

Broncos expected to pick up Bradley Roby's fifth-year contract option

By Nicki Jhabvala
Denver Post
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Bradley Roby will likely be a Bronco for at least another year, if not longer.

The team is expected to exercise the cornerback's fifth-year contract option worth \$8.526 million, an NFL source confirmed, keeping the 24-year-old with the Broncos until 2019, barring major injury. The deadline to make it official is May 3.

The option is afforded to only first-round draft picks after the first three years of their rookie deal. The salaries, determined by the player's position and draft slot, are guaranteed for injury only but become fully guaranteed the first day of the option year.

As the 31st pick in 2014, Roby's fifth year comes with a significant raise from his \$1.02 million base salary for 2017 and could be a starting point for discussions about a long-term contract extension.

In his three NFL seasons, Roby has quickly evolved into a key weapon and a starter in most respects in Denver's league-leading secondary with his ability to play both the slot and outside cornerback positions, and spell veterans Chris Harris and Aqib Talib. In his career, Roby has played all 48 regular-season games and has totaled 143 tackles, five interceptions, two sacks, and 31 pass breakups.

"Most of your defensive snaps are sub-(package) snaps. I would say 65 percent are sub snaps. That nickel player is a starting player on your football team," head coach Vance Joseph said. "If you don't have one, it's an issue. We have two guys that can do it, so we're fine there. But it is very important to have a guy that can play the slot position."

Last season Roby was in on 685 defensive snaps, or 59.8 percent of the team's defensive plays, but his overall efficiency dipped, along with his ranking by Pro Football Focus. In 2015, he was graded as the 25th-best corner in the league. In 2016, he was No. 83, with Harris and Talib sitting No. 1 and 2, respectively.

Roby recorded career-lows in tackles (39 total) and pass-breakups (eight) last season, but he also had a career-high two interceptions returned for touchdowns.

The first was against Philip Rivers in Week 8, when Roby started in place of the injured Talib. Roby returned a pick 51 yards for the score, and recorded seven total tackles and two pass-breakups to earn AFC defensive player of the week honors.

The second was against Jacksonville's Blake Bortles in Week 13, another 51-yard pick-six that helped rookie quarterback Paxton Lynch notch his first career victory.

Roby's knack for big plays was never more apparent than in the second week of his sophomore season, when he returned a fumble 21 yards at Kansas City for the game-winning score. The Broncos' defense

built a reputation for scoring late and in close games that year, thanks primarily to its edge rushers and stout secondary. Roby's thrilling scoop-and-score was among the earliest of the No Fly Zone's feats en route Super Bowl 50 that season.

But with at least another year of Roby, the list of big plays is likely to grow.

Broncos CB Aqib Talib won't face discipline for shooting as NFL closes investigation

By Cameron Wolfe

Denver Post

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Broncos cornerback Aqib Talib will not face discipline in the form of a fine or suspension from the NFL for his actions in a shooting in June 2016, according to two NFL sources. The 10-month investigation by the NFL has been closed, the sources said.

Talib must complete a firearms safety course and also submit a list of all firearms he owns to NFL security, according to NFL vice president of communications Brian McCarthy.

"It was an honest mistake," Talib told The Denver Post Tuesday. "I wasn't doing anything wrong and I'm glad I didn't get punished twice because the incident itself was punishment."

In October, Dallas police ruled Talib shot himself on June 5 while standing in a park in Dallas. Earlier, Talib had told investigators he was "too intoxicated to remember" what happened regarding the shooting. Talib wasn't charged with a crime and he did not miss any regular season action due to the gunshot wound in his lower right leg. He did not need surgery.

Talib last season earned first-team all-pro honors. He's been a Pro Bowl selection in the three seasons since joining the Broncos as a free agent in 2014.

He finished 2016 with three interceptions and 12 passes defensed. Talib has three years remaining on his contract and is due \$11 million in 2017.

USA Today's Tom Pelissero was the first to report the news.

Broncos Mailbag: Will Paxton Lynch get a fair shot at the starting QB job?

By Nicki Jhabvala

Denver Post

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Do you think this coaching staff will actually give Paxton Lynch a fair shot at the starting QB job? I already am sensing a negative smear campaign toward Lynch either by Broncos employees and/or coaching staff.

— Jose Loera, Denver

Jose: Absolutely. That's why they're having an open competition in the first place. Head coach Vance Joseph made it very clear that the competition will be "50-50" and they want to give Lynch every opportunity to try to win the job because they have a lot invested in him. Remember they traded up to get him in the first round of the 2016 draft, so they, too, have a lot riding on his ability to prove he's starter-worthy. And the fact he's getting another opportunity when Trevor Siemian won the job last year, started 14 games, was voted captain and earned a Pro Bowl selection says all you need to know about the team's hope that Lynch will make a Year 2 leap.

I haven't heard anything negative about Lynch coming from the Broncos. Joseph has said he wants to see Lynch blossom into a better decision-maker and leader, but the same holds for Trevor Siemian, as well.

The Broncos' starting job is up for grabs, and that's all that matters at this point. Siemian goes into it with more experience and perhaps greater trust from his teammates because of the rapport they built on the field in those 14 starts. But Joseph and Elway say the slate is cleared.

Why do people put so much stock in a quarterback's physical capabilities as a sign of their potential, ceiling and success in the NFL? I guess I'm just so confused why people believe Lynch being able to throw the ball further and run faster means he has a much higher ceiling than Siemian (physically yes, but mentally it's not even close)? Or why that makes Lynch a starter but Siemian a backup? Or why Lynch can become elite but Siemian can't?

— Katherine, Aurora

Katherine: I've wondered the same thing, but that belief is typically held by those outside NFL teams. Scouts, executives, coaches — they look for the full package. And the Broncos' brass has said as much, too.

At the league's annual meetings in Phoenix, Joseph said flat-out: "Playing quarterback in this league is about decision-making" and "It's the quarterback's job to be a leader, whether you like it or not, or you're a rookie or not."

There are a lot of athletic guys in the NFL. You have to be to make it there. But I'd argue it takes more of the intangibles than anything else to start at quarterback. Some of the best QBs in history haven't always been the most athletic QBs in the league.

Are the Broncos in any way thinking of trading that first-round pick and if so who are some of the suitors?

— Anthony, Fulton

Anthony: The Broncos are considering any and everything ahead of the draft. John Elway has a history of surprising.

With the 20th pick in the 2017 draft, should we draft an inside linebacker, nose tackle or left tackle with that pick?

— Jon Misak, Sayreville, N.J.

Jon: If it's only between those three, a left tackle. But don't expect the Broncos to go into the draft with just those three positions or any three positions in mind. Their criteria are essentially the best player for what they need. In a draft deep on playmakers, from running back to tight end, the Broncos could easily nab one (or more). Or they could even grab another pass rusher.

Expect the unexpected with John Elway.

