

# Cody Latimer pepper-sprayed during February incident at Ohio strip club; says “situation is in the past”

By Nicki Jhabvala

Denver Post

July 17, 2017

Broncos wide receiver Cody Latimer was pepper-sprayed by a bouncer after a scuffle outside an Ohio strip club in February, according to video published by TMZ on Sunday.

According to TMZ, Latimer was attempting to enter Diamonds Cabaret near Dayton, Ohio, with his uncle and friend but got into a disagreement with the bouncer over the club’s dress code.

The argument moved outside, as seen in the video, after Latimer’s group asked to speak to the club’s manager.

The footage shows Latimer slapping the bouncer before getting pepper-sprayed, and then Latimer’s uncle getting knocked out.

TMZ reported that Latimer, his uncle and friend left immediately. Latimer wasn’t arrested or charged.

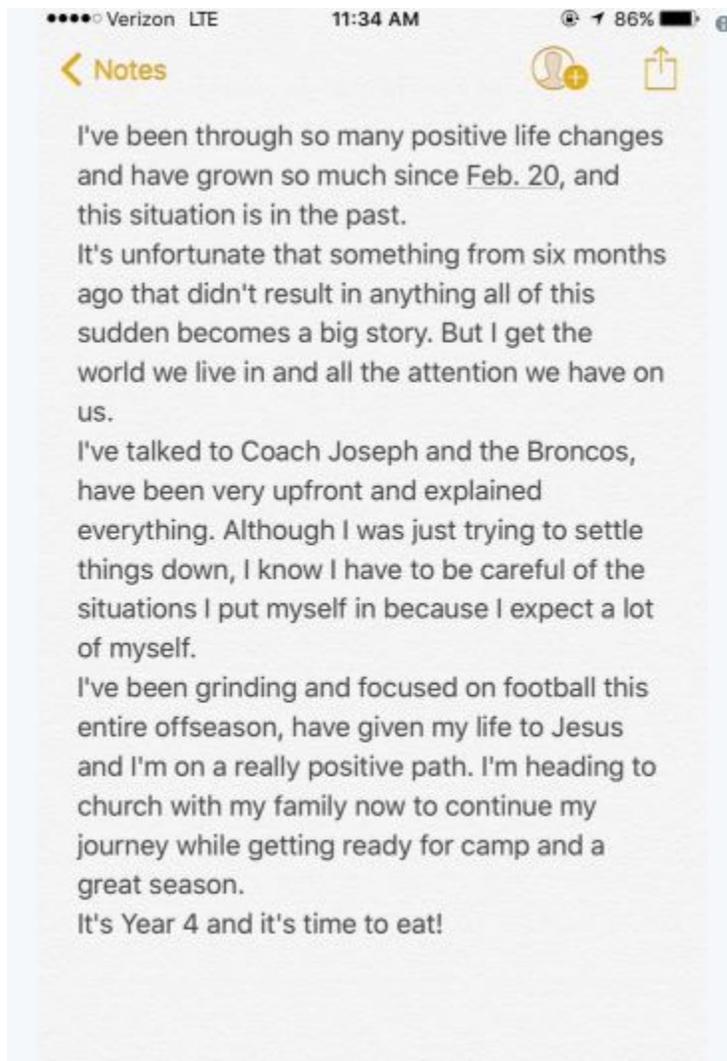
“We are aware of the matter from several months ago involving Cody Latimer and it has been discussed with him,” the Broncos said in a statement.

It’s unclear when the Broncos found out about the incident, but they informed the NFL, which told The Denver Post that it is aware of the matter but declined to comment. The league is expected to review Latimer’s case for a possible violation of its personal-conduct policy.

In a Twitter message posted Sunday afternoon, Latimer said he has “grown so much since Feb. 20” and that “this situation is in the past.”

“It’s unfortunate that something from six months ago that didn’t result in anything all of (a) sudden becomes a big story. But I get the world we live in and all the attention we have on us,” said Latimer, who is entering the final season of his rookie contract. “I’ve talked to Coach (Vance) Joseph and the Broncos, have been very upfront and explained everything. Although I was just trying to settle things down, I know I have to be careful of the situations I put myself in because I expect a lot of myself.

“I’ve been grinding and focused on football this entire offseason, have given my life to Jesus and I’m on a really positive path. I’m heading to church with my family now to continue my journey while getting ready for camp and a great season.”



**@CodyLatimer14**

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# Broncos Cody Latimer responds to video showing strip club scuffle

By Mike Klis

9 News

July 17, 2017

Broncos receiver Cody Latimer said he was merely trying to play peacekeeper during a disagreement between his uncle and a Dayton, Ohio strip club bouncer back on Feb. 20.

The situation escalated into a brawl with Latimer getting sprayed and the uncle getting decked.

In a TMZ video released Sunday morning, Latimer is seen extending his arm and placing his left hand on the bouncer's right shoulder. Latimer's hand irritated the bouncer, who knocked it away. Latimer continued to put his hand on the bouncer's shoulder and the bouncer continued to knock it away – until Latimer became irritated and slapped the bouncer in the face.

The bouncer then threw a punch at Latimer but missed. The bouncer took out an item and sprayed Latimer in the face with a substance. TMZ reported it as pepper spray. Latimer said it was mace.

Latimer's uncle then stepped in and after a couple wild punches were thrown by both the uncle and the bouncer, one punch by the bouncer knocked the uncle down.

TMZ said the incident occurred outside the Diamond Cabaret strip club in Ohio and that the argument stemmed from Latimer's party not following the club's dress code.

