

Broncos center Matt Paradis medically cleared after recovering from two hip surgeries

By Nicki Jhabvala

Denver Post

July 6, 2017

Broncos center Matt Paradis has been medically cleared after undergoing surgery on both hips earlier this year, putting him well ahead of schedule in his recovery. 9News first reported Paradis' impending return.

Paradis played every snap of every game the last two seasons, but was held out of the majority of practices late last year because of the pain in his hips.

His agent, Brian McLaughlin, said the problem has been known since Paradis' college days at Boise State, and was even brought up by a few teams ahead of the NFL draft in 2014, when the Broncos selected him in the sixth round.

At the conclusion of last season, Paradis headed to Vail to first have his right hip arthroscopically repaired by Dr. Marc Philippon of The Steadman Clinic. A month later, he returned to have the same procedure done on his left hip.

The goal then was to simply to have him physically ready by the start of the regular season. But now he is expected to practice — though likely not in full initially — when Broncos training camp begins July 27.

Chad Kelly celebrates being last during Mr. Irrelevant week, eager to get back on field

By Nicki Jhabvala

Denver Post

July 6, 2017

Chad Kelly received a hero's welcome, stood alongside John Wayne (sort of), toured ESPN's California studios, was interviewed on NFL Network's "Total Access" and then was wined and dined as the guest of honor at the Lowsman Banquet.

And to think he's yet to fully practice as a Bronco, let alone step foot in an NFL game.

Kelly, the 2017 NFL draft's "Mr. Irrelevant" as the No. 253 pick, spent the past week in Orange County, with his younger brother Casey in tow, to celebrate being the underdog.

"I really didn't think being drafted last would be something like this," he told the crowd at the Balboa Bay Club, drawing a chorus of laughs.

Around this time a year ago, the former Ole Miss quarterback and nephew of former Bills great Jim Kelly, was coming off a record season that included Sugar Bowl MVP honors. Being last wasn't a consideration. But a torn ACL in November, an injured wrist before the draft in April and a number of off-field incidents in his past caused his stock to tumble.

And the Broncos were thrilled.

"He was my favorite quarterback in the draft," head coach Vance Joseph said after the draft. "... He's a tough guy. He's smart. He's made some childish mistakes in the past, but he's learned from those things, so I'm comfortable with him."

Since arriving in Colorado in May, Kelly has spent his days rehabbing his surgically repaired knee and wrist, observing practices and learning the new playbook designed by offensive coordinator Mike McCoy.

@wyche89

Broncos rookie QB Chad Kelly says he is prepared to become Mr. Relevant

But the wait is over. Kelly has shed the cast on his arm and is expected to be throwing when the Broncos take the field for the start of training camp July 27.

Although Kelly's first year may be more of a season to watch and learn behind Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch, his potential to force another quarterback competition in 2018 was part of his appeal.

"You definitely are behind the curve not going through OTAs and minicamp, but if my name is called, I have to be prepared," Kelly told NFL Network. "You have to go out there and perform, and those guys right next to you — the wideouts, the defense — they're looking at you to step up and make a play. So I have to be ready and make sure I know my job."

Broncos center Matt Paradis medically cleared to resume football activity

By Mike Klis

9 News

July 6, 2017

Offseason medical news doesn't always have to be a downer.

After missing the offseason to recover from surgeries on each hip, Denver Broncos center Matt Paradis has been medically cleared and is expected to participate in most on-field activity when training camp commences later this month.

Did Paradis ever wonder about how double-hip surgery would affect his career?

"I never was that worried," Paradis said in a phone interview Wednesday with 9News. "I might have been worried about quality. And that's something we're still going to have to work out. But man, they're feeling great. I guess I never realized how much pain I was in previously and now it's like, "You mean I'm not supposed to be in pain all day, every day?"

A Pro Bowl alternate last season, Paradis was the no-brainer Broncos' selection for the Ed Block Courage Award after he was able to start and deliver every offensive snap, despite not practicing in the final 10 weeks of the year because of his hip pain.

