

Dawgs

(Continued from Page 1B)

want games like this every time. I'm sure it was the most these girls played in front of. I hope they keep coming back," he said.

The win marked the third-straight by Cornersville, who has muddled up the top of the 9-A standings with wins over Moore County, Huntland and now Fayetteville.

"Before we started this year, I felt like we could beat any of them—the girls just have to believe it. I can believe it all day, but if they don't believe it, nobody will. We got a taste of that win in that first win against Moore County. Winning

is very contagious," he said.

While the wins have been sweet as of late, McMahon said full credit lies with his squad who has bought into the coaching staff's vision for the program and the work they've put in has been the source of their success.

"This is awesome. They just turned this ship around from where it was three years ago to now—it's just a testament to these girls. They've bought in. That's just a testament to them," he said.

Fayetteville	12	12	8	4	—	36
Cornersville	9	7	7	14	—	37

Fayetteville: Autumn Nunemaker 11, Trinity Dixon 10, Gracie Hoagland 8, Ely Bain 5, Bella Martin 2.
Cornersville: Alicia Polk 17, Ady Gentry 6, Jayli Childress 6, Camille Franklin 5, Anna Wood 3.
3-Point goals: Cornersville (1): Wood; Fayetteville (1): Nunemaker.
Halftime score: Fayetteville 24, Cornersville 16.

Andy Reid turned a 6-inch binder into a Hall of Fame resume

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Pro Football Writer

Andy Reid was an unknown assistant in Green Bay when Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie took a chance on hiring Brett Favre's position coach to revive a struggling franchise in Philadelphia.

A newspaper headline greeted Reid's arrival with a headline that said: "Andy Who?"

Everybody knows his name now.

Reid won more games (130) than any coach in franchise history during his 14 seasons with the Eagles. He led Philadelphia to nine playoff appearances, six division titles and five NFC championship games. But Reid couldn't deliver a Super Bowl victory, losing to the New England Patriots after the 2004 season. For that reason, he was underappreciated by many fans and reporters in Philly.

Reid eventually lost his job after only his third losing season in 2012, and immediately landed in Kansas City. He finally hoisted the elusive Vince Lombardi Trophy with Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs three years ago.

By that time, the Eagles had won their first Super Bowl under then-coach Doug Pederson, one of Reid's prized pupils.

Now, Reid and the Eagles are going head-to-head aiming for that second title. The Chiefs (16-3) vs. the Eagles (16-3) is one of the most-anticipated Super Bowl matchups in recent years.

Just don't expect the stoic Reid to get emotional about it.

"When you really cut to the chase on it, they're a really good football team and so, I think that's where the energy goes because really when it's kickoff, you're playing that team," Reid said Monday.

"It's the players that you're going against and the coaches and so the uniform (and) all, that's not where your mind's at. Your mind's at making sure you have a solid game plan and that you come out and you can perform to the best of our ability.

"That's, I think, where the major focus goes, and you try to — it doesn't matter who you're playing — you try to blank out all the hype that goes with the game. It's a pretty big game for everybody. ... It's a big, big deal. It's the Super Bowl. But you try to blank that out and make sure that you're getting the game plan — what really mat-

ters — together."

Nearly a quarter century since he walked into an interview with the Eagles armed with a 6-inch binder containing notes on how to build a winning team, Reid has amassed Hall of Fame credentials. He's led the Chiefs to nine playoff appearances, including seven consecutive division titles in 10 winning seasons. He's been to five straight AFC title games, winning three.

"It's a real testament to the job that general manager Brett Veach and Coach Reid have done over the last several years," Chiefs chairman Clark Hunt said after the team clinched the division last month.

"We obviously have a bunch of young players and we've got some new players, and Andy and his staff have done a tremendous job of incorporating them into the team. That's just part of the National Football League. They've really done a fantastic job, and I couldn't be more proud of them."

Reid is a no-nonsense, old-school coach who is respected and loved by his players. He rarely throws anyone under the bus. Part of the criticism he received from reporters in Philly was for his unwillingness to call anyone out and to always shoulder all the blame after losses and poor performances. "I gotta do a better job" became a punch line.

He came across as robotic in news conferences, always opening with injuries before turning it over to reporters for questions by saying: "Time's yours."

