

Kiszla: What's it going to take for the Broncos to get John Elway signed to a new contract?

By Mark Kiszla
Denver Post
July 13, 2017

Life is weird. Weird stuff happens. Already in 2017, we've seen a grilled cheese sandwich held hostage and Antarctica give birth to an iceberg the size of Delaware. But around these parts, here's maybe the weirdest thing of all: The Broncos have dillied and dallied in getting John Elway signed to a new contract.

What's the dang deal?

Way back on the second day of January, I asked Broncos president Joe Ellis why Elway was working in the final year of his deal and if we should be concerned the face of the franchise could walk as a free agent.

Nearly 200 days ago, Ellis told me: "I don't really see (John) working anywhere else. And I feel it's important I do everything I can to make sure that doesn't happen. Look at his record. Quite frankly, I could see teams calling and saying: 'Hey, we'd like to have a discussion.' I have no interest in losing him. I have every interest in keeping him."

Well, life moves pretty fast, doesn't it, Ferris?

Shortly after Ellis pledged his commitment to keeping Elway as the guru of football operations, I read a strange story about a guy in Maryland so irked about a family member sneaking a bite of his grilled cheese sandwich he chased everybody out of the house and barricaded himself and his meal inside until the cops arrived.

Which was pretty weird. But no weirder than: The Broncos have been in contract negotiations with Elway since at least October. And what's happened so far? Zippo. Could Elway ever work for another NFL team? Oh, I doubt it, too. But stranger endings have happened.

Can I give you an example? The envelope, please. In February, Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway announced the fake news that "La La Land" had won the academy award for best picture.

If the team let Elway get away, Broncos Country would have a bigger meltdown than the Starbucks barista driven crazy by a Unicorn Frappuccino. Yet, in late April, when asked for an update on contract talks after the first round on the NFL draft, Elway curtly replied: "We're not going to talk about that. We're in the middle of this. We're trying to get better as a football team. We'll talk about that later."

Alrighty then.

Hey, the big stuff takes time. That might explain why Emily Seilhamer, a 24-year-old designer from Pennsylvania, was so proud in May when announcing she had completed a dress made entirely out of 10,000 Starburst candy wrappers. About the same time, Elway vowed he "looked forward to being here

with the Broncos for a long time” and added “I don’t think there will be any doubt” a deal would get done before Denver opened the season in September.

Well, the 57th birthday of Elway came and went. None of us is getting any younger. The Fourth of July has been crossed off the summer calendar, little yellow minions have made \$160 million at the box office, Broncos training camp is just around the corner, and I have one nagging question for Mr. Ellis: Are we there yet?

New coach Vance Joseph doesn’t know who his starting quarterback is. The team’s stadium has been without a proper name since 2016. Elway is in the final year of his contract. This is not exactly business as usual.

Think the Broncos miss Pat Bowlen around Dove Valley Headquarters?

How hard could it be to cut a deal with Elway, the one man most responsible for the franchise’s three Super Bowl victories? What’s it going to take to get Elway to sign on the bottom line? An ownership stake in the Broncos? Or a total eclipse of the sun?

Broncos rank No. 24 among Forbes' 2017 most valuable sports teams

By Joe Nguyen

Denver Post

July 13, 2017

The Denver Broncos may have missed the playoffs last year, but the franchise climbed two spots to No. 24 in Forbes' 2017 most valuable sports teams, released Wednesday.

The Broncos are worth \$2.4 billion, an increase of 24 percent over the previous year, according to the report. Denver is ranked 10th among the 29 NFL teams that made the list of 50.

The Broncos were the only Colorado team to make the list.

The Dallas Cowboys (\$4.2 billion) finished No. 1 for the second straight year, followed by the New York Yankees (\$3.7 billion), Manchester United (\$3.69 billion), Barcelona (\$3.64 billion) and Real Madrid (\$3.58 billion).

Nuggets and Avalanche owner Stan Kroenke saw two of his teams make the list. The Los Angeles Rams (\$2.9 billion) came in at No. 12, and Arsenal (\$1.93 billion) was No. 43.

The rankings are based on Forbes' valuations over the past year for NFL, NHL, NBA, MLB, Formula One, soccer and NASCAR teams. There were no NHL, Formula One or NASCAR teams on this year's list.

After the NFL, the MLB had eight teams, followed by the NBA (7) and European soccer (7). Two teams — the New Orleans Saints and Los Angeles Angels — tied at No. 50.

