	1Q	3rd & 6	17	PASS	incomp	Oswieiler to Daniels	0
	1Q	4th & 6	17	FGA	GOOD	McManus	35yd FG
loss	2Q	1st & 10	16	PASS	COMP	Oswieiler to Fowler	12
15-12	2Q	1st & 4	4	RUN	RUSH	Hillman	-1
	2Q	2nd & 5	5	RUN	RUSH	Hillman	-6
	2Q	3rd & 11	11	PASS	incomp	Oswieiler to Sanders	0
	2Q	4th & 11	11	FGA	GOOD	McManus	29yd FG
	2Q	1st & 10	14	PASS	COMP	Oswieiler to Hillman	-5
	2Q	2nd & 15	19	PASS	incomp	Oswieiler to	0
	2Q	3rd & 15	19	PASS	COMP	Oswieiler to Thomas	17
	2Q	1st & 2	2	PASS	incomp	Oswieiler to Green	0
	2Q	2nd & 2	2	PASS	incomp	Oswieiler to Thomas	0
	2Q	4th & 2	2	FGA	GOOD	McManus	20yd FG
	2Q	3rd & 2	2	PASS	incomp	Oswieiler to Thomas	0
@PIT							
	1Q	1st & 10	18	RUN	RUSH	Oswieiler	0
	1Q	2nd & 10	18	PASS	incomp	Oswieiler to Sanders	0
loss	1Q	3rd & 10	18	PASS	COMP	Oswieiler to Thomas	TD

Opp	Q	Dn/Dist	YL	Play	Result	Players	Gained
@PIT	2Q	2nd & 5	15	PASS	incomp	Oswieiler to Fowler	0
34-27	2Q	3rd & 5	15	PASS	COMP	Oswieiler to Daniels	7
	2Q	1st & 8	8	RUN	RUSH	Hillman	7
	2Q	2nd & 1	1	RUN	RUSH	Hillman	-6
	2Q	3rd & 7	7	scramble	-	Oswieiler	TD
	2Q	1st & 8	8	RUN	RUSH	Hillman	2
	2Q	2nd & 6	6	PASS	COMP	Oswieiler to Thomas	TD
CIN							
	2Q	1st & 7	7	RUN	RUSH	Hillman	1
	2Q	2nd & 6	6	PASS	sack	Oswieiler to	-7
WIN	2Q	3rd & 13	13	PASS	COMP	Oswieiler to Thomas	8
20-17	2Q	4th & 5	5	FGA	GOOD	McManus	23yd FG
	3Q	1st & 10	15	PASS	incomp	Oswieiler to Thomas	0
	3Q	2nd & 10	15	PASS	COMP	Oswieiler to Thomas	7
	3Q	3rd & 3	8	PASS	COMP	Oswieiler to Sanders	TD
	OT	2nd & 9	19	PASS	incomp	Oswieiler to Daniels	0
	OT	3rd & 9	19	PASS	incomp	Oswieiler to Thomas	0
Opp	OT	4th & 9	19	FGA	GOOD	McManus	37yd FG
SD							
	3Q	1st & 5	18	RUN	RUSH	Anderson	17
	3Q	1st & 1	1	RUN	RUSH	Anderson	0
WIN	3Q	2nd & 1	1	RUN	RUSH	Anderson	TD
27-20	4Q	3rd & 2	16	RUN	RUSH	Anderson	-1
	4Q	4th & 3	17	FGA	GOOD	McManus	35yd FG