

Controversial draft prospect, RB Joe Mixon, visited Broncos Thursday

By Cameron Wolfe
Denver Post
March 17, 2017

The Broncos are working to gain more insight into one of the most controversial prospects in the 2017 draft class: former Oklahoma running back Joe Mixon.

Mixon met with Broncos officials, including general manager John Elway, at Dove Valley Thursday, per an NFL source. It isn't just about football for Mixon, who is meeting with NFL teams in part to try to convince executives why they should take a chance on him.

In July 2014, as a freshman at Oklahoma, Mixon forcefully punched a young woman in the face at a sandwich shop. Mixon and the woman were in the midst of a verbal confrontation in Norman, Okla. The punch broke the woman's jaw and cheekbone.

Mixon was suspended for his freshman season and accepted a plea deal on an assault charge that kept him out of prison. It wasn't until December 2016, when the video of the incident was released, that the incident drew national attention.

It was a horrific reminder of the video of former Ravens running back Ray Rice punching his wife in an elevator. That video essentially ended Rice's NFL career. Mixon was also suspended for a game this past fall after reportedly tearing up a parking ticket and throwing it in an attendant's face.

His off-field behavior has led to most teams dropping his draft stock. As one of the most talented running backs in the draft, Mixon could go as early as the second round or somewhere during Day 3 depending on how well he does in the interview process leading up to the draft and what team will take a chance on him.

Mixon met with the Bengals last week, as well as several other teams at his Pro Day March 8. He wasn't invited to the NFL combine due to the assault, a decision that upset many NFL executives. Mixon has a number of other private visits scheduled.

Mixon, 6-foot-1, 228 pounds, had 2,921 rushing and receiving yards and 26 touchdowns in his two seasons at Oklahoma. He also was a successful kick and punt returner. He ran an unofficial 4.43 40-yard dash and impressed during on-field drills at his pro day. Some scouts wondered if he is the most talented running back in this class.

But top running back prospects such as Leonard Fournette, Dalvin Cook, Christian McCaffrey and Alvin Kamara don't have anywhere near the baggage that Mixon carries with him.

As free agency season shifts into draft season, teams begin setting their draft boards and determining who to take off. A few teams reportedly took Mixon off their draft boards from the moment they saw the video.

It appears Mixon will get drafted, however.

Chiefs receiver/returner Tyreek Hill is the most recent example of a draft prospect with as much off-field trouble as Mixon has had going through this process. The speedy playmaker fell to the fifth round last year due to a domestic assault arrest, and later conviction. He assaulted his pregnant girlfriend.

Hill made the Pro Bowl and first-team All-Pro teams as a rookie this past season. The Broncos have two promising running backs, C.J. Anderson and Devontae Booker, but they're looking to add playmakers in the backfield.

With Mixon it'll be a similar debate for teams as it was with Hill, whether to pass on a big-time talent due to off-field transgressions.

Joe Mixon visits with John Elway, Joe Ellis

By Mike Klis

9News

March 17, 2017

Joe Mixon sat across from Joe Ellis and explained himself.

Mixon, the highly talented and controversial Oklahoma Sooners running back, visited the Denver Broncos at their team headquarters Thursday as part of his preparation for the 2017 NFL Draft.

Mixon met with several teams during his Pro Day last week, and met privately last weekend with the Cincinnati Bengals prior to his visit with the Broncos. His agent, Denver-based Peter Schaffer, said Mixon has visits scheduled with at least 10 more teams.

Ordinarily, the Broncos don't consider bringing in a player that carries the type of character red flag that is part of Mixon's scouting report. Mixon, however, is considered a first- or second-round talent and after the NFL did not permit him to attend the Scouting Combine two weeks ago, the Broncos scheduled their own personal visit with the prospect.

"I think he's an outstanding individual," said Schaffer, who took Mixon out to dinner Wednesday night prior to the running back's visit with the Broncos on Thursday morning. "He's been nothing but fantastic every step along the way with me. Everybody who's come in contact with him has come away very impressed with his character and his demeanor and his positive attitude, as well as his love of football as well as his acknowledgement he's made a mistake. I expect the people he meets with will come away with the same feeling."

Mixon was caught on video retaliating to a forceful push he received from a female by slugging the woman in the face at a Norman, Okla., restaurant during an incident in July, 2014. The female was hospitalized with a broken jaw and cheekbone. The altercation occurred just before Mixon's freshman year at Oklahoma. He was suspended from that season and received a one-year deferred sentenced after reaching a plea deal to an assault charge.

Mixon then had two electrifying seasons for the Sooners, rushing for 753 yards on 6.7 yards per carry, plus 356 yards receiving as a redshirt freshman. This past season as a sophomore, Mixon had a Christian McCaffrey-like, all-around season in that he rushed for 1,274 yards and 10 touchdowns, caught 37 passes for another 538 yards and five touchdowns, and had a 97-yard touchdown kickoff return against Ohio State.

He was suspended from playing in the Sooners' game against Iowa State last November after he was accused of tearing up a parking ticket into pieces and throwing into a female attendant's face.

Schaffer said Mixon paid the parking ticket.

To consider adding Mixon to a team's roster is the type of decision that goes beyond football operations, which is why Ellis, the Broncos' chief executive officer, met privately with the running back on Thursday. Detroit Lions general manager Bob Quinn said at the Scouting Combine two weeks ago that he would only draft Mixon if he received approval from team owner Martha Ford.

During his visit at the UHealth Training Center, Mixon also met with Broncos' general manager John Elway, head coach Vance Joseph, and director of player development Ray Jackson, along with several assistant coaches.

Even if Mixon did convince the Broncos' brain trust he has put his troubles behind him, it won't be an easy call for the organization. The Broncos do need a versatile offensive weapon and the high-character Christian McCaffrey may not be available when the team drafts No. 20 in the first round or No. 51 in the second.

The Broncos did not express interest in Tyreek Hill last season, primarily because the former Oklahoma State standout was arrested on a domestic violence charge for allegedly attempting to choke his pregnant girlfriend.

Like Mixon, Hill was not invited to NFL Scouting Combine as part of the league's new domestic violence program that was instituted following its embarrassing handling of the Ray Rice case in 2014.

The Kansas City Chiefs drafted Hill in the fifth-round last year – and he was a huge factor in defeating the Broncos' twice last season, losses that knocked Denver out of the playoffs for the first time since 2011.

Broncos still need to shop efficiently in free agency before draft

By Jeff Legwold
ESPN.com
March 17, 2017

John Elway has had moments when he looks slightly -- pick the word -- perturbed, agitated, mad, frustrated, when the Denver Broncos' free-agency work is framed as a two-day affair when the biggest deals do or don't get done. But the Broncos do still have work to do before they get to the April draft if they want to get the depth chart closer to what they want.