Peyton Manning talks about what it's like to golf with Donald Trump

By Allison Sylte

9 News

July 13, 2017

By now, you might have heard that former Denver Broncos quarterback/the GOAT (sorry, Tom Brady) went golfing with President Donald Trump last month.

He was first spotted at the Trump National Golf Club with Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tennessee) by a New York Times photographer on June 4. Here's a pic:

@Al_Drago

Peyton Manning & Sen. Bob Corker of Tenn. depart the W.H. after President Trump returns from a 4.5 hour outing at Trump National Golf Club.

12:52 PM - 4 Jun 2017 · Washington, DC

502 Retweets 537 likes

The two-time Super Bowl champion/chicken parm aficionado talked about what it's like to golf with the president while appearing on Jimmy Kimmel's show.

He says he was invited because he was in Washington D.C. to win the Lincoln Medal – and that while a lot of people told him not to do it – a quote from another legend led him to go for it.

“I heard Arnold Palmer say if the president of the United States asks you to play golf, you do it, no brainer,” Manning told Kimmel. “I’ve had a chance to play with President Bush before, if President Obama, President Clinton asked me, I’d go.”

Manning spoke at a Congressional GOP retreat that included Trump and Vice President Mike Pence earlier this year. He's also given money to Republican candidates.

Despite a previous report from Samuel L. Jackson, Manning said the president did not cheat at golf (“I counted the strokes”) and that he would have called him out if he did.

“He gives a lot of putts, but he expects those to be reciprocated,” Manning said.

In the end, Manning said he was on the same team as the president and they won.

You can see the full Jimmy Kimmel interview here: https://youtu.be/Q4_z3RIWozM

The Broncos' defense will help make decision on QB

By Jeff Legwold

ESPN

July 13, 2017

To win the job as the Denver Broncos quarterback, Trevor Siemian or Paxton Lynch will have to show an understanding of the playbook and make the quickest and most efficient adjustments to defensive coverages. They will also have to be able to lead the team on and off the field.

And, oh, they'll need to solve the riddle of one of the league's toughest defenses -- every day. In a twist of what will be one of the league's most hotly contested jobs, the Broncos' own defense could well tip the scales.

"It's a help," Broncos coach Vance Joseph said. "It's a help because when you're facing the best every day, it makes game day easier."

But life won't be easy as the Broncos work through the summer sun after training camp opens later this month. Because the Broncos defense, which has led the league in pass defense in each of the past two seasons, practices all day, every day, as if multiple completions are grounds for dismissal.

Even a future Hall of Famer -- one Peyton Manning -- described it as a different deal.

"They get as close to game speed as you can," Manning said. "[Training camp and offseason workouts] is when you try things, see what you can do in certain situations. And a lot of the time, you're not always getting the same kind of look you would in a game and you have to figure that in. Those guys play it like a game, they push you."

Start with the fact the Broncos have a starting secondary with four players who have each played in at least one Pro Bowl over the past two years. They also have the guy many in the league consider the game's best pass-rusher -- Von Miller. The Broncos have finished among the league's top four in defense in four of the past five years, have led the league in sacks twice in those five years and led the league in pass defense in back-to-back years. There is also that matter of the Super Bowl 50 win, when Miller led a defensive-powered trophy drive.

"That's part of it," cornerback Chris Harris Jr. said. "We know the level we have to play to be among the best, to be the best -- and we always want to be the best."

Often defenses open training camp a little more settled into what they're doing than their offensive counterparts. And while the pads are on for many camp practices, injury concerns keep the offensive line from being given the full freedom to protect quarterbacks or block in the run game at game speed.

It can make for some tough football sledding for quarterbacks. Last summer Mark Sanchez, who was set to enter his eighth NFL season as one of three quarterbacks competing for the Broncos' job in training camp, said the defense practiced "unlike many others can. They force you to work the windows you see in games."

Siemian won the job last year, in large part, with his work against the Broncos' starters in practice. He then carried those results into his snaps in preseason games.

Both Siemian and Lynch, as they tried to learn the new offense, struggled at times against the Broncos defenders during offseason work. The defense, by contrast, was working largely with the same playbook template it has used for the previous two seasons.

"That only helps you when you go against the best defense in the league and the two best corners and the best safeties and the best linebacker," Lynch said during the Broncos' offseason work. "... Of course, you're going to have days where they get you."