He didn't practice again this offseason as he rehabilitated from surgery first on his right hip and then on his left. It's to the point now where Paradis may be the only Broncos' veteran player who is actually looking forward to practicing again.

"Oh, yeah, absolutely," he said. "It changes a lot. I think it hurts the other guys, too, because I'm not practicing with them and then it's a different guy on game day."

Paradis credited Dr. Marc Philippon, the Vail-based surgeon, for repairing his hips; the Broncos' training staff led by Steve "Greek" Antonopoulos and Vince Garcia; and Luke Richesson's strength and conditioning staff for rehabbing his hips back into playing shape. Paradis was cleared last Friday.

That doesn't mean Paradis will fully participate in the Broncos' first training camp practice on July 27. He may not even play in the first preseason game or two, as the Broncos' medical team always proceeds cautiously with players coming off significant injuries.

But Paradis should be ready to continue his streak of not missing a snap – currently at 35 games, counting the 2015 postseason – when the Broncos open the regular season Sept. 11 with a home Monday night game against the San Diego Chargers.

This season, Paradis will anchor a reconstructed offensive line. Newly signed Ronald Leary will line up at right guard. Menelik Watson, another free-agent newcomer, will start at right tackle. And first-round rookie Garrett Bolles is competing with Ty Sambrailo at left tackle.

“We’ve got some new guys and they’re all hard workers and grinders,” Paradis said. “We’re going to have a good group. It’s going to be fun.”

AFC West Q&A: Which team is best set at quarterback for years to come?

By Staff

ESPN

July 6, 2017

Given his age, skill set and potential, Derek Carr gives the Oakland Raiders a chance to win for the foreseeable future.

The Raiders' crash in the postseason after Carr's injury, however, shows they should give the backup spot attention. But at the moment, Carr, 26, seems to present the brightest future among quarterbacks in the AFC West.

The Denver Broncos have the youngest quarterback room in the league with Trevor Siemian, a third-year QB who started 14 games in 2016, and Paxton Lynch, a first-round pick in 2016. The Kansas City Chiefs, meanwhile, moved up in the 2017 draft to select quarterback Patrick Mahomes II.

It's a quarterback's league, so what is the long-term health at the position for each team in the division?

Adam Teicher, Kansas City Chiefs reporter: It's great in Oakland, which just signed Carr to a new deal. It's going to be difficult for the other AFC West teams to do better over the long term than the Raiders. The Broncos and Chiefs are in similar situations after drafting quarterbacks in the first round in the past couple of seasons, Denver with Lynch last year and Kansas City with Mahomes this year. Neither player is a sure thing, so the Broncos and Chiefs might have more work to do here. But each team identified a quarterback it liked and moved up in the first round to get him, so they're trying. That's more than can be said for the Chargers, who have no successor for Philip Rivers. It hasn't been a priority, not with Rivers being only 35. But that has to change within the next couple of years.

Eric Williams, Los Angeles Chargers reporter: At 26, Carr is the real deal and gives the Raiders a better long-term answer at the most important position than any other team in the AFC West. Rivers turns 36 in December but is still talented enough to lead the Chargers to a deep playoff run. The problem for the Chargers is that they have no succession plan for Rivers. At 33, Alex Smith can still effectively lead the Chiefs on offense. However, Kansas City is on the verge of replacing Smith with a more explosive playmaker in Mahomes, who was the No. 10 pick in April. The Broncos have two quarterbacks competing for the starting job in Siemian and Lynch, which means Denver probably has no true franchise quarterback on the roster.