Elway's response this week about what the Broncos haven't done yet in free agency? "Last time I heard, we don't go to camp until July."

But free agency hit the one-week mark Thursday. That means it has downshifted substantially from the frenzied contractual gymnastics of the first 48 hours to a more plodding pace where the players who remain unsigned try to salvage the best deal they can. Since he was hired as the team's chief football decision-maker, Elway has always said free agency is when the Broncos should fill the biggest needs. He has tried to fill some of those needs in Week 2 of free agency and beyond -- most notably last year with the addition of a player such as defensive end Jared Crick, who was signed in early April.

As he put it earlier this month: "I feel more comfortable if we can take care of some needs in free agency. I think that we can supplement some needs that we have through free agency because I don't like going into the draft with big needs. If we go into the draft [with big needs], we have the propensity to reach. We try to stay out of the situation."

To this point the Broncos signed offensive linemen Ronald Leary and Menelik Watson, and defensive linemen Domata Peko and Zach Kerr. That's four players in their two areas of biggest need.

They are still needy in some spots, and in a perfect football world they could use help at others.

Left tackle: OK, they don't have one, at least one who comes without the potential of concern. Michael Schofield, Watson and Donald Stephenson could each line up there if needed, but none is the preferred solution. If the Broncos look to the draft, they will see a board loaded with edge-rushers, cornerbacks and pro-ready running backs but would probably have to use their first-round pick on a tackle from a thin class who would have the best chance to start as a rookie. But the market is thin as well for veteran players, especially when it comes to proven players who haven't battled injuries in recent seasons and remain unsigned.

No. 3 pass-catcher: Defensive coaches who faced the Broncos this past season said they felt as if they could double Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders, and not worry about anyone else all that much. In the end, no other Broncos wide receivers had more than 21 receptions last season. The 10 touchdown catches between Thomas and Sanders -- five each -- were also the same as the rest of the Broncos players combined. The Broncos need another impact player at wide receiver or tight end -- or even a running back -- who can stress a linebacker or safety in coverage.

Cornerback: One of the strengths of the Broncos' defense, over the past two seasons especially, has been that the unit was simply deeper at cornerback than almost every other team in the league. The Broncos could create matchups, especially in man coverages, that made things difficult on quarterbacks and set their own pass-rushers free. The departed Kayvon Webster had injuries that limited him and he was stuck as a No. 4 cornerback behind Chris Harris Jr., Aqib Talib and Bradley Roby. But athletically, Webster could run with teams' No. 3 and No. 4 wide receivers. The draft could provide help -- the defensive backs lit up the scouting combine with their workouts -- but the Broncos need depth.

Returner: Since Trindon Holliday went from high-impact returner to too unreliable to keep two head coaches ago, the Broncos have been little more than a frustrating collection of mix-and-match returners often selected to simply catch the ball. That's too much lost yardage, too much lost field position for a team that routinely considers itself part of a Super Bowl discussion. Elway has not used a draft pick on a return specialist in his tenure. While there are players on the draft board, at running back especially, who could be situational players and returners -- Christian McCaffrey, for one, is the returner-receiver-runner on the draft who would check several boxes -- the Broncos should still look in the open market.

Draft board leans toward defense in first round for Broncos

By Jeff Legwold
ESPN.com
March 17, 2017

As the Denver Broncos continue to try to fill some needs with the “value” signings in free agency John Elway often speaks about, it’s never a bad time to turn an eye toward the draft.

And while Mel Kiper Jr.’s Big Board is a ranking of players and not a mock draft -- his next mock draft is expected next week -- it’s a good indicator of where he believes the strength of the draft board will be when the Broncos are scheduled to pick at No. 20 in the first round.

In his post-scouting combine rankings, the players in the Broncos’ wheelhouse -- according to his current list -- are North Carolina quarterback Mitchell Trubisky at No. 18, Washington safety Budda Baker at No. 19, Miami tight end David Njoku at No. 20, Tennessee defensive end Derek Barnett at No. 21 and LSU cornerback Tre’Davious White at No. 22.

Again, this is strictly a ranking of players, not an indication of how Kiper believes the teams in those slots will make their picks in the opening round. On draft day, however, the Broncos figure to get a chance at several players ranked No. 20 or above on their own draft board because of the quarterbacks.

Quarterbacks routinely get overdrafted, especially in years like this one when there's no clear-cut 1 or 2 among the group, because the need is so great for so many teams they reach for a QB, often passing up higher-ranked players. Granted, the teams never, as in ever, admit this happened, but it happens every year.

Trubisky is the highest-rated quarterback -- at No. 18 -- on Kiper’s latest Big Board. But there figures to be at least one or two quarterbacks selected higher than the 18th pick unless teams show historical patience, the kind of patience the league as a whole has rarely, if ever, shown in any previous draft when it comes to quarterbacks.

It means the Broncos, who almost certainly will take a quarterback somewhere down the board -- they currently have 10 picks and Elway often likes to take a late-round passer as a developmental prospect -- figure to be looking at a draft board that is filled with impact players at defensive back, edge rusher and running back when their turn rolls around in the opening round next month.

The Broncos would like an impact receiver at tight end so Njoku would certainly get consideration, and they will take a running back with some big-play pop at some point in the first two days. Before the combine, Christian McCaffrey was projecting in the bottom third of the first round, but that is no longer the case.

Though some personnel executives didn’t think McCaffrey handled the whole didn’t-play-in-the-bowl-game thing all that great in Indianapolis, they certainly liked his workout. He’s likely a top 15-to-top 18 player on many teams’ boards at this point.

He would fill a lot of needs for the Broncos and also could be the best player available if he drops into the late teens. He'll get a long look as well.

But with a slew of pro days still to go and a smattering of private visits with prospects to come for the Broncos, Kiper's latest list, as well as a survey of personnel executives around the league, indicate the Broncos are going to be looking at a draft board leaning toward defense in the first round.

And that may test their discipline because their biggest needs are on the other side of the ball.

Broncos should stay away from Mixon in the draft

By Woody Paige

KMGH

March 17, 2017

Nix On Mixon.

The Broncos mistakenly invited Joe Mixon to Dove Valley Thursday.

They shouldn't draft the Oklahoma running back. They shouldn't have included him on their draft board. And they shouldn't have brought him to Denver for an interview.

John Elway should know better.

No go on Joe.

Mixon, out of Oakley, Calif., was the No. 1-rated high school running back in the country in 2013. He decided to join the Oklahoma Sooners.

In October of his freshman year, 2014, Mixon and friends became involved in an ugly incident in Norman, Okla. It began with a confrontation on the street and homophobic slurs directed by the Mixon group at a young woman and her friend. The offended pair tried to defuse the situation by entering the nearby café, but Mixon followed them.