"We're lucky to go against those guys every day," Siemian said. "... We're buying time and working snap counts, which you have to do against this group or else they'll eat you alive. It's great practice for [the quarterbacks] and everybody else."

Siemian and Lynch figure to equally split time with the starters until Joseph makes a decision on who wins the job. That means, if all goes according to plan, they would get roughly the same number of chances against the Broncos defensive starters.

"Seeing the edge rushers that we have, seeing the tight coverage every day, it's going to help those guys play better on game day," Joseph said. "... and I always believe your goal is structure things so games should be easier than practice."

Broncos remain 11th-most-valuable NFL team on Forbes list

By Jeff Legwold

ESPN

July 13, 2017

Even though they missed the playoffs for the first time since 2010 and continue their search for a new naming-rights deal on their home stadium, Forbes magazine says 2016 was still a very good year for the Denver Broncos.

The Broncos, who finished 9-7 last season following their Super Bowl victory to close out the 2015 season, were placed 24th overall in Forbes' worldwide top 50 most valuable sports franchises. Forbes placed the current value of the Broncos at \$2.4 billion, 11th among NFL teams. The Dallas Cowboys topped the overall list at \$4.2 billion.

The Broncos remained in the same spot in Forbes' rankings both with Peyton Manning playing quarterback for the team and in Manning's first post-retirement season. The team was ranked 11th among NFL teams in 2016 and 2015.

Business is certainly good for the NFL overall, as 29 of the league's teams were among the 50 most valuable franchises worldwide; only the Cincinnati Bengals, Detroit Lions and Buffalo Bills didn't make the top 50.

Forbes uses several categories in estimating revenues for each franchise -- including network-television money as well as stadium deals -- and debts. As a result, many NFL teams, including the Broncos, have publicly disputed some of the magazine's methodology in the past.

The Green Bay Packers are the league's only publicly owned team, making them the only franchise that releases an annual financial report. The Packers also did that Wednesday, providing a glimpse into team revenues other franchises do not have to reveal.

In their report for the last fiscal year, which ended March 30, the Packers said their "national" revenue was \$244 million. That total, which is largely network television money, is the same for all of the league's 32 teams, including the Broncos.

That total does not include local revenue for teams, such as stadium revenues, including stadium naming rights.

Each NFL team was, according to the Packers' financial report, set to also receive \$27.1 million in net revenues (\$55.2 million in gross revenues for each team) as a result of relocation fees from the Chargers, Rams and Raiders combined. The first relocation payments to the other NFL teams, including the Broncos, will be received in December 2019, according to Packers president Mark Murphy. The Rams and Chargers, now both in Los Angeles, will pay out their relocation fees over a 10-year period starting in 2019, while the Raiders will pay theirs out over a 10-year period beginning once the franchise has moved operations to Las Vegas.

Overall, the Broncos have a significant missing component in their revenues without a new stadium naming-rights deal. Team president and CEO Joe Ellis has consistently expressed confidence the team is nearing an agreement.

After Sports Authority's bankruptcy, the Broncos bought out the final five years of the naming-rights deal with the company. Since then, Ellis has said the team continues to seek "the right partner, the best for us and the community."

Peyton Manning delivers hilarious monologue, roasts Kevin Durant at the 2017 ESPY Awards

By Oscar Contreras

KMGH

July 13, 2017

Peyton Manning is making headlines again after hosting the 2017 ESPY Awards Wednesday evening.

The former Broncos quarterback and two-time Super Bowl champion took jabs at his own body, Ryan Lochte's scandal at the Rio Olympics, his brother Eli and delivered jokes to mock athletes he "hated the most."

The most talked about part of the whole bit? The part where Peyton roasted Kevin Durant.

Fifteen players to watch at Broncos training camp -- 15.

Jamaal Charles

By Andrew Mason
DenverBroncos.com
July 13, 2017

With 15 days left until the first camp practice, the countdown starts with a look at the former Chiefs running back, who should be at full speed.

Jamaal Charles isn't all the way back.

But with every week that has passed since he joined the Broncos, the prolific ex-Chiefs running back has drawn closer. He's made incremental progress, from running in a straight line to taking handoffs to running up hills and, finally, to cutting.

The final step is to make those moves at full speed in a thicket of defenders and blockers. Do that -- and do that repeatedly -- and the 10-year veteran will have completed his comeback.

