

DETROIT LIONS AT DENVER BRONCOS

Sports Authority Field at Mile High

Sunday, October 30, 2011; 1 P.M. ET

POST-GAME NOTES

LIONS IMPROVE RECORD

- The Lions claimed a 45-10 victory at Denver to move their record on the season to 6-2, including a 4-0 road record.
- By winning their first four games on the road this year, it marks the first time since 1956 that the Lions have started 4-0 on the road. It is the fourth time in team history that they have started 4-0 on the road (1934, 1951, 1956 and 2011).
- The 6-2 start is the team's best start since they started the 2007 season 6-2.
- With a win at Denver, the Lions have extended their current franchise-best road winning streak to six games.

35-POINT ROAD WIN

- The Lions 35-point road win (45-10) at Denver is the largest margin of victory on the road by the Lions since they defeated the Green Bay Packers, 40-0, on 9/20/70. It ties for the fifth largest margin of victory by the Lions on the road.

Lions Leaders, Largest Victory Margin Road

Rk	Date	Opp	Pts	PA	Margin
1	10/29/67	at SF	45	3	42
2	9/20/70	at GB	40	0	40
3t	10/28/34	at Cin	38	0	38
3t	9/17/50	at GB	45	7	38
3t	11/3/63	at SF	45	7	38
5t	10/26/52	at GB	52	17	35
5t	10/30/11	at Den	45	10	35

DEFENSIVE PRESSURE

- The Lions defense limited the Denver Broncos to 10 points, 117 passing yards and registered a season-high 7 sacks. The defense also forced 3 fumbles, recovered 2 and had an interception.
- With three takeaways in the game, the Lions now have 18 takeaways of the year, including 11 interceptions and 7 fumble recoveries. The plus-3 takeaway tally, coupled with no giveaways in the game, gives the Lions a +13 turnover margin on the season.
- Of the Broncos 15 possessions, 7 ended as 3-and-outs, 1 drive ended in a turnover after 2 plays, 1 drive ended in a turnover after 1 play and the 1 drive ended on downs after 4 plays.
- The Lions defense outscored the Broncos offense 12-10 and the Broncos had only 17 more passing yards (117) than the Lions had on interception returns (100).
- Seven sacks were collected by a combination of five different players including: DE **Cliff Avril** (2), DE **Lawrence Jackson** (2), LB **Stephen Tulloch** (1), DE **Kyle Vanden Bosch** (1) and DT **Corey Williams** (1). They tallied 55 yards in lost yardage on sack plays.
- With DE **Cliff Avril's** fumble return for a TD and CB **Chris Houston's** interception return for a score, the Lions now have 4 defensive return touchdowns on the season.

DE CLIFF AVRIL

- DE **Cliff Avril** had a huge day rushing the passer on the end as he gathered 2 sacks (22 yards loss), 2 forced fumbles and 1 fumble recovery to go along with 3 tackles.
- On the second defensive play of the second half for the Lions, Avril rushed the right edge, recorded a sack-fumble and then scooped the ball up for a 24-yard fumble return for a touchdown. It was his first career touchdown.
- He forced fumbles on both of the sacks he recorded against the Broncos.

K JASON HANSON

- Lions K **Jason Hanson** has now played in 303 career games. He is tied with Hall of Fame WR Jerry Rice for fifth place on the NFL's career games played list.
- Hanson gave the Lions a 10-3 lead early in the second quarter over the Broncos with a 50-yard field goal. He has now connected on 49 career 50-yard field goals.
- His 50-yarder is also gives him 4 50-yard field goals on the season, marking the fifth time in his career he has made 4 50-yard field goals in a season.
- He finished the game with 9 points, including 1 FG and 6 PAT, moving his season total to 77 points.

CB CHRIS HOUSTON

- CB **Chris Houston** garnered his fourth interception of the season as his picked off a pass at the Broncos goal line at the beginning of the fourth quarter and raced 100 yards for a touchdown..

- He became the fourth player in Lions history with a 100+-yard interception. His 100-yard interception return was the fourth longest in team history.
- He now has two interception returns for touchdowns on the season. Houston is the eighth player in team history (ninth time overall) to register two interception returns for touchdowns in a season. The last to accomplish this was LB Reggie Brown in 1997.

WR CALVIN JOHNSON

- WR **Calvin Johnson** caught his 11th touchdown in the first eight games of the season on a 56-yard pass from QB Matthew Stafford. Johnson joins WR Randy Moss as the only players since the 1970 NFL-AFL Merger to record 11 touchdown receptions in the first eight games of the season.
- He finished the day with 6 catches for 125 yards and 1 TD.
- By surpassing the 100-yard mark in receiving yards, Johnson now has four straight 100-yard games, and he is the first Lions player to accomplish this feat since WR Herman Moore in 1997.
- By reaching 100 receiving yards in the game, Johnson tied WR Johnnie Morton for the second-most 100-yard receiving games in team history with 18.
- Johnson now has 40 touchdown receptions since the beginning of the 2008 season.
- He also passed Moore (4,895; 1991-95) for the most receiving yards in a player's first five seasons with the team. Johnson now has 4,995 career receiving yards.

QB MATTHEW STAFFORD

- Lions QB **Matthew Stafford** led the Lions to a 45-10 win at Denver as he completed 21-of-30 (70.0 pct) of his passes for 267 yards, 3 touchdowns and had a 130.8 passer rating.
- He tossed touchdown passes to WR Titus Young (41 yards), TE Tony Scheffler (1 yard) and WR Calvin Johnson (56 yards). This is the third game of the season Stafford has thrown at least 3 touchdown passes and the seventh that he had at least two TD passes in the game.
- Stafford's 267 passing yards today gives him the most passing yards by a Lions quarterback through the first eight games of a season. He now has 2,179 yards, and he surpassed QB Jon Kitna's 2006 total of 2,174.
- His 3 touchdown passes gives him 19 on the season through the first eight games. Only Lions Hall of Fame QB Bobby Layne's 20 TD tosses in the first eight games of the 1951 season are better than Stafford's tally this year.
- Stafford also rushed for a 21-yard gain in the game. That tied his longest of rush of his career. His previous 21-yarder occurred vs. Washington 9/27/09.

T JEFF BACKUS

- Today's game marked T **Jeff Backus'** 168 consecutive start. He currently has the most consecutive starts by any lineman (offense or defense) in the NFL and the most among offensive players. He has the eighth-most consecutive starts by an offensive lineman since 1970.

WR TITUS YOUNG

- Rookie WR **Titus Young** registered his first career touchdown catch when he caught a 41-yard pass from QB Matthew Stafford to give the Lions a 7-3 lead in the first quarter. He finished the game with 4 receptions for 66 yards, to go along with the touchdown.
- The 41-yard reception is Young's second longest reception of the season.

LB STEPHEN TULLOCH

- LB **Stephen Tulloch** halted a Broncos drive in the first quarter with a 5-yard sack when Denver faced a 3rd and 7 at the Broncos 39-yard line. It was Tulloch's third sack of the season giving him a new career high. He previously registered 2 sacks in 2009 with Tennessee.