More angry exchanges exacerbated the argument. Mixon would claim later that he was incensed by a racial slur, and he responded with an anti-gay reference. The woman pushed and slapped Mixon. A video surveillance camera revealed that Mixon threw a powerful, wild punch at the woman; her head banged into a table, and she ended up semi-conscious on the floor.

The woman's jaw and several other bones in her face were fractured. Mixon was unharmed physically.

Police arrested Mixon on a charge of misdemeanor assault. He was suspended from football activities the rest of the year, and the university and the athletic department finally agreed to allow Mixon to remain in the football program. In court, Mixon received a one-year deferred sentence and was ordered by the judge to perform 100 hours of community service and attend counseling sessions.

In 2015 he rushed for 753 yards and seven touchdowns, and last season Mixon finished with 1,812 rushing and receiving yards, and declared for the NFL draft.

Mixon declined for two years to address the issue, until the video was released, and ultimately apologized to the woman. She is suing him.

A lot of Oklahoma people and football observers around the country forgave Mixon and dismissed his action as an immature youthful transgression. Of course, he was one of college football's most outstanding players with a promising pro football future.

But there was one other disturbing episode in 2016, when Mixon was receiving a ticket from a parking attendant. He tore up the citations and flung the pieces in her face. He was suspended for one game.

Apparently, the counseling sessions hadn't resolved all of Mixon's anger management troubles, and he had struck out at another young woman.

The NFL banned Mixon from the recent NFL combine, but many teams traveled to Norman for Mixon's "Pro Day", and he has visited a few NFL facilities for interviews.

The Broncos were the latest Thursday to hold a face-to-face dialog with Mixon – who would have been a first-round draft selection based on his on-field actions, but probably has dropped at least a couple of rounds because of his off-field activities.

NFL teams seem to develop blindness in regard to highly-skilled players.

The same year Mixon was charged, Oklahoma State receiver-runner-returner Tyreek Hill was jailed on allegations of assault and battery, by strangulation, after a fight with his pregnant girlfriend. Unlike in the Oklahoma case, Hill was kicked out of Oklahoma State and transferred to West Alabama State. He pleaded guilty in court and was placed on probation for three years.

The Chiefs drafted Hill in the fifth round a year ago, and he became the most dynamic young player in the league, and scored on a run, a reception and a return to lead the Chiefs to a victory over the Broncos in Denver.

The Broncos have drafted problem players in the recent past. Ohio State Bradley Roby drifted to the end of the first round in 2014 because of character concerns, and the Broncos took him at No. 31. The Broncos then drafted Missouri linebacker Shane Ray 23rd overall directly after he was arrested for driving with possession of marijuana.

Both Roby and Ray have been model citizens with the Broncos and in Denver. But there is a major difference between their misdeeds and video evidence of a slug breaking the jaw of a woman.

The Broncos haven't been squeaky-clean over the years. In fact, one internet site listed the Denver franchise with the most illegal infractions among all teams in the league.

And the sons of Pat Bowlen and Elway have been arrested in the past in connection with domestic violence disputes with their girlfriends. Jack Elway and John Bowlen were given lengthy probations.

I don't care if Mixon becomes a Pro Bowl running back and rushes some Sunday for 200 yards against the Broncos.

The Broncos shouldn't have gone near Mixon Thursday, and should stay far away from him in the draft in April.

Oklahoma RB Joe Mixon visits with Broncos

By Troy Renck

KMGH

March 17, 2017

NFL sources confirmed that University of Oklahoma running back Joe Mixon will visit the Broncos on Thursday.

Pre-draft meetings remain common, but Mixon brings attention because of his accompanying controversy and talent. The NFL declined to invite Mixon to last month's combine for the top 330 prospects. He was not included because of an incident on July 25, 2014 at Oklahoma's Pickleman's Gourmet Cafe. Mixon threw a punch that broke multiple bones in Amelia Molitor's face. Mixon struck Molitor after she shoved and slapped him. The video was released in December 2016 after the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters went to court to obtain it.

Mixon, 20, entered an Alford Plea. It allowed him to maintain his innocence, while acknowledging sufficient evidence existed for a jury to find him guilty. He was given a one-year deferred sentence, 100 hours of community service and ordered to undergo cognitive behavior counseling. After serving a suspension in 2014, Mixon starred for the Sooners the past two seasons, rushing for 2,207 yards on 6.7 yards per carry, while scoring 17 touchdowns. He also caught 65 passes for 894 yards and nine scores.

Mixon received criticism for the way he initially handled questions about the incident at the Orange Bowl. He took inquiries only about football. Mixon was later suspended for a game after an altercation with a parking lot attendant in which he ripped up a ticket. He is considered a first-round talent by many scouts, but how a team views his behavior, which includes a graphic video of the 2104 incident, and their comfort level with the attention he brings will determine where he goes in the draft. Mixon recently visited the Cincinnati Bengals. Three teams have taken Mixon off their board without evaluating his tape, according to FanRag Sports.

Mixon addressed the 2014 incident in a recent interview with MMQB's Albert Breer.

"Because at the end of the day, I'd never gotten in trouble before that point, and never after. You can't judge someone on a mistake they made. I'm sure you've made mistakes. I am sure everyone's made mistakes. It's what you do after and what you learn from it," Mixon said. "It's not like it's been a string of things after that incident. It was a one-time thing. I made a bad decision. I made a bad mistake. If I could take it back, I would. I can't. So I have to keep moving forward, doing the right things. I can't keep worrying about something that happened three years ago."

Agent's Take: Here's what teams will really pay for top deals in NFL free agency

By Joel Corry
CBSSports.com
March 17, 2017

Money came fast and furious for players once the free-agent signing period began March 9. The deals usually aren't what they appear to be because fully guaranteed contracts don't exist in the NFL, except for the first 20 picks in the NFL Draft. The lack of guarantees makes a contract's structure of the utmost importance and gives teams an out for many of the most lucrative multiyear deals after just two years.

The predominant structure utilized by a majority of teams is a contract consisting of a signing bonus and salary guarantees. The base salary in the first contract year is usually fully guaranteed (injury, salary cap and skill guarantees) at signing. Roster bonuses in the first contract year that are due a few days after signing are fairly common. Even though these roster bonuses technically aren't guaranteed, they are considered part of the guaranteed money. Salary guarantees in subsequent contract years are mainly base salary. The trend is for base salaries after the second contract year to be conditionally guaranteed in the bigger deals. They are guaranteed for injury only initially but fully guaranteed if a player is on the team's roster on a specified date in each specific contract year. This date will vary from team to team but is normally within the first few days of the current league year.