"It was initially a disagreement (between my uncle and the bouncer) and I was trying to break it up," Latimer told 9NEWS on Sunday morning. "It happened six months ago. It was February 20. It had nothing to do with a dress code. There's not much to say about it. There weren't any cops called. I didn't want trouble so we got out. That's it. It happened six months ago."

Given more time to reflect, Latimer took to social media with a lengthier and more detailed statement.

Latimer was the Broncos' second-round draft pick in 2014. Although he has been a standout "gunner" on special teams, Latimer has just 16 catches for 158 yards with one touchdown catch in three seasons.

He will compete for the Broncos' No. 3 receiver position when training camp opens July 27.

The Broncos said in a statement: "We are aware of the matter from several months ago involving Cody Latimer, and it has been discussed with him."

# How Terrell Davis chose his agent Neil Schwartz to become his HOF presenter

By Mike Klis

9 News

July 17, 2017

It was 5 a.m. in a New Jersey diner when an unsure running back prospect out of Georgia secured his presenter for the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Terrell Davis didn't know if he would make it in the NFL, and the Hall of Fame had never been a thought until this guy he barely knew brought it up. But in the wee hours of a December morning in 1994, Neil Schwartz became the man who would 23 years later assume the task of formally introducing Davis to the elite NFL club in Canton, Ohio.

"Well, there's a story behind it before I was even drafted," Davis said Friday from Lake Tahoe, Nevada, as he just finished his first round of 79 at the American Century Championship celebrity golf tournament. "It was actually before I signed with him."

Davis' decision to have his agent present him with a 4-minute pre-taped introduction is uncommon, if not unprecedented. Schwartz is the fifth agent to receive the honor of Hall of Fame presenter, following Rod Arceneaux (Marshall Faulk); Leigh Steinberg (Warren Moon); Eugene Parker (Deion Sanders); and the late Robert Fraley, who was represented by his wife Dixie at Cortez Kennedy's induction ceremony.

"Three years ago, when he finally got into the (voting) room (as a Hall of Fame finalist), he called me and says, 'You know if I get selected, you're presenting me,'" Schwartz said. "In my mind, I was like, 'Wow, you remembered.' I told my wife, TD remembered that moment in the diner 20, 21 years ago.

"The fact he remembered and had given me the honor, emotionally, words can't describe it. At the same time, I could understand if he wanted to give it to his mom, coach Shanahan, or (running backs coach) Bobby Turner, (Pop Warner mentor) Frank White, John Elway. I could understand."

Davis had just come off a disappointing, injury-plagued senior season at Georgia. Hampered by a chronic hamstring pull that turned out to be a tear, Davis rushed for just 445 yards (albeit for 4.6 yards per carry) as the Bulldogs went 6-4-1 that was not good enough for a bowl game.

His strange, meandering college career had ended and Davis' search for an NFL agent had brought him to Schwartz in New York City. Schwartz's recruiting pitch began with a tour of Manhattan. The Empire State Building. Times Square. Central Park. Rockefeller Center.

It was 10 p.m. when Schwartz drove Davis out of the city, across the Hudson River on the George Washington Bridge, to a diner in Fort Lee, New Jersey. Schwartz and his family lived in Fort Lee. The place was called the Plaza Diner.

"We talked for hours," Davis said.

Talked about football, life, current events. After just spending an afternoon and evening together touring New York City, Schwartz and Davis spent another six or seven hours together at the diner.

“Here’s the way I looked at life: You can’t be great one day and bad the next,” Schwartz said. “Here’s the guy who was the heir apparent to Herschel Walker and Garrison Hearst at Georgia. Before his senior season began, I was told by two (NFL) general managers that he had a first-round grade. So there had to be a narrative as to why he was great yesterday and supposedly not great today.”

The hamstring was an issue. And NFL coaches and executives were wondering about Davis’ passion for football. Somebody at Georgia must have expressed concern.

Davis is an introspective sort. An intelligent thinker. Football coaches may never admit it, but they don’t really like players who analyze. Trevor Pryce was like that. Broncos coaches were always questioning his commitment. The defensive tackle wound up having a 14-year NFL career.

“You spend the amount time with a person as we did that day and your instincts kick in,” Schwartz said of his day-into-morning meeting with Davis. “And you know that was the furthest thing from the truth.”

Finally, it was time to get some sleep.

“When we were leaving, he stopped me and said, ‘Hey, I want you to promise me one thing, when you make it to the Hall of Fame, you promise me I can be your presenter,’” Davis said. “And that stuck with me that whole time. And so, when it happened, just automatically I said Neil is going to be my presenter. And he and I, we have a story, a relationship, and he’s been there for me as a friend, not only an agent. So, it was a perfect for me to have Neil be my presenter.”

Here’s the kicker: After all that time in Manhattan and the New Jersey diner, Davis didn’t pick Schwartz to be his agent. Not at first, he didn’t. Davis fell to the sixth round of the 1995 NFL Draft before the Broncos made a typical, late-round flyer on a prospect who had talent but red flags.

Another agent negotiated Davis’ first contract, a three-year deal that paid him a \$38,000 signing bonus and a rookie salary of \$119,000.

It was before that fabled 1995 preseason trip to Tokyo, and Davis’ blast of San Francisco returner Tyrone Drakeford, that Schwartz was asked “if he wanted to get married?”

Schwartz had himself a new client. A couple days before the American Bowl in Tokyo, Davis thought about quitting. A couple days after the preseason game, Davis was the Broncos’ starting running back. He rushed for 1,117 yards as a rookie.

