

Broncos deal for Dumervil isn't dead — if cash can heal old wounds

By Mike Klis
The Denver Post
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SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — In the charming, if cramped lobby of the Biltmore Resort that is hosting the NFL meetings, everybody seems to have a wisecrack about the fax fiasco that has so far cost the Broncos a quality pass rusher in Elvis Dumervil.

Everybody but John Elway.

"I got nothing for you, dude," Elway said with a grin.

The man in charge of the Broncos' football operations is not expected to publicly comment about the Dumervil situation until it's resolved.

Jim Irsay, easily the NFL's most Twitter-happy owner, read accounts about how the Broncos were forced to release Dumervil after the agreed-upon revised contract terms were not faxed in time to beat a 2 p.m. Friday deadline with the league office.

"I don't feel like I know enough about it to give an opinion on it but obviously one thing you never want to do is have any sort of snafu when it comes to being a well-oiled machine," said Irsay, who owns the Indianapolis Colts. "I mean it's hard enough to get the right plan together and get guys signed.

"But in terms of executing it and faxes and timing, you want to make sure they're like field goals — you're making them all."

The Baltimore Ravens are interested in Dumervil, but aren't sure if they have enough money to sign him.

There is a connection in Atlanta, whose defensive coordinator, Mike Nolan, held the same position with the Broncos in 2009 when Dumervil led the NFL with a career-high 17 sacks.

Dumervil might be a good fit in New England, which has plenty of cap room and recently visited with veteran pass rushers Dwight Freeney and John Abraham.

But the Patriots apparently are hurting for cash after their biggest headline moves of their offseason were restructuring quarterback Tom Brady's contract and allowing receiver Wes Welker to sign with the Broncos.

There is a contrary problem with the Broncos' books — only \$8.3 million in cap space after taking a combined \$7 million dead money reduction following the releases of Dumervil and linebacker D.J. Williams, but seemingly plenty of cash.

The seven players signed by the Broncos through free agency last week received a whopping 62 percent of their 2013 combined payouts (\$26.1 million) in signing bonuses (\$16.1 million).

Cash might be the avenue in which Dumervil can return to Denver. Cash and some love.

At this point, a tie with another playoff contender in the pursuit of Dumervil probably wouldn't go to the Broncos. The wounds from the entire pay-cut process remain a bit raw with Dumervil, according to sources close to the situation.

Not that cold hard cash hasn't been known to warm feelings. One way the Broncos could partially offset the \$4.9 million dead money hit they received by releasing Dumervil is to give him a substantial signing bonus and extend the years in his contract. Signing bonuses, unlike base salaries, can be amortized over the length of the contract.

Let's use Dumervil as an example. The revised contract Dumervil and the Broncos had agreed upon at 1:25 p.m. Friday was for three years with a 2013 payout of \$8 million.

But let's split that \$8 million into a \$5 million bonus and \$3 million salary, while also extending the contract from three to five years. Only \$1 million of the signing bonus, plus the \$3 million in salary, for \$4 million total, would count against the Broncos' salary cap for 2013.

That's just an example, but since the deadline debacle Friday, Dumervil fired his old agent and hired high-powered Tom Condon, who knows how to get deals done.

If the Broncos can present Dumervil with a deal that pays, say, \$2 million a year more than other bidders, they can retain Dumervil.

If not, the Broncos would have to consider another option of signing a proven pass rusher.

From the available lot, Abraham easily had the most productive 2012 season.

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Plan b to Dumervil?

A look at the proven pass rushers who remain available in free agency and their 2012 stats:

Defensive end, 2012 team sacks ... forced fumbles ... pass deflections

1. Elvis Dumervil, Broncos ...	11	6	1
2. John Abraham, Falcons	10	6	7
3. Dwight Freeney, Colts	5	1	1
4. Osi Umenyiora, Giants	6	2	1
5. Israel Idonije, Bears	7.5	1	0

Nevermind NFL free-agency, the draft is still a priority for Denver Broncos

By Jeff Legwold
The Denver Post
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Today's question about the Broncos comes from Mark Butler from London, England:

Q: Anticipation has now turned to expectation with the Broncos' free-agent signings. Each one has strengthened the Broncos. How have these signings affected their approach to the draft? They have already addressed a lot of weakened areas. Do you see them trading down now to stockpile picks for future drafts or do you see them trying to replace Elvis Dumervil through the first couple of rounds in the draft?