Average salary and total compensation are the most common contract metrics but they are misleading because of the lack of security with NFL contracts. When assessing contracts, the more important metrics are compensation in the first three years of a multiyear deal and the amount of money fully guaranteed at signing or the amount of money that will become fully guaranteed early in the contract.

Here's a look at the key metrics for each team's most lucrative deals signed this offseason by players whose contracts were set to expire after the 2016 season. There's a focus on the earliest realistic contract exit point for the team.

Arizona Cardinals

Chandler Jones OLB / Arizona

Contract value: \$82.5 million/5 years (\$16.5 million average)

Contract guarantees: \$53 million (\$15 million as signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$31 million

Three-year cash flow: \$51 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2020 (\$51 million earned)

Jones got his deal extremely fast for a player receiving a franchise designation. The typical timing for such deals getting done is right before the annual July 15 deadline for franchise players to sign multiyear contracts.

Jones didn't quite fare as well as Oliver Vernon did last year as an unrestricted free agent despite being more consistent. Vernon received a five-year, \$85 million contract containing \$52.5 million in guarantees from the Giants, with \$40 million of Vernon's money fully guaranteed at signing and \$54 million guaranteed over the first three years.

A big difference between Jones and Vernon is the vesting of the third-year salary. These base salaries, except \$750,000 for Vernon, are guaranteed for injury at signing. \$11.5 million of Jones' 2019 base salary is fully guaranteed on the third day of the 2018 league year (next March) and the remaining \$5 million on the third day of the 2019 league year (March 2019). \$12 million of Vernon's \$12.75 million third-year salary in 2018 doesn't become fully guaranteed until the exact same time as Jones' \$11.5 million in March 2018.

Atlanta Falcons

Atlanta's major moves came before the end of the 2016 regular season by securing extensions with cornerback Robert Alford and right tackle Ryan Schraeder. Alford's December extension for \$38 million over four years with \$21 million in guarantees set the market for No. 2 cornerbacks. Schraeder received a five-year, \$31.5 million extension (worth up to \$33 million through salary escalators) containing \$12.5 million in guarantees right around Thanksgiving.

Baltimore Ravens

Brandon Williams NT / Baltimore

Contract value: \$52.5 million/5 years (\$10.5 million average)

Contract guarantees: \$27.5 million (\$12 million as signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$24.5 million

Three-year cash flow: \$33.75 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2019 (\$24.5 million earned)

Williams exceeding the five-year, \$46.25 million deal that Damon Harrison got from the Giants as a free agent last March wasn't that surprising -- given the three-year extension Michael Brockers received early last season from the Rams. Brockers' deal averages \$11,083,333 with slightly more than \$24 million in guarantees.

Williams' first two years are guaranteed at signing. A total of \$3 million of his 2019 base salary, which is guaranteed for injury now, doesn't become fully guaranteed until the fifth day of the 2019 league year

when his salary cap number is \$11.75 million. The deal is worth a maximum of \$53.75 million thanks to a \$250,000 incentive for making the Pro Bowl.

Buffalo Bills

The biggest contractual development is quarterback Tyrod Taylor reworking his contract before Buffalo had a make a decision about picking up the option on his contract. Taylor's contract would have been for an additional five years at \$82.5 million (worth up to \$101.75 million through salary escalators and incentives) running through the 2021 season. He would have received a \$15.5 million bonus and a fully guaranteed \$12 million base salary in 2017. It's now a two-year deal worth \$30.5 million where \$16 million is fully guaranteed. Taylor was scheduled to make \$40.5 million through 2018 if the option had been picked up. Since there are three dummy years (2019-21) that automatically void five days after Super Bowl LIII in early February 2019, the Bills will be left with \$5.56 million of dead money (a salary cap charge for a player no longer on the roster) because of signing bonus proration in those years.

Carolina Panthers

Matt Kalil T / Carolina

Contract value: \$55.5 million/5 years (\$11.1 million average)

Contract guarantees: \$25 million (\$12 million as signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$13 million

Three-year cash flow: \$33 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2020 (\$33 million earned)

Kalil's deal was unexpected considering he missed most of the 2016 season because of a hip problem and has regressed since being named a Pro Bowl alternate as a rookie in 2012. The Panthers used the same signing and option bonus structure for Kalil that they used for the contracts of Cam Newton and Luke Kuechly. Carolina has a five-day window from the first to fifth days of the 2018 league year to exercise an option on Kalil's 2021 contract year, which requires a \$10 million payment. If the Panthers pass on Kalil's 2021 contact year, he will still be owed the \$10 million, provided he is on their roster on the sixth day of the league year.

Since an option bonus is given the same treatment on the salary cap as a signing bonus, this \$10 million is also prorated on the salary cap at \$2.5 million in 2018-21. It's conceivable that the Panthers could part ways with Kalil before the \$10 million payment is due, giving him a one-year contract for \$13 million with a terrible 2017 season despite a \$9.6 million cap charge associated with his \$12 million signing bonus. If Kalil can get past the first year, he should see at least three years of the deal because of excess bonus proration in releasing him.

Chicago Bears

Mike Glennon QB / Chicago

Contract value: \$45 million/3 years (\$15 million average)

Contract guarantees: \$18.5 million (\$3 million as signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$18.5 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2018 (\$18.5 million earned)

The view of Glennon's contract is matter of perspective. Giving \$16 million in 2017 to a player that only threw 11 passes after the Buccaneers took Jameis Winston with the first overall pick in the 2015 draft might seem a bit pricey. At least the Bears didn't make the same mistake that the Texans did with Brock Osweiler, another unproven quarterback commodity, by fully guaranteeing Glennon's second year worth \$15 million. If Glennon is no better than Osweiler was for Houston last season, it won't cost the Bears that much because his \$2.5 million 2018 roster bonus, due the third day of the league year, is the only money guaranteed after this year.

Cincinnati Bengals

Dre Kirkpatrick CB / Cincinnati

Contract value: \$52.5 million/5 years (\$10.5 million average)

Contract guarantees: \$12 million (\$7 million as signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$12 million

Three-year cash flow: \$32.8 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2018 (\$15 million earned)

The Bengals couldn't afford to lose Kirkpatrick with left tackle Andrew Whitworth and right guard Kevin Zeitler signing elsewhere. Kirkpatrick has a customary Cincinnati deal: His \$7 million signing bonus and \$5 million roster bonus, which was due March 13, is the only guaranteed money. His \$3 million roster bonus, due on the fifth day of the 2018 league year, is supposed to be a substitute for additional contract guarantees. Despite the lack of guarantees, Cincinnati players typically aren't released early in their contracts. The deal is worth a maximum of \$55 million through incentives.