After which, Schwartz got the Broncos to rip up Davis’ rookie deal and the team’s ever generous owner Pat Bowlen and coach Mike Shanahan agreed to a new five-year, \$6.8 million contract that included a \$1 million signing bonus in 1996.

After Davis compiled two more seasons of 1,538 and 1,750 yards, 28 combined touchdowns, and the Super Bowl XXXII MVP award, Schwartz and the Broncos’ team of Bowlen-Shanahan reworked his contract again, this time winding up with a historic 9-year contract that included an \$11 million signing bonus with a total value of \$51.9 million.

But after 2,008 yards and another Super Bowl ring in 1998, Davis' sensational ride came to a sudden halt with a devastating knee injury early in the 1999 season. He was never the same, and it was during this difficult time that Schwartz became more friend than agent to Davis.

For the Sept. 10, 2001 opener of the Broncos' new stadium, Schwartz was Davis' house guest. After the Broncos' defeated the New York Giants, Schwartz and Davis watched together the next morning as America was under attack. Schwartz grew up in New York City and one of his good friends was a fireman who lost his life while trying to rescue people from the Towers.

Schwartz and no one else was able to travel for a week. He stayed with Davis as Schwartz' family was home outside New York City.

"It was a role reversal," Schwartz said. "This time it was his shoulder getting leaned on."

Besides Davis, Schwartz has represented the likes of Darrelle Revis, Roddy White and former Widefield High School and University of Northern Colorado star Vincent Jackson. He is still representing Janoris Jenkins, Logan Ryan, Tom Savage, Larry Warford III and Alex Boone, among others.

Schwartz now lives in Florida and on Friday, NFL Films came down to tape his presentation. It will be shown before Davis steps up to deliver his speech at the Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton on Saturday, Aug. 5 – less than three weeks from now.

It was a moment scheduled nearly 23 years earlier, at 5 in the morning at a New Jersey diner.

"We talked about everything and anything under the sun," Schwartz said. "I looked at him at the end, and I just said to him, when you go to the Hall of Fame, I would love to present you.

"I had never asked a player before that and never asked a player subsequent to that. We just hit it off so well."

# Video shows Cody Latimer pepper-sprayed; Broncos have talked to WR

By Staff

ESPN

July 17, 2017

Denver Broncos wide receiver Cody Latimer was pepper-sprayed by a bouncer during an altercation outside an Ohio strip club in February, according to video obtained by TMZ Sports.

Dayton, Ohio, police were not called, and no charges were filed, according to the report.

Latimer acknowledged the incident in a statement made to KUSA-TV in Denver but denied the dispute was over the club's dress code as TMZ reported.

"It was initially a disagreement (between my uncle and the bouncer) and I was trying to break it up," he told KUSA-TV. "It happened six months ago. It was February 20. It had nothing to do with a dress code. There's not much to say about it. There weren't any cops called. I didn't want trouble so we got out. That's it. It happened six months ago."

He tweeted a response later Sunday in which he said he has "been through so many positive life changes and have grown so much since Feb. 20, and this situation is in the past."

The Broncos and the NFL have now learned of the incident.

"We are aware of the matter from several months ago involving Cody Latimer, and has been discussed with him," the Broncos said, according to the Denver Post.

The newspaper also reported that the league is aware of the situation but had no comment.

Latimer, 24, has 16 catches for 158 yards in three seasons with Denver.

# Locker room expects Siemian or Lynch to lead Broncos into playoffs

By Jeff Legwold

ESPN

July 17, 2017

The Denver Broncos will have their first full training camp practice of the new season in 10 days.

So consider the countdown officially on for the new season. Here are 10 things to know on the doorstep of training camp:

- Trevor Siemian or Paxton Lynch will win the starting quarterback job not with the occasional big throw that brings the crowd alive, but by limiting red-zone mistakes, showing an understanding of the entire offense and not just the parts they like, and exhibiting the follow-me presence of a guy who can make the right throws at the right time to the right receiver. The bottom line is that the rest of the locker room believes this team is a playoff contender and is waiting to see the quarterback willing to do the work to make it happen.
- Running back Devontae Booker showed the coaches enough good things in the offseason program that he's expected to get some snaps with the starting offense in the camp's early going to see if he can really push for the No. 1 job.
- Overall, the Broncos' division of labor at running back will bear watching all through the preseason. C.J. Anderson, Booker and Jamaal Charles each warrants significant looks in the offense. And rookie De'Angelo Henderson is really their best big-play speed option. It means there is a scenario in which the Broncos, if Charles' knees hold up in camp and the preseason, feel compelled to keep four running backs to go with fullback Andy Janovich. That's because Janovich is one of the team's best special-teams players and he might be one of the two best pass-catchers at the position.
- That crowd at running back is an issue because the Broncos also have a crowd at wide receiver and tight end. Those are the three most competitive spots on the roster, and the potential exists for a familiar name or two to get squeezed out. The Broncos have largely stuck to 25 players on offense in the cut to 53 in John Elway's tenure as chief football decision-maker, and that would mean it is an extremely tight fit at the skill positions this time around.
- The return game could well decide things at receiver, as rookies Carlos Henderson and Isaiah McKenzie — the third- and fifth-round picks, respectively -- are in line to return kickoffs (Henderson) and punts (McKenzie). Henderson could push for the No. 3 receiver job as well, and the Broncos like McKenzie's versatility, including the potential to carry the ball out of the backfield. Both rookies must show they can handle what's needed on offense, however, to end up where they'd like to be.
- The rookie who exited the offseason program poised to move into the starting lineup was left tackle Garrett Bolles. He steadily moved up the depth chart in the spring and figures to get plenty of work with the starters. He took far too many post-play penalties in college. The Broncos used a first-round pick on him because they like his edge, and he'll be in the lineup in the season opener as long as he understands that NFL defensive linemen routinely will try to bait him.

