

# Chiefs sending five players to Pro Bowl

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Early this season when left tackle Willie Roaf was sidelined by a hamstring injury and an assortment of aches and pains was bothering Will Shields' 34-year-old body, it seemed like the end of an era was at hand in Kansas City.

Probably gone forever was the dominant offensive line that had enabled the Chiefs to put one of the NFL's most potent offenses on the field for three years in a row. Age, apparently, had caught up with it.

But then Shields got healthy and Roaf's hamstring got right, and the Chiefs' offense climbed all the way up the NFL's charts to its familiar place near the top.

Then on Wednesday, to nobody's surprise, five members of the Chiefs' offense were named to the Pro Bowl.

It was the 11th time each for Shields and Roaf. Joining them in the game in Hawaii in February will be left guard Brian Waters, tight end Tony Gonzalez and, for the first time in his three years in the league, running back Larry Johnson.

"I'm pleased that we had five people make it," said coach Dick Vermeil. "I'm not surprised that those five made it."

Roaf was selected as one of the game's finest left tackles even though he missed six games.

"He's a dominating player," Vermeil said. "He's a one-of-a-kind guy."

Gonzalez, who's caught only two touchdown passes this year but distinguished himself as a blocker, is making his seventh straight appearance. Waters will be going for the second time in two years.

Shields came close to retiring after last season and said he was worried he would not be able to play at his customary level. Did an 11th Pro Bowl selection verify that he had?

"I don't know if it's verification," he said. "I just think it was fortunate enough for me to stay healthy throughout the year, so far. I guess the honor of going to the Pro Bowl is a good thing on top of that."

Johnson, who burst into stardom this year after Priest Holmes went on injured reserve, leads the NFL in yards rushing (1,019) and total yards from scrimmage (1,212) since Nov. 1.

"He's worked hard. He's persevered," said Gonzalez. "He's worked through some stuff and some growing pains and now I think he's finally getting the reward for it. Larry makes some holes, too. It's

one of the best offensive lines in the league. It's fun to be a part of it."

Johnson, who feels he's been mistreated by some members of the Kansas City media, declined to speak with reporters.

"I think I might be more proud of (Johnson's selection) than getting in myself," said Waters. "It didn't surprise me he was successful. It did surprise me how successful he was."

It's the second consecutive season the Chiefs have had three offensive linemen selected — the first time that has happened since Dallas had three from 1993-96. Shields and Waters are the first guard duo to make consecutive Pro Bowl appearances since Dallas' Nate Newton and Larry Allen in 1995-96.

Shields (6-3, 320) was a third-round draft pick out of Nebraska in 1993. Roaf (6-5, 320) joined Kansas City in 2002 in a trade with New Orleans and will be appearing in his fourth Pro Bowl as a member of the Chiefs, the most by a Kansas City tackle.

Gonzalez, (6-5, 251), was the Chiefs' first-round draft choice in 1997 and is the only Kansas City tight end ever selected to the Pro Bowl. He's the Chiefs' all-time leading pass catcher with 638 receptions for 7,693 yards and needs two touchdown catches to pass wide receiver Otis Taylor's team record of 57.

Johnson was sharing time with three-time Pro Bowler Holmes the first few games of this season, but took over the role exclusively when Holmes went on injured reserve.

Since then, he has rung up a team-record seven straight 100-yard rushing games. His 12 rushing touchdowns since Nov. 1 are tied with Seattle RB Shaun Alexander for first in the league. Against Houston on Nov. 20, he had a team-record 211 yards rushing.

Johnson's selection, Vermeil said, "was a tremendous tribute to him and the players that helped him be successful."

"To jump in like he's done after playing part time and then full time and earn the respect of the people who vote, that's tremendous."

## SportsLine

### Colby Eagles at home Jan. 3

The Colby High School Eagles will play at home against Hays TMP on Tuesday, Jan. 3. "C" team and junior varsity game start at 4:30 p.m. The varsity girls game will be at 6:30 p.m. at the Colby Community Building, with the boys varsity game following immediately after.

### Eagle wrestlers on the road Jan. 5

The Colby High School Eagle wrestlers will travel to Goodland Thursday, Jan. 5 for a match. Action starts at 6:30 p.m.

### Basketball at Goodland Jan. 6

The Colby High School basketball teams will be on the road at Goodland Friday, Jan. 6. "C" team and junior varsity game start at 4:45 p.m. The varsity girls will play at 6:30 p.m. and the boys will play after.

