

Panthers and Broncos set to face off in Super Bowl

The 50th annual Super Bowl will take place Sunday at 5:30
by Wes Jenkins

The Carolina Panthers and the Denver Broncos are the only two teams left, but only one team will come out victorious when they face off in Super Bowl 50 on Sunday, Feb. 7.

Both the Broncos and the Panthers have shown flashes of dominance throughout the season. This dominance put both teams at first in their conference at the end of the regular season.

The Broncos finished with a winning record of 12-4, while the Panthers finished with the winning record of 15-1.

There is no doubt that both teams have the ability to consistently win games, stemming from both teams' outstanding quarterbacks.

A good quarterback is key to winning big games. The Broncos'

quarterback, Peyton Manning, has extensive experience in the NFL since he began in 1998. Despite his lesser experience, the Panther's quarterback, Cam Newton, has a certain attitude that exudes maturity.

"Newton has a lot of confidence and from what I've seen, he doesn't get thrown off very easily. I don't think Peyton has any sort of edge from his experience," junior Daniel McNERNEY said.

For the first time ever, both starting quarterbacks were drafted No. 1 overall in their respective NFL drafts. However, the big difference between the two is age.

This year, at age 39, Peyton Manning will break the record for the oldest quarterback to start in a Super Bowl. Manning said that due to his age, this will most likely be his last year playing football.

Manning hasn't won a Super Bowl since the Indianapolis Colts' victory in 2006 against the Chicago Bears, so he is definitely looking for a second ring. However, people have mixed feeling about how that

is going to affect his play.

Junior Michael Mogentale said, "Maybe Manning will get lucky and win because it is his last season, but I don't think that he has any sort of edge over Cam in the actual game."

In opposition to Mogentale, McNERNEY said, "I think that this being his last season definitely gives him an edge. He going to want to cap off his amazing career with a Super Bowl win and I think he can do it."

No matter what mental state the players are in, they will have to be able to perform well on the field.

Even though the passing and defensive aspects of the game appear to be even between the two teams, the rushing aspect seems to be in Newton's favor.

Newton has rushed 648 times for a total of 3,383 yards and 45 touchdowns since entering the NFL in 2011. In that same period, Manning has rushed 94 times for a total of 48 yards and 1 touchdown.

Although this should give Newton an edge, the Broncos won



The last time the Broncos and Panthers faced off was in Nov. 2012 | Youtube

36-14 last time the two teams played, in 2012. In the loss, Newton was sacked 7 times and posted a quarterback rating of 5.9, which is his career low.

Overall, junior Joe Akason thinks that because the two teams are so evenly matched, there is no way of telling what the score is

going to be.

"Newton has gotten better since the last time the two teams met, but Manning has always been good. I think that no matter what happens, it is going to be a good and entertaining game."

Trevians's gymnastics wipes the floor at Glenbrook North Invite



Caroline Hartman competed on the uneven bars at the conference meet on Jan. 30 | Varsity Views

Despite injuries, Trevs remain optimistic about regionals on Feb. 2

by Cammy Wray

In the recent Glenbrook North Invite, the girls gymnastics team succeeded despite setbacks due to team injuries.

When the Trevians typically compete, they have five girls with different floor routines. In this invite, the team only had four.

"We didn't have a fall the entire meet and the team won the invite," head coach Jennifer Pistorious said. The meet was the most successful for the team in terms of scoring.

The Trevs also recently competed against Carmel High School, who is second in the state.

"It was really close and we got our team's highest score. It was our most exciting meet," sophomore Emma Jane Rohrer said.

On Jan. 27, Evanston hosted the final dual meet on the road to conference. "Evanston isn't our biggest competitor, so I wasn't too nervous about the meet," Rohrer said.

Most of the girls used this meet as a practice for conference on Feb. 3. "It gave me another chance to be in a competitive environment before conference," Rohrer said.

Senior Lauren Chung also felt that it was more of a practice meet. "I was excited for Evanston. It was our last meet before the super serious state series, so it was nice to just have one last regular meet where we can all have fun."

'We are giving 100% and our team score seems to be improving.'

Following the Evanston meet, the team moved on to conference and is in search of a state run.

