

# Trevor Siemian takes short view in second Broncos quarterback competition

By Nicki Jhabvala

Denver Post

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Almost daily, a deep voice booms from local sports talk radio telling listeners to “CHOOSE YOUR SIDE! Will it be Team Siemian or Team Lynch?”

National headlines have promoted similar polls and predictions. Local headlines, well, we’re guilty too.

The Broncos’ quarterback competition is the event of the summer has been analyzed and covered from every angle since early January, before the contenders even stepped on the field.

Trevor Siemian says he’s not listening to the hype. He’s not reading the reviews, not listening to the noise, not reading the comments that flow in by the minute — many of which are biting and all of which are opinionated.

“It’s easy because once you’re in the building, in camp, nothing else matters,” he said Friday at a surprise shopping event for a group of children at Dick’s Sporting Goods. “Nothing outside the building is really determining anything. So it’s relatively easy for me to stay focused on the task at hand.”

The fans have no say. Nor do the media. But Siemian knows who does and he knows what to expect. He knew in 2016, when he beat out veteran Mark Sanchez for the starting job. And he knows now, as he prepares to again fight Paxton Lynch, a first-round pick, to retain his starting job.

With a new scheme and new coaching staff, Siemian and Lynch, as well as the entire offense, are starting anew. But the return to an open quarterback competition certainly isn’t.

“Each year is like that and we got a new staff anyhow, so it’s a clean slate for all of us,” Siemian said. “That’s how I’m approaching it. I played last year, so I have some experiences I can lean on and grow from and continue to improve.”

There’s no replicating live reps and at this point. Siemian has more in the tank than Lynch after starting 14 games last season.

Helpful? Sure. But it’s the reps he’ll receive in the coming weeks that will count the most.

At the end of organized team activities, coach Vance Joseph said the prior months of on-field work were about learning Mike McCoy’s new offense, which was fully installed before the players left for break. Those weeks counted “zero to none” toward deciding the team’s starting quarterback, Joseph said.

But that changes starting July 27.

Now comfortable with the new playbook, Siemian said he’s still working toward the mastery level that comes with more time on the field. During his five weeks off, he reviewed tape of every rep from OTAs

and camp, as well as some of the defense's reps, to take mental notes of what needs further tweaking: what he did well and what he can do better.

"I think if I just keep getting better," he said. "I think I did some things I can build on last year and there are some things I want to do better. For me, I'm just focused on improving and I think if I can take care of things on my end then everything will work out."

Last year, former coach Gary Kubiak appointed Siemian the starter after the third preseason game, with mere weeks before the season opener. The late decision was expected as the competition progressed, but it also afforded little time for the offense to work as one with the true starting quarterback before the season began.

"That was really the first time I got a good bit of reps so that was important for me and I wasn't getting too far ahead of myself and I'm still trying to keep that same mentality," Siemian said. "It's not up to me. For me, just staying with that same mentality — I want to be better than I was yesterday — I think that will help me out."

The competition then — and perhaps now — hinges on enough live reps for each quarterback to ensure thorough evaluation. But Demaryius Thomas said he'd like to know his starting quarterback before the second preseason game in California. And fellow receiver Emmanuel Sanders said if he had his way, he'd like to know now. Ambitious?

"It's probably a good thing the receivers aren't coaching the team," Siemian said with a laugh. "But coach Joseph will make the right call for the team and put us in a good spot to win games."

Although the offense's earlier plans to get together in Los Angeles for an informal passing camp fell through, Siemian said he's hoping to corral some of his receivers at a local high school before camp starts.

Because once camp opens, the focus is singular. No noise, no hype. Even if it is the biggest event of the summer.

# Pre-camp conditioning test returns for Broncos

By Mike Klis  
9 News  
July 15, 2017

Unlike past years, Denver Bronco players will sweat through a conditioning test on the eve of training camp.

The Broncos haven't held a pre-camp conditioning test since Josh McDaniels' first season as head coach in 2009.

The first training camp practice – which is open to the public, free of charge – will be held July 27 at the UHealth Training Center. The conditioning test, which will not be open to the public, will take place on the Broncos' practice field July 26.

Several players said they weren't sure whether the conditioning test would consist of a series of 40-yard sprints or longer distance runs. It's also not known what the punishment is for failing the conditioning test.

Where have you gone, Montrae Holland?

A 16-game starter at guard for the Broncos in 2007, Holland admitted he took too much time off to rest his beat-up body during the following offseason. He failed coach Rich Tuten's conditioning test prior to training camp in 2008 and spent the first few days pushing sleds on a side field.

Holland returned to practice, but was traded to the Dallas Cowboys in the final week of the preseason.

Broncos head coaches John Fox and Gary Kubiak didn't hold conditioning tests, but Vance Joseph, in his first year as head coach, wants to make sure his players are accountable.

"As they head out, the football message was the things that were learned as far as the scheme on both sides of the ball, let's not lose that," Joseph said before the team broke for vacation on June 15. "Let's come back and start from this point, not go backwards."

# Bronco QBs to hold passing 'camp' next week in Denver

By Mike Klis  
9 News  
July 15, 2017

The off-campus passing “camp” tradition will continue for the Broncos, if on a smaller scale.

Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch, who are competing for the Broncos’ starting quarterback position, will gather a few receivers, tight ends and running backs at a Denver-area high school next week to chuck the ball around.

“It’ll be nice to touch base with the guys one time before we get started,” Siemian said. “I think that’s more important than anything.”

The Broncos report to training camp on July 26 with their first practice on the morning of July 27. The off-campus passing session is expected to be held around July 21, 22, although those dates are not set in ink.

The Broncos never held these so-called team “passing camps” away from the coaching staff during the offseason until Peyton Manning signed up to play quarterback in 2012. Manning organized a three-day, two-night stay at Duke University with invited receivers for four years.

Mark Sanchez, the expected starting quarterback at this time last year, organized the passing camp last year in Los Angeles.

The problem this year is the Broncos don’t yet have a No. 1 quarterback. Neither Siemian or Lynch could very well foot the bill for such a passing session if neither has been declared “the guy.”

Broncos receivers Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders each made attempts to gather their teammates in Los Angeles and Houston, respectively, but not too many players were on different schedules.

# Broncos Mailbag: Coaches, quarterbacks, receivers, stadiums and Raiders

By Mike Klis  
9 News  
July 15, 2017

9NEWS Broncos Insider Mike Klis answers questions pulled from the Broncos Mailbag.

Do you have a question? Email [Mike.Klis@9NEWS.com](mailto:Mike.Klis@9NEWS.com)

**I understand the broad concerns about the offense, specifically tied to the QB position. However, when I consider Mike McCoy won a playoff game with Tim Tebow as the starting QB (in 2011), I wonder if people are losing sight of his contribution. What do you think? Am I giving the new offensive coaching staff too much credit?**

**Cam Philpott**

Cam—Nope. The top end of the offensive coaching staff has a chance to become the Broncos' greatest upgrade of the offseason.