Cleveland Browns

Kevin Zeitler G / Cleveland

Contract value: \$60 Million/5 years (\$12 million average)

Contract guarantees: \$31.5 million (\$12 million as signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$23 million

Three-year cash flow: \$38 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2020 (\$38 million earned)

Kevin Zeitler established a new salary benchmark for guards in reuniting with Browns head coach Hue Jackson, who was his offensive coordinator in Cincinnati for two seasons (2014, '15). Half of Zeitler's \$10 million 2018 base salary was fully guaranteed at signing. Zeitler's \$3.5 million 2019 injury guarantee from his base salary converts to a full guarantee on the third day of the 2018 league year.

Dallas Cowboys

A lack of cap space has reduced the Cowboys to value shopping. Starting wide receiver Terrence Williams was probably more affordable than expected. He is staying in Dallas on a four-year, \$17 million deal (worth as much as \$21.5 million through salary escalators) with \$9.5 million fully guaranteed at signing. Since the final two years are option years that must be picked up in mid-February 2019 and '20, Dallas' true commitment to Williams is \$9.5 million for two years.

Denver Broncos

Ronald Leary G / Denver

Contract value: \$36 million/4 years (\$9 million average)

Contract guarantees: \$24 million (\$3.5 million as signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$18.65 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2019 (\$19 million earned)

Leary played the best football of his career after starting left guard La'el Collins went down for good with an injury three games into the season. If Leary isn't playing up to expectations, Denver can get out the deal with only \$2.1 million of dead money in 2019. That's before \$5.35 million of his \$8.15 million 2019 base salary that's guaranteed for injury is fully guaranteed on the fifth day of the 2019 league year.

Detroit Lions

Ricky Wagner T / Detroit

Contract value: \$47.5 million/5 years (\$9.5 million average)

Contract guarantees: \$29.5 million (\$14.5 million as signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$17.5 million

Three-year cash flow: \$29.5 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2019 (\$20.5 million earned)

Ricky Wagner changed the salary landscape for right tackles by becoming the first pure right tackle to eclipse 7 million per year. Wagner's \$9 million 2019 base salary is guaranteed for injury only.

T.J. Lang G / Detroit

Contract value: \$28.5 million/3 years (\$9.5 million average)

Contract guarantees: \$19 million (\$8 million as signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$19 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2019 (\$19.5 million)

Offseason hip and foot surgeries might have contributed to Lang finding a home a little later than some of the other guards. The injuries didn't prevent him from getting second-tier guard money.

Green Bay Packers

Nick Perry OLB / Green Bay

Contract value: \$60 million/5 years (\$12 million average)

Contract guarantees: \$18.5 million (all signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$18.5 million

Three-year cash flow: \$39 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2019 (\$28 million earned)

Perry is capitalizing on his 2016 breakout season of 11 sacks after signing a one-year deal for \$5 million. If Perry had gotten the deal from practically any other team, his guaranteed money would be at least 50 percent more. Outside of quarterback Aaron Rodgers, Green Bay veteran deals don't have guarantees after the first year. Perry's \$4.3 million and \$4.8 million roster bonuses in 2018 and '19, due on the third day of the league year, are in lieu of additional guarantees. The real decision on Perry could come in 2019 when his cap number is \$14.7 million and his dead money is \$11.1 million.

Martellus Bennett TE / Green Bay

Contract value: \$21 million/3 years (\$7 million average)

Contract guarantees: \$6.3 million (all signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$6.3 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2018 (\$8.05 million)

Bennett's contract fell way below expectations since he was clearly the best tight end on the open market. He could have just a one-year deal for \$8.05 million with a poor 2017 season because his only guaranteed money is his \$6.3 million signing bonus.

Houston Texans

The Texans' biggest offseason activity has been keeping their kicking tandem together for another season. Punter Shane Lechler and kicker Nick Novak received one-year deals worth \$2 million and \$1.15 million.

Indianapolis Colts

Jabaal Sheard LB / Indianapolis

Contract value: \$25.5 million/3 years (\$8.5 million average)

Contract guarantees: \$12.75 million (no signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$9.5 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2018 (\$10 million earned)

Sheard is a key addition in the remake of a Colts defense that ranked 30th in the NFL last season while giving up 382.9 yards per game. A pay-as-you-go contract structure was utilized where Sheard's cash and cap numbers are the same in each year because he is receiving salary guarantees instead of a signing bonus. This structure gives the Colts the latitude to part ways with Sheard before the \$3.25 million of his \$7 million 2018 base salary, which is guaranteed for injury, becomes fully guaranteed on the fifth day of the next league year.

Jacksonville Jaguars

A.J. Bouye CB / Jacksonville

Contract value: \$65 million/5 years (\$13 million average)

Contract guarantees: \$26 million (\$10 million as signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$26 million

Three-year cash flow: \$40.5 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2019 (\$27 million earned)

Signing Bouye takes away the best cover man from the AFC South rival Texans. Bouye's contract is comparable to the five-year, \$62.5 million contract that Janoris Jenkins received from the Giants as a free agent last year. Jenkins' deal comes with \$28.8 million fully guaranteed.

Calais Campbell DT / Jacksonville

Contract value: \$60 million/4 years (\$15 million average)

Contract guarantees: \$30 million (\$6 million as signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$30 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2019 (\$30 million earned)

Campbell has two years to impress the Jaguars before an option requiring a \$3 million payment for his 2019 and '20 contract years -- with \$12 million and \$15 million base salaries -- must be picked up in mid-February 2019.

Kansas City Chiefs

Eric Berry SS / Kansas City

Contract value: \$78 million/6 years (\$13 million average)

Contract guarantees: \$40 million (\$20 million as signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$25 million

Three-year cash flow: \$42.5 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2020 (\$42.5 million earned)

Kansas City bit the bullet and made Berry the NFL's highest-paid safety instead of franchising him for a second time at a cost of nearly \$13 million. Given how strapped for cap room the Chiefs were, having Berry on a \$5 million 2017 cap number is a welcome relief. A total of \$10.2 million of Berry's \$12.4 million 2019 base salary is already guaranteed for injury. \$2.95 million of it becomes fully guaranteed on the third day of the 2018 league year with the remaining \$7.25 million on the third day of the following league year.

Los Angeles Chargers

Russell Okung T / Denver

Contract value: \$53 million/4 years (\$13.25 million average)

Contract guarantees: \$25 million (\$10 million as signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$25 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2019 (\$26 million earned)

Okung, who represented himself for the second straight year, is coming out ahead with the Broncos' decision to decline an option for four years worth \$48 million. A total of \$22 million over the next two seasons would have been fully guaranteed under the Denver contract. The Chargers contract contains

\$26 million in the first two years. That's all Okung is likely to get unless he can regain the form that made him a Pro Bowl selection during the 2012 season. The deal makes Okung the NFL's highest-paid offensive lineman by average yearly salary.