A: Mark, Broncos vice president John Elway has consistently said, even in the wake of such high-profile ventures in free agency like Peyton Manning and Wes Welker over the last two years, that the core of the team's roster building has to be the draft.

So, as Manning's signing didn't lessen the importance of the draft last year, what they have done thus far in free agency doesn't somehow put them in a "win now" mode that has then dealing draft picks to acquire more veteran players, etc...

Elway has consistently said the team has to "stack" quality draft classes year after year. And that said he is always going to be on the hunt for more picks.

Last season, they traded down because their draft board had roughly 23 players with first-round grades.

So, rather than draft a player with a second-round grade and pay first-round money, the Broncos traded down, eventually twice, before selecting Derek Wolfe with the 36th pick overall. Wolfe went on to start 16 games for a top five defense.

They likely surrendered a little too much value in the trades — the trades were not favorable to the Broncos in terms of the draft-value chart most teams use — but Elway wanted out of the opening round and thought the extra picks they did get were worth it.

This year, with the 28th pick overall, the draft is lighter on skill position players with first-round grades than in the previous few drafts, especially quarterbacks, and those are usually the players who lure teams into trading some picks to get back

into the bottom of the first round, but the number of offensive and defensive linemen with first-round grades will be far higher than in recent years.

So, at two of the positions where the Broncos are looking for help — offensive and defensive lines — this draft is exceptionally deep. So, it gives them some options in that regard.

Because they will likely be staring at a draft board as the 28th pick approaches during the draft's first day and have a player still available that they have graded for the spot. They also know if they were to trade down, there are enough prospects at those positions they could still grab a player with a similar grade a little later in the draft.

But patient teams are also often rewarded at the bottom of the first round. Teams like Baltimore, Green Bay and Pittsburgh have made a draft living watching teams above them reach on players and draft for need, only to watch highly-rated prospects simply slide down to them.

The Broncos have a good enough roster they don't have to reach. If they simply trust their draft board and take the best player available when they do pick, no matter the position, they will almost always get contributors.

And they need to hit on those picks because of their free agency strategy. Over the last two years the Broncos haven't signed the bulk of their free agents to long-term deals.

They have signed specific veterans with specific jobs in mind. Keith Brooking, Jim Leonhard, Tracy Porter, Brandon Stokley and Dan Koppen were all on one-year deals in '12.

Already this year linebacker Stewart Bradley and cornerback Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie are on one-year deals while Welker, Kevin Vickerson and Terrance Knighton are on two-year deals. Only guard Louis Vasquez got a longer deal with the 27-year-old having signed a four-year contract.

They need to have young, homegrown players ready to promote when those veteran deals run their course, or they won't be able to crawl out from the cap problems that come from not having young players ready to step in.

As far as Dumervil, they'll try to bring him back, but the salary cap ramifications of having to release him will prevent the Broncos from offering a similar deal — it's unlikely he would get \$8 million for the '13 season from them on a second time around.

And some of that is influenced by the strength of the draft at the position and the thought that Wolfe could play strong-side end if needed on passing downs, opposite of Von Miller in rush situations.

For Colorado's Nick Kasa, road to NFL Draft has been a bumpy ride

By Jeff Legwold
The Denver Post
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There is the path to the draft and there is Nick Kasa's winding, unexpected, sometimes bumpy path to the NFL Draft.

"I've said it before, but if you would have told me a year, a year and a half ago I would be a guy on anybody's radar, or that I would go to the combine, or play in the Senior Bowl, I never would have believed it," Kasa said. "In fact, I would have said there was no chance. Absolutely no chance.

"So, whatever happens along the way now I just deal with it and go on, it's not something I can't overcome because I already see how far I've come, how far I've already made it and I just feel like there are so many possibilities nows I couldn't have seen before."

And if there is one thing that frustrates those who love college football when they look at the NFL, it's that the league is far more about pro potential than college production when it evaluates prospects.

It's far more about what might me, about the so-called upside, rather than a prospect who is believed to be a big man on campus.

The NFL doesn't want finished products, it wants the future.

It's something that has turned more than one Heisman Trophy winner into just another guy in the eyes of the Sunday league.