Going into last year, Virgil Green looked like he was going to be the clear-cut No. 1 tight end. How is the depth chart at that position shaping up now?

— Chance, Westminster

Chance: The depth chart isn't clear cut because A.J. Derby was injured late in the season. The position group as a whole wasn't spectacular. It hasn't been for the last two years and still isn't. The team has had high hopes for Jeff Heurman, but he yet to live up to expectations. This will be a big year for him. This draft class is deep on elite tight end talent, and if the Broncos get one, Heurman could be fighting for his job.

Jhabvala vs. Kiz: Should Broncos trade up to draft Christian McCaffrey?

By Mark Kiszla and Nicki Jhabvala

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Should the Broncos trade up in the NFL draft to get former Stanford star Christian McCaffrey?

Kiz: From John Elway to Chris Harris Jr. to fans in the south stands, everybody knows Denver needs a playmaker. And the answer could be right down the street from Dove Valley headquarters. In addition to his many-varied football skills, Christian McCaffrey could create buzz in Colorado like no player since Tim Tebow left town. Should the Broncos do whatever's necessary to draft him, even if it means moving up in the first round from their spot at No. 20?

Jhabvala: I immediately just want to say, 'Yes. Get him. Whatever it takes. Get him.' But reports vary by the day on just how high McCaffrey may go. Some say top 10. Some say he's already received a guarantee from a team in the teens. The Broncos could easily trade up. They have traded up for the past two years to get Shane Ray in 2015 and Paxton Lynch in 2016. But moving up to the top 10 from No. 20 will cost quite a bit, and this is a draft deep on playmakers, from tight end, to running back. Do they really want to give up a haul when they could find help from others?

Kiz: I like to think of NFL mock drafts as the original fake news. Who cares if every mock draft is based on flimsy info, rumors and outright lies? They're irresistible click bait. McCaffrey is the hot player of the moment in mock-draft land. He's now projected to climb as high as the Colts (No. 15 in the first round), the Eagles (No. 14) or even the Panthers (No. 8). If the Broncos like McCaffrey, should Elway stand pat at No. 20 and see if our local football hero slips?

Jhabvala: I'd like to see them try to trade up, but given Elway's history, I'd expect him draw the line quickly if the asking price becomes too exorbitant. And it very well could be. The NFL is a league of relationships, and McCaffrey has a lot of deep ties to people across the league. The 49ers, led by former Bronco John Lynch and Mike's son Kyle Shanahan, are rumored to want to trade back from No. 2 to try to get him. They've known McCaffrey since he was a kid. At No. 14 are the Eagles, who named Brian Dawkins a football operations executive last year. Dawkins was one of McCaffrey's coaches at Valor Christian. The demand for McCaffrey is already high.

Kiz: As a multi-purpose NFL weapon, McCaffrey is the real deal. It's good to see NFL general managers, as guilty of group-think sheep as Heisman voters, are beginning to catch on. If Elway truly believes McCaffrey can help his young quarterbacks more than a left tackle, trading up should be considered. The problem? Moving up in the first round comes at a steep price. Maybe Denver could work a deal with Cleveland at No. 12. But if McCaffrey is going off the board in the top 10, I'm afraid a trade would be too rich for Denver to reasonably afford.

Jhabvala: Agreed. Top 10 could be too costly. But there's no denying McCaffrey's potential and all the ways he could help the Broncos. They need a speedy back. They need a clear No. 3 receiver and help in the slot. They desperately need a reliable returner. McCaffrey checks all three boxes, and to see him stay in Colorado would be an incredible story in and of itself.

No Wade, no problem? Chris Harris has lofty expectations for Broncos defense, himself

By Cameron Wolfe

Denver Post

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Life is nice at the top, Chris Harris admits. It includes respect, praise and fear. But none of that matters if the Broncos can't stay there.

Though Denver missed the playoffs last season for the first time since 2010, its No Fly Zone secondary played at a championship level once again. The Broncos led the NFL in fewest passing yards allowed for the second consecutive season. Harris, Denver's longest-tenured defensive back, wants to complete the trifecta.

The core of that secondary returns, and those players are out to prove they can maintain their excellence, or even be better, without former defensive coordinator Wade Phillips, who was not retained.

"With Wade, we were on 'Level 2' on a lot of things, but now we are 'Level 3' on some coverages," Harris said this week. "We're advanced now. We're smart enough for the whole group to take it to the next level and not have mental mistakes. That's what other teams in this league can't do. They can't keep learning new stuff."

Denver's defense under Phillips was fairly simple. The Broncos rarely played exotic schemes. Instead, they preferred to allow their athleticism and man-to-man coverage skills win, and they usually did.

At times, the stubbornness to stay in man coverage was exploited, such as when Atlanta Falcons running backs Devonta Freeman and Tevin Coleman had a field day as receivers against the Broncos' linebackers in October. Those soft gaps in the middle, along with a massive drop in the performance of their run defense, cost the Broncos.

Still, the Broncos' pass defense went from allowing 200 yards passing per game during their Super Bowl championship season two years ago to 186 yards last season. Harris believes they can make another big jump under first-year defensive coordinator Joe Woods.

"If we can cut it to 175, that would be amazing. It's possible, though," Harris said.

The 2013 Seattle Seahawks were the last team to accomplish the feat.

To do it, the Broncos will probably need to become more advanced in their schemes. Harris, who earned first-team all-pro honors last season after settling for second-team honors the previous two years, would love for his versatility to become more of a weapon.

"I want to be active. I want to be able to show everything I can do," said Harris, 27. "I can blitz. I can cover. I can play zone and play man. I can do it all."

Harris was used in those roles early in his career, particularly blitzing, but since has become one of the league's best cornerbacks. He has been used to stymie top receivers in the slot or on the outside.

Harris has two goals this offseason: preparing to continue to build his legacy, and helping keep the Broncos' defense on top.

"I want to keep getting all-pros, keep stacking them," said Harris, who had 11 pass breakups, two interceptions and a forced fumble in 2016. "I know that if I am playing at an all-pro level, our defense is playing well. ... If I'm playing bad, then I know we're not winning a lot of games and we're definitely not No. 1 in pass defense."

Broncos 7-round 2017 NFL mock draft: Denver takes Garrett Bolles in first round, bolsters defense

By Cameron Wolfe

Denver Post

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The buildup is almost complete. The NFL draft is April 27-29 and teams are finalizing their draft boards.

We put ourselves in the shoes of Broncos' general manager John Elway to give our best guess at what the Broncos might do in the draft.

First round, 20th pick, Garrett Bolles, OT, Utah, 6-foot-5, 297 pounds: The Broncos get their left tackle of the future. Bolles brings a dose of nasty, athleticism and talent to an offensive line that needs all three.

Bolles would address the Broncos' biggest need and his gritty style would allow him to fit right in with a revamped line. This isn't as big of a reach as some would suggest as Bolles is a first-round talent with the upside of a Pro Bowl left tackle.