- Offensive line coach Jeff Davidson has the biggest to-do list of any of the team's assistant coaches. The Broncos had the season-wrecking double-dip of poor technique and lack of power at the point of attack up front in 2016. Davidson's group, with some new faces -- Bolles, Ronald Leary and Menelik Watson -- will need to show plenty of improvement if the Broncos are to get back in the postseason conversation.
- The player who folks might not see a lot of this summer -- but who could have a far bigger role by the second half of the season -- is rookie tight end Jake Butt. When the Broncos adjourned their offseason program, the expectation was that Butt would open training camp on the physically unable to perform list because of the knee injury he suffered in Michigan's bowl game. However, if his rehab continues to go as the Broncos hope, Butt could carve out a significant role in the offense by November.
- Make no mistake, the Broncos are still a defensive-driven operation. But to be all they can be, the revamped defensive line has to be up to the challenge. It's not quite as effective to have the league's best secondary and the league's best pass-rusher if opponents don't feel all that compelled to throw the ball in the tightest situations.
- Von Miller is annually in the discussion for Defensive Player of the Year, but opponents held Miller without a sack in the last four games in 2016 because the Broncos couldn't defend the run well enough to get into premium pass-rush situations or create enough problems in other parts of the formation to set Miller free. Their work in camp and the preseason will give some indication whether they've repaired those things. Because no matter what other questions the Broncos have this season, Miller has to be at his elite best for them to have a chance to chase a trophy.

# Bob Wolff, versatile and longtime sportscaster, dies at 96

By Staff

Associated Press

July 17, 2017

Bob Wolff, the only sportscaster to call play-by-play of championships in all four major North American professional team sports, has died. He was 96.

Son Rick Wolff said his father died peacefully Saturday night at his Nyack home.

Wolff broadcast the NFL's championship game, World Series, NBA Finals and Stanley Cup Finals. He interviewed Babe Ruth, was the voice of the Washington Senators, and for decades did play-by-play for the New York Knicks and New York Rangers.

"Bob Wolff's iconic, Hall-of-Fame broadcasting career was matched by his class and character," the Yankees said in a team statement. "Beyond his lifetime of professional accomplishments, he was a man of great grace and dignity, serving his country with honor, and proudly calling New York home. Bob was a dear friend of the Yankees organization and he will be deeply missed."

Wolff was cited by the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest consecutive run as a broadcaster at 78 years, dating to 1939 on WDNC Radio when he was a student at Duke University. This year, he did sports commentary on News 12 Long Island and hosted the Con Edison Scholastic Sports Award program on WHUD Radio in Westchester.

Wolff called the only perfect game in World Series history when the Yankees' Don Larsen accomplished the feat against Brooklyn in 1956, and was behind the mic for Baltimore Colts' overtime victory over the New York Giants in the 1958 NFL title game. He did television play-by-play for the New York Knicks' two championships.

"Bob Wolff was not only one of the seminal figures in American sportscasting, but he was a part of the very fabric of Madison Square Garden, the New York Knicks and the New York Rangers for more than six decades," Madison Square Garden and MSG Networks said in a statement. "In addition to leaving behind an unmatched body of work, his spirit carries on in hundreds of broadcasters he mentored and the millions of fans he touched. His legacy will live forever."

Wolff is enshrined in the broadcast wing of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, the National Sportscasters-Sportswriters Hall of Fame, the Madison Square Garden Walk of Fame, and in July 2008 was voted into the National Basketball Hall of Fame with the Curt Gowdy Award, joining Gowdy as the only two sportscasters to be in both the basketball and the baseball halls.

Wolff served in the U.S. Navy as a supply officer in the Pacific during World War II.

He is survived by Jane Wolff, his wife of 72 years, sons Dr. Robert Wolff and Rick Wolff, daughter Margy Clark, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

# Broncos' Latimer responds after TMZ video shows him getting pepper-sprayed outside strip club

By Oscar Contreras

KMGH

July 17, 2017

Denver Broncos wide receiver Cody Latimer is breaking his silence after a video released by TMZ Sports Sunday shows the football player getting pepper-sprayed outside a strip club in Ohio.

"I've been through so many positive life changes and have grown so much since Feb. 20, and this situation is in the past," Latimer said on Twitter. "It's unfortunate that something from six months ago that didn't result in anything all of this sudden becomes a big story."

The video obtained by TMZ Sports purportedly shows Latimer outside the Diamonds Cabaret strip club near Dayton, Ohio, with his arms out standing in between his uncle and friend and the bouncer of the strip club.

Security footage of the incident shows Latimer putting his left hand on the bouncer's shoulder a couple of times before slapping the bouncer in the face, at which point Latimer's uncle is seen lunging toward the bouncer before he's knocked out.

TMZ Sports reports the heated argument started over the dress code policy at the strip club.

"I've talked to Coach Joseph and the Broncos, have been very upfront and explained everything," Latimer said Sunday. "Although I was just trying to settle things down, I know I have to be careful of the situations I put myself in because I expect a lot of myself."

Latimer also said his focus right now is football and that he is getting ready for camp and a great season in the field.

The Broncos released their own statement, saying they had discussed the matter with Latimer:

"We are aware of the matter from several months ago involving Cody Latimer and it has been discussed with him."

# Sacco Sez: The stories of Babe Parilli

By Jim Saccomano  
DenverBroncos.com  
July 17, 2017

The Denver Broncos lost one of our former coaches when Babe Parilli passed away on Saturday morning.

