

What the Super Bowl Means for Manning

By Matthew Messinger

February 7th marks the day that Peyton Manning will lead his 12-4 Broncos against Cam Newton's 1-loss Panthers team. With the chance of this being Manning's last game it could mean more to his career than any other game he has played. Peyton Manning may be the NFL's all-time passing leader in yards and touchdowns but the question is, can he win the big game? Super Bowl 50 will be Peyton Manning's fourth Super Bowl, but he only has one ring. Rumors surrounding Manning say that this could be his last game in the NFL, and if the Broncos fail to win, then Manning could be remembered as the QB who almost won.

Compared to other great current quarterbacks, Manning's record in the playoffs lacks wins. In home divisional games Manning is just 2-5 while Tom Brady (8-1) and Ben Roethlisberger (3-0) have shown they can win in the playoffs. When favored in playoff games, it doesn't get much better for Manning as he is 10-10, while Brady and Roethlisberger have a combined 8 losses when favored to win. While all the pressure cannot be put on Manning to win, it comes with his position to get it done in the big games. Saints quarterback Drew Brees said, "It doesn't really matter if it's fair or not," and I believe that is true. The quarterback is typically the star of a football team and his job is to help his team win. Whether he wins or loses, Manning is undoubtedly a Hall of Famer and will go down as one of the best of all time. It is one thing if the defense allows 49 points, but in order for Peyton Manning to gain the support of the people and be compared to the greats such as Montana and Brady, he needs to win this Super Bowl.