"He's a stud," Head Coach Vance Joseph said last month. "You can watch highlights and that's all you need. He's a pretty good player."

Just five running backs currently on NFL rosters have more career yards from scrimmage than Charles, who stands just 283 yards shy of 10,000 yards from scrimmage for his career. None of them have averaged more yards per carry than Charles' career 5.45-yard pace.

During training camp, the 30-year-old Charles will have to show that he is all the way back from a litany of injuries that has cost him 24 games over the last two years. He will also have to defy history; since the AFL-NFL merger, just nine different running backs in their 30s have averaged more than 5 yards per carry while amassing more than 100 carries.

"We all know what he can do being 10 years in the league," said fellow running back C.J. Anderson.

But the Broncos didn't add Charles with a specific workload on mind, nor did they bring him in to replicate exactly what he did during his prime years in Kansas City.

They added him for what they believe he still possesses in his 10th year: a dash of explosiveness, a touch of tenacity, a dollop of leadership.

"If he's healthy, he's going to provide a spark in the element of speed that we needed as far as being an explosive offense," Joseph said in May.

His speed will command your attention. His health and continued recovery will demand the Broncos' attention. That makes Charles one of the players you'll need to keep in focus beginning July 27.

Peyton Manning delivers his monologue at the 25th ESPYS

By AricDiLalla
DenverBroncos.com
July 13, 2017

Former Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning was back in the spotlight Wednesday as he took the stage at Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles as the host of the 2017 ESPY Awards.

His opening monologue captured the personality that so many fans of the Broncos and the NFL came to appreciate during his 18-year playing career.

@SportsCenter

"John Cena is an athlete the same way that Ryan Lochte is a reliable witness."

—Peyton Mannin

@ESPYS

Adjusting to retirement life isn't easy... especially for #ESPYS host Peyton Manning

In 2016, Manning was one of three recipients of the ESPY's Icon Award.

He also won ESPYs for best record-breaking performance (2005, 2014, 2015), best NFL player (2004, 2005, 2014), best championship performance (2007) and best college football player (1998). He was also nominated for awards on 10 other occasions.

Full List: The World's 50 Most Valuable Sports Teams 2017

By Kurt Badenhausen

Forbes

July 13, 2017

The cutoff to qualify among the world's most valuable sports franchises is higher than ever, up 18% this year to \$1.75 billion. There are 36 franchises worth at least \$1 billion that did not make the top 50. Credit soaring TV contracts for the rising franchise values, as well as labor deals with players that almost ensure profitability barring outrageous spending on payroll by an owner.

No sports league is as profitable as the NFL where the average team earned an operating profit (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) of \$91 million and no one banked less than \$26 million. The boffo profits helped 29 NFL teams rank among the 50 most valuable franchises (only the Bengals, Lions and Bills missed the cut). Other sports include eight MLB clubs and seven each from the NBA and European soccer.

The Dallas Cowboys lead for the second straight year at \$4.2 billion. Jerry Jones' team unseated Real Madrid last year as the most valuable sports team. The Spanish soccer powerhouse had ranked No. 1 for three straight years.

Below is the full list of the most valuable teams across all sports (51 this year thanks to a tie at \$1.75 billion between the New Orleans Saints and Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim). Values are based on Forbes valuations done over the past year for NFL, NHL, NBA, MLB, F1, soccer and Nascar (no NHL, F1 or Nascar teams made the top 50).

Rank, Team, Value, 1-Yr change (Sport)

1. Dallas Cowboys, \$4.2 billion, 5% (NFL)
2. New York Yankees, \$3.7 billion, 9% (MLB)
3. Manchester United, \$3.69 billion, 11% (Soccer)
4. Barcelona, \$3.64 billion, 2% (Soccer)
5. Real Madrid, \$3.58 billion, -2% (Soccer)
6. New England Patriots, \$3.4 billion, 6% (NFL)
7. New York Knicks, \$3.3 billion, 10% (NBA)
8. New York Giants, \$3.1 billion, 11% (NFL)
9. San Francisco 49ers, \$3 billion, 11% (NFL)