Andrew Mason wrote a wonderful tribute piece on Babe that appears on our web site, but I have a few thoughts that I thought I might share with our readers.

Those who knew Babe just loved him, and I count myself among those numbers.

He was our quarterback coach when I joined the Broncos in 1978, and here are a few things that many might not know but that I find fascinating:

His given name was Vito, but he had one of the greatest nicknames ever, "The Sweet Kentucky Babe."

When he was at the University of Kentucky, he was like future SEC and Ole Miss quarterback Archie Manning in that he also played baseball in college. Babe was a terrific shortstop for the Kentucky Wildcats.

After his passing Saturday, he was covered with an American flag. Most were unaware of this, but Babe served in the United States Air Force as a lieutenant.

He had a free and easy attitude, but, typical of a lot of great quarterbacks, he was as competitive as you can imagine.

"He was SO competitive," says mutual friend Al King, a Broncos publicist for much of the team's first decade and one of Babe's closest buddies.

Al tells me he would play gin for hours, and then his competitive nature took over and he would not tolerate an interruption of any kind. If the game did not go well, they might not speak for months, even though they were the best of friends.

Babe claims never to have ever fumbled a snap from center, neither in college nor in his two-decade professional career.

When he was a head coach in the Arena Football League, the Los Angeles Rams suffered a season-ending injury to quarterback Trent Green in a preseason game. But Babe said, "I wouldn't worry too much about the Rams. They have a young guy that played against us for the Iowa Barnstormers. He can really throw the ball."

I thought, "Are you crazy? An Arena League guy starting at quarterback for the Rams?"

The quarterback was future Hall of Famer Kurt Warner, and Babe was right on in his assessment.

When the Oakland Raiders beat the San Diego Chargers by intentionally fumbling the ball forward back in 1978, I was watching with Babe in his hotel room during one of our road trips, and he said, "They will have to change the rule on this, and right away."

Sure enough, the following season the NFL said you could no longer fumble the ball forward for yardage.

He is the quarterback on the Boston (now New England) Patriots' all-decade team of the 1960's. Babe was perhaps as big in Boston as he was at Kentucky.

When he was the Patriots quarterback many of his touchdown passes were thrown to another legendary Italian-American player, wide receiver Gino Cappelletti, and I remember that announcers would often refer to the play as "grand opera."

He quarterbacked an all-time great Kentucky team to an 11-0 record in 1950, but until 1968 the AP poll — then the public standard for title claims — named its champion before the bowl games were played. Oklahoma was named national champion, but then Parilli and the Wildcats shocked the Sooners, 13-7 in the Sugar Bowl.

When the Jeff Sagarin computer system that now is in effect researched some past seasons, it concluded that Kentucky should have been the 1950 national champion. Now, the University of Kentucky has a 1950 national title trophy on display in its new football facility, after Sagarin's system named Kentucky the best team of 1950.

Kentucky has played in three major bowl games, making one appearance each in the Cotton, Sugar and Orange Bowls, and Parilli was the quarterback who led the Wildcats to each one.

He twice finished in the top four in the Heisman Trophy voting — Babe finished fourth in 1950 and third in 1951.

He was always proud of his relationship with legendary head coach Bear Bryant, but he had so many people to whom he was so close.

Babe was Hall of Famer Joe Namath's backup and held for Jim Turner (later a Denver Broncos Ring of Famer) when the New York Jets won the Super Bowl, and both men expressed sadness upon hearing of Babe's passing.

Turner played both with him as a teammate and had him as a coach in Denver and said, "Babe was a great character, player and coach, but above all he was a fine, fine man."

# Fifteen players to watch at Broncos training camp -- 11. C.J. Anderson

By Andrew Mason  
DenverBroncos.com  
July 17, 2017

The best sign for C.J. Anderson during OTAs and minicamp was that the fifth-year running back showed no signs of lingering discomfort from the torn meniscus that ended his 2016 season after just seven games.

His cuts were sharp. His reading of holes as they developed was quick. His burst to the outside brought back memories of his work in 2014, when he used the gaps created by a similar offensive scheme run by then-coordinator Adam Gase to explode for 1,057 yards from scrimmage in the final eight games of the regular season. Only two players had more yards than Anderson in that span, which propelled him to the Pro Bowl, even though he rarely touched the football before November 2014.

This is the Anderson that the Broncos want to see once again. This the Anderson that he believes you'll see -- especially with Mike McCoy guiding the offense and bringing back many concepts that Gase used.

"It's a lot of carry-over," Anderson said last month. "[McCoy] and Gase see things a little different. That's the only difference. He sees things one way, Gase sees things a different way."

Health is the biggest key, of course, and injuries have been a near-constant companion for Anderson since his breakthrough season. He slogged through an ankle injury early in 2015 and didn't find his form until the Week 7 bye that year allowed him a chance to rest.

To give himself a better chance at staying healthy and productive for the full season, Anderson began riding a bicycle often, taking up an activity favored by the only position coach he's ever known as a pro, Eric Studesville.

"I just think conditioning is a big part, which is why I got into cycling," Anderson said during OTAs. "I think endurance helps me a lot more, but as far as staying on the field for 16 games, I think I've been there.

"Now, being productive for 16 games is a different story -- and that's what I want to do this year. Not just stay on the field, and hey, No. 22 is on the field. I want to be productive while I'm on the field for those 16 games. That's the whole plan this year."

There is little question that the Broncos needed him in 2016, and the collapse of their ground game after his season-ending injury showed his importance.