But Kasa is 6-foot-6-inches worth of rough edges, ready to be sculpted, ready to be shaped. A former all-everything prep prospect who arrived to the Buffs as a defensive lineman, who now has personnel evaluators all around the NFL trying to crunch the numbers, work the data, to see what kind of tight end he can be.

Something to consider when Kasa speaks of the Buffs opening-week loss to Colorado State this past season.

"If you watch the CSU game, I was terrible, I played terrible," Kasa said. "...I think (my improvement) is still going from that point, I think I've shown that, that I'm still improving and that there's a lot more to come."

But a late-career position switch was just the start of more than a few bumps along the way. The Buffs went 1-11 this past season, something every NFL hopeful on their roster has to deal with in year when they simply weren't on many scouts' front burners.

Then Kasa suffered a hamstring injury at the scouting combine in February that caused him to have to shut it down in Indianapolis - he didn't finish the workout or do position drills - and still limited him at the school's pro day this past week.

As a result, the scouts on hand in Boulder last week, and there were plenty, simply had Kasa catch the ball in different parts of the field without running routes.

And then there was the not-so-little dust-up when an appearance on a Denver radio show briefly turned Kasa into a name to know in the national news cycle when Kasa said he had been asked by NFL teams about his sexual orientation.

"I was really surprised about the whole thing," Kasa said. " ... Really it was just taken out of context from what I said. Really spiraled into a lot of buzz that I didn't want at all. I think it was kind of my fault ... It didn't go the way I want to at all."

Kasa said the NFL followed up with "a short phone call" and that he explained to league officials that it was "not something that I meant for all this to happen, and really it wasn't anybody directly asked me that."

But now Kasa is in the waiting game, that he believes he's navigated the choppy waters. He says he's had indications from scouts and others in the league that the public swirl around his comments won't affect his draft status and he said his leg is now "98 percent," and that he will be ready for any and all requests to work out for any teams in the coming weeks.

"I can't wait if they do come, I can't wait to run some routes," Kasa said.

But in the end Kasa won't fully know what folks in the league think of his potential, won't know what they really think the bottom line on his prospects are until he sees how soon his name is called on the draft weekend.

The only sure thing is it will be a lot sooner than never, which a little over a year ago is what he thought it would be.

When it comes scheduling, NFL bows to Major League Baseball

By Mike Klis
The Denver Post
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Scottsdale, Ariz. — The NFL will not release its week 1 primetime schedule this week as it often does during the NFL owners meetings.

NFL schedule maker Howard Katz said one of the most difficult hindrances in putting together 16-game schedules for 32 teams every year is there are nine teams that have conflicts with baseball teams. And in every case, baseball has the priority.

“Because they play 81 (home) games,” Katz said.

Only the Oakland Raiders share the same stadium and field as the baseball Oakland A’s. But either because of shared parking lots, lease arrangements or municipal order, eight other NFL must not schedule games at the same time as their city’s baseball team.

I did not know that.

The other eight NFL teams that bow to their baseball brethren: Baltimore, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Oakland, Kansas City, Dallas, and San Diego. It’s possible for the Cowboys to play at the same time as Texas Rangers because Jerry Jones owns most of the parking lots. Seattle and Detroit also have municipal ordinances that make it difficult for the two sports to play simultaneously.

This year’s baseball schedule has particularly baffled the NFL schedule computers and so there are no plans for a Week 1 primetime scheduling teaser at these owners’ meetings.

Baltimore Ravens to pursue Elvis Dumervil

By Bill Williamson

ESPN.com

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Could the team that ended the Denver Broncos' Super Bowl dream benefit from the fiasco that has swept the NFL?

The Baltimore Sun is reporting the defending champions Baltimore Ravens -- who beat the Broncos in double overtime in the AFC divisional playoff round -- will be strong pursuers of pass-rusher Elvis Dumervil. The Ravens would make Dumervil an outside linebacker in their 3-4 scheme, the same defensive design Dumervil thrived in when the Broncos used it in 2009-10.

In what has become the biggest NFL story of the weekend, Dumervil is a free agent after a late-arriving fax scuttled a restructured deal with Denver.

The paper also reports New England, who may want to pay Denver back for signing Wes Welker, and Tennessee also are interested in Dumervil. While Dumervil reportedly wants to return to the Broncos, there have been conflicting reports of whether Denver wants Dumervil back.