He needs to add a little more bulk and refine some of his technique issues.

Second round, 51st pick, Carlos Henderson, WR/KR, Louisiana Tech, 5-11, 199 pounds: A ton of "juice" in this pick, which is what Broncos head coach Vance Joseph wants. Hi-C, Capri Suns, Hawaiian Punch and more. Henderson is an electric playmaker. He had 23 touchdowns (19 receiving, two rushing, two kick returns) in 121 touches last season. He would immediately become the Broncos slot receiver, which would take pressure off Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders.

He's still raw as a route runner, but he has a high upside. And Broncos fans can stop having nightmares of Jordan Norwood as a returner and a slot receiver.

Third round, 82nd pick, Dalvin Tomlinson, DL, Alabama, 6-3, 310 pounds: Tomlinson is often the forgotten one in Alabama's deep defense, but he shouldn't be. He clogged the lanes, doing a lot of the dirty work for Jonathan Allen and Reuben Foster.

Tomlinson has the versatility to play and eventually start at nose tackle. He can also be a run-stuffing defensive end. He's more explosive than you'd expect for a guy his size.

Third round, 101st pick, Bucky Hodges, TE, Virginia Tech, 6-6, 257 pounds: Due to a deep tight end crop, Hodges, whom the Broncos could target in the second round, falls to the bottom of the third round.

Hodges is a rare mix of size and athleticism who may remind Broncos fans of Julius Thomas. He's a big red zone threat and his 4.57 40-yard dash makes him a mismatch for just about every defender down the seam. He would immediately become Denver's most talented tight end even if his blocking needs work.

Fourth round, 127th pick, Brendan Langley, CB, Lamar, 6-0, 201 pounds: Langley is a high-upside developmental cornerback. Denver has a need for a fourth cornerback and maybe Langley can beat out

Lorenzo Doss out for that role as a rookie but this pick is more for the future. Langley scored two touchdowns as a punt returner in 2016.

Langley is long, fast, athletic with great ball skills. He had six interceptions last season. He's still learning the cornerback position and had a poor showing at the Senior Bowl.

Fifth round, 177th pick, Jalen Reeves-Maybin, ILB, Tennessee, 6-0, 230 pounds: The Broncos continue a pattern of drafting overlooked inside linebackers. Reeves-Maybin a tackling machine. He can run sideline-to-sideline, lock up in coverage and play special teams. A shoulder injury in September is a red flag.

Sixth round, 203rd pick, Tarik Cohen, RB, North Carolina A&T, 5-6, 179 pounds: Cohen has eye-popping jukes, open-field ability and ran a 4.42 40. He has some Darren Sproles to his game. And, he can return punts.

Seventh round, 238th pick, Tyrique Jarrett, NT, Pittsburgh, 6-3, 335 pounds: Another massive body to add to the Broncos defensive line. Jarrett would compete for a roster spot as a strong running-stuffing nose tackle.

Seventh round, 252nd pick, Garrett Sickels, OLB, Penn State, 6-3, 261 pounds: The need to replace DeMarcus Ware on the field isn't as big as many are making it. Shane Ray and Shaquil Barrett should be fine. Sickels, an outstanding pass rusher, provides depth behind Von Miller, Ray and Barrett. You can never have enough pass rushers in the NFL.

Seventh round, 253rd pick, Brady Gustafson, QB, Montana, 6-7, 230 pounds: With the Mr. Irrelevant pick, the Broncos select a potential third quarterback in Gustafson. His size will likely intrigue Elway, but Gustafson is strictly a developmental prospect. Maybe Gustafson turns out like the Broncos' last seventh-round quarterback, Trevor Siemian.

NFLPA's new pot proposal hasn't been submitted to league yet, does not "necessarily" include removal from banned list

By Nicki Jhabvala
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The NFL Players' Association has been working on a proposal for a "less punitive approach" to the league's marijuana policy, but the changes have yet to be presented to the NFL and details of the suggested approach still remain unknown.

Ricky Williams, the former running back and staunch cannabis advocate, said at a recent panel at Harvard that the union is proposing to strip marijuana entirely from the list of banned substances and, therefore, would no longer test players for the drug in the offseason.

"I think right now the NFL Players Association is moving to propose that cannabis is taken off the banned substances list and recognizing that it's not an abuse problem, but it's a health issue," Williams said at the 2017 CannMed event last week. "And research, even though there hasn't been that much, has come to the point where DeMaurice Smith, the executive director of our union, has finally hopped on board and said, 'OK, there's something ... we have to look at this differently.' And finally the union is taking a step forward with it and has the players' backs, and I think that's a step in the right direction, to change this antiquated punitive drug program that doesn't help players, just punishes them. They're trying to take care of it."

But the union's assistant executive director, George Atallah, told The Denver Post in a statement that that's not necessarily the case.

"We have not yet finalized a proposal to send to the league," Atallah wrote. "We want to take a less punitive approach to marijuana, but it won't necessarily be removed from the banned substance list."

The NFL tests players for substances of abuse in the offseason and prohibits them from having more than 35 nanograms per millileter of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC, the psychoactive component of cannabis) in their system. If they test positive, they're entered into an intervention drug program where they're tested more often and face fines and/or suspension for additional failed tests.

Many players have advocated for the allowance of cannabis, both hemp extracts like cannabidiol oil that contain negligible THC and whole-plant marijuana, to help treat pain from football-related injuries. The players argue that cannabis is safer and less habit-forming than the narcotics they receive from team physicians and trainers.

Marijuana is medically legal in more than half the United States but still federally illegal as a Schedule I drug on the Controlled Substances Act. The Trump administration has vowed "greater enforcement" of federal recreational marijuana laws, but the union has remained adamant that their proposal is about the collective-bargaining agreement between with the league and not about the legal landscape.

A recent bill before Congress, however, would move cannabis to Schedule III, which would retain the rights of states that legalized medical marijuana and make it easier to research, two things that could aid the union's push for an altered substance-abuse policy.

Source: Broncos expected to pick up Bradley Roby's option

By Mike Klis

9News

April 19, 2017

The Denver Broncos are expected to exercise the \$8.526 million, fifth-year option on cornerback Bradley Roby, a high-ranking football source told 9NEWS.

The thinking is this: Roby is a good player and Broncos' general manager John Elway wants to keep his good players.

Within the NFL's collective bargaining agreement is a provision that gives teams a fifth-year contract option on their first-round draft picks. Roby was the Broncos' first-round draft selection, No. 31 overall, in 2014.

Now in his fourth season, Roby is scheduled to make \$1,368,072 this year. His \$8.562 million fifth-year option for the 2018 season is expected to be exercised closer to the deadline date of May 3.

Should the Broncos enact the option year as expected on Roby's contract, his \$8.562 million salary would be guaranteed against injury only.