Paul Gutierrez, Oakland Raiders reporter: The Raiders are set now that Carr has signed a new deal. He is the franchise QB they have been searching for since Rich Gannon was taking snaps in Oakland at the turn of the century. The Chargers, meanwhile, can only realistically expect another season or two out of Rivers, and backup Kellen Clemens does not exactly instill fear in the rest of the division. The Chiefs are an interesting case study in that erstwhile "game manager" Smith has won at least 11 games in three of his four seasons in Kansas City but is hearing footsteps with the team drafting Mahomes in the first round. Then there is Denver, which many believed would have either Tony Romo or Colin Kaepernick under center by now. Alas, the Broncos tried to make due with Siemian and Lynch last season, and while

neither embarrassed himself, would you truly expect either of them to be the quarterback in Denver in three years?

Terrell Davis' Pro Football Hall of Fame presenter announced

By Staff

Associated Press

July 6, 2017

Wives, a son and former coach Jimmy Johnson are among the presenters chosen to welcome the Pro Football Hall of Fame's seven-member Class of 2017.

Presenters will include Morten Andersen's son Sebastian and the wives of Jerry Jones and Kurt Warner for the induction ceremony on Aug. 6 in Canton.

The hall says Gene Jones and Brenda Warner will be just the third and fourth wives to serve in that role. Deanna Favre was the presenter for husband Brett last year and Mike Singletary's wife, Kim, did it in 1998.

The other inductees and their presenters are Terrell Davis (agent and friend Neil Schwartz); Kenny Easley (high school coach Tommy Rhodes); Jason Taylor (his Miami Dolphins coach Johnson) and LaDainian Tomlinson (former San Diego Chargers teammate Lorenzo Neal).

Broncos center Matt Paradis cleared for training camp following hip surgeries

By Troy Renck

KMGH

July 6, 2017

That's how many offensive snaps Matt Paradis missed the past two seasons. So it should come as no surprise Paradis will be available for training camp following offseason hip surgeries on both hips. He told Denver7 on Wednesday night that he has been cleared to participate.

"I feel great," said Paradis, whose teammates voted him as the Ed Block Courage Award winner last season for his toughness.

How much the Broncos demand of Paradis the first few weeks remains uncertain. Coach Vance Joseph indicated recently that Paradis would be eased back into the fold to determine his stamina and health. The Broncos have said for months that Paradis would be ready on July 1 and good to go for the exhibition season. Confirmation of the diagnosis, nonetheless, is reassuring.

Paradis looks forward to practicing without pain. He could no longer work out last season, the ache in his hips so severe that all reps were saved for the game. Paradis admitted it hurt the offensive line's performance since he was responsible for pre-snap adjustments, which became increasingly difficult without time together during the week.

"I think it will help a ton (to be able to practice) just for my mental health," Paradis said with a laugh. "And it can't hurt the guys I am playing with to be playing with me either."

The Broncos will feature a revamped offensive line. The projected starting lineup -- with emphasis on projected -- includes left tackle Garrett Bolles, left guard Max Garcia, center Matt Paradis, right guard Ron Leary and right tackle Menelik Watson. Ty Sambrailo is competing for left tackle spot with Michael Schofield as a utilityman at guard and tackle. It leaves tackle Donald Stephenson likely needing a strong camp to make the team.

While new offensive coordinator Mike McCoy plans to diversify the offense, Joseph wants the Broncos to establish the run. The ground game disappeared the second half of last season following C.J. Anderson's knee injury. Denver finished 27th in the NFL at 92.8 yards per game.

The Broncos eye improvement with Paradis at the center of the plan.

Pro Football Hall of Fame's 2017 class gets down to business with speeches, presenters

By Lindsay H. Jones
USA Today
July 6, 2017

For all the years Kurt Warner spent contemplating his potential induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, the former NFL quarterback never considered exactly what he'd want his bust to look like.

That's why it was a surprise when he sat for sculptor Blair Buswell in late spring and had to answer a slew of questions about his own face.

"Is it from early in my career? Is it from later in my career? Do you want to be smiling, not smiling?" Warner told USA TODAY Sports. "That's the hardest part. I don't really know what I want."

Ultimately Warner said he didn't have to choose just one time period from his career — either his younger days with the St. Louis Rams or his later years with the Arizona Cardinals — and is confident his final bust, which will be unveiled at the Hall of Fame enshrinement ceremony on Aug. 5, will be recognizable as uniquely him.