I put McCoy and quarterbacks coach Bill Musgrave together as a tandem. Musgrave has been an offensive coordinator longer than McCoy has. In fact, Musgrave gave McCoy his coaching start with Carolina in 2000.

And highly respected offensive line coach Jeff Davidson makes it a trio. I'm not taking anything away from Greg Knapp or Clancy Barone, who coached Broncos' quarterbacks and offensive linemen in recent years. They're both very good coaches.

But I think the McCoy-Musgrave-Davidson set is a nice complement to head coach Vance Joseph, whose coaching background is steeped on the defensive side.

The Broncos offense will be better this season, I'm sure of it, largely because of the new coaches and McCoy's system. But here's something to be careful about: Gary Kubiak's offense was a factor in how well the Denver defense played the past two years.

Offense complements defense more than people realize. New England, Dallas and Pittsburgh were the only teams who ranked in the top 10 in both offense and defense last year.

Not so coincidentally, those three teams have strong running games.

Kubiak's system was centered on the run, even if the execution never quite materialized last season. But C.J. Anderson's strong running late in the 2015 regular season and three postseason games was an underrated factor in the Broncos' world championship success that was otherwise credited to the defense.

McCoy's system likes to use more three-receiver sets and have the quarterback operate from the shotgun. The Broncos' offense will be more exciting this season, but don't be surprised if the defense isn't quite as stellar. It's funny how it works but teams that score quickly means the defense must spend more time on the field.

**With 4 QBs currently on the roster, if Chad Kelly and Kyle Sloter show enough in camp do you think the Broncos still bring in a veteran backup? If so, do the Broncos trade Siemian if Lynch wins the starting job?**

**Kade Rucker**

Kade—Barring injury setbacks, the Broncos will go all season with Siemian and Lynch, Lynch and Siemian, as their top two quarterbacks.

The team could bring in a veteran quarterback for the No. 3 spot, as it did last year with Austin Davis, and slide Kelly to their practice squad or injured reserve.

Kelly will have something to say about that, though, through his training camp and preseason performance—just as Siemian did with his surprisingly strong preseason as a rookie in 2015.

Sloter showed enough during the offseason to keep showing up each day for training camp and hope he gets a few snaps in the preseason. He's a longshot to make the Broncos' practice squad but longshots occasionally make it in the NFL with persistence, patience and a few breaks.

**There is a lot of information on the social media regarding the WR #3 spot for the Broncos. I believe that Cody Latimer, Jordan Taylor, Carlos Henderson or Bennie Fowler are favorites, but what do you think?**

**Sávio Pereira, Brazil**

Sávio—That's a lot of favorites for one, No. 3 receiver spot. One misconception is the No. 3 receiver position is not necessarily the slot. He could play on the outside while Emmanuel Sanders slides inside to the slot.

This is a similar arrangement with the Broncos' secondary as No. 3 corner Bradley Roby comes in to play outside while starter Chris Harris moves in to play the nickel back, or slot position.

Fowler doesn't play the slot—at least he hasn't played it much—but for now I'd make him the favorite to become the No. 3 because his 27 catches the past two years are the most among this group.

Fowler emerged in 2015 but ill-timed injuries prevented him from going to the next level last season.

Not there is such a thing as well-timed injury. Even those suffered during the offseason put a player behind all the other highly trained elite athletes.

Henderson, a third-round rookie, has a chance to become the No. 3 receiver by the second half of the season because of his speed.

I'd also put fifth-round rookie Isaiah McKenzie in the group of slot receiver candidates.

No. 3 receiver is the second most competitive position heading into camp. Behind, of course, the Great Quarterback Competition.

**Some people have been talking about building a new stadium with a retractable roof so Denver can host a Super Bowl. Do you think a new stadium is possible within 5-10 years?**

**Michael Upton**

Michael—I do not think it's possible. The Broncos' current stadium is only 16 years old. Taxpayers are going to approve another out-of-their-pockets mechanism that funds 70 percent of what would be a \$1 billion new stadium when the current venue is still one of the league's best?

Yes, a stadium with a retractable roof would assure Denver of someday hosting a Super Bowl. But a great majority of Broncos fans want football played in the elements. It's part of Denver's culture. Tourism is important here. Indoor games are everywhere in this country. Let's keep Colorado unique.

There are only 10 home football games a year, not including the postseason. The Broncos play, what? One bad-weather home game a season?

Most Coloradoans like the occasional snow game. Yes, it might make financial sense to put a retractable roof on the next new stadium. A Super Bowl would be nice. It would be nice if a Rolling Stones concert 50 years from now (we assume Mick and Keith will still be around) didn't have the threat of bad weather.

But the Broncos are working towards building a Broncos Village with restaurants and shops around their current stadium. The Broncos are trying to secure a lucrative naming rights deal (and yes, it's a process that's taking way too long) so they can maintain their current building.

Stadiums and ballparks don't develop charms until they first grow old. The Broncos' current stadium is good for another 15 years, minimum, and hopefully for another 30 or 70.

**Not necessarily a Broncos question, but one that impacts the team. With Derek Carr's new big contract and an impending record breaking contract for Khalil Mack, how hard will constructing a high-quality roster be for the Raiders. I always thought of Von Miller's contract as a substitute for QB money, and find the idea of both to be an issue (albeit a good one to have).**

**Eric Martin, Boise**

Eric—Great point. Between their good young players commanding big dollars and the franchise's impending move from Oakland to Las Vegas, the Raiders will be challenged to make some shrewd financial decisions in the next three to five years.

Their new \$2 billion stadium in Las Vegas will help pay the bills, although Raiders owner Mark Davis is kicking in \$500 million. There is a tremendous greater good for the Raiders once they're established in Vegas, but money may be tight for a few years.

As for the salary cap restrictions, the Raiders do have to wait until the league's payroll budgets increase next year before they can extend Mack, who will no doubt take aim at surpassing Von Miller's \$19.083 million a year deal.



# This prophet wrote 10 commandments for all Broncos fans to follow

By Jane Mo

9 News

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"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's season tickets."

It's commandment number eight on the tablets of the Mile High Prophet.

His real name is John L. Buckley.

He's a criminal defense lawyer, but on the weekends, he's the Mile High Prophet.

Buckley started writing game predictions on Facebook four years ago like many other Denver Broncos fans.

"One Sunday morning, the idea of creating a 'prophesy' just came to my head," Buckley said.

When the Broncos lost the playoffs last season, Buckley knew he had to take it up a notch. He couldn't just write Facebook statuses anymore. He needed something more.

And so out of heartache and a sense of hope, the Mile High Prophet was born.

It's a character Buckley invented to make sure his team wins this season. He got a custom made orange robe with "Mile High Prophet" stitched on the back. A staff with a football hot glued to the top completes the outfit.