With Anderson in the lineup, the Broncos ranked 18th in average per carry (4.11 yards) and 14th in first-down rate, moving the chains once every 4.22 attempts. Neither number was what they wanted, but these were respectable figures that ensured offensive balance.

Without him, they were dead last in the league in both metrics. By December, the offense was one-dimensional, and defenses had no reason to play the Broncos honestly.

Newcomers Jamaal Charles and De'Angelo Henderson give the Broncos plenty of depth and options for McCoy to keep the running backs fresh, so the Broncos are better-equipped to withstand injuries than they were last year.

But Anderson knows this scheme. He's in the prime of his career. He has the most multi-faceted skill set. He has the experience of carrying the offense on his back during a playoff run.

The Broncos' best chance of ground success remains with him carrying the load. He is ready for that responsibility.

"I'm good, ready to go," he said last month. "That's the best way that I can sum it up."

# Mason's Mailbag: The three-game road swing isn't all that uncommon

By Andrew Mason  
DenverBroncos.com  
July 17, 2017

**Why is it that the Broncos have three road games in a row again? They had the same scenario just a few years ago (I believe it was the 2014 or 2013 season). And, I believe they're the only team in the NFL that has three road games in a row. The NFL scheduling just doesn't seem fair when this happens (to any team as far as that is concerned).**

-- Bill Steinbach

First of all, the Broncos are not the only team with three consecutive road games this season. Six others have similar road swings:

Atlanta (Weeks 7-9)  
Cincinnati (Weeks 9-11)  
Minnesota (Weeks 12-14)  
New England (Weeks 13-15)  
Philadelphia (Weeks 13-15)  
San Francisco (Weeks 4-6)

The Raiders also play three consecutive games away from Oakland, although one is a home game that will be moved to Mexico City. They also have a bye week in the middle of that stretch, which means they will go 37 days without a home game between their Oct. 19 against the Chiefs and their Nov. 26 game against the Broncos.

Is it ideal? No. The Broncos went 0-3 in a three-game road swing in 2010. They went 1-2 in a similar stretch four years later. Even the 1997 team that won Super Bowl XXXII lost two games of three consecutive contests it played away from Denver. It is a daunting scenario, no matter which teams you play.

But it is something you can expect to see, perhaps more often as more games are played outside of North America, which could lead to a bit less scheduling flexibility. Further, if the NFL ever sees multiple teams based in Europe, such road swings may become routine.

**The passing workout in L.A. is canceled? Where are the leaders? WRs, RBs, QBs, etc needed to get together. They were not dominant last year. With two young QBs, this group needs to jell and determine which QB can take us past 9-7 and into the playoffs. Disappointed. No leaders. Losing record. You reap what you sow. Would Manning allow this to happen?**

-- Steve Henderson

There's no evidence that these workouts were ever 100 percent chiseled in stone to begin with, so take a step back and calm down.

A few points:

1. You've got to let go of the Peyton Manning comparisons. His annual organization of these throwing sessions was unusual. As former teammate and current Broncos Radio Network sideline reporter Tyler Polumbus noted this week, Manning's ability to organize players for downtime sessions and run practice-like work without coaches around is "rare." Even plenty of Hall of Fame-caliber quarterbacks don't necessarily do this sort of extra work.
2. It's harder to get players together at this time of year than in the spring, when Mark Sanchez gathered his new teammates in Los Angeles last year. This is the last truly free time the players will have until the end of the season. It is a grind from the moment they arrive in training camp until the exit physicals, with only a bye-weekend respite to give them a chance to breathe.
3. On Friday, Trevor Siemian said he wants to get teammates together for some sessions next week. So the door is not closed on extra work.
4. These sessions weren't going to determine which quarterback got the job. They could provide some extra work on timing and rhythm, but to point to this and start saying, "No leaders. Losing record. You reap what you sow" ... man, chill out a bit.

**Who do you see as the "surprise" breakout player on offense and defense this year? DeAngelo Henderson? Shane Ray? Paxton Lynch? A.J. Derby, maybe?**

**-- Bob Owens**

I like Ray as a breakout defensive player, but I'm not sure he would be considered a surprise. With DeMarcus Ware's retirement, Ray is a clear starter. He will get plenty of chances, and with Von Miller drawing the attention of opposing blocking schemes, he's in position to post a double-digit sack total for the first time.

On offense, Derby looks like he could be a breakout player, especially given that they want much more involvement from the tight ends as receiving targets. Last year, the Broncos ranked 31st in the league in receptions by tight ends (53). That should change in a big way this year, and Derby could be a primary beneficiary.

**Are fans allowed to enter the UC Health Training Center and look around in the lobby and/or get a tour of the facility?**

**-- Kevin Taylor**

Fans can visit the lobby of UCHealth Training Center during normal business hours to see the trophies (although generally this is not the case during training camp, for security reasons), but there are no public tours of the training facility.

**When asked about the Broncos 2017 Super Bowl chances, I've heard multiple analysts say without hesitation that they are "headed downhill" and have zero chance to win the AFC West. Since they're my favorite team, it's hard to answer that for myself without bias. What would you say to that question?**

**-- Hannah McNally**

I would say that "multiple analysts" do not determine division winners and Super Bowl champions. Players, coaches and on-field outcomes do.

That style of answer is straight from the playbook of **Packers.com's Vic Ketchman**, who set the standard for team-site mailbags on the sites of the Packers and Jaguars over the last decade-plus.

Ketchman's final mailbag on Packers.com will run Monday as he settles into full-time retirement in South Carolina.

All the best, Vic ... I'll wave to you from one island over on my annual treks to the Low Country.

Submit a question for the next Mailbag!