Elvis Dumervil would like to remain with the Broncos

Mike Garafolo
USA TODAY
March 17, 2013

Elvis Dumervil is free to test the market, shop around and try finding a team that will make a better multi-year commitment to him than the Denver Broncos were proposing before they cut him.

But Dumervil would prefer to skip all of that and return to the team that drafted him.

The veteran defensive end, released by the Broncos when the paperwork for a restructured contract wasn't filed by Friday's 4 p.m. ET deadline, wants to find a resolution to the situation that will allow him to return to Denver, according to a person who spoke to Dumervil after his release.

The person, who spoke to USA TODAY Sports on condition of anonymity because Dumervil hasn't publicly spoken about his release, said Dumervil's firing his agent, Marty Magid, on Saturday was motivated by his desire to patch up the situation with the Broncos.

The Broncos were upset with Magid's handling of the contract re-negotiations and his inability to get them a timely decision from Dumervil on Friday.

Broncos officials were "in shock" Friday night, a feeling that lasted into Saturday, a person close to the situation told USA TODAY Sports.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team is not publicizing their plans.

"We are taking a day to recharge," the person said.

But Dumervil could be part of the Broncos' future plans, which also include looking at available free agent pass rushers Dwight Freeney and Osi Umenyiora.

Someone informed of the interest from other teams since Dumervil's release said the New England Patriots, Baltimore Ravens, Houston Texans, and Detroit Lions all inquired about Dumervil's availability and expressed interest in talking to him in the near future. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because those conversations were to remain private.

It sounds as if Dumervil, who eventually verbally agreed to a reduced base salary of \$8 million for this upcoming season, as well as an injury guarantee of \$3.5 million on a \$10.5 million base salary in 2014, will give Denver the first shot to bring him back.

Dumervil's next agent and the team will probably have to find a new structure for his next contract. The Broncos have less than \$8 million in salary-cap space because of accelerated dead money after the release of Dumervil.

Magid told USA TODAY Sports on Saturday that he will waive the five-day waiting period for Dumervil to sign with a new agent so that Dumervil can begin negotiating with teams sooner than the middle of next week.

USA TODAY Sports' Lindsay Jones contributed to this report.

Broncos coach John Fox leaves door open for Elvis Dumervil

Jarrett Bell
USA TODAY
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Free agent defensive end Elvis Dumervil has quickly hired new agents following the fax machine fiasco that factored into his release from the Denver Broncos on Friday.

Dumervil signed on with CAA, headed by Tom Condon and Ben Dogra, after firing agent Marty Magid. Interestingly, Magid waived the standard five-day waiting period that is required before a player can switch agents, per NFL players union policy.

Dumervil, meanwhile, has indicated he wants to remain with the Broncos.

Do the Broncos want him back?

"We're in the process of doing whatever we can to make us better," Broncos coach John Fox told USA TODAY Sports. "If that works out, great."

Dumervil was set to accept a \$4 million salary reduction to \$8 million for the 2013 season when the deal blew up on Friday amid contradicting versions of what happened.

Magid told USA TODAY Sports that beyond a problem with the fax machine transmission, the Broncos sent incomplete paperwork and revised terms of what was verbally agreed upon, causing a delay.

The Broncos disputed Magid's version, and contend that signed contract arrived six minutes late.

Report: Steelers also have interest in Elvis Dumervil

By Dan Hanzus

NFL.com

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The unexpected free agency of Elvis Dumervil could produce an offseason showdown between bitter AFC North rivals.

We already knew the Baltimore Ravens were one of three teams reportedly interested in Dumervil, who was released by the Denver Broncos following an absurd fax blunder on Friday. Now comes word that the Pittsburgh Steelers also could be in the mix.

Aaron Wilson of The Baltimore Sun reported Sunday that the Steelers are interested in Dumervil in the wake of their decision to cut ties with veteran linebacker James Harrison, according to a league source with knowledge of the situation.

Dumervil certainly would qualify as a player who could replace Harrison's ability to get to the quarterback. His 38.5 sacks over his past three seasons speak to that.

The question is whether the Steelers have the financial flexibility to make a competitive offer. Tom Condon, one of Dumervil's new agents, is known for getting his clients to follow the biggest pay check.

It's unlikely the Steelers, as presently constituted, will be able to offer that. Then again, that might take the Ravens out of the mix as well.