"Being there, with all the different replicas of different busts, it was pretty incredible to see the detail and the likeness to the actual person in these busts," Warner said. "I can't wait to see the next time, where he's taken my bust and shaped from when we sat down."

The creation of the iconic busts, which are displayed inside the Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, is just one part of the preparation for the enshrinement weekend. Members of the Class of 2017 have selected the people who will present them at the ceremony, a list that this year includes two wives (Gene Jones, wife of Cowboys owner Jerry Jones, and Warner's wife, Brenda) and are working on crafting their speeches.

"It's hard because it's your entire life that's being condensed into a 15-or-20-minute speech. You don't want to make it into a 'thank you fest,' but it could be 40 minutes of thank you — literally," former Denver Broncos running back Terrell Davis said.

Davis said the first draft of his speech ran 40 minutes — well exceeding the recommended 8-10 minute timeframe.

"I'm doing some edits," Davis said.

The full list of Hall of Fame presenters:

Morten Andersen — Sebastian Andersen, son

Terrell Davis — Neil Schwartz, agent & friend

Kenny Easley — Tommy Rhodes, high school coach

Jerry Jones – Gene Jones, wife

Jason Taylor – Jimmy Johnson, coach with Dolphins

LaDainian Tomlinson – Lorenzo Neal, teammate with Chargers

Kurt Warner – Brenda Warner, wife

Top five receiver duos: Odell Beckham/Brandon Marshall at No. 1

By Reggie Wayne

NFL.com

July 6, 2017

In a passing league, certain skill-position players -- namely wide receivers -- have more value than ever before. Inherently, NFL teams scour the football world for as many talented wideouts as they can find -- the more, the merrier -- with the intention of putting together a 1-2 punch that'll force opposing secondaries into coverage conundrums.

I spent the first eight of my 14 seasons with the Indianapolis Colts lining up across from Marvin Harrison. With future Hall of Famer Peyton Manning under center and Edgerrin James in the backfield, our offenses were some of the best in history (Football Outsiders can back me up here). In taking a closer look at our receiver roles, Marvin and I were able to have success because of how we approached practice. I can't ever remember taking a rep off. We treated drills like we were in a game, building on-field chemistry along the way. In pushing each other daily, the games became the easier part.

With free agency and the draft in the rearview, I surveyed the NFL's receiver duos heading into the 2017 season. Here are my top five:

5) Allen Robinson and Allen Hurns, Jacksonville Jaguars

Robinson in 2016: 73 receptions for 883 yards and six touchdowns.

Hurns in 2016: 35 receptions for 477 yards and three touchdowns (in 11 games).

I know this tandem's production significantly dropped from 2,431 combined yards in 2015 to just 1,360 in 2016, but I like the way these two play. This pair has accomplished a lot in spite of inconsistent quarterback play from Blake Bortles. After missing the final five games of 2016, Hurns is healthy and should return to 2015 form. The Jaguars selected Leonard Fournette in the draft and will likely put more emphasis on the run game, opening up the field for the Allen boys to make a splash in 2017.

4) Amari Cooper and Michael Crabtree, Oakland Raiders

Cooper in 2016: 83 receptions for 1,153 yards and five touchdowns.

Crabtree in 2016: 89 receptions for 1,003 yards and eight touchdowns.

Cooper and Crabtree emerged as one of the NFL's best receiving tandems in their first season together (2015) -- but they took it to an even higher level during Derek Carr's MVP-caliber 2016 campaign. Last year, Carr showed he was the leader of a dynamic Raiders offense, but his two receivers showed flashes of brilliance, proving they can carry the team in big games. Cooper and Crabtree had 172 combined receptions in 2016, tying for most in the league by a tandem with Green Bay's Jordy Nelson and Davante Adams. (The Raiders' pair finished third in combined receiving yards with 2,156.) Looking ahead, I'm not sure how defenses will handle Oakland's offense now with Marshawn Lynch in the backfield because we all know you can't overlook him. But you can't slight Cooper and Crabtree, either.