# Broncos wide receiver Cody Latimer responds to video showing strip club scuffle

By Staff

Colorado Springs Gazette

July 17, 2017

Denver Broncos wide receiver Cody Latimer was pepper sprayed by a bouncer during a fight outside an Ohio strip club in February, according to TMZ in video published Sunday.

The 24-year-old Latimer was trying to get into Diamonds Cabaret strip club near Dayton, Ohio, with his uncle and a friend, but got into a disagreement with the bouncer about the dress code, according to TMZ.

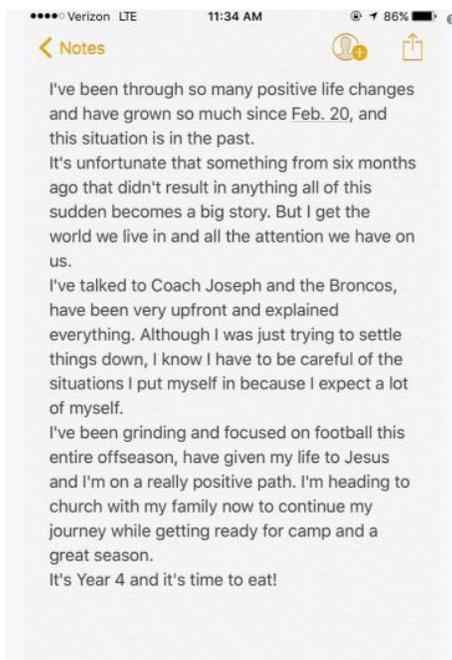
The group asked to speak to the manager and then moved outside. That's where the video starts.

The Denver Post reports that the Broncos and league were aware of the incident.

See the video at TMZ.

Latimer later Sunday tweeted his response.

"I've talked to Coach (Vance) Joseph and the Broncos, have been very upfront and explained everything," said in his tweet. "Although I was just trying to settle things down, I know I have to be careful of the situations I put myself in because I expect a lot of myself."



**@CodyLatimer14**

**11:36 AM - 16 Jul 2017 · Church In The City**

**67 Retweets 310 likes**

# Video shows Broncos' Cody Latimer pepper sprayed after slapping strip club bouncer

By Jared Dubin

CBS Sports

July 17, 2017

Denver Broncos wide receiver was hit with pepper spray after slapping a bouncer outside of a strip club. TMZ Sports obtained video of the incident, which it says took place at Diamonds Cabaret near Dayton, Ohio. You can see the full video [here](#).

In the video, Latimer has his hand on the shoulder of the bouncer outside of the club. The bouncer attempts several times to knock Latimer's hand away, and Latimer eventually responds by slapping him in the face. Several missed punches are then exchanged before Latimer is shot with pepper spray.

In a statement issued to Mike Klis of 9 News, the Broncos merely said they are aware of the matter and that it took place several months ago.

**@MikeKlis**

**Broncos on Latimer fight: "We are aware of the matter from several months ago involving Cody Latimer, and it has been discussed with him."**

Latimer himself stated that the incident took place on February 20, and that he was merely trying to break up a disagreement between his uncle and the bouncer. He also noted that police were not called and no charges were filed.

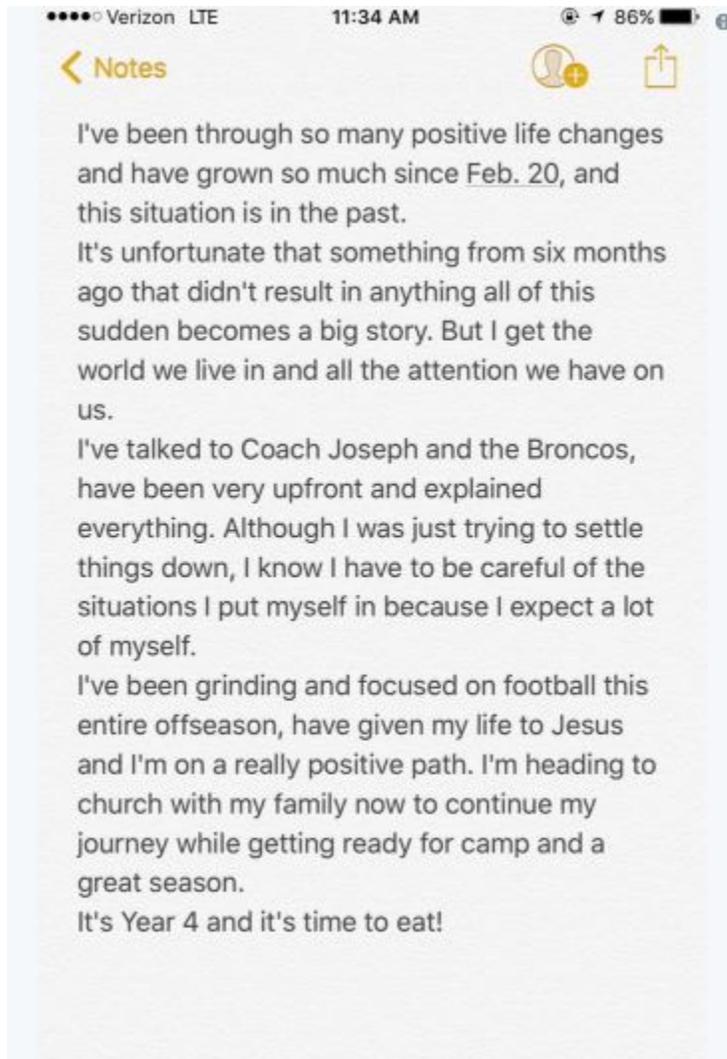
**@MikeKlis**

**Latimer on Feb. 20 club incident: "It was initially a disagreement between (uncle and bouncer) and I was trying to break it up." #9sports**

**@MikeKlis**

**Latimer: "There's not much to say about it. There weren't any cops called. I didn't want trouble so we got out. It happened 6 months ago."**

Latimer posted a more detailed statement to his Twitter account.