Colorado Leaders Praise Bowlen's Philanthropy

Gray Caldwell

DenverBroncos.com

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ENGLEWOOD, Colo. -- This May, the Mizel Institute will honor Broncos Owner Pat Bowlen for his philanthropic leadership throughout the state of Colorado.

He is set to receive the 2013 Community Enrichment Award at the institute's Annual Gala Dinner at Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum on May 22.

In the meantime, Colorado's leaders have chimed in on how deserving Bowlen is of the recognition.

"Pat Bowlen's passion is not just about fielding a great football team," said Governor John Hickenlooper, who will be featured in a video acknowledging Bowlen before he receives the award. "He brings a unique intensity to everything he does and that's led to a Broncos brand that's bigger than football, it has become part of the fabric of the community, and Pat is part of this city's heart and soul."

Bowlen, owner of the Broncos since 1984, is being recognized for a number of initiatives, not the least of which is Denver Broncos Charities, which has donated more than \$25 million to charitable organizations in Denver and surrounding areas since the inception of the fund in 1993. Bowlen is the chairman of the board.

He has also served as the Honorary Chairman of the Colorado Special Olympics for the past 19 years and as Honorary Chairman of the Stadium Stampede (formerly the Colorado Family Classic) benefitting St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation for 28 years. Other organizations benefiting from Bowlen's leadership and participation include the University of Denver, Capuchin Friars, University of Northern Colorado, Rose Medical Center, American Ireland Fund, Irish Community Center, Hawaii Maritime Center, Alberta Bar Association, Law Society of Alberta and the Young Presidents' Organization.

He was elected to the University of Denver Board of Trustees in 1987 and is currently a member of the DU Athletic Affairs Committee. Previously, he served on the Institutional Advancement Committee and the Institutional Advancement/University Relations subcommittee.

Under Bowlen's leadership, the Broncos have partnered with and supported a variety of causes throughout the community, including Bonfils Blood Center, the

NFL's Play 60 program, the Inner City Health Center, HealthONE's Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children, Food Bank of the Rockies, the Denver Metropolitan chapter of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the Denver Rescue Mission, the American Heart Association, Boys & Girls Club of Metro Denver, Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver, The United Way and Denver Public School Athletics.

Hickenlooper, a previous winner of the award Bowlen is set to receive, said the Broncos owner provides far more to the state than just football.

"In Colorado we are struggling to find ways to give all kids a fair chance," Hickenlooper said. "No one tries harder than Pat Bowlen — he lobbies for kids, gives them a hand up and a running start toward their futures."

Denver Mayor Michael Hancock will also be featured in the video during the awards banquet. Both Colorado leaders spent time at Sports Authority Field at Mile High last week to share their thoughts on Bowlen's humanitarian work.

The Mizel Institute is now in its 31st year as a nationally recognized institution comprised of two distinct programs -- the Mizel Museum of Jewish art, culture and history, and the Counterterrorism Education Learning Lab.

For more information on the banquet honoring Bowlen, or to order tickets, visit MizelInstitute.org.

Broncos Draft Prospects: Defensive Line

Andrew Mason

DenverBroncos.com

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Editor's Note: In the weeks leading up to the 2013 NFL Draft, Andrew Mason will evaluate each position group. He will take a look at the best time to draft prospects at each position and address how he believes the Broncos will approach the position groups. Up first: quarterbacks.

IDEAL DRAFT RANGE: It depends what type of player you seek.

For pass-rushing, speedy defensive ends, Round 1. For larger, stouter defensive ends against the run, Rounds 2-4. For defensive tackles who can pressure the quarterback, Rounds 1-2. For defensive tackles who are larger bodies (320 pounds or more), are better at stopping the run and play as a one-technique against the opposing center, Rounds 2-4 are the sweet spot.

With Florida's Sharrif Floyd, Utah's Star Lotulelei, Missouri's Sheldon Richardson, Brigham Young's Ziggy Ansah and Florida State's Bjoern Werner likely to be off the board by the time the Broncos select, the truly elite defensive tackles are out of reach, barring a trade.

But this year's class goes deep in terms of quality for the first two days, and it would come as no surprise if as many as 13 defensive linemen go off the board in the first round, with perhaps 20 or more being taken in the first two rounds.