3) Mike Evans and DeSean Jackson, Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Evans in 2016: 96 receptions for 1,321 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Jackson in 2016 (with Redskins): 56 receptions for 1,005 yards and four touchdowns (in 15 games).

The Bucs made a brilliant move signing DeSean Jackson. It gives Jameis Winston's offense the best of both worlds. Jackson, who averaged nearly 18 yards per catch last season, is a fast deep threat with rare home-run ability. Meanwhile, Evans is a big-bodied guy who can come down with a jump ball and dominate the middle of the field. Evans proved himself as one of the best wideouts in the game in 2016, with 81 percent of his receptions resulting in first downs.

2) Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders, Denver Broncos

Thomas in 2016: 90 receptions for 1,083 yards and five touchdowns.

Sanders in 2016: 79 receptions for 1,032 yards and five touchdowns.

Thomas and Sanders each managed to rack up 1,000 receiving yards with below-average quarterback play in 2016 and 2015. Everybody knows I love Peyton Manning, but in his final year in the league, his arm wasn't the same as when he was dropping dimes left and right to Marvin and me. In 2016, the Broncos' tandem finished in the top five among receiving duos in combined receptions (fourth with 169) and receiving yards (fourth with 2,115). These two aren't necessarily the flashiest guys, but they have a proven track record of being at the top as far as WR duos.

1) Odell Beckham Jr. and Brandon Marshall, New York Giants

Beckham in 2016: 101 receptions for 1,367 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Marshall in 2016 (with Jets) : 59 receptions for 788 yards and three touchdowns (in 15 games).

Brandon Marshall might be the best red-zone receiver in the league (along with Jordy Nelson), and the Giants sure could use the help in that category. Big Blue ranked 22nd in red-zone efficiency a year ago, only converting touchdowns 51 percent of the time. OBJ has been a star since he entered the league. He has yet to have a season with less than 1,300 receiving yards. He's a home-run hitter and can score at any time -- racking up 534 yards after the catch (YAC) in 2016. Both of these players demand the full attention of opposing defenses. It'll be interesting to see if anyone can stop this tandem.

Report: Broncos C Matt Paradis (hip) medically cleared

By Max Meyer

NFL.com

July 6, 2017

The Broncos received some good news regarding their offensive line.

Center Matt Paradis has been medically cleared following surgeries on each hip, and is expected to participate in most on-field activities once Denver's training camp begins on July 27, per KUSA-TV's Mike Klis.

Paradis has started in all 32 regular-season games and three playoff games over his first two campaigns in the league. He was named a Pro Bowl alternate last season, despite playing with lingering hip pain. Yet, he didn't sweat his NFL future despite his ailments.

"I never was that worried," Paradis told KUSA-TV. "I might have been worried about quality. And that's something we're still going to have to work out. But man, they're feeling great. I guess I never realized how much pain I was in previously and now it's like, "You mean I'm not supposed to be in pain all day, every day?"

Getting Paradis back is a huge boost for a retooled Broncos offensive line. Two free-agent acquisitions, Ronald Leary and Menelik Watson, are slated to line up at right guard and right tackle respectively. Denver selected Utah lineman Garrett Bolles in the first round this past draft, and he'll compete for the left tackle gig.

Despite a batch of new faces, Paradis still has high expectations this upcoming season for the unit.

"We've got some new guys and they're all hard workers and grinders," Paradis said. "We're going to have a good group. It's going to be fun."

Pro Football Hall of Fame's 2017 presenters announced

By Nick Shook

NFL.com

July 6, 2017

Jerry Jones received the invitation to football immortality back in February. His wife will be the one leading him there in August.

The owner of the Dallas Cowboys has selected his wife, Gene, as his presenter for his induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Aug. 5 in Canton, Ohio, the team announced in a news release Wednesday. The two celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2013 and have three children, all of whom work as executives in the Cowboys' organization.