With a staff in one hand, he carries around cardboard cut-out tablets in the other to remind Broncos fans of the Ten Commandments.

I am the provider, who brought you out of the desert- out of the land of losses  
Thou shalt have no other franchises before me  
Thou shalt have not take the name of the Orange Crush in vain  
Remember Opening Day and keep it holy  
Honor thy blockers for they are the key to yardage  
Remember The Drive, The Fumble, and The Helicopter  
Thou shalt not leave the game early  
Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's season tickets  
Thou shalt not sell thy tickets to opposing teams' fans  
Thou shalt not cheer for a division rival unless it helps thy Broncos playoff bid  
"I predict that the Broncos will win the Super Bowl," Buckley said.

He's predicted this every time.

“The oracle predicts a wonderful season again for the Broncos. We have the best fans in the league, and it’s going to be a magnificent season,” the Prophet said.

# NFL players lend their voices to funding of youth sports

By Arnie Stapleton

Associated Press

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Trevor Siemian took a break from his private workouts Friday to lead 15 kids from the Jeffco Midget Football Association on a surprise shopping spree.

The Denver Broncos quarterback — who will be competing with Paxton Lynch in the biggest position battle in the NFL this summer — was joined by rookies DeShaun Watson in Houston and Christian McCaffrey in Charlotte, North Carolina, to help kids affected by slashed sports budgets.

Each player treated local kids to much-needed equipment to kick off "Youth Sports Weekend," a promotion by Dick's Sporting Goods, which is donating 1 percent of sales this weekend to the cause.

"It's a really a cool deal for me just because I've been around sports my whole life," Siemian said, adding that he wants to make sure kids don't miss out on the biggest benefits of playing team sports.

"Teamwork, hard work, how to win, how to lose, those are some things that I learned at an early age, obviously still carry with me today," Siemian said. "And I think it's valuable for anybody, regardless of whether you're still an athlete or not."

"Youth sports," said Watson, "played a major role in my life growing up both on and off the field. Sports taught me discipline, accountability and how to work hard for something that makes me happy."

ESPN color analyst Jon Gruden, who has championed the fight against underfinanced youth sports for several years, said, "The youth sports funding crisis continues to impact too many young athletes, and our kids need more opportunities to learn all the valuable lessons sports teach us, on and off the field."

It's a cause that's also close to Siemian, who said his high school had to "get creative with raising money for our football program."

"It does hurt that sports are one of the first things that get cut when budget cuts start rolling around. But I understand it," Siemian said. "For me, I just want to do everything I can to make sure every kid has the chance to pursue whatever he or she wants to as they grow up."

**SIEMIAN'S SUMMER:** Siemian vacationed in Ireland earlier this month and worked out in Chicago to stay sharp for his big audition later in July. He said he'll get together with several receivers in Denver "and chuck it around a little bit a day or two before we get going" with training camp on July 27.

Siemian beat out Lynch and Mark Sanchez last year, but new coach Vance Joseph has declared his QB battle an open competition, one that receivers Emmanuel Sanders and Demaryius Thomas are hoping is decided quickly so the offense can ripen.

Siemian declined to add his voice to the debate.

"My job is to be the best quarterback, best teammate I can and lead this team as best as I can," Siemian said. "My job isn't to decide who wins the job or when the decision is made."

# NFL has 1st female replay official, more leeway to celebrate

By Stephen Hawkins

Associated Press

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Terri Valenti always enjoyed football as a little girl, but never dreamed then of being in the NFL. That became her goal only after officiating games for the first time in 1999.

Valenti this season will be the NFL's first female instant replay official in the booth, moving into that position two years after Sarah Thomas became the league's first full-time official on the field.

"I didn't know what was involved, how long the road would be, how hard it would be, or if I would ever get there," Valenti said Friday at the NFL's annual officiating clinic. "To be here at this point is just awesome."

The annual clinic, held before each season, was the first since Alberto Riveron's promotion to be the head of officiating after Dean Blandino left the NFL.

Valenti spent the past five seasons working for instant replay in the NFL, including a Super Bowl. She also worked in the past as an on-field official in the professional United Football League in 2009, as well as high school, college, minor league and international league games.

Her new instant replay role for the NFL is different and more prominent. Each of the 17 officiating crews have an instant replay official who is the go-between for the on-field referee and the NFL's centralized operations in New York, where final decisions on reviews will be made starting this season.

"The roles I've had in the past have been supporting the replay official and getting that information that person needs to do his or her job effectively," she said. "Now I'm kind of point person for a little team at each field."

NFL referee Brad Allen said the NFL is concerned about having diversity and the most qualified people.

"It's a positive benchmark in society that we're not sort of in an old-school, old-boys mentality," Allen said.

Valenti, a mother of five sons, said she has never had any concerns about the players. She said she has always felt welcome when working games.

"I think at first they give me a little bit more space, which I use to my advantage, but I also have five sons so I understand boys a lot," she said. "It's just natural for me, doing it at home for 33 years."

Riveron, a nine-year game official and former referee, emphasized that the only change with the centralization of replay is that he will be the one making the final decisions on such calls.

"The process hasn't changed. We've had the same process in place now for three years. So the only thing that's changed about the process, that instead of the final decision being with the referee on the field, it's now with New York," he said. "The consultation process, the way we look at the film, the plays we show him, the angles, that hasn't changed one bit."

NFL owners also earlier this year made changes to give players more leeway for their celebrations after touchdowns. The football can again be used as a prop, and there can be group celebrations among teammates.

Asked if officials were clear on where to draw the line of celebrations, Riveron said, "Extremely clear."

Sexually suggestive moves and portrayals of violence, such as a throat slash, still are prohibited.

"Basically we're going to watch what they do and let them celebrate and if it gets excessive in length of time then we'll have to decide, but I'm not sure we know exactly what that length of time is," said referee Walt Coleman, who is going into his 29th NFL season. "We know players are out there thinking up what they're going to do, so it should be interesting and entertaining."

# Broncos' Siemian plans passing camp next week, believes experience can help him win job

By Troy Renck

KMGH

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Trevor Siemian spent 10 days in Ireland recently, sightseeing, even sneaking in a few rounds of golf. A college buddy drove Siemian and his girlfriend around, a harrowing experience if only because of the different lanes, narrow roads and the driver seated on the opposite side.

Siemian recommended the trip to anyone who has the opportunity to go abroad. Make no mistake, Siemian need not travel 4,355 miles from Denver to find anonymity. He is rarely recognized, and Friday morning demonstrated how he doesn't take himself seriously.

To help kick off Dick's Sporting Goods' "Celebrate Youth Sports Weekend," Siemian surprised 15 local kids from the Jeffco Midget Football Association with a \$150 gift card to buy gear. As the Broncos quarterback appeared, one child said, "Yeah, Trevor Siemian!" while another added bluntly, "Did you invite Von Miller?" Moments later, a mother of a kid told Siemian he "smelled good," to which he replied, "I remembered to shower this morning."

