

Rookie Mike Anderson leads Broncos to 42-14 rout of Atlanta Falcons

Nine years ago, Mike Anderson of Winnsboro was a drummer in Fairfield Central High School's marching band.

This past Sunday in Denver, Anderson, an NFL rookie starting his first game, rushed for 131 yards on 31 carries and scored two touchdowns to lead the Broncos to a 42-14 rout of the Atlanta Falcons.

Anderson, 6-0, 235, the son of Emily Copeland and the late Mason Anderson of Winnsboro, was drafted in the sixth round last April by the Broncos, the 189th pick overall.

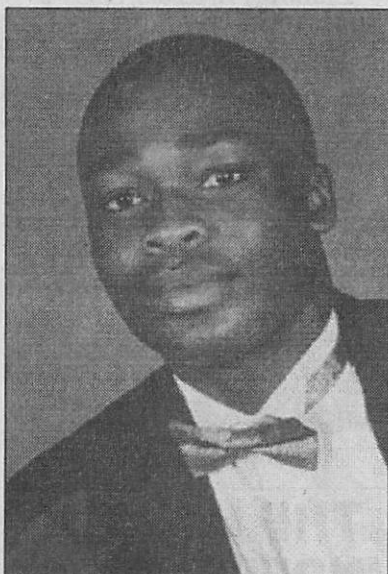
Two weeks ago, Anderson was listed as the No. 3 runningback on the Broncos' depth chart.

But, following injuries to starter Terrell Davis and his backup, Olandis Gary, the Broncos moved Anderson to the starting tailback position.

An All-Mountain West Conference runningback at Utah in 1999, Anderson rushed for 1,231 yards and scored 12 touchdowns his senior season. His 254 rushing yards in the 1999 Las Vegas Bowl set a single-game school record.

This came on the heels of an 1,173-yard, 12-touchdown junior season, and an all-conference team selection.

Anderson was a JUCO All-Am-



Mike Anderson
Winnsboro native

erican at St. Jacinto Community College in California in 1996 and '97, two seasons in which he gained almost 3,200 yards. His 1,686 yards in 1997 is a school record.

The astonishing thing about all this: Anderson never played football in high school. He was a drummer in the Marching Griffins band.

Following graduation from Fairfield Central, Anderson spent four years in the U.S. Marines, where his talents on the football field became obvious.