While \$8.562 million is pricey for a No. 3 cornerback, Roby is considered one of the best No. 3 corners in the league as the Broncos have arguably the best starting tandem in Aqib Talib and Chris Harris Jr.

A.J. Bouye was the Houston Texans' No. 3 cornerback for most of his four seasons with the team before he became a free agent last month and received a \$13.5 million-a-year deal from Jacksonville.

Roby has demonstrated both durability and big-play ability in his first three seasons. He has played in all 52 games, counting the postseason, and has scored three defensive touchdowns – two off interception returns and another off a fumble return.

Talib will not be suspended for 2016 shooting incident

By Mike Klis

9News

April 19, 2017

The NFL informed the Denver Broncos this morning cornerback Aqib Talib will not be disciplined for his apparent accidental gun-shooting incident in June 2016.

Talib is in the fourth year of a six-year contract that will pay him \$11 million in 2017. In his first seasons with the Broncos, Talib has been selected to three Pro Bowls. He was also named first-team All Pro in 2016.

Talib had told friends he had accidentally shot himself in the early hours of June 5 in Dallas. He was hospitalized because of a wound to his right calf.

Talib's lawyer later confirmed in a letter to Dallas police that the Broncos defensive back did indeed accidentally shoot himself.

Whether that self-inflicted gunshot occurred at a nightclub or a nearby park remained inconclusive to Dallas police.

Talib missed some offseason and training camp workouts last year, but didn't miss a game in 2016 because of the calf wound. He did later miss three games because of a back injury.

The league decided the gun-shooting incident did not warrant discipline, meaning Talib will not be suspended from any games in 2017.

Broncos left tackle search could lead to No. 20 draft pick

By Mike Klis

9News

April 19, 2017

They are required to be tall, heavy and strong with quick feet and long arms.

Physically, left tackles are the rarest of football specimens. And the Denver Broncos want one.

They already have left tackle experience in Donald Stephenson and Ty Sambrailo. But the Broncos' football hierarchy have made no secret about their desire to find another.

"We want a left tackle," Vance Joseph, the Broncos' new head coach, said during the NFL Scouting Combine.

The Broncos came up empty in free agency after parting ways with Russell Okung, although they did get a left guard in Ron Leary and right tackle in Menelik Watson. Stephenson accepted a pay cut from \$4 million to \$2 million as protection in case the Broncos don't come away with a starting left tackle either through trade or the draft.

If the Broncos can't work out a draft-week deal for either Arizona's Jared Veldheer, Cleveland's Joe Thomas or Philadelphia's Jason Peters, they'll have to get a left tackle in either the first or second rounds of the draft.

Wisconsin's Ryan Ramczyk visited the Broncos on Monday. Utah's Garrett Boles is visiting Tuesday. The Broncos met with Alabama's Cam Robinson last week.

Those are the top three offensive tackles projected to go in the first round. Two of the three may be there when the Broncos select at No. 20.

The best of the rest at left tackle include Florida State's Roderick Johnson, Temple's Dion Dawkins, Troy's Antonio Garcia, Vanderbilt's Will Holden, Bucknell's Julie'n Davenport, Utah's Sam Tevi and USC's Chad Wheeler.

A look at the top three offensive tackles, all of whom skipped their senior college seasons for the draft and one of whom may be the Broncos' No. 20 selection next Thursday:

Ryan Ramczyk, 6-6, 310, Wisconsin

Some draft sites list Ramczyk as the No. 1 tackle in this class. Some have him third. Primary concern is he's coming off hip surgery that will sideline him through a portion of the offseason.

Has a long history with Paul Chryst, who was Pitt's head coach who recruited Ramczyk out of high school. After Ramczyk essentially walked away from football for a year, he eventually reunited with Chryst, who is now the Badgers' head coach. Paul Chryst's older brother is Broncos' tight ends coach Geep Chryst.

Cam Robinson, 6-6, 322, Alabama

A ferocious mauler who many draft experts see as a right tackle or guard instead of a left tackle – even though he was a three-year starter on the blind side for the Crimson Tide. With his size and athleticism, the Broncos may think offensive line coach Jeff Davidson can develop him as an NFL-caliber left tackle.

Garett Bolles, 6-5, 297, Utah

Raw as he has just one year of major college experience. A troubled youth who got his life in order thanks in part to a church mission in Colorado Springs when he was 21. He turns 25 next month so he'll have to develop in a hurry. Considered the best left tackle of the top three.

If I were in the Broncos' war room? I'd listen to Geep Chryst should he stand on the table for Ramczyk. But I ultimately believe the best tackle here is Robinson. If he's picked before No. 20, the Broncos should scurry to trade their second-round draft pick for an established left tackle and use their No. 20 pick on a player at another position.

Broncos know the drill when it comes to quarterback questions

By Jeff Legwold

ESPN.com

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You'll have to forgive the Denver Broncos' players if they have more than a little "what, me worry?" attitude about the team's quarterback competition, especially in April.

It's not their first rodeo. Yes, since Peyton Manning limped off in a Week 9 loss to the Indianapolis Colts during the 2015 season, the Broncos have had a pile of questions about the quarterback trailing behind them -- questions about who would, or wouldn't, play in the games to come.

And as they move through the second week of their offseason program, the Broncos know the battle between Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch will dominate the conversation outside of the team complex as they try to handle their business on the inside.

"We'll see how it all pans out," wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders said this week. "It's crazy, because it feels like every year it's a question about the quarterback, the quarterback, the quarterback. Every year it's the same answer. The best guy is going to show. Obviously, we want a guy that can take us all the way to the Super Bowl and get us into the playoffs since we missed that last year. We're going to see who that guy is."

Lather, rinse and repeat with that answer, because the Broncos will be asked the same question again and again in the months to come until coach Vance Joseph announces the team's starting quarterback.

But the Broncos saw the exact scenario when Manning's status was a week-to-week decision over the last half of the 2015 season, when Brock Osweiler made seven starts before Manning returned to the lineup in the regular-season finale and stayed there during the run to Super Bowl 50.

Then in training camp last summer, Siemian, Lynch and Mark Sanchez competed for the starting job as former coach Gary Kubiak divided the reps three ways in the early going in training camp.

So Sanders, along with Demaryius Thomas and others, already have stressed that the rest of the Broncos have enough to worry about with their own work without concerning themselves with the decision at quarterback.

"It really doesn't matter to me, honestly," Sanders said. "It's about who is going to be the right guy. In due time, we will figure that out. That guy will show up and make the necessary plays. The coaching staff and [executive vice president of football operations/general manager John] Elway and all those guys there will make the decisions. Obviously, I've just got to do my job. The ball is going to come. I've got to catch it and make plays."

And the players have been quick to say it's a win-win situation, because they like what Siemian did in 14 starts last season and they believe in Lynch's potential. The players also have seen Siemian, in particular, step forward.

