

DAILY NEWS CLIPPINGS
TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2014



Malik Jackson, Mitch Unrein, Virgil Green on Broncos fan tour

By Mike Klis
The Denver Post

Tuesday, April 15, 2014

As you read, the Broncos' fan tour featuring defensive linemen Malik Jackson and Mitch Unrein and tight end Virgil Green should be at the Windsor Town Hall in Windsor.

The second annual Mile High Salute to Fans Tour began Monday. The first stop was in Fort Collins on Monday morning, then traveled to Windsor. The next stop is in Greeley between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. at the University of Northern Colorado West Campus practice field.

The tour will visit 20 cities in six days and concludes in Castle Rock.

Broncos cheerleaders and Miles the Mascot are also on the tour that is free and open to the public.

The fan tour schedule:

- Tuesday: Sterling, Holyoke, Wray
- Wednesday: La Junta, Trinidad, Walsenburg
- Thursday: Alamosa, Monte Vista, Pagosa Springs and Durango
- Friday: Fruita, Parachute, Buena Vista
- Saturday: Canon City, Colorado Springs, Monument, Castle Rock.

For exact time and locations, go to DenverBroncos.com/SaluteToFansTour.

Broncos star Von Miller confident he will bounce back from rough year

By Troy Renck
The Denver Post
Tuesday, April 15, 2014

Von Miller's dream of helping kids is a vision. He provided 104 pairs of glasses for underprivileged kids Monday, spending two hours posing for selfies and signing autographs at Sports Authority Field at Mile High.

What Broncos fans want to know is whether it was symbolic of a player whose old way of seeing his role and responsibility has changed after a season spoiled by a six-game drug suspension and a knee injury.

"In time, everybody will see the kind of guy that I am. I can't rush that," Miller said. "The guys in the locker room, my teammates, people close to me, they know what kind of guy I am. When you face adversity, you have to keep pushing. I am sure a lot of guys hit with the same stuff that I was hit with, they probably wouldn't be able to withstand it. To still be able to give everything I have to what's in front of me, it's an incredible blessing."

The Broncos' defense no longer hinges on his performance after a battery of upgrades. But for a team driven to win the Super Bowl, his talent exists as a potential difference between a confetti parade and the sea sickness experienced in New Jersey in February.

"I am not big into self-promotion, saying that I am this and that. But I truly believe in my heart that I am the best outside linebacker in the game," said Miller, who finished last season with five sacks in nine games. "My play will speak for itself this season."

Miller recognizes that consistently making the right decisions will speak louder than any news conference. His appearance, however, delivered an encouraging message for a player trying to repair his image and regain his standing as one of the game's most relentless causes of havoc.

Looking fit at 250 pounds — 20 lighter than a year ago — Miller indicated that he's ahead of schedule in his recovery from mid-January surgery to repair a torn ACL in his right knee. He's been running for two weeks, and is eyeing the season opener

as his goal. When he begins training camp in July, he should be able to practice on a limited basis.

"I want to play every game this year. But if it's not there, I am not going to rush it," Miller said. "I am feeling good about where my body is. I have just been working and grinding, getting stronger."

Miller, who turned 25 last month, faces a critical juncture in his career. The former NFL defensive end enhances how the Broncos view him.

The team is expected to exercise the fifth-year option on Miller's contract through 2015, entitling him to a transition tag salary of \$9.754 million. A decision must be made by May 3. It would buy time for both parties, but Miller said he's not focused on his contract.

"That's why I have an agent, to stay on top of that. I know if I go and do everything I am supposed to do, it will work out right," Miller said.

General manager John Elway said in February during the NFL scouting combine that Miller has "grown up a lot." Coach John Fox told The Post last weekend that "there's a maturation process. The goal is — and the dream is — that he comes back bigger and better than he was in every aspect."

Before exiting Monday, Miller thanked everyone and stopped for a final smiling snapshot with the kids. Will this be the first step in a lasting image this season?

"I am only 25 years old. I am hoping that my coming years are better than my first two. I am positive. I am getting smarter about the game," Miller said. "The Broncos have done a great job of getting big-time players. I am anxious to get back on the field."