Such is life for a quarterback attempting to establish his footing and win a competition against second-year pro Paxton Lynch. It does not bother Siemian. As a seventh-round draft pick, he takes nothing for granted. Yet, there's no doubt he's driven to keep the starting job. Winning it a year ago under similar circumstances could help in a derby that begins in earnest on July 27.

"For all of us it's a clean slate, right? Each year, it's like that and we have a new coaching staff anyway. That's how I am approaching it," Siemian said from the store in Lakewood. "But I played last year and I have some of those experiences that I can lean on and hopefully grow from and continue to improve."

Siemian and Lynch plan to jumpstart the process late next week with a brief passing camp. Plans for it to occur in Los Angeles fell through, but the pair will receive some reps a few days before training camp.

"We will get some guys together and throw it a few times, which will be good," Siemian said.

Like most players, Siemian took time to relax before returning to the playbook. He feels comfortable in new offensive coordinator Mike McCoy's scheme. It is considered quarterback friendly with more diverse receiver routes and additional freedom to audible at the line of scrimmage. I asked Siemian how he can win the job after going 8-6 as a starter while passing for 3,401 yards with 18 touchdowns and 10 interceptions.

"I think if I just keep getting better. I did some things I can build on last year, and there's things I want to do better. For me I am just focused on improving," Siemian said. "If I just take care of things on my end, I think everything will work out. I am excited to get going. For me, it's keeping the same mentality that I want to be better than yesterday."

The receivers want clarity sooner rather than later. Emmanuel Sanders and Demaryius Thomas prefer a choice after the second preseason game, if not before. They seek additional reps with the starter. Siemian has no timetable, saying he understands how it becomes difficult to gain rhythm with the quarterbacks alternating, but appreciates how quarterbacks coach Bill Musgrave divided the reps in mini camp.

"That's coach (Vance) Joseph's (decision on the starter). It's probably a good thing the receivers aren't coaching the team," Siemian said with a laugh. "Yeah, coach Joseph will make the right call for the team and put us in the right spot to win games."

Regardless of the starter, the offensive line will feature a new look from training camp a year ago. The Broncos boast new starters at right guard (Ron Leary), right tackle (Menelik Watson) and left tackle (Garett Bolles or Ty Sambrailo). Connor McGovern manned the center spot in the offseason, but Matt Paradis told Denver7 and Siemian that his hips are healthy following surgeries.

"I think Connor did a really good job of stepping up. Mentally, he was pretty dang good. No doubt that Matt is the glue up there," Siemian said. "I talked to him a couple of days ago. He's doing good. He's ready to roll."

The juxtaposition between the Broncos former starter and Siemian remains jarring. Siemian walks through public without bother. Peyton Manning hosted the ESPYs this week.

"He was pretty good. Nobody was safe there for awhile," Siemian said. "I was scared for Troy. I didn't know if Troy was going to get thrown under the bus."

I appreciate Siemian's concern. I embarrass myself without help on a daily basis. Siemian's dry wit was on frequent display Friday, as was his caring side. He loves spending time in the community. As part of this weekend event, Dick's will donate 1 percent of all sales to support youth teams across the country. Any customer accompanied by a child wearing his or her youth uniform or team gear will receive 20 percent off their total purchase.

Siemian enjoyed shopping with the kids, helping them pick out cleats and training shoes.

"For me, that's as cool as it gets. It's one of those things where it's easy to say now because I play ball. But sports, especially when I was younger, did so much for me," Siemian said. "It shaped what I think are the good parts of me: learning team work, sportsmanship and all those types of things. It's really cool to be here with Dick's. These guys do a great job. It's just a cool deal for me."



# Terrell Davis believes in Trevor Siemian, sees Broncos returning to playoffs

By Troy Renck

KMGH

July 15, 2017

The reality ambushes Terrell Davis. He goes to sign his signature, and realizes he can pen an HOF by his name. A gold jacket arrives at his home. A bust goes from "something that kind of looks like me to something identical that they said will last 40,000 years."

Davis will enter Canton in August, immortalized for his work with the Broncos. Davis knows greatness, and, as a member of the media with NFL Network, remains well-versed on the modern NFL. One question hovers over the Broncos like a drone as training camp beckons. Who will be the starting quarterback? Trevor Siemian or Paxton Lynch?

"Hey I believe in Trevor, man," said Davis in an exclusive interview Friday with Denver7 from the American Century championship golf tournament in Lake Tahoe. "What I saw in a few games last year. ... Remember, people don't realize that the man only played one season, and he really wasn't expected to play last year. I think it's invaluable he got those game reps, and it's going to help him out tremendously this year."

Davis attended a Broncos' mini-camp practice in the offseason. He will return to training camp on July 30. He knows all about the derby at the most important position, and recognizes the answer might involve both quarterbacks playing.

"Again, I still think it's probably Trevor Siemian's job. I imagine Paxton Lynch probably has a bigger upside. Obviously, he seems to be a talented arm, and he has all the tangibles. Just the mental part of game is starting to come along," said Davis, before elaborating. "Listen, if Trevor plays well they will keep him there, and I think there's no rush to put in Paxton Lynch. If Trevor struggles and Paxton comes in, once he does I think the job is his because I think they want to groom him and allow him to have some real game situations because they know that's future."

The reality of the quarterback question is that it provides only part of the solution to improvement, according to Davis. The Broncos missed the playoffs for the first time in six seasons because their ground game became three-yards and a cloud of rust. Davis sees a rebound with the current running backs, praising the stable assembled.

"I like the diversity of the backs they have. If Jamaal Charles can give you anything and he's healthy, I like his ability to explode. He has the home run ability," Davis said. "C.J. Anderson, he is a mudder. He will grind it out. I like his running style. He's coming at you. I think (Devontae) Booker hit the wall last season. Coming in as a rookie, sometimes it's not what you think. Hopefully, he's healthy. They have three quality backs. I told them when I was out there that this is a team that needs to lead physically upfront to help the defense."

The Broncos went 9-7 a year ago, a disappointing finish after a 4-0 start following their Super Bowl 50 title. New coach Vance Joseph has promised a reboot, energized by the talent in the locker room. A

rebound is not guaranteed given the strength of the schedule and the AFC West. Yet, Davis believes the Broncos will return to the playoffs.

"Absolutely. I know everybody is saying the Raiders are the team to beat in that division. I have to see them put together two solid seasons. Kansas City will always be there. And the L.A. Chargers will be better. I think it's the toughest division in football," Davis said. "But anytime you have a defense like Denver's, you always have a chance. And I really think their offense is going to be much improved."

# Woody Paige: Passing camp tradition sputters out as Broncos quarterback competition continues

By Woody Paige

KMGH

July 15, 2017

The Broncos' offense couldn't put together an average of two touchdown drives a game last season.