9. Los Angeles Lakers, \$3 billion, 11% (NBA)
11. Washington Redskins, \$2.95 billion, 4% (NFL)
12. Los Angeles Rams, \$2.9 billion, 100% (NFL)
13. New York Jets, \$2.75 billion, 6% (NFL)
13. Los Angeles Dodgers, \$2.75 billion, 10% (MLB)
15. Bayern Munich, \$2.71 billion, 1% (Soccer)
16. Chicago Bears, \$2.7 billion, 10% (NFL)
16. Boston Red Sox, \$2.7 billion, 17% (MLB)
18. Chicago Cubs, \$2.68 billion, 22% (MLB)
19. San Francisco Giants, \$2.65 billion, 18% (MLB)
20. Houston Texans, \$2.6 billion, 4% (NFL)
20. Golden State Warriors, \$2.6 billion, 37% (NBA)
22. Philadelphia Eagles, \$2.5 billion, 4% (NFL)
22. Chicago Bulls, \$2.5 billion, 9% (NBA)
24. Denver Broncos, \$2.4 billion, 24% (NFL)
25. Miami Dolphins, \$2.38 billion, 28% (NFL)
26. Green Bay Packers, \$2.35 billion, 21% (NFL)
27. Baltimore Ravens, \$2.3 billion, 19% (NFL)
28. Pittsburgh Steelers, \$2.25 billion, 18% (NFL)
29. Seattle Seahawks, \$2.25 billion, 19% (NFL)
30. Minnesota Vikings, \$2.2 billion, 38% (NFL)
30. Boston Celtics, \$2.2 billion, 5% (NBA)
32. Indianapolis Colts, \$2.18 billion, 16% (NFL)
33. Atlanta Falcons, \$2.13 billion, 27% (NFL)

34. Oakland Raiders, \$2.1 billion, 47% (NFL)
35. Manchester City, \$2.083 billion, 8% (Soccer)
36. Los Angeles Chargers, \$2.08 billion, 36% (NFL)
37. Carolina Panthers, \$2.075 billion, 33% (NFL)
38. Arizona Cardinals, \$2.025 billion, 31% (NFL)
39. Tennessee Titans, \$2 billion, 34% (NFL)
39. Los Angeles Clippers, \$2 billion, 0% (NBA)
39. New York Mets, \$2 billion, 21% (MLB)
42. Jacksonville Jaguars, \$1.95 billion, 32% (NFL)
43. Arsenal, \$1.93 billion, -4% (Soccer)
44. Kansas City Chiefs, \$1.88 billion, 23% (NFL)
45. Cleveland Browns, \$1.85 billion, 23% (NFL)
46. Chelsea, \$1.845 billion, 11% (Soccer)
47. Tampa Bay Buccaneers, \$1.8 billion, 19% (NFL)
47. Brooklyn Nets, \$1.8 billion, 6% (NBA)
47. St Louis Cardinals, \$1.8 billion, 12% (MLB)
50. New Orleans Saints, \$1.75 billion, 16% (NFL)
50. Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, \$1.75 billion, 31% (MLB)

Study finds no increased cognitive risk for playing high school football

By Kevin Sklver

CBS Sports

July 13, 2017

Much has been made about the dangers of playing football, to the point that some parents have bemoaned letting their children even play Pop Warner. However, according to a study from JAMA Neurology, players up to the high school level are not at risk for long-term cognitive or mental damage. The question that the study seeks to answer is: "Does playing high school football have a statistically and clinically significant adverse association with cognitive impairment and depression at 65 years of age?"

In order to answer this question, the study was conducted among 3,904 men that averaged 64.4 years of age. It utilized the "Wisconsin Longitudinal Study among men who graduated high school in 1957." According to this study, there "was no statistically or clinically significant harmful association between playing football in high school and increased impairment or depression later in life, on average." In essence, men that played football in high school did not experience cognitive issues later in life.

There is, of course, a critical flaw in this study on the surface: Football has changed from the way it was played 60 years ago. Players are faster, hit harder and tackles often emphasize leading with the helmet over wrapping up (despite league efforts at all levels to curb the practice). Although protection has gotten better, helmets are often used as a weapon. With that being said, this study claims that despite all of these factors, the risks are still largely the same in the modern game as they were in the 1950s. It should also serve to reassure those who have played football in the past that were concerned about long-term effects.

Future repercussions won't be known until many years down the line, when those who have played football reach ages where these ailments would begin to present themselves. The study didn't tackle college or professional athletes, where the prevalence of Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy in former players has created concerns about the future of football.

No players selected in 2017 NFL Supplemental Draft

By Chase Goodbread

NFL.com

July 13, 2017

The 2017 NFL Supplemental Draft passed with no selections on Wednesday, per NFL spokesman Michael Signora.