Los Angeles Rams

Andrew Whitworth T / Cincinnati

Contract value: \$33.75 million/3 years (\$11.25 million average)

Contract guarantees: \$15 million (\$5 million as signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$15 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2019 (\$23 million earned)

Age didn't prevent the 35-year-old veteran from signing the most lucrative contract of his career. The deal is worth up to \$36 million because of \$750,000 in annual incentives. There's a chance it could be a one-year deal for \$15 million, if Father Time quickly catches up with Whitworth.

Miami Dolphins

Kenny Stills WR / Miami

Contract value: \$32 million/4 years (\$8 million average)

Contract guarantees: \$19.95 million (\$7 million as signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$16.95 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2019 (\$17 million earned)

The Dolphins might not have an issue eating the \$2 million of Stills' \$7.975 million 2019 base salary, which becomes fully guaranteed next March, unless there's an increase in productivity from the 42 catches for 726 yards and nine touchdowns he had last season. Stills would have a two-year, \$17 million deal because he would probably be able to get at least \$2 million from another team in 2019 to offset Miami's guarantee.

Minnesota Vikings

Riley Reiff T / Minnesota

Contract value: \$58.75 million/5 years (\$11.75 million average)

Contract guarantees: \$26.3 million (\$11 million as signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$26.3 million

Three-year cash flow: \$36 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2019 (\$26.5 million earned)

Reiff returns to the left side he occupied for the Lions from 2012 to '15 before switching to right tackle for 2016 first-round pick Taylor Decker. The deal is worth up to \$59.95 million because of annual \$400,000 salary escalators for making the Pro Bowl. There is \$6.6 million of dead money versus an \$11.7 million cap number in 2019 if the Vikings find out Reiff is really better suited for right tackle.

New England Patriots

Stephon Gilmore CB / New England

Contract value: \$65 million/5 years (\$13 million average)

Contract guarantees: \$40 million (\$18 million as signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$31 million

Three-year cash flow: \$42 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2019 (\$32 million earned)

Bill Belichick made a rare high-priced free-agent signing by landing Gilmore from the Bills, a division rival. He essentially gave Gilmore the money that Malcolm Butler, a restricted free-agent cornerback, wanted from the Patriots. Gilmore's inconsistent 2016 play obviously didn't hurt him contractually. Being continually plagued by inconsistency will make Belichick regret he didn't take care of Butler instead. If Gilmore struggles, he won't see his \$9.5 million 2019 base salary, of which \$9 million becomes fully guaranteed on the third day of the 2019 league year.

Dont'a Hightower MLB / New England

Contract value: \$35.5 million/4 years (\$8.875 million average)

Contract guarantees: \$19 million (\$10 million as signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$17 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2019 (\$18.75 million earned)

When it comes to Hightower, New England's patience was rewarded. The inside linebacker returned to the Patriots for significantly less than what Jamie Collins, the ex-Patriots linebacker dealt to the Browns at last season's trading deadline, got to re-sign with Cleveland. Collins' deal included \$50 million over four years with \$26.4 million fully guaranteed.

The reported \$43.5 million of Hightower's deal is the maximum value. It's only obtainable if Hightower earns a \$1 million annual incentive for playing at least 80 percent of New England's defensive snaps, which he has never done in his five year NFL career, and \$500,000 for making the Pro Bowl each year and \$500,000 for being named first team All-Pro Bowl annually. Annual 46-man active per-game roster

bonuses totaling \$875,000 are included in the \$35.5 million base value of the deal. The only time Hightower has played all 16 regular-season games was in 2013. He has missed 13 games over his five seasons.

New Orleans Saints

Larry Warford G / New Orleans

Contract value: \$34 million/4 years (\$8 Million average)

Contract guarantees: \$17 million (\$8.4 million as signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$17 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2019 (\$17 million earned)

Most of the Saints' recent big-ticket free-agent signings have backfired. A continuation of this trend will mean the Saints will pick up \$6.4 million of cap space in 2019 by releasing Warford before his \$750,000 roster bonus is due on the third day of the league year.

New York Giants

It's a far cry from last offseason when general manager Jerry Reese overhauled a porous defense by committing nearly \$200 million to three big-ticket defenders -- defensive tackle Nolan Harrison, cornerback Janoris Jenkins and defensive end Olivier Vernon -- with more than \$105 million in guarantees. Bringing in wide receiver Brandon Marshall from the neighboring Jets for \$11 million over two years (worth up to \$12 million with incentives) has been the most significant signing.

New York Jets

Kelvin Beachum T / N.Y. Jets

Contract value: \$24 million/3 years (\$8 million average)

Contract guarantees: \$12 million (\$4.5 million as signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$12 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2018 (\$12 million earned)

Beachum is the Jets' latest attempt to replace left tackle D'Brickashaw Ferguson, who abruptly retired last offseason when asked to take a pay cut. His deal is essentially a series of one-year deals because the Jets might not be opposed to eating Beachum's \$4 million in 2018 base salary guarantees if he doesn't fare any better at left tackle than Ryan Clady did last season. Beachum's 2019 contract year for \$8 million can void by earning Pro Bowl honors in 2017 or '18.

Oakland Raiders

Oakland's top offseason priority is taking care of its own players. Quarterback Derek Carr and/or 2016 NFL Defensive Player of the Year Khalil Mack are in line for lucrative contract extensions. Carr is a more pressing matter because 2017 is his contract year while the Raiders will surely pick up a 2018 fifth-year option on Mack for approximately \$13.7 million. Cordarrelle Patterson, a 2013 first-round pick who wasn't much more than a return specialist in his four years with the Vikings, was brought in on a two-year, \$8.5 million contract. The second year in 2018 will void if Patterson surpasses at least 65 catches or offensive playtime at or above 65 percent in 2017. Quite frankly, the only way this happens is with a serious injury to starting wide receivers Michael Crabtree or Amari Cooper.

Philadelphia Eagles

Wide receiver Alshon Jeffery opted for a one-year contract because a deal comparable to Dez Bryant, Demaryius Thomas, Julio Jones and A.J. Green's never materialized. These deals, which were signed in 2015, average between \$14 million and \$15 million per year. With the exception of Green, the players received between \$43.5 million and \$47 million of guarantees in their contracts. The base value of Jeffery's contract is \$9.5 million. It can be worth as much as \$14 million through incentives.

Pittsburgh Steelers

It was a surprise the Steelers showed an interest in Dont'a Hightower. The Steelers typically aren't major participants in free agency, particularly with players that have a high price tag. Antonio Brown recently received the new contract he has been wanting for a couple years. He reset the wide receiver market with his four-year, \$68 million extension.