Jones is part of the Hall of Fame's Class of 2017, which includes Kurt Warner, who will also have his wife, Brenda, present him for induction. Brenda Warner and Gene Jones will be the third and fourth wives to present their spouses for induction into the Hall of Fame, joining Kim Singletary (husband, Mike, was in the Class of 1998) and Deanna Favre (Brett, Class of 2016).

LaDainian Tomlinson, Jason Taylor, Terrell Davis, Kenny Easley and Morten Andersen are also in this year's class. Here's the complete list of presenters:

- » Morten Andersen: Sebastian Andersen, Morten's son
- » Terrell Davis: Neil Schwartz, Terrell's agent & friend
- » Kenny Easley: Tommy Rhodes, Kenny's high school coach
- » Jerry Jones: Gene Jones, Jerry's wife
- » Jason Taylor: Jimmy Johnson, Jason's coach with Dolphins
- » LaDainian Tomlinson: Lorenzo Neal, LaDainian's teammate with Chargers
- » Kurt Warner: Brenda Warner, Kurt's wife

Full list of Hall of Fame Class of 2017 presenters announced

By Michael David Smith
Pro Football Talk
July 6, 2017

Two wives, two coaches, an agent, a son and a teammate will present the Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2017.

To most football fans, the best-known name of the presenters will be Lorenzo Neal, the former fullback who was chosen as LaDainian Tomlinson's presenter. Neal blocked for Tomlinson in San Diego from 2003 to 2007.

Longtime NFL kicker Morten Andersen has chosen his son, Sebastian Andersen, as his presenter. Sebastian is a high school linebacker in Georgia.

Terrell Davis chose his longtime agent and friend Neil Schwartz as his presenter. Schwartz represented Davis throughout his NFL career.

Two players chose former coaches, with Kenny Easley choosing his high school coach Tommy Rhodes, and Jason Taylor choosing his Dolphins coach Jimmy Johnson.

And two inductees chose their wives: Jerry Jones will be presented by Gene Jones, and Kurt Warner will be presented by Brenda Warner.

Matt Paradis medically cleared for football activities

By Charean Williams

Pro Football Talk

July 6, 2017

Broncos center Matt Paradis received good news last Friday, getting medical clearance to return to football activities, according to Mike Klis of KUSA. Paradis, who missed the offseason while rehabbing from surgeries on both hips, will participate in most on-field activity when training camp begins later this month.

“I never was that worried,” Paradis told Klis. “I might have been worried about quality, and that’s something we’re still going to have to work out. But man, they’re feeling great. I guess I never realized how much pain I was in previously and now it’s like, “You mean I’m not supposed to be in pain all day, every day?”

Paradis did not practice for the final 10 weeks of the season because of hip pain but still played every offensive snap. The Pro Bowl alternate won the team’s Ed Block Courage Award.

He has not missed a snap in 35 consecutive games, including the postseason.

Dr. Marc Philippon, a Vail-based surgeon, repaired Paradis’ hips.

Derek Loville gets 15 months for drug trafficking

By Mike Florio
Pro Football Talk
July 6, 2017

Charged in 2016 along with more than 20 others, former NFL running back Derek Loville has learned his fate for his role in a drug trafficking operation.

Via Kristina Davis of the San Diego Union-Tribune, Loville has been sentenced to 15 months for his connection to the drug ring led by Owen Hanson, a walk-on tight end at USC in 2004 whose football career went nowhere — but whose criminal enterprise became fairly large, before it all fell apart.

Loville, 48, spent nine years in the NFL, playing for the 49ers, Broncos, and Seahawks and winning three Super Bowls. Loville's low-level role (and presumably his cooperation with the prosecution) resulted in a relatively short prison term, along with a fairly small fine of \$5,000.

Loville, who played for the 1994 49ers, 1997 Broncos, and 1998 Broncos, had a career-high 723 rushing yards in 1995.