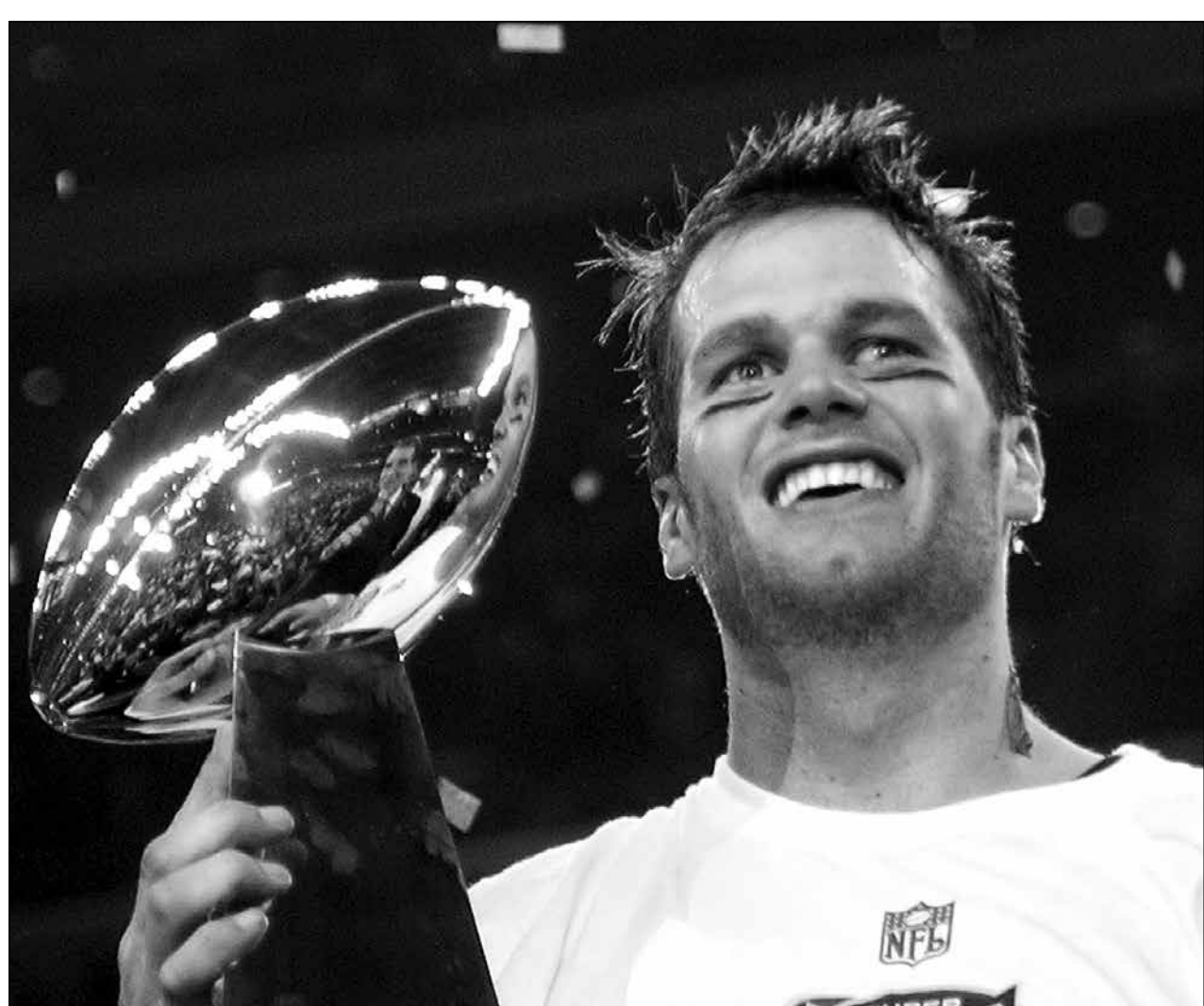
At 64, Reid has become more of a lovable grandpa in Kansas City. He's known for wearing floral shirts and cracking jokes about his weight. Ask Reid how he plans to celebrate a victory and he'll say with a cheeseburger.

"I'm gonna go get the biggest cheeseburger you've ever seen!" Reid said after the Chiefs beat the 49ers in the Super Bowl on Feb. 2, 2020.

After a victory over the Seahawks on Dec. 24, Mahomes and All-Pro tight end Travis Kelce presented Reid with a cheeseburger inside a wrapped Nike shoe box as a Christmas gift.

Players in the locker room cheered and hollered. Reid smiled and shouted: "May you all get a gift as great as this."

Another Lombardi trophy would be the best present of all.



Tom Brady has announced his retirement, insisting it's for good this time.

AP Photo/Dave Martin, File

Tom Brady retires... 'for good'

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Tom Brady, who won a record seven Super Bowls for New England and Tampa, has announced his retirement.

Brady — the most successful quarterback in NFL history, and one of the greatest athletes in team sports — posted the announcement on social media Wednesday morning, a brief video lasting just under one minute.

"Good morning guys. I'll get to the point right away," Brady says as the message begins. "I'm retiring. For good."

He briefly retired after the 2021 season, but wound up coming back for one more year with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He retires at age 45, the owner of numerous passing records in an unprecedented 23-year career.

A year ago when he retired, it was in the form of a long Instagram post. But about six weeks later, he decided to come back for one more run. The Buccaneers — with whom he won a Super Bowl two seasons ago — made the playoffs again this season, losing in their playoff

opener. And at the time, it begged the question about whether Brady would play again.

Only a couple weeks later, he has given the answer.

"I know the process was a pretty big deal last time, so when I woke up this morning, I figured I'd just press record and let you guys know first," Brady says in the video. "I won't be long-winded. You only get one super emotional retirement essay and I used mine up last year."

"I really thank you guys so much, to every single one of you for supporting me. My family, my friends, teammates, my competitors. I could go on forever. There's too many. Thank you guys for allowing me to live my absolute dream. I wouldn't change a thing. Love you all."