Von Miller's reveal provides glasses for kids

By Troy Renck
The Denver Post

Tuesday, April 15, 2014

DENVER — Von Miller's spectacles have long been a spectacle.

He always been comfortable in glasses, and a driving force in his foundation is to give underprivileged kids the same opportunity to see well. As part of Von's Vision, Miller hosted a vision day where eye screenings and exams were conducted for 160 children a few weeks ago. There were 104 kids found in need of corrective lens.

They received those Monday in the visiting locker room at Sports Authority Field. Following the lens fitting, the children were scheduled to hang out with Broncos linebacker, eat pizza and go on a stadium tour.

Miller, the 2011 NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year, is facing a critical juncture in his career. He experienced a lost season, serving a six-game drug suspension and tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee on Dec. 22 against the Texans. He's hoping to be ready for the regular season. He was effective in his brief time on the field, registering five sacks in nine games.

Remaking of Miller's image well under way

By Arnie Stapleton
Associated Press
Tuesday, April 15, 2014

DENVER (AP) — The reshaping of Von Miller's image and physique are well underway.

After a rough 2013 season that began with a six-game drug suspension and ended with a blown out knee in December, the Denver Broncos pass-rusher showed up for his foundation's inaugural event at Sports Authority Field Monday night 20 pounds lighter and with a rediscovered smile.

In between posing with kids for selfie photos on their cellphones, Miller helped hand out prescription glasses to 104 underprivileged children.

"I can't even put into words how it makes me feel, especially through all the stuff that's been going on and still be able to do stuff for the community and do some positive, it's great," Miller said.

The glasses provided by his Von's Vision foundation for the kids ages 6-13 "could be a game-changer in the classroom," said Miller, who's known almost as much for his big-frame glasses he sports off the field as for his tormenting of QBs on it.

Miller has kept a low profile this offseason, save for trying to get into the Seahawks' Super Bowl party following Seattle's 43-8 win over Denver, a game Miller watched from the sideline after undergoing knee surgery to repair a torn right ACL in January.

Miller, however, insisted this charity event had nothing to do with rehabilitating his image that took a beating last year.

"I'm not too big on the perception of the fans. In time everybody will see the type of guy that I am and the type of things that I do," Miller said.

"I can't rush that. But the guys in the locker room, my teammates, the people who are close to me, they know what type of guy I am."

Still, TV shots of Miller mingling and laughing with kids from the Boys & Girls Clubs in the Denver area are a welcome sight for the Broncos, who witnessed several

missteps by Miller last season, including an arrest at a local gun club for a missed court appearance.

Broncos general manager John Elway said this offseason that he believes Miller, who turned 25 last month, has matured and needs to put last year behind him.

What was clear Monday night is that Miller's frame is back to what it was in 2011 and '12 before he bulked up to 270 pounds last season, 24 more than what it was when the Broncos made him the second overall pick out of Texas A&M in 2011.

Miller said he's down to about 250 pounds.

"I'm great right there," he said.

Miller said he began light running two weeks ago: "Not nothing like marathon stuff but I've been getting back into the motion. I'm feeling good about it. I don't have a timetable or anything like I want to be back Aug. 3 or anything like that. But today I'm ahead of schedule and I'm feeling good," Miller said.

He said he hopes to be back to 100 percent by the season opener.

"I want to play every game this year," Miller said. "I would like to play every game. But if it's not there, it's not there. I don't want to put any limitations on where I want to be at or this or that. I'm just going to grind and attack every day and I truly believe it'll work out."

Miller said Adrian Peterson's remarkable recovery from a torn ACL to an MVP season two years ago set a new standard in the NFL.

"He definitely set the bar high and it's a great thing. It's a great challenge and I embrace it and I'm hoping I can grind and do something similar," Miller said.

Miller, who had just five sacks in nine games last season after collecting 30 his first two seasons, including a team record 18½ in 2012, said he believes his best years are ahead of him, especially now that DeMarcus Ware is his teammate.