Practices before these serious meets are more intense. "I try my best to get to every event and make sure my skills are clean and consistent for the meet," said Rohrer.

Two varsity teammates, Peyton Burns and Zoey Spangler, have been injured all season. This made a major impact on the team's ability to win.

"With Burns and Spangler healthy, it would be a completely

different season for the team," Pistorious said.

"Not having them was definitely a loss," Rohrer said.

Historically, the gymnastics team's top rival is Maine South, though in recent years, Glenbrook South has been their biggest competitor.

"Glenbrook South has been a rival this year and last. We have beat them three times so far," Pistorious said.

Despite losing two important teammates, Rohrer has high hopes that the team's overall scores will go up as the season wraps up.

"We are giving 100% and our team score seems to be improving. Next year, when Spangler is healthy and ready to compete, I think the team score will continue to get better," Rohrer said.

Even though the energy in the gym is more competitive, the girls still love going to practices.

"They're fun, hard, and exciting, all at the same time," senior Jaclyn Brownstone said.

The girls gymnastics team finished out the season at regionals on Feb. 2.

The Bears Fan Struggle

How do the fans stay loyal throughout the decades of losses?

by Arjun Thakkar

Neurosurgeons, electrical engineers, and even rocket scientists have an easier job than those with the obligation of being a Chicago Bears fan.

Staying dedicated to a team that hasn't won a Super Bowl since 1986 is the most difficult occupation out there. It's surprising, then, that so many fans still support them.

Many fans who live in Illinois choose to support the Bears simply because they grew up close to Chicago, and being near the Chicago-based team made them feel obligated to stay with them.

Sophomore Ted Conklin recalls how he was introduced to the team by his family at a young age. "I've been following [the Bears] ever since I was a little kid, since I'm from a family that follows the Bears," Conklin said.

Since the 1980's, the Bears haven't had many successful seasons.

Under previous head coach Lovie Smith, from 2004 to 2012, the Bears made it to the Super Bowl in 2006, where they lost to the Indianapolis Colts 29-17.

This season, John Fox, who previously coached the Carolina Panthers and the Denver Broncos, became the new head coach of the Bears.

Under his leadership, the Bears failed to qualify for the playoffs after losing the Week 15 game on Dec. 20 against the Minnesota Vikings 38-17.

On Jan. 3, the Bears' post season ended with a loss against the Detroit Lions 24-20. This ended their NFL 2015 run with a 6-10 win-loss ratio.

Fans attribute the failure of the Bears to a variety of issues. Senior Max Blaul believes the management needs to do its job better. "The only way the Bears can get better is if they get newer and better players. It's not just

a one or two year fix. It'll take time."

Bears players have also been plagued with multiple injuries this season. Both Matt Forte and Eddie Royal were hit with knee injuries in November. First draft pick Kevin White has missed all the 2015 season games because of his shin injuries.

The frustration with Bears quarterback Jay Cutler is a running trend for many who claim to be Bears fans. Junior Quentin Benedetto blamed the team's failures on Cutler's lack of throwing expertise.

"Cutler is awful. He's been playing terribly. The interceptions and bad plays are dreadful. They've gotta kick him off the team and get a better quarterback," Benedetto said.

Conklin agreed, "Jay Cutler is not the answer to a good football team."

Despite the immense mental endurance it takes to stay loyal to the Bears, there is hope.

According to the Chicago Tribune, Gase was replaced with Dowell Loggains. Coach Fox believes that Loggains will help the team improve.

"He's an excellent coach with experience as a play caller and a broad knowledge of offensive football," Fox said to the Tribune.

Some fans think the Bears are set to come back from their losing streak very soon. Senior Patrick Jeon sees promise in the new players. "We have a couple new running backs, and Jeremy Langford did a great job as a rookie player."

Sophomore Leiber Lichter believes that the draft will help the Bears. "Since they had a bad record last year, they're getting a high draft pick this year and they can get really good players right out of college."

Although some fans think that Jay Cutler is at fault, sophomore Drew Smith doesn't believe that one player can be singled out.

"Any losses they earned were team losses. The whole team is responsible for their success and for their failure."