

OVER THE PASS



"We just came back from Italy, my first trip that far away. Venice was the most beautiful for its buildings and canals. Florence was beautiful for its sunsets, and Rome has the Sistine Chapel. It made me again want to be a nun."

— Brenda Rogers, payroll coordinator, St. John Health System, Broken Arrow, OK



"I haven't traveled a lot but I went to Mesa Verde National Park with a friend. We hiked and saw some of the beautiful houses they made, with windows and ladders. Some of them were huge, like as long as a football field. We went to three different parks and went on all three tours. Everything was handcrafted by people so long ago. It makes me think about time."

— Tori Martinez, TSJC softball player and student, El Paso, TX

TIM KELLER'S CONNECTIONS

"What's the most beautiful place you've ever seen?"

Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News



"Probably Trinidad. That's why I'm here. I just moved here from Minnesota. The landscape, the scenery, the history (especially the prohibition era), brick roads, Fisher's Peak—it's a beautiful area."

— Lucas Frederick, welder, metal artwork, Trinidad



"The mountains to the west of Denver. It was one of those 14,000-foot mountains where you can see for 10 or 20 miles, all the clouds and mountains. I hiked up."

— Sam Thomas, attorney, public defender's office, Trinidad

BRONCOS FOOTBALL

Denver defense opportunistic in 25-23 triumph over Saints

BRETT MARTEL
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Broncos safety Darian Stewart was in the right place at the right time, as Denver defenders often seem to be.

Shutting down quarterback Drew Brees

for four quarters was always going to be a tall order, particularly with starting quarterback Aqib Talib and starting defensive end Derek Wolfe injured. Still, Denver's dynamic defense produced four pivotal turnovers in a wild 25-23 victory over the previously surging Saints on Sunday.

"The Saints' offense is real tough and we knew that coming in," said Stewart, who had two interceptions and a fumble recovery. "We had a lot of guys out injured, which only made the challenge more difficult. But we had a lot of guys who stepped in and made contributions. That was huge."

The game ultimately was decided in the unlikeliest of ways. Denver rookie Justin Simmons blocked a potential go-ahead, extra-point kick by New Orleans' Wil Lutz, and rookie teammate Will Parks grabbed the loose ball, returning it 84 yards for a defensive 2-point conversion with 1:28 left in the game.

Yet New Orleans might never have relinquished its 17-10, second-half lead if not for

two fumbles forced by Denver's defense.

The Broncos, who entered the game with the top-rated pass defense in the NFL, intercepted Brees twice in the first half.

Stewart made his first interception by anticipating Brees' throw down the left sideline and cutting in front of intended target Travaris Cadet at the Denver 9-yard line. The second came when Stewart snagged a pass ripped from rookie receiver Michael Thomas' grasp by defensive back Bradley Roby.

In the fourth quarter, Stewart once again found a ball landing in his lap when Roby punched the ball away from Thomas after a reception over the middle.

"That's a play we work on," Roby said of his strip. "In that situation, you have to say to yourself, 'You've got to go for the ball.'"

Denver converted that turnover into Demaryius Thomas' game-tying touchdown.

Then came defensive end Jared Crick's crushing tackle of Thomas that forced another fumble, recovered by T.J. Ward to set

up a field goal which put Denver ahead 23-17 with just under 3 minutes left.

Those plays helped Denver overcome Brees' NFL-record 56th game with at least 300 yards and three TDs passing.

"The four turnovers, they cost us the game," Brees said. "It made it a lot closer than it probably should have been."

MIXED BAG: The Broncos are still living with quarterback Trevor Siemian's rookie mistakes. He threw two interceptions and didn't seem to see cornerback Sterling Moore jumping the route on the first or Kenny Vaccaro standing right in the ball's path on the second. He also took six sacks. But he made a number of clutch throws — not just on his TD passes of 14 yards to Jordan Taylor and 2 yards to Demaryius Thomas. He also completed a slew of drive-extending throws and the Broncos converted 11 of 19 third downs.

State's oldest high school basketball tourney returns to Trinidad State

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ly southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico tournament.

Games will start at 9 a.m. on December 1 and run until about 3 p.m. Scott Gym will then be closed until 4:30 p.m. when the fifth game of the day begins. The last game of the day usually concludes about 10:30 p.m. That schedule is repeated until late Saturday night, when trophies will be awarded.

Twelve all-tournament players (six young men and six young women) will be selected by a committee made up of Trinidad State coaches and players. One coach will also be honored. Awards will also be given to team champions, runners-up, third place and consolation finishes for each division. One team will also be selected for the John M. O'Conner Sportsmanship award.

Ticket prices are \$4 for children and adults (under six free) and \$5 for adults. One ticket covers the entire day, or up to eight games. Tickets will be sold at the door.