"I mean, I'm 25 years old. I'm hoping that my coming years are better than my first two," he said. "Every year I get smarter with the game. You recognize stuff faster. The game is a little bit slower. Vets told me when I first came in that was going to happen. I think it's starting to happen."

Pre-draft dance has been around a while

By Jeff Legwold

ESPN.com

Tuesday, April 15, 2014

John Elway's pictures -- including the jumbo shot of him celebrating with the Vince Lombardi Trophy after one of his Super Bowl wins -- hang outside the Denver Broncos' locker room and here and there in the team's suburban complex, but he doesn't often tell "when-I-played football" stories unless asked.

He'll discuss the importance of team chemistry. Or the importance of a starting quarterback's ability to manage the role. He will talk about how he wishes he would have run less in his career and thrown more from the pocket. But he does not look for opportunities to say how things were done and how they should always be done.

You can see his experience as a Hall of Fame quarterback and as a former No. 1 pick in the way he evaluates players for the draft. It doesn't always make him right. It doesn't even make him more right than those who never played a down in the NFL. But his understanding does give him more of an understanding of the process.

Elway was the first pick of what was a gold-star draft. Perhaps THE gold-star pick in a draft that had six Hall of Famers selected in the first round and another seven Hall of Famers selected overall in the 12-round affair.

And in the weeks and months before the Indianapolis Colts picked him and then traded him to the Broncos, he listened to people break down his game -- the good, the bad and the stuff he never could quite figure out where it came from. He saw the anonymous quotes about his potential as a professional, the threat of a baseball career as some pre-draft leverage, and the desire to not play for the Colts at that time in the franchise's history.

Granted, talk radio was not in the same galaxy as it is today and the publicly-traveled Internet was still a decade or so away, but you can see Elway's experiences when asked about players in his current role as a talent evaluator.

Ask him if a quarterback should throw at the scouting combine and he routinely says, "I always want to see a guy throw, see him work with some really good receivers, but I understand. Why would you want to look bad? I understand if a guy makes a choice. Again, I always want to see a guy throw, but I do understand their

thinking when they don't sometimes."

That's because Elway has a history with being on the other side of the equation. And as far as a relevant Elway draft stat, there is this: 4. That's the number of scouting combines available for players to participate in the year Elway came into the draft.

Scouting combines Elway actually attended: 0.

His reasoning was, "I had bad knee and I just didn't want everybody to see it."

That's right, he didn't go, he didn't throw, he didn't let teams poke, prod and X-ray him. He didn't attend interviews, take a Wonderlic. No one said he slouched, that he didn't make eye contact or that he was lazy.

But the draft interests people. The league's decision to move it down the calendar, to Mother's Day weekend no less, has only provided more time for speculation. It's different media environment than when Elway entered the draft. Quotes from anonymous sources this time of year can range from fib to outright lie as a means for misdirection.

Some teams want guys to fall so they can take them later, some guys want guys to rise so other people will pick them and leave them with the guys they really want. Whether any of it really works -- and plenty of folks who say it doesn't do it anyway -- is up debate.

And maybe some guys really are lazy, or are guys who aren't really certain they really want to play football, or are a little too short, a little too slow or can't keep themselves out of trouble. Those factors will all get tossed into the decisions that are made when the picks finally come off the board next month. All of those things -- especially character and chemistry -- matter, and they should matter just as much as talent.

But in the end, it isn't really a player's job to tell, or show, a team why it should, or shouldn't take him. Because, well, that would be the lazy way out.

Broncos LB Von Miller wants to 'be better' in 2014

By Lorenzo Reyes
USA Today
Tuesday, April 15, 2014

Von Miller was the AP Defensive Rookie of the Year in 2011. Through two seasons he racked up 105 tackles and 30 sacks.

It looked like he was going to be the next defensive star in the league. Then, 2013 happened.

Miller endured a six-game suspension for violation of the league's drug policy, returned, and then tore his anterior cruciate ligament in Week 16. He missed the franchise's run to the Super Bowl. He's making a vow that next season will be better.