And let's face it -- a team could always use another stout lineman. If one is the best player available when the Broncos' turns arrive, they could bite.

RECENT BRONCOS HISTORY: John Elway and his personnel department haven't been timid about targeting the front line to rebuild the Broncos from the inside out. Although the first pick of his regime, Von Miller, is listed as a linebacker, he plays many of his snaps from a down position as a pass-rushing defensive end.

Even taking Miller out of the equation, the Broncos have selected three defensive linemen the last two drafts -- one more than they selected in the previous three. Defensive end/tackle Derek Wolfe was the Broncos' first pick in 2012; that marked the first time in 15 years that the Broncos opened the draft with a player who at least platooned as a defensive tackle.

BRONCOS OUTLOOK: The fax faux pas that led to Elvis Dumervil's release Friday throws everything into flux at defensive end. If the Broncos eventually get him

back, finding a pass rusher isn't a pressing need, although the Broncos might look to supplement their depth in the middle rounds, although they could stand pat with Jackson and Beal providing depth. If not, pass-rushing end becomes a priority.

At defensive tackle, the Broncos appear set with Kevin Vickerson and Terrance Knighton, with Derek Wolfe moving inside for pass-rush punch when the Broncos go into nickel and dime packages. But given the time necessary to develop an effective defensive tackle -- typically at least a year -- the Broncos could be ideally positioned to draft a prospect and patiently develop him, along with the young players already in the fold.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN THAT MIGHT FIT THE BRONCOS IN THE FIRST TWO ROUNDS:

DE Margus Hunt, SMU: His 40-yard dash time of 4.60 seconds shows he can drop back to outside linebacker in a 3-4 and cover ground; his 38 bench-press repetitions offer an indication that he has the raw strength to shake off offensive tackles at the point of attack and even play as a 3-4 defensive end. Hunt is an older prospect -- he turns 26 in July -- and didn't take up football until he arrived at SMU; he originally ventured there from Estonia to train in the hammer throw, shot put and discus before SMU disbanded its track program. He's a freakish athlete with a stratospheric upside, even if he sometimes appears a bit awkward. But once he learns to throw his weight and frame around better, look out.

DT Johnathan Hankins, Ohio State: The 6-foot-3, 320-pounder is versatile and quick enough to play any spot along a 4-3 line, but at times his play tailed off late in games, raising questions about his fitness and stamina. But he's an above-average pass rusher from the interior with more attributes than negatives.

DT Sylvester Williams, North Carolina: He's not as versatile as Hankins, but is steadier and has earned plaudits for his work ethic, even though it hasn't always translated to his on-field performance. He can be quick off the snap, and fits in the physical mold of the Broncos' projected first-team defensive tackles, which would help smooth his transition.

DT Kawann Short, Purdue: An excellent interior pass rusher, but the Broncos already have someone of similar frame and skill set to the 6-foot-3, 308-pound Short in Derek Wolfe.

DT John Jenkins, Georgia: His size (6-foot-4, 346 pounds) is more suited to nose tackle, but he's played three, four and five technique. He also has dropped 24 pounds since last season. His skill set is similar to that of Kris Jenkins, who flourished in Fox and Del Rio's Panthers defense a decade ago.

DE Damontre Moore, Texas A&M: At 6-foot-4 and 250 pounds, he might be a better fit as a 3-4 linebacker than at defensive end; ideally, he would add 15-20 pounds to contribute on an every-down basis in the 4-3. He also only put up 12 bench-press repetitions at the combine, the fewest of any defensive lineman who lifted there. The film shows dominance, however -- 21 tackles for losses and 12.5 sacks last season, mostly working from a hand-in-the-dirt stance. If Moore's sub-par combine workout scares some teams off, he could be a steal late in the first round.

Others to watch: Florida State DE Tank Carradine, UCLA DE Datone Jones, LSU DT Bennie Logan, Auburn DE Corey Lemonier, LSU DE Sam Montgomery, Texas DE Alex Okafor, Ohio State DE John Simon, Alabama DT Jesse Williams.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN OF NOTE FOR THE MID-TO-LATE ROUNDS:

DT Brandon Williams, Missouri Southern: With small-school prospects, the Senior Bowl ends up being the litmus test, and Williams passed it, showing a decent array of pass-rush moves and playing energetically during the week. He needs to get down a bit from his playing weight of 341 -- but is on his way; he was at 335 at the Combine.