So, it shouldn't be shocking that the offense couldn't put together an informal, unofficial players passing camp this week in California.

The Broncos' two most prominent offensive players – Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders – had indicated publicly, and two other players told me privately, they planned to attend the "passing camp" for quarterbacks, wide receivers, tight ends and running backs.

Obviously, though, the offense couldn't find a quorum. Or, probably, a quarterback.

It's difficult to catch passes if nobody is around to throw to them. And, apparently, it was too hard to get people together when they are on summer vacation in other locales.

Paxton Lynch was in his hometown in Florida Monday. He showed up on Twitter in photos while holding a personal "passing camp" with young players from his former high school team – the Deltona Wolves.

And Trevor Siemian returned several days ago from Ireland, where he was sight-seeing (old castle and Cliffs of Mohr, among other tourist spots throughout the country) and playing golf at the scenic links courses. He returned to Denver, then went off to Illinois – he played college football at Northwestern – to continue his off-season conditioning.

Neither quarterback apparently was interested in a passing fancy, and, based on what I know, the get-together was discussed among veteran players, but never was finalized because of lack of participation.

Blame Peyton Manning. He originated started the concept of a "passing camp" years ago with the Broncos. He would invite a few wide receivers and tight ends to Duke, where his former college offensive coordinator, David Cutliffe, is the head coach. And Mark Sanchez, who came to the Broncos last year from the Eagles, continued the routine, but in California. The "passing camp" didn't help Sanchez.

Not much, if anything, is to be made of the lack of an offensive activity. The offense will be reunited in two weeks at Dove Valley when the real training camp opens. Everybody will get plenty of repetitions and opportunities to practice passing, and get to know their teammates, old and new, better.

Really, after all the events of the off-season, the Broncos might have only three or four offensive starters who haven't started games for the team in the past.

For example, Thomas and Sanders again will be the starting wide receivers. The starting tight end, or ends, will be Virgil Green, A.J. Derby or Jeff Heurman. All three started games for the Broncos last year.

Tight end draft choice Jake Butt, who is coming off ACL, told me recently he has spent the entire summer in Denver (undergoing rehab at Broncos headquarters) and is ahead of schedule six months after surgery. He can be expected to serve as a reserve tight end, but likely will be inactive until the left knee is strong enough to play significant time.

The starting running back will be C.J. Anderson, returning from a torn meniscus, or Devontae Booker. Both started games last season. Jamaal Charles, the great running back signed as a free agent, has rarely played the past two years because of his own serious knee injury, but he is expected to be primarily a third-down back.

Fullback Andy Janovich, who started early last season, is back from injury, and really is the only fullback choice.

The one change in starters among the wide receivers, the tight ends and in the backfield will be at slot receiver. Jordan Norwood is gone. Rookie Carlos Henderson will be the first choice as replacement, but camp will determine.

The oft-criticized offensive lineup will be reshuffled with the addition of two free agent veterans – guard Ron Leary and tackle Menelik Watson -- and first-round draft pick Garrett Bolles. Center Matt Paradis will be able to go after surgery on both hips, but the final makeup of the starting line is unsettled.

Siemian and Lynch both started games last season, and they could both start games this season, despite who is declared No. 1 sometime in August.

What matters most is improvement on the Broncos being last in the AFC, and 30th overall, in time of possession on drives and drive success rate (first downs and touchdowns) and 31 total touchdowns on offense in 2016.

"Passing camp" wouldn't have solved those problems.

# Trevor Siemian ready for 'clean slate' at Broncos training camp

By Andrew Mason  
DenverBroncos.com  
July 15, 2017

Exactly one month ago, Trevor Siemian and the Broncos were still knee-deep in minicamp. In the weeks that followed, Siemian squeezed in a vacation to Ireland as he and his teammates scattered around the nation and the globe.

"It always goes by quicker than you want it to," he said.

But now the clock ticks loudly.

Fewer than two weeks remain until Siemian and his teammates will step onto the UHealth Training Center fields under the watch of thousands of fans. Most of them will be focused squarely on Siemian and Paxton Lynch, who are expected to split first-team repetitions on a 50-50 basis until one of them emerges as a clear-cut No. 1 option.

It's a scenario Siemian knows well. A year ago, he split first-team snaps with Mark Sanchez. Siemian earned the starting nod before the third preseason game. Some of his teammates, including wide receivers Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders, have said they wouldn't mind this year's choice coming a bit sooner.

"I think it's probably a good thing that the receivers aren't coaching the team," Siemian said Friday morning as a smile crossed his face. "Coach [Vance] Joseph, he'll make the right call for the team, and he'll put us in a good spot to win games."

Siemian isn't focused on when the decision comes -- "for me, I want to be better than I was yesterday," he said.

To that end, his immediate focus is on getting some informal throwing sessions organized to take place sometime next week with other members of the Broncos' passing game.

"So the Los Angeles thing didn't happen," he said, "but, yeah, I think coming up this week we'll get guys together and throwing it a few times before camp, which will be good."

If they happen, they can help with some pre-camp fine-tuning and allow the players involved to have a better chance of beginning work at full speed on July 27.

@MaseDenver

Trevor Siemian says he hopes to get throwing sessions organized next week, before the team reports for training camp.

To be prepared for camp, Siemian worked out, but also emphasized maintaining mental sharpness by re-watching every OTA and minicamp session. Through the tablet playbooks issued to the team, each player has access to that practice video and can review it during their downtime to remain on point.

"I watched all the OTAs, all the reps," Siemian said. "It's a relatively new scheme for all of us, so we're still kind of ironing everything out. But I just went back through and watched everything. I watched how our defense is playing, too, because they've got some tweaks."

Siemian knows that if he wants to get the separation that Joseph says he wants to see at the quarterback position, he will have to find success against a pass defense that appears to be as dominant as it has been the last two seasons.

Every bit of film study of that defense to figure out the tweaks and wrinkles installed by new Defensive Coordinator Joe Woods helps -- especially when he knows he must prove his worthiness of a starting role all over again.

"It's a clean slate for all of us," he said. "That's how I'm approaching it."

@Broncos

.@TrevorSiemian's hosting a SURPRISE shopping spree for 15 local kids from the Jeffco Midget Football Association.#BeAChampion

# Fifteen players to watch at Broncos training camp -- 13. Jeff Heurman

By Andrew Mason  
DenverBroncos.com  
July 15, 2017

That appears to be true for tight end Jeff Heurman. But what this training camp also represents is the first time that the 2015 third-round pick has been at full strength heading into the start of the summer's work.

At this time two years ago, he was two months into his rehabilitation from the torn anterior cruciate ligament that ended his rookie season during the team's rookie minicamp. In 2016, he was preparing for training camp after struggling with nagging injuries that limited him to mental repetitions during most of that year's organized team activities.