"I'm feeling good, I had a schedule that's all I can ask for," Miller said, according to ESPN.com's Jeff Legwold. "I'm not going to rush it, I've got good training guys with the Broncos, they're going to have me back in time ready to go.

"With today's medicine and what's going on now like ACL, it's really not as serious as it used to be. I'm a 100 percent positive I'll be able to come back not only be the same Von, (but) I got to be better. You come back and be the same guy it's like you go 'it's the same Von again' and I got to be better."

Miller is in the final year of his rookie contract, and could be poised for a massive deal if he improves upon the production of his first two seasons. When asked about his violation of the league's drug policy, Miller deflected the question

"I'm going to go out there and play my game," Miller said. " ... When I get back to full speed I'm going to be ready to go. When you're coming off an ACL it helps you re-evaluate what really matters to you and what really matters to me is playing football and be able to get back to that."

It is common for players to return healthy from ACL injuries, but the rehab process is still arduous. As long as Miller doesn't suffer any setbacks, he should continue to be an effective player for the Broncos. One reason he could see some improvement if he's healthy in 2014?

The Broncos signed DeMarcus Ware, who had been released by the Dallas Cowboys. With Ware on the opposite side of Miller, opposing offensive lines will have to adjust for the pass-rushing duo. Miller's numbers should increase. For that to happen, however, he needs to be healthy and he needs to focus on football.

According to some at the organization, the latter has already started to take place.

"I think that he has grown up a lot," Executive Vice President of Football Operations/General Manager John Elway said. "I think he did a good job to adjusting, even though it affected him during the year.

"He's done a tremendous job of doing the right things and everything he's supposed to be doing. So hopefully he can continue to do that, because we'd love Von to be back to the Von we know he can be."

DeMarcus Ware, Denver Broncos, NFL, Von Miller

Von Miller vows to come back better after a disappointing 2013

By Michael David Smith
NBCSports.com
Tuesday, April 15, 2014

Broncos linebacker Von Miller missed the start of the 2013 season with a suspension and the end of the season with a torn ACL, and in the middle he wasn't quite the same player he had been in his first two seasons. Now Miller says he's ready to return better than ever in 2014.

"With today's medicine and what's going on now like ACL, it's really not as serious as it used to be," Miller told ESPN. "I'm a 100 percent positive I'll be able to come back not only be the same Von, [but] I got to be better. You come back and be the same guy it's like you go 'it's the same Von again' and I got to be better."

Miller says he understands that he needs to rededicate himself to football, and he's going to do just that.

"When I get back to full speed I'm going to be ready to go," Miller said. "When you're coming off an ACL it helps you re-evaluate what really matters to you and what really matters to me is playing football and be able to get back to that."

If the 2014 Broncos get something closer to the Von Miller they had in 2012 (18.5 sacks) instead of the Von Miller they got in 2013 (5.0 sacks), that would go a long way toward making them the kind of team that could win the Super Bowl.

2014 NFL Draft Preview: Defensive Tackles

By Gray Caldwell
DenverBroncos.com
Tuesday, April 15, 2014

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. -- In the weeks leading up to the 2014 NFL Draft, DenverBroncos.com is taking a look at the draft prospects position-by-position.

We will devote a week to each group, looking back at some of the Broncos' previous picks at the position and showcasing the top prospects along with providing independent analyst Andrew Mason's take on what the Broncos might do at the position this year.

This week: defensive linemen, which we will divide into defensive tackles and defensive ends.

Below you will find five of the top prospects at D-tackle. For a photo gallery of the position group, **click here**.

TOP PROSPECTS AT THE POSITION:

AARON DONALD

- **POSITION:** Defensive tackle
- **COLLEGE:** Pittsburgh
- **HEIGHT:** 6'1"
- **WEIGHT:** 285
- **COMBINE:** 4.68 40-yd. dash; 35 bench reps; 32.0 in. vert. jump

On getting compared to Geno Atkins:

"I love the way he plays. I watched him a lot, watched him a lot my junior year in college. Explosive, fun to watch, he just makes a ton of plays. What he's doing in the NFL is amazing, it's an honor to even be compared to a guy like that."