San Francisco 49ers

Pierre Garcon WR / San Francisco

Contract value: \$47.5 million/5 years (\$9.5 million average)

Contract guarantees: \$20 million (\$12 million as signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$17 million

Three-year cash flow: \$29 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2019 (\$23 million earned)

New coach Kyle Shanahan is counting on Garcon's experience with his offense paying dividends. Garcon had 113 receptions and 1,346 receiving yards, both career bests, for the Redskins in 2013 with Shanahan as his offensive coordinator. He could have just a two-year deal worth \$23 million. The final three seasons (2019-21) are one-year options that must be exercised before the last day of the preceding league year.

Kyle Juszczyk FB / San Francisco

Contract value: \$21 million/4 years (\$5.25 million average)

Contract guarantees: \$19 million (\$5 million as signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$7.5 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2019 (\$10.75 million earned)

Juszczyk is fundamentally changing the fullback market. His deal averages over twice as much as the NFL's next highest-paid fullback's contract. It was inconceivable that Juszczyk could land a deal averaging more than seven-time Pro Bowl running back and 2012 NFL MVP Adrian Peterson when free agency started, but it's now a distinct possibility.

Luke Joeckel, the 2014 second overall pick, is Seattle's idea of addressing a neglected offensive line. He signed a one-year deal worth \$8 million where \$7 million is fully guaranteed. The other \$1 million is in 46-man per-game active roster bonuses. Joeckel, who never lived up to expectations with the Jaguars, was limited to five games in 2016 because of major reconstructive left knee surgery. He is expected to first get a crack at the left tackle position he manned for the first three years in Jacksonville before shifting to left guard last season.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

DeSean Jackson WR / Tampa Bay

Contract value: \$33.5 million/3 years (\$11,166,667 average)

Contract guarantees: \$20 million (no signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$20 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2019 (\$23.5 million earned)

Jackson, one of the NFL's most dangerous deep threats, is expected to take pressure off quarterback Jameis Winston's favorite target, Mike Evans. The Buccaneers used the pay-as-you-go contract model, which was introduced during Mark Dominik's tenure as general manager (2009-13). The \$7.5 million that is fully guaranteed of Jackson's 2018 \$11 million base salary should ensure that he plays at least two years with the Buccaneers, unless he doesn't establish any type of rapport with Winston.

Tennessee Titans

Logan Ryan DB / Tennessee

Contract value: \$30 million/3 years (\$10 million average)

Contract guarantees: \$16 million (\$2 million as signing bonus)

Fully guaranteed at signing: \$12 million

Earliest realistic exit point: 2019 (\$20.5 million earned)

Ryan is Tennessee's highest-paid player by average yearly salary. The modest signing bonus allows the Titans to cut bait after one year with just \$3.334 million of dead money -- provided it's done before an additional \$4 million of Ryan's \$10 million 2018 base salary is fully guaranteed if he isn't the answer to the problems at cornerback. \$2 million of this base salary is already fully guaranteed.

Washington Redskins

Terrelle Pryor was brought in to help offset the loss of wide receivers Pierre Garcon and DeSean Jackson in free agency. The converted quarterback is betting on himself with a one-year, \$6 million deal (worth as much as \$8 million through incentives). A contract for significantly more than the four-year, \$32.5 million deal containing \$17 million in guarantees Kenny Britt signed with the Browns to replace Pryor should be available in a year, provided Pryor is correct that he is just scratching the surface of his talent at wide receiver.

Joe Mixon visiting Broncos on Thursday

By Josh Alper
Pro Football Talk
March 17, 2017

The Broncos are the latest team to meet with Oklahoma running back Joe Mixon.

According to multiple reports, Mixon is meeting with the Broncos in Denver on Thursday. He met with the Bengals last weekend and spent time with them as well as the Browns, Lions and Saints before his pro day workout in Norman, Oklahoma last week.

None of those teams were able to speak to Mixon at the NFL's Scouting Combine because Mixon was barred from participating as a result of his arrest for punching a woman in the face during his first year in college. Mixon entered a guilty plea on a misdemeanor assault charge to settle the criminal case.

If not for that incident, Mixon might be mentioned among the first running backs to come off the board in April. That's not expected to happen, but the chances he'll get picked likely go up as more teams meet with him and gauge the risk/reward ratio for picking him up.

The Broncos have C.J. Anderson, Devontae Booker and Kapri Bibbs returning at running back.

The best of what's left: Mason's top 50 free agents still on the market

By Andrew Mason
DenverBroncos.com
March 17, 2017

1. CB Malcolm Butler, New England (RFA)

For all the Patriots have done to consolidate their place atop the NFL in the last week, losing Butler could prove equally detrimental to those efforts. Butler visited the Saints this week, and while the Patriots have the cap room to match almost any offer, their investment in Stephon Gilmore could lead them to hesitate on allocating a high percentage of their future cap space to the cornerback position.

2. G Andrew Norwell, Carolina (RFA)

The Panthers issued a second-round tender for Norwell, which will likely be enough to keep him around on a reshuffled offensive line.

3. DT Dominique Easley, L.A. Rams (RFA)

The first-round tender he received means he'll almost certainly be back playing for new defensive coordinator Wade Phillips in Los Angeles.

4. Adrian Peterson, ex-Minnesota

With former Raiders running back Latavius Murray signing with the Vikings, an obvious landing spot for Peterson could be ... Oakland.

5. ILB Zach Brown, Buffalo

Multiple teams have shown interest in Brown after his career season with the Bills, but he might be left with another short-term deal like the one-year contract he signed in 2016.

6. ILB Kiko Alonso, Miami (RFA)

The first-round tender given to him by the Dolphins shows how much they value him.

7. C Nick Mangold, ex-N.Y. Jets

A move to guard could still be in play for Mangold, depending on his eventual destination. For now, he seems to be enjoying his respite, sending out tweets from a field-side seat at New York F.C.'s home opener last weekend.

8. S T.J. McDonald, L.A. Rams

Despite a series of big contracts given out to safeties, McDonald has lingered on the market and could be looking at a one- or two-year deal.

9. QB Jay Cutler, ex-Chicago

Whether Cutler plays again depends on the answer to this question: Is there a team with a quarterback vacancy that is interested in him -- and offers a legitimate chance for immediate success? The Jets have shown reported interest, but they appear a long way from pushing for anything beyond a .500 season in 2017.

10. CB Ross Cockrell, Pittsburgh (RFA)

Pittsburgh rolled the dice with an original-round tender (Round 4) on Cockrell, but it has paid off so far, as there has been no reported interest from other teams.

11. ILB Perry Riley Jr., Oakland

Despite the Raiders' immediate improvement against the run after Riley stepped into the lineup, there has been little market buzz about Riley, and early Thursday reports circulated that the Raiders will visit with Zach Brown, which would make Riley expendable.