This year, there were no such issues. He took part in every practice. He made a series of solid catches down the seam from Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch during the four weeks of on-field work against the No. 1 and No. 2 defenses.

Better health helped him. A different training regimen, tailored to his age and his recovery from injuries, also aided his cause.

"The way you train when you're 18, 19, 20 years old has got to change when you get to 24 or 25. I'm adjusting to that," he said last month. "Also, just knowing my body. I think after knee surgery like that, your body changes a little bit. You kind of just have to figure it out and get going from there."

Heurman appears on track to solving that riddle, which has bedeviled him in a star-crossed career. If he does that, then his success becomes a matter of putting all the pieces together on the field.

He should have plenty of opportunities. Offensive Coordinator Mike McCoy's scheme should see its quarterbacks deliver the ball more quickly, with a greater emphasis on short and inside targets.

That should generate more opportunities for the tight ends to have an impact as pass-catching targets than last year, when Broncos tight ends combined for 53 receptions. That was the second-lowest total in the league. It was also 24 catches below the league per-team average.

After two frustrating years, Heurman has a chance to change that.

"Having knee surgery your rookie year, then coming back last year and being banged up, obviously, there is a lot that I need to get out there and want to show," Heurman said.

"It's going to be a good year. This offense is fun. It allows guys to play football. I'm just excited about that."

# Donor Alliance's Donor Dash holds special meaning for Eric Studesville

By AricDiLalla  
DenverBroncos.com  
July 15, 2017

Early Sunday morning, thousands will walk and run around Washington Park as the 18th annual Donor Dash returns to Denver.

Assistant Head Coach and Running Backs Coach Eric Studesville will be among them.

He and his family will participate in the 5K for the second straight year to honor organ, eye and tissue donors and to celebrate the resulting recipients.

"It's a hard morning," Studesville said. "It's bittersweet. You hear tons of great stories, you meet fantastic people and you see all the good that is done through organ, eye [and] tissue donation. You know for me, personally, it's hard because I spend my time thinking about my parents, particularly my mom, and what she did."

In 2013, Studesville's parents, Alfonso and Janet Studesville, were killed in a motorcycle accident when an 18-wheeler crossed into their lane on a Texas highway.

Just two years before the accident, his mother donated a kidney to Eric's father's best friend, Merritt Norvell.

In partnering with Donor Alliance, which sponsors the Donor Dash, Studesville found an outlet to help their memory live on.

"I wanted to do something to continue the legacy of giving and talk about how unselfish that was to do something for somebody else and potentially save a life, which she did," Studesville said.

The cause is both worthy and necessary. In Colorado alone, more than 2,500 people are waiting for a life-saving organ transplant.

When a donor is found, however, the results can be exceptional.

"It swells you with pride to know that the person that she donated her kidney to, Merritt Norvell, is doing well," Studesville said. "He and I are in contact with each other and talking on a regular basis. So she's still here, and she's a part of it. It's a great day too in that regard."

The event also gives Studesville and his family a chance to give back to the Denver community and connect with a number of families who find themselves in similar situations.

But as much the event does to raise money and awareness for the non-profit Donor Alliance, it also provides for Studesville to reflect.



“I think it’s a time to remember, as hard as that is,” Studesville said. “My mom and my father, certainly. I think it’s a time to appreciate that we all have a chance to make a difference.”

Those looking to participate in the 18th annual Donor Dash on July 16 at Washington Park in Denver may [click here](#) for more information

To register as an organ, eye and tissue donor in Colorado, [click here](#)

# Eli Manning, Frank Gore among 11 surprising NFL all-time career stat leaders

By Jim Reineking  
USA Today  
July 15, 2017

The 2017 NFL season is quickly approaching, and some players have a chance to move up some all-time statistical lists.

Here are some surprising all-time career statistical rankings for current players.

## **Eli Manning**

Stat: Eighth all time in passing yards (48,218)

Is Eli Manning elite? Well, according to this number, he is. Manning ranks right ahead of Fran Tarkenton, who held the all-time passing yardage record before the likes of Dan Marino, Brett Favre and Peyton Manning came along. Tarkenton isn't the only notable Pro Football Hall of Famer sitting behind Eli Manning in this category, as Dan Fouts, Joe Montana, Johnny Unitas, Jim Kelly, Steve Young and Terry Bradshaw sit further down the list. A standard passing season in 2017 for Manning -- which has been in the neighborhood of 3,700 yards -- would vault him into sixth all time, ahead of John Elway and behind Dan Marino. Let that scenario sink in for a moment.

## **Frank Gore**

Stat: Eighth all time in rushing yards (13,065)

Gore enters the 2017 season within striking distance of becoming No. 5 all-time leading rusher (LaDainian Tomlinson currently sits in the fifth spot with 13,684 yards). The Colts running back already sits ahead of some marquee names: Tony Dorsett, Jim Brown, Marshall Faulk, Franco Harris, Thurman Thomas, O.J. Simpson, Earl Campbell and Jim Taylor.

## **Matt Forte**

Stat: Tied for second all time in two-point conversions (six)

With one more successful two-point try, Forte will tie Marshall Faulk to be the NFL's all-time leader in that category. Of course, this all-time leader list is a bit skewed since two-point tries weren't allowed in the NFL until 1994 (though, the AFL allowed two-point conversions before the merger, and the Boston/New England Patriots' Gino Cappelletti had the most with four).

## **Le'Veon Bell**

Stat: Eighth all time in rushing yards per game (86.1)

Bell averages more rushing yards a game than Pro Football Hall of Famers Curtis Martin (83.9), O.J. Simpson (83.2), Earl Campbell (81.8) Emmitt Smith (81.2) and LaDainian Tomlinson (80.5). The most surprising name mentioned there might be Smith, who is the NFL's all-time leading rusher. Of course, it's important to remember that Bell -- still just 25 years old -- is in the prime of his career and the yards-per-game averages of the aforementioned players took a dip late in their careers. Adrian Peterson, meanwhile, ranks fourth at 95.5 yards per game.

### **Darren Sproles**

Stat: Eighth all time in all-purpose yards (19,011)

Currently sitting 4,535 yards behind the all-time leader, Jerry Rice (23,546 yards; 22,895 of which came via the forward pass), Sproles' yardage portfolio is a bit more diverse, with 3,305 yards rushing, 4,583 yards receiving, 2,782 yards on punt returns and 8,350 yards on kickoff returns. However, to catch Rice, Sproles will need to continue on his career average of 1,700-plus yards a season for three more years. But the 34-year-old Sproles has already played 11 seasons in the NFL.

### **Tom Brady**

Stat: 11th all time in fumbles (107)

Brady has accumulated some huge numbers, even in less desirable categories. He'll never catch the all-time leader (Brett Favre with 166 fumbles), but with those 107 fumbles over 16 seasons, Brady's per-season average would suggest he can move past Dan Marino (110) for eighth all time in fumbles this season. Hot on Brady's tail in this category is Eli Manning, who ranks 15th all time with 104 fumbles. It's a good guess Manning, 36, will ultimately pass Brady, who turns 40 in August, in this category.