Siemian, who had offseason surgery on his left (non-throwing) shoulder, had reserved time at a local complex and arranged to have throwing sessions with the team's receivers, along with Lynch. But Siemian was not medically cleared in time to go through with the workouts. Sanders has said the group might try to have some workouts in Houston -- Sanders' offseason home -- after the Broncos adjourn from the offseason program in mid-June and before they report to training camp in late July.

"We thought Trev had a great year last year," cornerback Chris Harris Jr. said. "He definitely had some ups and downs, but the dude played injured a lot. He took a lot of hits. For him to get back up and do what he did, we see a lot of promise in him. Paxton, it's going to be a huge year for him to go from Year 1 to Year 2."

The Broncos will see the quarterbacks throw next week. The team will conclude the opening phase of its offseason program this week, which is conditioning only. Next week the Broncos can move into the next phase, which can include position work with coaches on the field.

The Broncos will have their first minicamp early next week, an extra set of workouts that is allowed because Joseph is a first-year head coach.

"Obviously, the earlier that we can get clarity, the better, but do we want to rush that process? No," Sanders said of the QB competition. "We don't want to rush that process. We want to have the right guy. I know those two guys are excited. I'm excited to see, because competition brings out the best in you. We're going to see who it brings out the best in. It's going to be pretty cool to see."

NFL won't fine, suspend Broncos' Aqib Talib for 2016 incident

By Staff

ESPN.com

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Aqib Talib will not face discipline from the NFL for the June incident in which the Denver Broncos cornerback shot himself in the leg, a league source confirmed to ESPN's Adam Schefter.

The NFL told Talib on Monday that he would not be suspended or fined, the source said, confirming an earlier report by USA Today Sports.

A league source told ESPN in March that Talib could be facing a one- or two-game suspension. Ultimately, however, the source said the league decided it did not have enough evidence to discipline Talib.

Talib suffered a gunshot wound to his lower right leg in the early hours of June 5 in Dallas. He avoided surgery and was released from the hospital the following day. The incident forced him to miss the Broncos' visit to the White House to commemorate their Super Bowl 50 victory.

Despite the NFL's decision, the Dallas police said Tuesday the criminal case involving Talib remains open and under investigation.

The NFL, in a letter to Talib that was obtained by ESPN, stressed the importance of gun safety to the cornerback.

"While there are no allegations that the firearm with which you injured yourself on June 5, 2016 was unlawfully possessed under current Texas law, it is critical that you understand that the decision to own a firearm brings with it the obligation to possess and maintain it responsibly, safely and legally," the letter said.

In addition, a source told ESPN's Ed Werder that Talib has been told to provide the NFL with a list of all firearms that he owns and documentation verifying that he has completed an approved firearms safety course.

In 2016-17, Talib posted 43 tackles and three interceptions over 13 games while making the Pro Bowl for the fourth straight season.

NFL teams weigh when to draft replacements for veterans

By Dave Skretta
Associated Press
April 19, 2017

Derrick Johnson has always been a company man, willing to do whatever it takes to help the Kansas City Chiefs win playoff games and someday end their long Super Bowl drought.

Restructure his contract? OK. Tutor young linebackers? Sure thing.

The point where Johnson draws the line is in telling the Chiefs when he'll finally hang up the cleats. The 34-year-old is coming off a second season-ending Achilles tendon injury, and he knows he's entering the twilight of his career. But he doesn't know if the end will come after the upcoming season or the one after that, when his current contract is due to expire.

"I struggle with that," he said. "The older you get, the more you know it's coming to an end at some point. But I just hope and pray when football is over for me I can have peace and rest."

Therein lays the challenge for the Chiefs, along with every other team in the NFL: When is it the right time to draft replacements, especially when extra roster spots have become invaluable, time limits on practice are more constrictive, and the pressure to win has never been greater.

"You're always trying to work ahead and trying to prevent the roster from taking a major, major hit at any position. That's the nature of the National Football League," said Titans general manager Jon Robinson. "As veteran players age or hit a level where they become maybe too expensive for your football team, that's something that you have to look at and manage."

Precisely how teams manage it varies in just about every respect.

First there's the timeframe.

Teams try to forecast about three years ahead, but several GMs said that has become increasingly difficult. More players are walking away from the game early because of the increased risks of injuries and concerns over head trauma, while the shelf life of some positions may only be a few years to begin with, making it difficult to forecast even a year in advance.

Players such as Johnson, who is entering his 13th season, are about as rare as the I-formation in an era when the NFL Players Association reports the average career lasts just over three years.

Then there are positional differences.

There are some jobs where a player can be drafted and slide right into the starting lineup with minimal experience, while it may take others — quarterback, for one — several years of development before being ready for games.

Finally, there are philosophical differences.

Teams such as the Packers prefer to shore up holes almost exclusively through the draft, while others are more willing to dip into free agency. The draft carries the significant benefit of financial flexibility, but the downside is the pressure of enduring a crash-course on life in professional football.

"You can't predict the future," Robinson said, "but you just try to set yourself up so the rosters can kind of weather the storm of losing guys, and you can still play winning, productive football."

Robinson is facing that very challenge this offseason.

Already, he's released cornerback Jason McCourty and begun the search for a replacement for the nine-year veteran. Tight end Delanie Walker is coming off a Pro Bowl season and is a 12-year veteran who will be 33 in August, so finding a replacement for him could become an issue soon.

The Cowboys are another interesting case study in drafting replacements.

A few years ago, they gambled that breakout running back Demarco Murray would age quickly and let him go in free agency. Dallas struggled the following season — though it did put the Cowboys in position to draft Ezekiel Elliott — while Murray ran for more than 1,200 yards with Tennessee last season.

The Cowboys also recognized that injury-prone quarterback Tony Romo was heading toward the end of his career, so they chose Dak Prescott in last year's draft. But any thought that he was a developmental project quickly dissolved when Prescott took over the starting job and never let it go.

Dallas also tried unsuccessfully to draft an heir to tight end Jason Witten, whiffing on second-round pick Gavin Escobar. Witten is signed through 2021, but realistically has only a couple seasons left.

His situation is not unlike Johnson's in Kansas City, where a longtime fixture is still capable of playing at a high level, even if nobody is quite sure how long that will last.

"One of the neat things we have going is we bring in good competition at all spots. There are no positions absolutely guaranteed," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. "I'll tell the rookies when they come in, 'You can cut it loose and see what happens,' and that covers all areas.

"If a guy goes down, the next one comes in, and you have to maintain that, maintain that level of competition. And you obviously keep the best guys that create the most competition."

Broncos expected to pick up Bradley Roby's fifth-year option

By Troy Renck

KMGH

April 19, 2017

Bradley Roby built a reputation on big plays.

In his first game as a rookie, he broke up an Andrew Luck pass to clinch a victory over the Colts. He romped into the end zone with a fumble to beat the Chiefs in Kansas City. He caused a fumble in the AFC divisional round two seasons ago, paving the way to beat the Pittsburgh Steelers. He intercepted a Tom Brady two-point conversion pass in the AFC Championship game, spoiling New England's comeback. And last season, though not his finest, he sealed an ugly win at Jacksonville with a pick six.