DT Jordan Hill, Penn State: He has a similar frame and skill set to Short, but isn't as prolific of a pass rusher. However, he had a solid week at the Senior Bowl, getting the better of his one-on-one work, and is versatile enough to move around the defensive line. He's also added 15 pounds since last season and was up to 303 pounds at the Senior Bowl.

DE Quanterus Smith, Western Kentucky: He's recovering from a torn ACL, but if he can add more weight -- he's at 250 pounds on a 6-foot-5 frame right now -- he could be a bargain. Smith had 12.5 sacks, but they came in clumps; five of them were against Florida International. However, three came against Alabama. He averaged 0.83 sacks per game against BCS-level competition the last three years.

DT Kwame Geathers, Georgia: You know the last name -- one brother, Robert Jr., is a Bengal; another, Clifton, is a Colt; his uncle, Jumpy, closed out a 13-year career by playing for the Broncos in 1996 and his father, Robert Sr., was a Bills third-round pick in 1981. Kwame is the biggest of the bunch, but not as big as he once was; he's dropped 13 pounds to 342 since the season. He was only a rotational player and occasional starter at Georgia and could have used some more seasoning, but could potentially be as solid an interior prospect as college teammate Jenkins.

DE Malliciah Goodman, Clemson: Goodman has a nice size/speed blend (276 pounds; 26 bench-press repetitions at the Combine) and displays good raw

athleticism, but he didn't stand out at the Senior Bowl and was a liability against the run, something he'll have to improve in the NFL. He notched seven sacks last year.

Others to watch: Missouri Western DE David Bass, Mississippi State DT Josh Boyd, Michigan State DE William Gholston, USC DE Wes Horton, Tennessee-Martin DT Montori Hughes, Bowling Green DT Chris Jones, Utah DE Joe Kruger, Nebraska DE Cameron Meredith, Alabama DT Damion Square, Illinois DT Akeem Spence, South Carolina DE Devin Taylor.

2013 NFL Draft Defensive Line Week Recap

Gray Caldwell
DenverBroncos.com
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As we head toward the 2013 NFL Draft, DenverBroncos.com is taking a week-by-week look at prospects at each of the positions.

Last week, we covered the quarterbacks. This week it was the defensive linemen's turn.

Below is a recap of the content posted this week to fill you in on the defensive line prospects that are available in the draft this year:

Articles

2013 NFL Draft Preview: Defensive Tackles

A look at some of the top defensive tackle prospects leading up to the 2013 NFL Draft.

2013 NFL Draft Preview: Defensive Ends

A look at some of the top defensive end prospects leading up to the 2013 NFL Draft.

Broncos Draft Prospects: Defensive Line

A look at the defensive line prospects in the 2013 NFL Draft, and any players in the position group potentially in Denver's range.

Lighter Short Looking to Make Impression

Purdue defensive tackle Kawann Short said he's more versatile after weighing in at 299 pounds at the NFL Scouting Combine.

Jordan Finds Home on Defense

After beginning his college career as a tight end, Dion Jordan moved to the defensive side of the ball.

Dumervil Situation Affects D-Line Plans

Andrew Mason takes a look at the defensive linemen on the roster, and how Friday's news surrounding Elvis Dumervil could change the team's offseason plans.

Broncos Draft History: Defensive Linemen

A look back at the defensive linemen the Broncos have selected in the NFL Draft.

Photos

Draft Preview: Defensive Tackles Photos

Images of the 2013 NFL Draft defensive tackle prospects.

Draft Preview: Defensive Ends Photos

Images of the 2013 NFL Draft defensive end prospects.

Draft History – Defensive Linemen Photos

Images of defensive linemen the Broncos have drafted.

Videos

Meet the Defensive Tackles

As we get closer to the draft, here are this year's top defensive tackle prospects on why they're ready to go pro.

Meet the Defensive Ends

This year's top defensive end draft prospects talk about their skills and why they're ready to make an impact in the NFL.

D-Tackle Jenkins Readies for Pros

As DT John Jenkins prepares for the 2013 NFL Draft, he's learned how to maintain his ideal playing weight.

Prospect Moore Once Leaned on Miller

Texas A&M's Damontre Moore recalls when Denver's Von Miller – and at one-time Aggie teammate – told him to never be satisfied.