Brady is the NFL's career leader in yards passing (89,214) and touchdowns (649). He's the only player to win more than five Super Bowls and has been MVP of the game five times.

Famously underrated coming into the NFL — he was picked 199th in the 2000 draft by the

Patriots, behind six other quarterbacks, three kickers and a punter — Brady certainly wasn't expected to become synonymous with greatness. He played in one game as a rookie, completing one of three passes for six yards.

The next year, it all changed.

Brady took over as the Patriots' starter, the team beat the St. Louis Rams in the Super Bowl that capped the 2001 season, and he and New England coach Bill Belichick were well on their way to becoming the most successful coach-QB duo in football history.

More Super Bowl wins came after the 2003 and 2004 seasons. The Patriots returned to football's mountain-top for a fourth time in Brady's era a decade later to cap the 2014 season, the start of three more titles in a span of five years.

In 2020, he joined the Buccaneers and won his seventh Super Bowl. He spent his last three years with Tampa Bay, getting them to the playoffs in each of those seasons.

"I think I've been on

the record dozens of times saying there's no quarterback I'd rather have than Tom Brady, and I still feel that way," Belichick said in 2021 — shortly before Tampa Bay, with Brady, came to New England and beat the Patriots in a game dubbed "The Return." "I was very lucky to have Tom as the quarterback, to coach him, and he was as good as any coach could ever ask for."

Brady has won three NFL MVP awards, been a first-team All-Pro three times and selected to the Pro Bowl 15 times.

Brady and supermodel Gisele Bündchen finalized their divorce this past fall, during the Bucs' season. It ended a 13-year marriage between two superstars who respectively reached the pinnacles of football and fashion.

It was announced last year that when Brady retires from playing, he would join Fox Sports as a television analyst in a 10-year, \$375 million deal.

Broncos get Payton as coach in deal with Saints

By **ARNIE STAPLETON**
AP Pro Football Writer

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — The Denver Broncos have agreed to a deal with the New Orleans Saints that will make Sean Payton their head coach, a person with knowledge of the accord said Tuesday.

The person, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the teams hadn't announced the agreement, said the Broncos would send their first-round pick, No. 29 overall, in this year's draft to the Saints along with a future second-rounder. Denver also will receive a third-round pick in the trade.

Payton remained under contract with New Orleans after stepping down from the Saints last year and working in broadcasting this season.

Payton, 59, went 152-89 in 15 seasons with the Saints and 9-8 in the playoffs. He led New Orleans to a 31-17 win over the Indianapolis Colts in the Super Bowl following the 2009 season. He stepped away last year when quarterback Drew Brees re-

tired.

The Broncos, who went 5-12 in 2022 and extended their playoff drought to seven years, fired rookie coach Nathaniel Hackett on Dec. 26 after he went 4-11. Interim coach Jerry Rosburg went 1-1.

Payton's top task will be to get quarterback Russell Wilson back to his winning ways after the 11-year pro had his worst statistical season following his blockbuster trade from Seattle for four premium draft picks and three players.

The Seahawks reached the playoffs under QB Geno Smith in their first year without Wilson, and now they own the Broncos' No. 5 overall selection in the draft in April.

The Broncos got back into the first round by trading pass rusher Bradley Chubb at mid-season to the Miami Dolphins, who sent the Broncos a first-rounder originally owned by the San Francisco 49ers.

That selection, the 29th overall pick, now belongs to the Saints.

Payton was the headliner during this year's cycle of head coach openings. Just five teams were searching

for coaches: the Broncos, Texans, Panthers, Colts and Cardinals.

The Broncos conducted an extensive search, beginning with a virtual visit with Jim Harbaugh, who decided to stay at the University of Michigan. Also considered were Dan Quinn, DeMeco Ryans, Raheem Morris, Ejiro Evero, Jim Caldwell and David Shaw. The Texans hired Ryans on Tuesday.

NFL rules didn't allow the Broncos to speak with Payton until Jan. 17, more than three weeks after they'd fired Hackett.

Team owner and CEO Greg Penner led the search with assistance from limited partner Condoleezza Rice and general manager George Paton.

Paton led last year's search and landed on Hackett, one of several decisions that backfired on him in 2022 as Hackett became just the fifth head coach in NFL history not to survive his first season.

Others were the \$70 million contract he gave to free agent Randy Gregory, who played in six games and recorded a pair of sacks,

and the \$245 million contract extension he gave to Wilson before the opener.

Wilson threw a career-low 16 touchdown passes and was sacked a league-leading and career-high 55 times in 15 games for Denver. He has vowed to do everything he can to bounce back in 2023.

Wilson played well for two weeks under Rosburg, giving the team hope that his poor performances last season were an aberration and that maybe his skill set was just a bad fit in Hackett's offense.

Penner, his wife, Carrie Walton-Penner, and her father, Rob Walton, purchased the Broncos last summer for \$4.65 billion, a global record for a professional sports franchise. But the team turned out to be more of a fixer-upper than they expected.

"When we purchased this great franchise in August, this is not the season we were expecting," Penner said after firing Hackett. "I want to personally apologize to our fans and all of Broncos country. We know that we need to be better and we will."