### **Brady (again)**

Stat: 57th all time in interceptions (152)

This is impressive given how long Brady has played (though, not nearly as impressive as the run Aaron Rodgers currently is on). Brady's 184 interceptions behind the all-time leader, Brett Favre. And Eli Manning factors in here, too, since he's already at 21st all time with 215 career picks. Manning has led the league in interceptions three times in his career, and he averages 16 interceptions a season in his career. He had 16 interceptions in 2016, and another 16 in 2017 would vault Manning into the 15th spot all time. Manning's a good bet to hit the top 10 by the time he's done chucking the pigskin around.

### **Carson Palmer**

Stat: 13th all time in completions (3,777)

Palmer has more career pass completions than Joe Montana, Dan Fouts and Jim Kelly. Need more proof that the NFL is a passing league more than ever? Palmer has more career pass completions than the combined totals of Bart Starr and Roger Staubach.

## **Drew Brees**

Stat: Fourth all time in pick-sixes (26)

Brees might be hard-pressed to catch the all-time leader, Brett Favre (31), but has a shot at the No. 2 spot, which is held by Dan Marino (28). Eli Manning, meanwhile, is No. 7 all time with 21. Funny thing here: Philip Rivers -- who has 59 fewer career interceptions than Manning -- has thrown one more pick-six.

## **Aqib Talib**

Stat: Tied for fourth all time in pick-sixes (9)

Talib is tied with Pro Football Hall of Famers Ken Houston, Aeneas Williams and Deion Sanders. Rod Woodson is the all-time leader with 12 interceptions returned for touchdowns. Charles Woodson has 11 pick sixes, and he played his final four seasons sitting one behind the record. That's tough luck for Charles.

## **Adam Vinatieri**

Stat: Third all time in field goals made (530)

Vinatieri likely has to keep on kicking beyond the 2017 season in order to catch the all-time leader, Morten Andersen (565). Gary Anderson sits at No. 2 on the all-time list with 538, and Vinatieri should have no problem catching him this upcoming season.

# Elway and Marino Could Have Been Baseball Royalty

By Stephanie Apstein

MMQB

July 15, 2017

Welcome to Baseball Week. As training camp approaches and baseball takes a break for its mid-summer classic, The MMQB presents a week of stories on the crossover between hardball and football.

Their baseball careers are mere footnotes in their illustrious careers, but in the run-up to the 1979 MLB draft, scouts and coaches thought Dan Marino (fourth round) and John Elway (19th) had a chance to make it in the big leagues. Here's an oral history according to those who tried to turn these quarterbacks into baseball players.

**GEORGE BRETT, Royals third baseman:** The Royals draft athletes. You want a guy who played two sports. In high school if you're an athlete, the basketball coach wants you to play, the football coach wants you to play—everybody wants you to play.

**JOHN SCHUERHOLZ, Royals GM:** Back in the day, great athletes were still multisport athletes. I had been involved with the [1971] drafting of Archie Manning, who was a very fine baseball player, and of course Bo Jackson [in '86]. Bo was an outstanding player and would've been a star if he'd stayed with it.

**ART STEWART, Royals scout:** We'd have a pretty good football team if we'd signed all those guys. Bo Jackson, Dan Marino, John Elway, Deion Sanders.

**SCHUERHOLZ, Royals GM:** We knew the chances were probably slim. If you just evaluated the amount of national attention they received in one or the other sport, it was easy to recognize their athletic persona was most wrapped up in a football uniform, but we thought we'd try.

**STEWART, Royals scout:** With Elway we just took a chance. We knew his father didn't want him to sign coming out of high school, but we thought we might change his mind. We liked his overall ability. He was a shortstop, but we thought he was going to be more conducive to playing third. We liked his bat, he had a strong arm, he had good hands—he was a definite prospect.

**SCHUERHOLZ, Royals GM:** It wasn't, *Let's get some attention around us by drafting a football player we don't think we have a snowball's chance in Hades to sign. It was, If we can sign this guy, does he have a chance to be a legit major league player?*

**DARRYL STROH, Elway's high school baseball coach:** [Elway] transferred in as a 10th grader. In baseball he started out on the jayvee, because we had a pretty good team coming back. The jayvee baseball coach was the head football coach and partway through the season he told me, You gotta bring this guy up. We brought him up and he started. He hit in the middle of the lineup, and he hit over .500 as a junior and a senior. In those two years he only failed to hit in two ballgames or something. It was ridiculous.

[Elway's] senior year we weren't as good as we had been, and John is having to do his share of pitching. He wasn't a polished pitcher because he spent so much time on football and he didn't develop breaking pitches because his dad didn't want him throwing them, so we had problems developing him. Midway

through the season he's pitching and he hits a couple guys, throws balls over batters' heads, walks three or four, so I went out and took the ball and said, Go to third. You're not pitching anymore. We finish the season and end up in Dodger Stadium playing Darryl Strawberry's high school team. We've got a guy pitching who gets through about the third inning and he looks real shaky. I'm on my way to the mound to make a change and I think, This is a tough spot. I just had this urge to go with the toughest guy I know. I looked over at third. He hasn't been on a mound for four to six weeks. Anyway, he two-hit them for the next four or five innings. That's the kind of guy he was. He's the toughest guy I know. He's always been able to battle. He was different.

**STEWART, Royals scout:** Elway had the potential to play in the big leagues. I think if he'd signed out of high school he'd have made it. There's nothing wrong with a boy going to college instead of playing pro ball. It depends on the boy, but if he's physically and mentally ready for pro ball at that young age, the advantage is that he would be facing good pitching every day. If he goes to college, he might see one good pitcher every few weeks. The repetition of that over three years increases the odds of a player being able to get to the big leagues, because he's facing better competition. His skills will develop if he has the ability.

**MARK MARQUESS, Elway's college baseball coach:** That was not going to happen. In his mind and his dad's mind there was no question he wanted to be an NFLQB. It might have been different if he'd been a wide receiver or a running back and they'd offered him a lot of money out of high school. I didn't even pay attention to the draft. Normally I'm all over that, because if you have a first-round pick you may not get the kid, but in John's case I didn't follow it at all. I don't think anyone thought he would sign a pro contract out of high school. There was no question, even in high school, that he was going to be an NFL player.

**STROH, Elway's high school baseball coach:** My understanding is John went to Stanford because they would allow him to play both sports. That was important to him. If he'd had his choice he would've liked to play basketball too.

**MARQUESS, Elway's college baseball coach:** My concern was, *Was he serious about doing the baseball?* I knew he was when he was disappointed he only hit .280 his freshman year. He'd scrimmage with us for two hours at 10 a.m. on a Saturday and play a spring game with the football team at 1 p.m.

