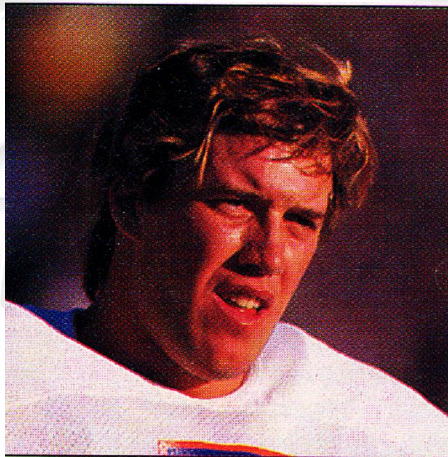


SPORTING LEGENDS: JOHN ELWAY

SPORT: AMERICAN FOOTBALL

COMPETITIVE ERA: 1983 - 1998

John Albert Elway (born June 28, 1960) was an American football quarterback in the National Football League for the Denver Broncos from 1983 through 1998.



Elway was born in Port Angeles, Washington. He attended Granada Hills High School in Granada Hills, California. He ended his high school career with 5,711 passing yards, and after passing for 49 touchdowns.

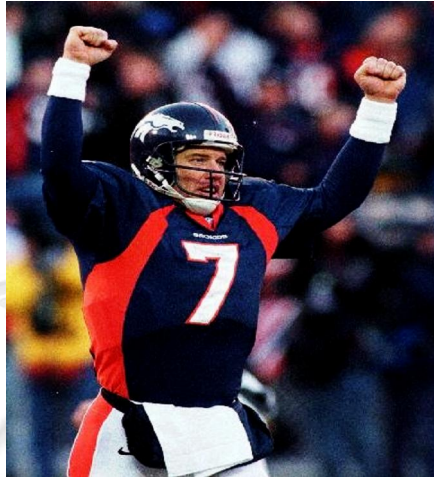
At Stanford University, that would continue, as he continued as a baseball player and quarterback. His last football game at Stanford was one of the most famous games of all time, the 1982 Big Game versus Cal, which ended with "The Play", an amazing play with five laterals that allowed Cal to win the game.

By the end of his senior year, Elway had set nearly every Pac-10 and Stanford career record for total offense and passing. He was a consensus All-American and finished second in Heisman Trophy balloting. He graduated with a degree in economics. Elway is also a member of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity.

In the 1983 draft, Elway was selected as the 1st overall pick by the Baltimore Colts, but he threatened to quit football and play professional baseball if he was not traded (he had by then played two summers in the New York Yankees organisation).

The Colts traded him to the Denver Broncos for two veterans and a first-round pick in the 1984 draft. In his fifth season, Elway was named league MVP.

SPORTING LEGENDS: JOHN ELWAY



The greatest quarterback of all-time? John Elway is one of the top candidates.

He finally won a Super Bowl in the 1997 season after three previously failed attempts, behind the overwhelming running game of Terrell Davis. In 1998, the Broncos repeated this feat and Elway was awarded the MVP of Super Bowl XXXIII; it was his last game.

On May 2, 1999, at the age of 38, Elway announced his retirement from pro football. Elway is regarded as one of the top quarterbacks ever to play the game. Not only does he have more wins than any other quarterback in NFL history, but he has the best winning percentage in league history (148-82-1), and is tied for most Pro Bowl selections for a quarterback (nine).

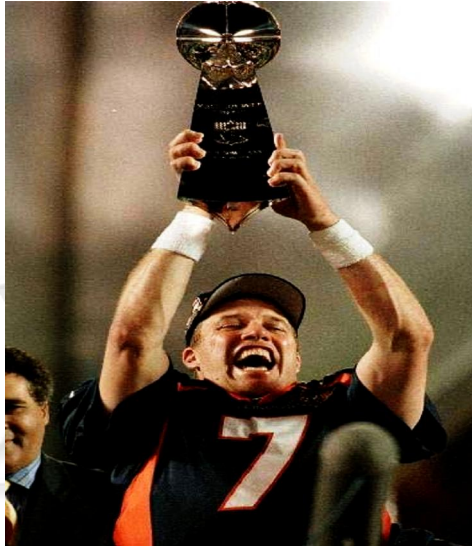
He is second to Dan Marino in career passing yards, attempts, and completions. He is the first quarterback to have started in five Super Bowls. Elway also holds the record for most game-winning or game-tying scoring drives in the fourth quarter, with 47. Surprisingly often, if Elway had the ball late in the fourth quarter and the Broncos were within a touchdown, he would lead them to tie or win the game.

Elway had many comeback opportunities because for most of his career, the Broncos were a good, but not dominant, team. Part of the reason that Denver was not a dominant team can be attributed to Dan Reeves, who coached Elway for the majority of his career.

Reeves had a conservative "run-first" approach, and did not have an intimidating running back to power the offense.

This often left the Broncos in situations where they were behind in the fourth quarter. Elway holds the record for most times being sacked (516).

SPORTING LEGENDS: JOHN ELWAY



Elway's 1998 Super Bowl success was a fitting way to end his glittering career.

His number 7 jersey was retired by the Denver Broncos in 1999, the same year he was inducted into the Denver Broncos Ring of Fame.

He was the first player to have the five-year waiting period waived.

In 2004, Elway was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He is the only player to be inducted into the Hall of Fame as a Bronco.

He was selected to the Pro Bowl nine times during his 16 seasons with the Broncos. Over his professional career, he led his teams to a record 47 fourth quarter comebacks.

He led the NFL all-time list with 148 wins as a starting quarterback. He was also sacked 516 times, more than any other quarterback. At retirement, Elway's 300 career touchdown passes placed him third behind Dan Marino and Fran Tarkenton.

He was only the second quarterback to pass for at least 3,000 yards in 12 seasons.

On January 31, 2004, he was elected into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

On August 8, 2004, he was inducted to the Hall of Fame along with Bob Brown, Carl Eller, and Barry Sanders.

SPORTING LEGENDS: JOHN ELWAY



Scott Burton's Final Thought

John Elway deserves to be considered as a sporting legend.

Although best remembered for his pro-American football career, he was also a brilliant junior athlete, excelling at baseball and basketball.

Playing with the Denver Broncos, Elway became famous for dramatic, last-minute game-winning scores.

He also topped the NFL by making first place in the history of the league in victories by a starting quarterback, first in rushing attempts by a quarterback.

During his 16 years with the Broncos, Elway played in four Super Bowls, the final two of which, Super Bowl XXXII and Super Bowl XXXIII, his team won.

Also during his career with the Broncos, Elway became only the second player in NFL history to throw for over 50,000 yards, and he topped the NFL in victories for a starting quarterback and in rushing attempts by a quarterback.

During the height of his popularity, Elway was an internationally recognised star: he regularly stopped to sign autographs wherever he went, including Europe and Asia. He took to wearing sunglasses while out in public and walking with his head down in an effort not to be recognised. He also had to change his telephone number every month or so to avoid getting thousands of telephone calls. A truly great champion he was.



Elway's passes were unbelievable; always straight, and always finding their mark!