The resume speaks to his value. The action of the team will soon follow. The Broncos are expected to pick up Roby's fifth-year rookie option, according to multiple NFL sources. The deadline to exercise the option is May 3. It becomes guaranteed for injury at that time.

General manager John Elway implied at the NFL Combine last month that he was likely to make this move. The fifth-year option provides an \$8.52 million salary for Roby. It is steep for a third cornerback, but Roby is a reserve in name only. He played 60 percent of the Broncos' snaps last season, and provides flexibility in how the Broncos use All-Pros Chris Harris and Aqib Talib. Roby also provides critical depth following the free agent departure of Kayvon Webster and back issues suffered by Talib last season.

"The nickel player is a starting player," coach Vance Joseph said. "If you don't have one it's an issue. It is very important."

Roby, a first-round draft choice out of Ohio State, has five career interceptions. The Broncos declined to pick up the fifth-year option on nose tackle Sylvester Williams. He struggled last season and signed as a free agent with the Tennessee Titans.

Aqib Talib will not face discipline for shooting himself in leg in 2016

By Troy Renck

KMGH

April 19, 2017

The NFL informed the Broncos and Aqib Talib that the cornerback will not face discipline for an off-field incident last summer when Dallas police determined Talib shot himself.

After a four-month investigation, the Dallas Police Department elected not to file charges, concluding their case in the June 5 shooting. Talib initially told police he was "too intoxicated" to remember what occurred when he was shot in the right leg in a park. Video surfaced of Talib arriving at the hospital as he limped into the emergency room.

Following the conclusion of the Dallas PD investigation in October, NFL officials told Denver7 they were still reviewing the incident for possible league punishment. An NFL source told Denver7 the Broncos were informed that Talib will not be banned for any games.

Talib, 31, delivered his best season a year ago, earning All-Pro honors despite missing three games with a back issue. In three years with the Broncos, Talib owns 10 interceptions and has returned five for touchdowns. Talib missed the Broncos visit to the White House following the shooting. He was eased back into training camp, sitting out multiple weeks until he regained strength in his leg. He returned, saying how grateful he was to be playing again. He rewarded the Broncos by helping them lead the NFL in fewest passing yards allowed for the second straight season.

ESPN's Todd McShay talks tight ends, quarterbacks and having Garrett Bolles over Ryan Ramczyk

By Andrew Mason
DenverBroncos.com
April 19, 2017

In his most recent mock draft, ESPN analyst Todd McShay has the Broncos selecting Utah offensive tackle Garrett Bolles with the No. 20 pick.

McShay had two other offensive linemen going before Bolles: Western Kentucky guard/tackle Forrest Lamp and Alabama tackle Cam Robinson. He projected the Broncos to take Bolles ahead of Ryan Ramczyk in part because the Wisconsin product has been unable to take part in pre-draft workouts while he recovers from a January hip procedure.

"Offensive-line workouts are not massively important, but there are still things to take from certain results," McShay said on a conference call with national media Tuesday.

McShay felt that Ramczyk needed the workouts more than most prospects because of his lack of top-level college experience. Ramczyk started just one year at Wisconsin after transferring from Division III Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

"Now you don't have the workouts, and it's just another thing where you're not able to check that box off," McShay said. "Sometimes it just comes down to a tie -- if you have a similar grade for Garrett Bolles from Utah as you do on Ryan Ramczyk from Wisconsin, and Bolles worked out well, and you have more information, maybe that becomes the tiebreaker. But there's also a history with Bolles and off-the-field issues that will factor in, as well."

McShay shared his thoughts on plenty of other prospects and positions during his 60-minute question-and-answer session. His thoughts on three other key draft questions follow:

WHEN WILL THE TIGHT ENDS BE PICKED?

McShay expects three tight ends to go in the first round -- one more than in the last six first rounds combined. He projects that Mississippi's Evan Engram will join Alabama's O.J. Howard and David Njoku of Miami (Fla.) in going off the board on the draft's first night.

"I think Evan Engram will very likely be drafted [in the first round]," McShay said. "I think that teams are not looking at him necessarily as a tight end, as much as a matchup piece -- a guy that is basically a wide receiver, but can give you a little bit more in blocking. He can force your hand in terms of mismatches and who you're going to use to cover him."

The tight end run will continue on Day 2, McShay predicts.

"It really is an impressive group, and I think there are probably eight, nine, maybe up to 10 tight ends that could go in the first three rounds," McShay said.

HOW WILL THE QUARTERBACKS FALL?

"I don't want to say it's a deep class, but there's more in that middle range in terms of value than a lot of people have talked about or really thought about coming into the [draft] process," McShay said. "But there are still questions with the top guys."

<> McShay said it was "likely" that North Carolina's Mitchell Trubisky would be the first quarterback selected.

Clemson's DeShaun Watson is "very likely" to go in the first round, McShay said. He expects Watson to be the second quarterback selected, but added that the team that drafts him must exercise patience.

"A team is just going to have to believe in his intangibles and his drive to be successful, his maturity, his athleticism [and] adequate-to-good arm strength and the fact that he has the clutch gene," McShay said. "[A team has] to have a plan for him and a way to develop him so that he can transition from that offensive system in college to the NFL and continue to work on his deep accuracy."

McShay was skeptical of Texas Tech's Patrick Mahomes, who is widely considered to be a first-round pick.

"There are some teams that I've talked to that think Mahomes is a media creation. That was the last quote I got last night talking to someone from the league," McShay said. "His tape lines up with someone that you would draft on Day Two. The same [is true] with [Notre Dame's] DeShone Kizer."

Beyond those four quarterbacks sit Tennessee's Joshua Dobbs, Pittsburgh's Nate Peterman and California's Davis Webb. McShay expects them to be selected in the second round.

"I think you could see as many as seven quarterbacks in the first two rounds," McShay said. "There's more depth in that late-first/second/early-third-round range than most years, but this class just doesn't have the elite, No. 1-overall-pick-type of quarterback."

CHRISTIAN McCaffrey IN THE TOP 10?

McShay placed the Valor Christian product 10th on his overall draft rankings. In his most recent mock draft, he had the Eagles taking McCaffrey with the 14th pick, but he did not dismiss the idea that the Panthers would take McCaffrey with the eighth pick.

"I don't think it's out of the question, and I don't know that I would have said that two months ago," McShay said.

"With the workout being better than expected and the tape being very, very good and the versatility being there, and then the intangibles as teams have met him and done their research and background on him ... it'll be interesting to see, because I don't think he's out of the question at [No.] 8," McShay added.

"I think 14 is a possibility, as I've mentioned before, the Philadelphia Eagles. But I think it's more likely today that he'll be a top-15 pick than I would have thought even a month or two months ago."