Defensive lineman Tavares Bingham of Georgia Military College and Western New Mexico running back Marques Rodgers were the only players eligible in this year's supplemental draft, and now become eligible to be signed as free agents. Rodgers was academically ineligible for the 2016 season, while Bingham had exhausted his junior college eligibility and did not play in 2016. It marked the second consecutive year, and fourth in the last five years, that no players were selected in the supplemental draft.

The supplemental draft includes players whose draft eligibility status has changed since the regular draft. Under NFL rules, teams that select a player in the supplemental draft lose a draft choice in the corresponding round of the next year's NFL draft.

The last player to be chosen in the supplemental draft was offensive tackle Isaiah Battle of Clemson, who was selected by the Rams in 2015 in the fifth round. Battle is now with the Kansas City Chiefs. Prior to Battle, the last supplemental pick was receiver Josh Gordon, a 2012 second-rounder of the Cleveland Browns. Gordon is now under indefinite suspension by the NFL and in May his petition for reinstatement was denied.

Some of the most notable former supplemental draft picks include QB Bernie Kosar, LB Brian Bosworth, QB Steve Walsh and RB Bobby Humphrey, all of whom were taken in the first round.

Miller, Brady Help Manning Deliver MVP-Caliber ESPYs Hosting Job

By Staff

CBS 4

July 13, 2017

Peyton Manning has been out of the spotlight for a while, but on Wednesday night the former Broncos quarterback hosted the annual ESPY Awards and put his comedic skills on full display.

In Manning's opening monologue he poked fun at many of the world's top athletes, but he was also not afraid to make a bit of fun of himself.

When he said he was impressed by tennis star Serena Williams' win in the Australian Open "while she was carrying a child," he followed it with:

"I mean that's even more impressive than two years ago when the Denver Broncos defense won the Super Bowl while carrying me."

He then pointed out his former teammate Von Miller in the audience, and said "Thanks again, pal. I owe you."

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Manning, who of course battled the Patriots numerous times throughout his NFL career, rolled his eyes, sighed, and said he did. He then showed a hilarious skit in which he pretended to watch the game at home with friends.

In "Peyton Manning's Super Bowl Party" Manning tells his buddies on the couch he's "just looking for some clean, competitive football."

"I don't even have a dog in this fight," Manning says with his dry delivery as highlights from the early parts of the game are shown. But then he reveals he's wearing a Falcons T-shirt as he unzips his sweatshirt.

When the last Falcons touchdown is shown, Manning makes a reference to his Broncos win in Super Bowl 50.

“You know it’s tough winning a Super Bowl in the twilight of your career. Only the greats can pull it off,” he said.

But it becomes pretty obvious in the skit that Manning wants a Patriots loss. Badly. And as the Patriots start their epic comeback he tries to:

- Change the channel to House Hunters International
- Set off the fire alarm with a lighter
- Vacuum

Finally, Manning gets so mad about the Patriots that he launches a football at the TV and smashes it.

In another funny skit during the broadcast, Manning moves into a retirement home and Patriots quarterback Tom Brady’s pretend grandmother “Ruth” becomes his nemesis. Brady makes a cameo appearance via Skype and the two former rivals exchange greetings.

“Grandma, I used to play football with Peyton,” Brady says.

Ruth then says “Ooh, isn’t that wonderful” and asks Peyton “Did you win five Super Bowls, too?” much to his chagrin.

Peyton Manning on golfing with President Trump: Un-American to turn down invite

By Charean Williams

Pro Football Talk

July 13, 2017

Peyton Manning said although a lot of people tried to talk him out of golfing with President Donald Trump last month, he never hesitated in accepting the invitation.

“I heard Arnold Palmer say one time, ‘If the president of the United States ever asks you to play golf, you do it,’” Manning said on Jimmy Kimmel Live on Tuesday night. “It’s a no-brainer. It was a fantastic experience. We rode in the motorcade over [to the course], and I never felt safer playing golf.”

Manning, a Republican, also has played golf with President Bush. The former quarterback said he would have accepted an invitation from a Democratic president, too.

“I’ve had a chance to play with President Bush before,” Manning said. “If President Obama or President Clinton asked me, I’d be there in a heartbeat. It was just the experience of playing with the office that was pretty cool to me. And I think it would have been almost un-American to have said no.”