RA'SHEDE HAGEMAN



- **POSITION:** Defensive tackle
- **COLLEGE:** Minnesota
- **HEIGHT:** 6'6"
- **WEIGHT:** 310
- **COMBINE:** 5.02 40-yd. dash; 32 bench reps; 35.5 in. vert. jump

On his experience at tight end contributing to his versatility:

"I mean, it just gives me a different insight on how to be versatile. So I feel like me getting that comfortability in college has kind of helped me be able to do that at the next level."

TIMMY JERNIGAN

- **POSITION:** Defensive tackle
- **COLLEGE:** Florida State
- **HEIGHT:** 6'2"
- **WEIGHT:** 299
- **COMBINE:** 5.06 40-yd. dash; 27 bench reps; 29.5 in. vert. jump

On his leadership:

"On the field I was definitely one of the leaders of our defense. I feel like we had probably the best defense in the country, and off the field I was a leader as well. Definitely in the weight room. I was a weight room warrior at Florida State. Just getting guys to follow behind me."



LOUIS NIX



- **POSITION:** Defensive tackle
- **COLLEGE:** Notre Dame
- **HEIGHT:** 6'2"
- **WEIGHT:** 331
- **COMBINE:** 5.42 40-yd. dash; 25.5 in. vert. jump; 97.0 in. broad jump

On losing weight and cutting out bad food:

"My stomach doesn't stick out as much. That's kind of nice. I like that part. My thighs got a little smaller. I just feel sexier, man. I enjoyed my Five Guys and Cajun fries. I'm starting to like salads now. They're starting to taste good."

STEPHON TUITT

- **POSITION:** Defensive tackle
- **COLLEGE:** Notre Dame
- **HEIGHT:** 6'5"
- **WEIGHT:** 304
- **COMBINE:** 31 bench reps

On playing on the same D-line as Nix:

"It's been a great pleasure playing next to him. He taught me many things. A great leader. A tough, nitty-gritty nose tackle as well. I expect big things from him in the NFL."



Von's Vision

By Gray Caldwell
DenverBroncos.com
Tuesday, April 15, 2014

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. -- Von Miller's vision has come true.

His foundation, aptly named Von's Vision, was created in 2013 to help provide eye care and corrective eyewear to underprivileged children.

On Monday at Sports Authority Field at Mile High, Miller was on hand to see that dream come to fruition.

"It's incredible," Miller said. "From it just being a thought for my foundation to getting a great group of guys that helped push the vision and helped make it happen, to see all these kids and be able to do something and give them glasses, it's incredible."

More than 100 children from Boys & Girls Clubs throughout Denver were at the event to receive their new glasses.

Von's Vision Day was divided into two parts. First, 160 children were given eye exams. As it turned out, 104 of them needed glasses -- a surprising number to Miller and everyone else in his foundation.

"It was a huge surprise -- 160 kids, 104 needed glasses and didn't even know they needed glasses," he said. "That could be the game-changer in the classroom. That could help propel their lives from here on out. It all starts young when you start getting those study habits."

Those children were able to pick out their frames on the first Von's Vision Day, and then the foundation spent a month filling their prescriptions. On Monday, the reveal portion of Von's Vision Day meant many of those children would receive glasses for the first time in their lives.

Even more than that, they got to tour the Broncos' home stadium, spend time in the visitors' locker room, listen to music and enjoy a pizza party.

And Miller was there to thank them for coming and wish them well with their new frames.

"To see all you guys here, it's overwhelming," he told the kids. "I hope you guys like your glasses. I hope you look cool in them."

And the Pro Bowl linebacker hopes it's just the tip of the iceberg. His foundation's goal is to provide eye exams and corrective eyewear to more than 50,000 children by the end of 2016.

"To have my vision come to reality like this, it's overwhelming," Miller said. "I can't even put it into words how it makes me feel. Especially through all the stuff that has been going on, to still be able to do stuff in the community and do some positive, it's great. I feel truly blessed."