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Super Bowl 50 (7 February 2016, 18:30 EST)

Carolina Panthers – Denver Broncos (Levi's Stadium)

Denver Broncos reach record equalling eighth Super Bowl

- The Denver Broncos have reached the Super Bowl for the eighth time in franchise history. This equals the NFL record shared by the Dallas Cowboys, Pittsburgh Steelers and New England Patriots.
- The Broncos have won two Super Bowls but have lost five. The five lost Super Bowls are already an NFL record.
- The Broncos are attempting to become the ninth franchise with at least three Super Bowl triumphs following the Pittsburgh Steelers (6), Dallas Cowboys (5), San Francisco 49ers (5), Green Bay Packers (4), New York Giants (4), New England Patriots (4), Washington Redskins (3) and Oakland Raiders (3).
- Denver lost in each of their first Super Bowl appearances before winning in back-to-back seasons (1997/1998 and 1998/1999).
- Denver's most recent SB appearance came in 2013/2014, when they were hammered 43-8 by the Seattle Seahawks.
- The Carolina Panthers are going to their second Super Bowl, having lost 32-29 to the New England Patriots in the 2003/2004 season.

Top seeds square off in Super Bowl for third straight year

- For the third season in a row, the Super Bowl will be contested by the top seeds from each conference.
- In the 50th Super Bowl, it will be the 15th time that the match will be played between the teams with the best regular season record from each conference.
- The current playoff format was introduced in the 1990/1991 season. In the 25 seasons that followed these are the number of Super Bowl wins per seed: 1 (11), 2 (6), 3 (1), 4 (4), 5 (1), 6 (2).
- In 42 of 49 previous Super Bowls there was at least one of the top seeds from the two conferences present.

Former top draft picks will start at quarterback

- For the first time in the 50-year history of the Super Bowl, the two starting quarterbacks will be former overall number one draft picks.
- In 1998, the Indianapolis Colts selected Peyton Manning with the first overall pick. In 2011, the Carolina Panthers picked Cam Newton with the number one overall selection.
- From all former number one draft picks that quarterbacked their teams to victory in the Super Bowl, all but one signal caller that won the Super Bowl won it more than once: Terry Bradshaw (4), Troy Aikman (3), Jim Plunkett (2), John Elway (2), Eli Manning (2), Peyton Manning (1).
- A quarterback was named Most Valuable Player in seven of the last nine Super Bowls, including Peyton Manning in 2006/2007.



Kubiak, Rivera to coach in Super Bowl after having played in it

- Gary Kubiak and Ron Rivera can join four others to have played in the Super Bowl and also to have appeared in it as a head coach.
- The four are Forrest Gregg, Dan Reeves, Mike Ditka and Tony Dungy. Another two, Tom Flores and Sam Wyche coached in the Super Bowl, but never took the field for the teams that had them on their Super Bowl rosters.
- Kubiak is the first ever who will have played and head coached for the same team in the Super Bowl. In the late 1980s Kubiak served as the backup to starter John Elway. The latter is currently the Broncos' general manager and the person who appointed Kubiak in his current role of head coach.
- Ron Rivera played for the 1985/1986 Chicago Bears and can join Ditka, Dungy and Flores to appear on a winning Super Bowl roster both as a player and a coach.

Panthers looking to cap off stellar season

- The Carolina Panthers finished the 2015/2016 season with the best regular season record among the 32 teams: 15 wins and one defeat.
- The only team that managed to defeat the Panthers this season was the Atlanta Falcons on 27 December 2015, a 20-13 outcome in Atlanta.
- The Panthers recorded the seventh campaign to win at least 15 regular season games. None of the last four managed to win the Super Bowl.
- The last team with 15+ regular season wins that also lifted the Vince Lombardi Trophy was the 1985/1986 Chicago Bears, a team that also included current Carolina head coach Ron Rivera.
- The season before, the San Francisco 49ers won the Super Bowl after having finished the regular season 15-1.
- Following the Bears' triumph, the 1998/1999 Minnesota Vikings (15-1), 2004/2005 Pittsburgh Steelers (15-1), 2007/2008 New England Patriots (16-0) and 2011/2012 Green Bay Packers (15-1) all failed to win the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

At 39, Manning is among oldest to appear in Super Bowl

- Peyton Manning will start at quarterback in Super Bowl 50, 46 days before his 40th birthday.
- Manning will be the second oldest starter in the history. Wide receiver Jerry Rice was 40 when he started for the Oakland Raiders on 26 January 2003.
- The oldest player ever to appear in a Super Bowl was kicker Matt Stover (42), who played alongside Manning in the Indianapolis Colts' 31-17 defeat against the New Orleans Saints on 7 February 2010.
- The oldest player to end up on the winning side in a Super Bowl is punter Jeff Feagles, who was 41 when he played for the New York Giants on 3 February 2008.
- Manning will become the oldest starting quarterback in a Super Bowl, breaking the record by John Elway, who was 38 on 31 January 1999.
- Elway is the current general manager of the Denver Broncos and the last starting quarterback to lead the team to a Super Bowl victory.
- Manning is more than 13 years older than Cam Newton, who will start at quarterback for the Carolina Panthers. This will be the biggest gap in age between starting quarterbacks in Super Bowl history, breaking the previous record from January 2014 (Peyton Manning and Russell Wilson).