### Basketball tournament planned

The 15th annual "MAC Attack" youth basketball tournament will be held in McCook, Neb. the weekend of Jan. 21 and 22. Sponsored by the McCook Optimist club, the event is open to boys and girls in grades fourth through eighth. Deadline for entering is Monday, Jan. 9. Entry forms are available online at [www.geocities.com/macattackbb](http://www.geocities.com/macattackbb). Completed forms should be returned to McCook Optimist Club, 402 Park Ave., McCook, Neb. 69001. For information, contact Greg Larson at (308) 345-5185.

### Basketball camp applications being accepted

Applications are being accepted and evaluated for the Ten Star All Star summer basketball camp. The camp is by invitation-only and boys and girls from 10- to 19-years-old are eligible to apply. Camp location for the area will be Sterling, Colo. For information, call (704) 373-0873.

## AP Briefs

#### PRO FOOTBALL

There will be only one brother act in the Pro Bowl this season: the Barbers.

The Mannings? Only Peyton made it.

Manning was one of an NFL-high seven Indianapolis Colts who made the group of 42 players from each conference.

The seven Pro Bowlers befit the Colts' 13-1 record. San Diego, which handed Indianapolis its first loss last Sunday, had six.

Chicago and Atlanta led the NFC with six selections each, while the Giants and Seattle had five apiece in the selections for the Feb. 12 game in Honolulu.

Four teams had no players chosen — Cleveland and Tennessee in the AFC, San Francisco and Green Bay in the NFC.

This will be the second straight year in Hawaii for the Barber twins,

Tiki, the Giants' running back and

Ronde, the Tampa Bay cornerback.

#### HOCKEY

VANCOUVER (AP) — Canucks forward Todd Bertuzzi was selected to the Canadian men's Olympic team, but Pittsburgh Penguins rookie Sidney Crosby was left off the team for the Turin Games.

Bertuzzi, whose blindside punch left Colorado's Steve Moore with a broken neck two seasons ago, was reinstated by the NHL in August. He was suspended for the final 13 regular-season games of the 2003-04 season and the Stanley Cup playoffs. His banishment continued throughout last season's NHL lock-out and he was not permitted to play in the World Cup of Hockey in September 2004 or the past two world championships.

Bertuzzi also was barred from playing in any European league last season.

# Eagle boys split weekend games

The Colby High School junior varsity boys team split games over the weekend, losing 44-31 Saturday in Burlington and winning 47-25 against Oakley Friday,

The Eagles are now 4-1 on the season. Cade Carter lead Colby in scor-

ing Saturday with 10 points. He was followed by Steven Dinkel, 8; Levi Schlick, 6; Cory Sager, 4; and Tyson Miller, 2.

Schlick also made one free throw out of three attempts.

Against Oakley Friday, Dinkel lead the Eagles in scoring with 22.

He had nine two-pointers and went four for four at the free throw line.

Schlick followed with nine points.

Ethan Stover and Cade Carter each had four; Tom Wieland, Tyson Miller, Brent Arnberger and Cory Sager all had two points each.

# Family selling original basketball rules

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The original rules of basketball, as drafted by the man who invented the game in 1891, are being put up for sale by his family.

The asking price is \$10 million, or less under the right circumstances, according to Ian Naismith, grandson of the Dr. James Naismith, who came up with the idea for the game while he was a physical education instructor at a YMCA training school in Springfield, Mass.

Naismith's boss had asked him for a new indoor activity to be used in his gym class, giving him two weeks to do it. On the last day, Dec. 21, 1891, he wrote down a list of 13 rules for the game that used peach baskets as goals through which a

ball was to be thrown.

He gave the list to his secretary, who typed them up on two pages, which he put up on a bulletin board outside the gym. A student took the rules and hid them in his trunk, but Naismith got them back, and later they were published in the school newspaper.

The rules, and popularity of the game, spread. Naismith's original list went to Lawrence, Kan., with Naismith in 1898, when he became the first basketball coach at the University of Kansas. It spent 30 years in a drawer of his desk at Robinson Gym.

After Naismith's death in 1939, the rules ended up in the possession of his youngest son, Jimmy — Ian's father — who lived in Corpus

Christi, Texas. He kept them in the dining room and told his children never to tell anyone where they were.

"I remember when I was 7 or 8, Dad kept them in a secret drawer," Ian Naismith told The Kansas City Star for a story Wednesday. "I wasn't sure what it was, but I knew it was something special."

The family moved around, returning to Corpus Christi in the late 1950s, and the rules were placed in a safe deposit box.

A private collector offered \$1 million for the list in 1968, but instead they were loaned to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass., where only a copy was put on display.


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