Best-case scenarios for the 2017 NFL Draft

By Staff

DenverBroncos.com

April 19, 2017

Matt Boyer, Coordinating Producer/Reporter:

Since the Broncos have so many draft picks (10 in all at this moment in time), my best-case scenario has them moving some of those picks for a high-impact veteran, possibly on the offensive line. Evaluating offensive linemen in the draft can be a difficult process, especially given the fact that so many college offenses don't employ pro-style schemes. The best-case scenario would be to get a proven veteran on the line, and then look for playmakers in the draft.

Having covered high school sports in Colorado, I'm biased towards Christian McCaffrey as the Broncos' first-round pick (even though there is plenty of evidence to support the selection). This year's tight end class is also full of high-value guys that can have an impact in the passing game, so picking a TE (Ole Miss' Evan Engram, perhaps?) on Day Two could prove to be a great move.

And as long as we are mentioning personal biases, I think a Michigan Wolverine on the second or third day would be a great addition in the later rounds (DL Chris Wormley would be my pick).

Caroline Deisley, Social Media Engagement Coordinator:

The Broncos want playmakers. So I vote to draft a Pro Bowler/future Super Bowl and league MVP every round. If that doesn't work, then as a USC alum, I think we should pick a Trojan every round. Did you see the Rose Bowl this year?!

Since my male counterparts tell me this isn't necessarily possible in the current draft format, then I guess I'll give you all a couple more-feasible options.

Christian McCaffrey — yeah, he's good. I was at the Pac-12 Championship game when he ran for a billion yards, and I can still hear USC's defensive coordinator at the time screaming as McCaffrey roasted their defense. He is exactly the type of playmaker the Broncos need, but the likelihood of him being around at No. 20 is about as likely as it was for a USC defender to stop him from setting a Pac-12 Championship record for all-purpose yards.

The tight end class is one of the best in years so the Broncos should use their first-round pick on a guy that could strengthen the tight end corps. I'd vote for O.J. Howard or David Njoku, if they're still around.

Outside of the first round, the Broncos should pick up some bodies in the second or third round to back up the offensive line and add some depth to the inside linebacker corps.

Finally, since we have the last two picks in the NFL Draft that are usually deemed "irrelevant," I vote we make it relevant. Draft a female kicker or punter!

Aric DiLalla, Associate Editor:

When I sat in the press box in Kansas City on Christmas Day and watched Tyreek Hill break away for a 70-yard touchdown, it struck me that the Broncos needed to add a player of that caliber this offseason. Denver desperately needs a playmaker, as Chris Harris Jr. put it, who can change games in the same vain as a Hill or Darren Sproles. A certain former Valor Christian standout would be the perfect candidate for that role. The Broncos will likely need to make a move to get in position to draft Christian McCaffrey, who almost certainly won't fall to No. 20.

In an ideal world, the Broncos won't have to break the bank to get him. The Broncos will give up a third-round pick to move up a few spots, but they'll find a little luck, as well. One team will spell McCaffrey's name wrong on the draft card, another will lose the card on the way to the podium and a third will try to draft Ed McCaffrey.

With Christian McCaffrey added to the roster, the Broncos will find a quality tackle who slips to Round 2 and can develop into an eventual starter. Alvin Kamara out of Tennessee, though not a first-round pick, would be another strong candidate for that all-purpose spot. The rest of the draft will have them find a tight end, an inside 'backer (Anthony Walker Jr. out of Northwestern would be a great choice) and depth along the defensive line and in the defensive backfield. The Broncos almost certainly won't have 10 rookies make the team come August, so I'm all for packaging picks to move up whenever possible.

Andrew Mason, Senior Digital Reporter:

Speaking for all writing media, it is this:

A team in the top 10 does not submit its selection card in the allotted 10-minute window, a la the Vikings in 2003. A handful of teams picking behind them, looking to capitalize off the dawdling club, stampede to the league official receiving picks before before the original team awakens from its mid-evening nap and makes its choice. As a result, an hour's worth of selections are made in two minutes.

For the Broncos:

Other teams reach for need, causing quarterbacks and offensive linemen to go off the board earlier than their skill sets would merit. The Broncos sit back and pick a top-5 caliber defensive player in Round 1, a versatile, first-round-caliber tight end in Round 2 and a starting-quality cornerback and a quick, game-breaking receiver or running back in Round 3.

Phil Milani, Coordinating Producer/Reporter:

Head Coach Vance Joseph said the Broncos offense needs some juice, and late in the first round, it doesn't get any juicier than Christian McCaffrey. The Stanford running back led the FBS in all-purpose yards in each of the last two seasons and is a threat to take it the distance any time he touches the ball. But with McCaffrey, it's not just about his gaudy stats. The man makes an impression. During his pre-draft visit with the Broncos, McCaffrey clearly left his mark on the team. So much so, that even Chris Harris Jr. suggested on Monday that Denver should take the Swiss-Army-knife running back in the first round. I agree.

The Broncos added two offensive linemen so far during free agency, and I think there is room for one more, specifically at left tackle. This year's class of offensive linemen may not include any day-one starters. Denver could once again look to free agency at tackle (King Dunlap or Ryan Clady), but in the

second round, Alabama's Cam Robinson or Utah's Garrett Bolles present great value. One thing is clear, the Broncos want linemen that play with a nasty streak, and Robinson or Bolles would fit the bill.

With two picks in the third round, I think the Broncos should go defensive line and tight end. Stopping the run was an issue at times in 2016, and Florida State's DeMarcus Walker could be the disruptive force to solve that problem. The ACC Defensive Player of the Year can play anywhere along the line and finished his senior season with 21.5 tackles for a loss. As for tight end, ESPN's Todd McShay told me this is the deepest class he's ever seen. At the end of the third round, there should be prospects available that will immediately push the Broncos current tight end corps for playing time. I like Evan Engram out of Ole Miss and Bucky Hodges from Virginia Tech. Both would add an element to the Broncos passing game, especially in the red zone, that was missing last season. Here's hoping that one of them will be available late on Day 2.

Ben Swanson, Managing Editor:

Like Chris Harris Jr., I'd love to see the Broncos get a playmaker like Christian McCaffrey at 20th overall in the first round, but his draft value seems to keep rising and I don't know if that's possible anymore — although I suppose anything's possible with the draft.

Moving on, it seems that this year's offensive line prospects don't have the top-line expectations of previous years, so maybe one of them slides into the second round, either to the Broncos at No. 51 or to a point where the team feels comfortable trading up. This class is quite deep at tight end, so the Broncos could add to their group there in the third round. From there, the Broncos could build depth at defensive tackle, inside linebacker and other positions on Day 3, hopefully finding players who, though not yet ready to start, could develop into starters or long-time reserves when the time is right.

Don't ask me for the names, though. I don't know that much about the draft.

