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SEAHAWKS 43

SUPER BOWL XLVIII

BRONCOS 8



BIG APPLE TURNOVERS

Interceptions propel Seattle's blowout of Manning, Denver

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — The Seattle Seahawks' mantra all season was to make each day a championship day.

They made Super Bowl Sunday the best day of all with one of the greatest performances in an NFL title game — sparked by a defense that ranks among the best ever.

The Seahawks won their first Super Bowl crown in overpowering fashion, punishing Peyton Manning and the Denver Broncos 43-8. That masterful defense, the NFL's stingiest, never let the five-time MVP get going, disarming the highest-scoring offense in league history.

Seattle (16-3) was too quick, too physical and just too good for Denver; and that was true in all areas. What was hyped as a classic matchup between an unstoppable offense and a miserly defense turned into a rout.

"We been relentless all season," quarterback Russell Wilson said. "Having that mentality of having a championship day every day. At the end of the day, you want to play your best football and that is what we did today."

Punctuating Seattle's dominance were a 69-yard interception return touchdown by linebacker Malcolm Smith to make it 22-0, and Percy Harvin's sensational 87-yard kickoff runback to open the second half.

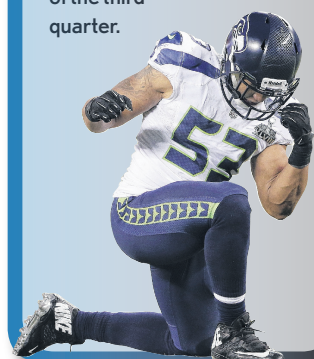
Smith was the game's MVP, the first defender in 11 years to win the award.

MVP

Malcolm Smith, LB, Seattle

Seattle linebacker Malcolm Smith returned an interception of Peyton Manning 69 yards for a touchdown and later recovered a fumble, earning Super Bowl MVP honors in the Seahawks' win. Smith is only the third linebacker in Super Bowl history to earn the award, joining Ray Lewis of Baltimore in 2001, and Chuck Howley of Dallas in 1971.

It was appropriate that a member of Seattle's league-leading "D" would be the MVP, considering the way the Seahawks shut down Manning and Denver's record-breaking offense, forcing four turnovers and holding the Broncos scoreless until the last play of the third quarter.



SEE SUPER BOWL | C2

Super Bowl notebook, C2

- Safety on game's first play from scrimmage sets the tone
- Peyton Manning and Broncos set offensive records despite loss
- Injured youth football player watches game with Goodell

Seattle's Malcolm Smith returns an interception 69 yards for a touchdown during the second quarter.

AP photos

QUARTER-BY-QUARTER RECAP



First quarter

The first play from scrimmage made for a strange start as Broncos center Manny Ramirez snapped the ball over the head of Peyton Manning, above. The ball was recovered by running back Knowshon Moreno in the end zone for a safety. Seattle added two field goals.

Seahawks 8, Broncos 0



Second quarter

Marshawn Lynch, pictured celebrating with coach Pete Carroll, opened the quarter with a 1-yard touchdown run. Then Malcolm Smith returned an interception 69 yards with 3:21 left to put the Broncos in their biggest hole of the season.

Seahawks 22, Broncos 0



Third quarter

Percy Harvin, above, returned the opening kickoff 87 yards for a touchdown and the rout was on. Jermaine Kearse caught a 23-yard TD pass from Russell Wilson. Denver finally got on the board when Peyton Manning hit Demaryius Thomas from 14 yards out.

Seahawks 36, Broncos 8



Fourth quarter

Seahawks wide receiver Doug Baldwin, above, caught a 10-yard touchdown pass from Wilson for the only score in the final quarter. With the loss, the Broncos fell to 2-5 in Super Bowls while the Seahawks, who lost to Pittsburgh in Super Bowl XL, improved to 1-1.

Seahawks 43, Broncos 8