**BRETT, Royals third baseman:** [Shortly after the Royals drafted him], they brought John Elway out in Anaheim and they put him in a group with me, Clint Hurdle and Jamie Quirk. We were taking ground balls at third base before a game against the Angels—they just gave him a uniform and said, Come on—and we all knew he had a great arm, and he had pretty good power, and we're going, Holy shit, this guy's better than we are! So we were happy that he chose football over baseball.

**SCHUERHOLZ, Royals GM:** George was a kidder, but he's also a very astute evaluator of baseball skills. It might have been a nice line for the media, but I know he believed it.

\* \* \*

**JOE EMANUELE, Marino's high school baseball coach:** One time [Marino] was pitching his senior year and in the first inning they load the bases. I call timeout and go out to the mound and look at him—I'm 5'6", 5'7", and he's much bigger than I am—I look up at him and I say, Danny, what are we gonna do? He says, I'm gonna manage this and you're gonna go sit down. I went and sat down and he got out of it. He always knew exactly what he wanted to do, and he did it.

**STEWART, Royals scout:** I think Marino's ceiling was higher than Elway's. Elway would have been a solid major league player if he'd signed out of high school. Marino was farther along. He had a chance of being an All-Star.

**EMANUELE, Marino's high school baseball coach:** He was going to be a Hall of Famer in one of the three: basketball, baseball or football. He chose football.

He was a much better baseball player than football player. He didn't play at all on the varsity football team until his junior year. Meanwhile he walked right into Central and played baseball right away. When he was a freshman, he was already better than all the juniors and seniors we had. He had to work at being a football player. He didn't have to work at baseball. It came naturally.

**STEWART, Royals scout:** Marino had a cannon for an arm, one of the best arms I've ever seen.

**EMANUELE, Marino's high school baseball coach:** He was the No. 1 shortstop and as a pitcher he went 22-0 in high school. He never got beat and he never missed a game.

**STEWART, Royals scout:** Marino wanted to play baseball. He told our scout he'd sign if we let him play football at Pitt. We were all set to sign him, but he informed the school and the officials told him, No, if you sign you can't play. In those days there was a rule in the Big 10 that stated that a player could sign a pro baseball contract and play college football. That's what Kirk Gibson did his last year. So in the case of Marino—and nobody realized this, even he didn't—the Big East had a clause that a player could not sign a pro contract in any other sport and play football at the same time. We just took it for granted that he was going to play both. We were upset. We felt bad. He was a great baseball talent. We felt that he was going to be a good big leaguer. Nobody will ever know.

**SCHUERHOLZ, Royals GM:** I had a number of conversations with Marino's dad. He was quite open-minded. Dan really loved baseball, but these were the days when if you signed any contract you were disqualified from playing all college sports [in the Big East]. So to balance that I began talking to Mr. Marino about how we would be willing to pay 100% of his cost of education because he would have to forgo college football. At the end he finally said to me, We appreciate your efforts, but the right decision is for Dan to go to Pitt to play football.

**EMANUELE, Marino's high school baseball coach:** He was 17 years old. There were no assurances that he'd be able to go play Major League Baseball without going through the minors, whereas with football, he could stay home for four years. If the Royals had taken him in the first round he would have gone.

\* \* \*

*Marino went to Pitt, where he played exclusively football. The Panthers went 40–6 in his tenure, and the Dolphins selected him with the 27th pick in the 1983 NFL draft. He won the 1984 MVP award and was a nine-time Pro Bowler.*

*Elway went to Stanford, where he played both sports. He finished second in the 1982 Heisman Trophy voting and went first in the '83 NFL draft, to the Baltimore Colts. He eventually won an MVP and two Super Bowls for the Broncos before becoming their GM and winning another. He gave pro baseball another shot, signing after his sophomore year with the Yankees and making it as far as Low-A Oneonta as an outfielder.*

**SCHUERHOLZ, Royals GM:** The Yankees probably had the comfort of knowing they had a lot of money to persuade the player. The economics in our game for most organizations were such that it would not be reasonable to gamble a financial buyout to convince somebody to make a choice of our sport versus another sport. And time is precious. There's no sense dancing around the maypole.

**MARQUESS, Elway's college baseball coach:** [Elway] was Tim Tebow but a lot better baseball player. He had the greatest arm I ever saw as a baseball player. In pro baseball you're just drafting him based on the tools.

**STEWART, Royals scout:** It gets harder as they get older. I can't tell you if Tim Tebow can make it or not, but the odds are tough at the age of 27. If Tebow makes it, it'll be unprecedented in the history of baseball. Michael Jordan was a good-looking major league prospect in high school. You know the story there: He didn't get above Class AA. The biggest reason it's tougher for a good athlete to make it at that age is the hitting aspect. The reactions you have as a young man aren't quite there as you get older.

**EMANUELE, Marino's high school baseball coach:** I joined the Royals in 1981 [as a scout]. I was hoping [Marino] would sign a baseball contract after his junior year of college, but by then he was so far gone as a football player.

**STEWART, Royals scout:** We followed them both through college. We couldn't forecast how the NFL draft would turn out, so we still kept an eye on them. You have feelings like, Ah, they could've been with us in the big leagues! But then by the same token, we were happy to see the success that they had. And it just told us all the more that we were right on the money on these boys' makeup and ability to be successful.

**SCHUERHOLZ, Royals GM:** We used to have scouts go to their football games, to their basketball games. You can never have too much information when you're trying to determine the elusive quantification of competitiveness, of will to win, of leadership. Those are all qualities that join with physical skills to make unique, world-championship caliber athletes. We knew who had star capability. As it turned out, we were right.



# Trevor Siemian trying to keep same mentality as last summer

By Josh Alper  
Pro Football Talk  
July 15, 2017

Coach Vance Joseph made it clear at the end of the team's offseason program that no "true evaluation" of Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch would begin until the team was at training camp, but that hasn't halted chatter about the team's quarterbacks.

We've heard from inside and outside the team about Lynch's improvement and we've heard wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders say that he'd like a quick call so that the first team can build chemistry with the starting quarterback. Siemian said Friday that it has been "relatively easy" to ignore such talk and focus on his play, which is something he said he did last summer when he wound up beating out Mark Sanchez for the starting job over the summer.

"That was really the first time I got a good bit of reps so that was important for me and I wasn't getting too far ahead of myself and I'm still trying to keep that same mentality," Siemian said, via the Denver Post. "It's not up to me. For me, just staying with that same mentality — I want to be better than I was yesterday — I think that will help me out."

A plan to hold workouts with both quarterbacks and the team's receivers in Los Angeles ahead of camp fell through, but Siemian said that he hopes to hold some informal sessions at a Denver-area high school in the coming days as part of his effort to go 2-for-2 in quarterback competitions.