Broncos CB Aqib Talib won't face NFL discipline after shooting incident

By Tom Pelissero

USA Today

April 19, 2017

The NFL won't suspend or fine Denver Broncos cornerback Aqib Talib over a June 2016 incident in which police say Talib initially claimed he was shot in the leg by an unknown assailant, only to have his lawyer later say he admitted to shooting himself.

The league's investigation found Talib's behavior constituted conduct detrimental to the league, but decided to issue only a disciplinary warning, a person with knowledge of the situation told USA TODAY Sports on Tuesday.

The NFL will require Talib to complete an approved firearm safety course and provide a list of firearms he owns to league security, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the NFL hadn't commented publicly.

Talib, 31, was not charged with any crime and there were no allegations he possessed the gun illegally under Texas law.

According to a redacted police report that didn't identify him by name, Talib suffered a single gunshot wound that entered the rear of his right thigh and exited his right calf. A witness said he heard a single gunshot and then saw someone lying on the ground, so he put Talib into a 2015 Rolls Royce and brought him to the hospital. Talib told police he didn't know who shot him.

However, investigators found no evidence of a shooting where Talib claimed it occurred and, in a Sept. 21 meeting with investigators, Talib's attorney provided a letter stating his client "admitted he shot himself accidentally," police said in a statement Oct. 5.

In an email to USA TODAY Sports last week, a police spokesman attached the October statement and reiterated the incident is no longer under investigation.

A suspension would've been costly for Talib, who is due \$11 million this season, as well as the Broncos, who count the veteran cornerback among the key pieces in their defense.

This wasn't Talib's first run-in with police or an NFL probe. He was suspended one game and fined an additional game check in 2010 for violating the personal conduct policy after entering a pre-trial program for his alleged assault of a cab driver. In 2011, Talib faced a felony charge of assault with a deadly weapon after an altercation in which he was accused of trying to fire shots and trying to pistol whip his sister's live-in boyfriend, but charges were dropped. Talib also was suspended four games during the 2012 season for violating the NFL's policy on performance-enhancing drugs – he claimed he took Adderall without a prescription – and one game in 2015 for poking then-Indianapolis Colts tight end Dwayne Allen in the eye.

Perhaps the NFL's most notorious self-inflicted gunshot wound was suffered in November 2008 by then-New York Giants receiver Plaxico Burress in a Manhattan nightclub. The gun was not registered in New York and Burress' concealed-weapon permit in Florida was expired. In August 2009, he accepted a plea bargain with a two-year sentence on a weapons charge. The NFL announced Burress was suspended and ineligible to sign with any team until he completed his prison term, but would be reinstated upon his release. Burress was released from prison in June 2011 and played two more seasons, one with the New York Jets and another with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Report: Broncos to exercise 2018 option on Bradley Roby

By Josh Alper
Pro Football Talk
April 19, 2017

The deadline for teams to exercise their 2018 contract options on their 2014 first-round picks is on May 3 and we've seen some teams already make their moves.

The choices were easy in those cases as players like Cowboys guard Zack Martin, Buccaneers wide receiver Mike Evans and Rams defensive tackle Aaron Donald have established themselves among the top players at their positions. Broncos cornerback Bradley Roby hasn't had that kind of impact, but the team appears to be in no hurry to see him move on.

James Palmer of NFL Media reports that the Broncos will exercise their option on Roby's contract. The option, which is guaranteed against injury only, sets Roby up to make around \$8.5 million during the 2017 season.

With Aqib Talib and Chris Harris on hand, the Broncos haven't had cause to put Roby into a starting role too often over his first three years in Denver but he played 60 percent of the snaps last season as a major contributor on defense. He returned two interceptions for touchdowns and added a sack and forced fumble in 2016.

Roby turns 25 on May 1, so continued success should leave him in position to take on an even bigger role as the older Talib and Harris move out of their spots in Denver's starting lineup.

Investigation ends, Aqib Talib won't be suspended or fined

By Darin Gantt
Pro Football Talk
April 19, 2017

The Broncos got a shot in the arm Tuesday, as the NFL couldn't really figure out what to do with Aqib Talib being shot in the leg.

According to Tom Pelissero of USA Today, the league has closed its investigation into Talib's 2016 shooting, and won't suspend him.

Talib won't even face a fine, but will have to complete a firearm safety course and submit a list of his weapons.

Police say Talib admitted he accidentally shot himself, and no charges were ever filed in the end.

Maybe the league just came to realize they didn't have an extradition treaty with Plaxico, and there was nothing more they could do.

Emmanuel Sanders isn't picking sides in Broncos quarterback competition

By Mike Florio
Pro Football Talk
April 19, 2017

Emmanuel Sanders is a great receiver. He's also smart.

With a full-blown, 50-50 quarterback competition in Denver, Sanders knows not to pick a horse for fear of saddling up with the wrong one.

"It really doesn't matter to me, honestly," Sanders told reporters on Monday, specifically in response to the question of whether he minds the competition going down to the wire. "It's about who is going to be the right guy. In due time, we will figure that out. That guy will show up and make the necessary plays. The coaching staff and [John] Elway and all those guys there will make the decisions. Obviously I've just got to do my job. The ball is going to come, I got to catch it and make plays."

Still, Sanders was willing to admit that a benefit arises from knowing whether No. 1 quarterback will be sooner rather than later.

"Obviously the earlier that we can get clarity, the better," Sanders said. "But do we want to rush that process? No. We don't want to rush that process. We want to have the right guy. I know those two guys are excited. I'm excited to see because competition brings out the best in you. We're going to see who it brings out the best in. It's going to be pretty cool to see."

And then came the point in the media availability where Sanders made sure he sucked up equally to Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch.

"I think both of them have what you look for," Sanders said. "They both have the confidence, they both have a presence and they both can throw the ball. They can make every single throw: deep ball, short, out, all across the field. I think we're sitting here right now in a good position with two guys that are hungry, that want to be starters and that want to be franchise quarterbacks that believe in themselves. . . ."

"It's crazy because it feels like every year it's a question about the quarterback, the quarterback, the quarterback. Every year it's the same answer. The best guy is going to show. Obviously we want a guy that can take us all the way to the Super Bowl and get us into the playoffs since we missed that last year. We're going to see who that guy is."

Yes we will. And the sooner that guy stands out, the better the Broncos offense will be.

Broncos Safety Justin Simmons to speak at FCA banquet Simmons to speak at FCA banquet

By Staff

KJCT8

April 19, 2017

Denver Broncos Safety Justin Simmons will be the guest speaker at the 2nd annual Northwestern Colorado Fellowship for Christian Athletes Spring Fundraising Banquet.

The event will be held on May 5th at the First Presbyterian Church in Grand Junction.

There will also be a silent auction which includes prizes such as a football helmet that is signed by 25 past Super Bowl MVP's including former Broncos greats John Elway, Terrell Davis and Peyton Manning.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and admission is free. Reservations are required due to limited seating.