12. S Bradley McDougald, Tampa Bay

There is reported interest in McDougald from the Seahawks, who struggled to replace Earl Thomas last year and are looking for a better insurance policy.

13. TE Jared Cook, Green Bay

In the last 10 games of the 2016 season -- including playoffs -- Cook had 42 catches for 553 yards and three touchdowns. Extrapolate those over a 16 games, and you've got production that should have him in someone's starting lineup.

**** UPDATE: Oakland is expected to sign Cook. ****

14. CB Brandon Flowers, ex-L.A. Chargers

An ESPN report linked the Steelers with Flowers as the league year began, but interest in Flowers has been relatively scant, likely due to his recent concussions.

15. CB Darrelle Revis, ex-N.Y. Jets

With charges against him dropped, Revis becomes a viable pickup -- although he faded badly last year.

16. ILB Gerald Hodges, San Francisco

The Chiefs brought Hodges in for a visit, according to The Kansas City Star, but their limited cap room restricts their options, even though he might represent a need for them because of Derrick Johnson's ruptured Achilles tendon.

17. DT Johnathan Hankins, N.Y. Giants

In spite of a frustrating 2017 season, it is a surprise that he has lingered on the market for this long.

18. LT King Dunlap, ex-L.A. Chargers

Injuries affected him the last two years, and he'll be 32 in September. But he can still be an effective left tackle if he can stay healthy, and he is just two seasons removed from playing the best football of his career.

19. CB Darius Butler, Indianapolis

He showed the versatility to play safety last year, which increases his value as he heads into his age-31 season.

20. CB DeShawn Shead, Seattle

Seattle did not offer him a restricted free agent tender, and in the wake of the torn anterior cruciate ligament that he suffered in the playoffs against Atlanta in January, he might not be ready to play by the start of the 2017 season.

21. G Jahri Evans, New Orleans

The fact that Evans did not sign with a team last year until August indicates that he could be on future editions of this list in the coming months.

22. DE/DT Jared Odrick, ex-Jacksonville

Will the elbow injury that hindered him last year be a problem going forward? And can he recapture the form he displayed in Miami before signing with the Jaguars?

23. ILB Kevin Minter, Arizona

Minter reportedly visited with the Colts and Bengals this week.

24. WR Dontrelle Inman, L.A. Chargers (RFA) -- Round 2 tender

As with some of the other restricted players on this list, the Chargers' tender should ensure Inman returns.

25. RB LeGarrette Blount, New England

Could newly signed Rex Burkhead provide the power element to the Patriots' offense that Blount did? A contract that could pay Burkhead up to \$3.15 million this year indicates that is the case, which could mean Blount is out of the Patriots' plans, despite their ample cap room.

26. QB Colin Kaepernick, ex-San Francisco

27. WR Josh Gordon, Cleveland
28. RB Jamaal Charles, ex-Kansas City
29. G/T Austin Pasztor, Cleveland
30. S Jairus Byrd, ex-New Orleans

31. WR Anquan Boldin, Detroit

After some deliberation, Boldin told ESPN's Jim Trotter that he plans to play in 2017, which would be his 15th in the league.

32. LT Ryan Clady, N.Y. Jets
33. CB Leodis McKelvin, ex-Philadelphia

34. WR Michael Floyd, New England

He's currently on home detention because of the extreme DUI incident that led to his release by Arizona last December, so his career is on hold.

35. WR Stevie Johnson, ex-L.A. Chargers
36. DE Chris Long, New England
37. CB Sam Shields, ex-Green Bay
38. OL Sebastian Vollmer, ex-New England

39. Edge rusher Erik Walden, Indianapolis

He's lingered on the market perhaps because of speculation that his 11-sack season was an aberration, as five of his six seasons from 2010-15 saw him post exactly three sacks. Walden visited with the Titans this week.

40. S Corey Graham, ex-Buffalo
41. RB Isaiah Crowell, Cleveland (RFA)
42. S Aaron Williams, ex-Buffalo
43. ILB Jelani Jenkins, Miami
44. OT Chris Hubbard, Pittsburgh (RFA)
45. QB Josh McCown, ex-Cleveland
46. WR Kamar Aiken, Baltimore
47. RB DeAngelo Williams, Pittsburgh
48. CB Alterraun Verner, ex-Tampa Bay
49. WR Victor Cruz, ex-N.Y. Giants
50. DE Devin Taylor, Detroit

Broncos host annual 'A Night with the Coaches' for some of their partners

By Caroline Deisley
DenverBroncos.com
March 17, 2017

Wednesday was busy for new Broncos Head Coach Vance Joseph and his coordinators.

The coaching staff took a break from prepping for the NFL Draft to engage with season-ticket holders early in the day before interacting with some of the Broncos' business partners at the annual "A Night with the Coaches" in Pat Bowlen Fieldhouse.

Prior to a lengthy question-and-answer session hosted by the voice of the Broncos, Dave Logan, Joseph and Co. mingled with partners, talking about everything from football to family to the partners' initiatives for the 2017 season.

"[Meeting the new coaches] is extremely exciting," said John Roble, vice president of sales at Cigna. "There's a big opportunity in front of us to do bigger and better things than we ever have, and there's transformation ahead."

Once the Q&A began, the partners witnessed the coaching staff's candor as Joseph and his coordinators each answered the prompts with intelligence, ease and, most importantly, passion.

"You can tell they get along really well together," said Hassan Salem, president of U.S. Bank Colorado. "It's important to have a coaching staff that gels."

"They were all sort of challenged and excited," added Jeff Ross, CEO of Ross Aviation. "They've come to a city that has a winning tradition. They don't want to fool around."

This event was the partners' first introduction to Vance Joseph, and he passed with flying colors.

"Vance was amazing," McDonald's Tom Carlson said. "He was, X's-and-O's-wise, the most down to earth. [He's] super smart and he got animated and excited about the game. He just seemed like he gets the game and understands it. ... He didn't see us just as partners; he saw us as football fans and fans of the Broncos. ... He just seemed very down to earth, certainly not pretentious or above himself which was awesome.

"It's critical to the partnership to say this guy is just one of us."

Above all else, the coaches showed the partners that just because there are some new faces leading the Broncos, the standard remains the same. Joseph and his coordinators all repeatedly emphasized that they understood how high the expectations are for the new staff, and they're only concerned with one thing: winning.

"Winning makes it so much more fun, easier to engage and obviously to entertain clients," Salem said, "but also [it's important] to do it in the right way. The Broncos are a first-rate organization, very high-

class organization, so it's always great to partner up with somebody who are not only winners but also do things the right way."

"The Broncos are the Broncos," Carlson added. "The same objective, the same goals, the same mindset, the same culture and the same infrastructure is here."