**@CodyLatimer14**

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Latimer was the Broncos' second-round pick in 2014 but has not developed as hoped. He has just 16 catches for 158 yards and a touchdown in three NFL seasons, and has gotten only scarce playing time outside of special teams work.

# Watch: Broncos WR Pepper Sprayed In Strip Club Fight

By Staff

CBS 4

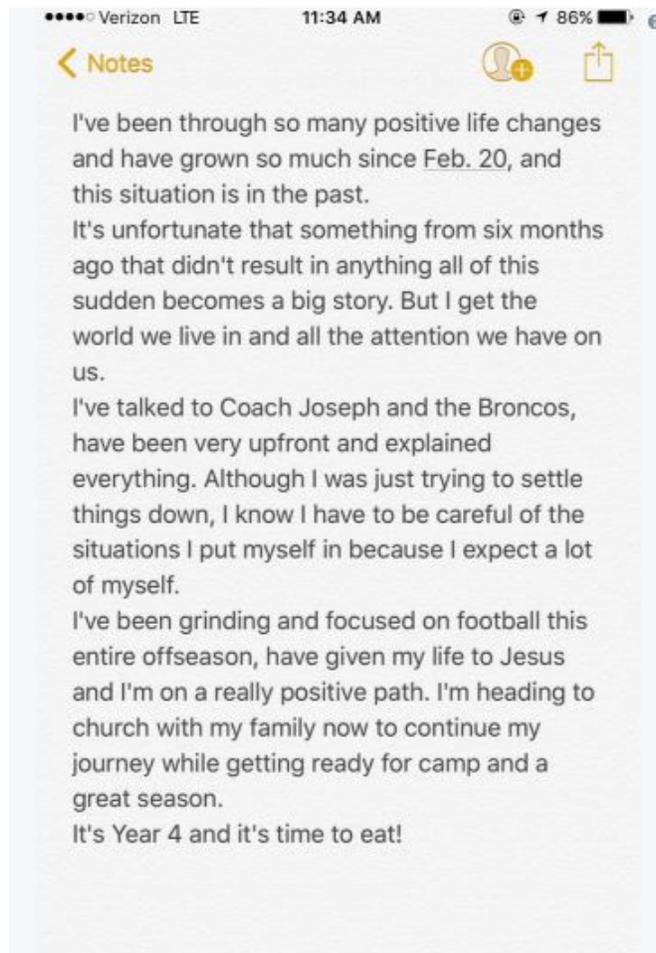
July 17, 2017

Denver Broncos wide receiver Cody Latimer was caught on camera getting pepper sprayed in a fight outside of a strip club.

Latimer was trying to get into the Diamonds Cabaret strip club in February with his uncle and a friend, when a bouncer pepper sprayed Latimer, according to TMZ Sports.

They report that the altercation began as a disagreement over the club's dress code.

Latimer responded to the posting of the video Sunday, approximately six months later, with a post to Twitter.



**@CodyLatimer14**

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“It’s unfortunate that something from six months ago that didn’t result in anything all of this sudden becomes a big story,” he tweeted.

Latimer says he’s talked with Coach Vance Joseph and the organization, and has “been very upfront and explained everything.”

“Although I was just trying to settle things down, I know I have to be careful of the situations I put myself in because I expect a lot of myself.”

In a statement, the Broncos say that they “are aware of the matter from several months ago involving Cody Latimer, and it’s been discussed with him.”

TMZ Sports says that Latimer’s group left immediately after the fight, and the officers were never called to the scene.

There is no pending criminal investigation.

# Video: Denver Broncos' Cody Latimer pepper sprayed in scuffle outside strip club

By Anica Padilla

KDVR

July 17, 2017

Denver Broncos wide receiver Cody Latimer is responding to reports that he was pepper sprayed by a bouncer during a fight outside a strip club in Ohio in February.

On Sunday, TMZ reported that Latimer, 24, was trying to get into Diamonds Cabaret strip club near his hometown of Dayton with his uncle and a friend, but got into a disagreement with the bouncer about the dress code.

The group moved outside, and in the video, you can see a man slap the bouncer. TMZ identifies the man as Latimer. The bouncer then sprays Latimer with pepper spray.

A man identified as Latimer's uncle then lunges at the bouncer and gets laid out on the sidewalk.

On Sunday, Latimer issued a statement, saying he'd spoken to team officials about the incident.

Latimer said he has "grown so much" since the incident and is on a "really positive path."



@CodyLatimer14

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# Video shows Broncos' Cody Latimer slapping strip club bouncer

By Michael David Smith

Pro Football Talk

July 17, 2017

In the latest misstep for Denver draft disappointment Cody Latimer, a newly released video shows him slapping a bouncer at a strip club.

The video, obtained by TMZ, shows Latimer in an argument with a man identified as a bouncer for Diamonds Cabaret in Latimer's hometown of Dayton, Ohio. Latimer slapped the bouncer, who responded by pepper spraying Latimer. A man identified as Latimer's uncle then lunged at the bouncer, who hit the uncle and knocked him to the ground.

TMZ says Latimer acknowledged he is the person shown in the video but said he wasn't trying to start a fight. Dayton police say they were never contacted in connection with the incident and there is no investigation.

Latimer was arrested last year for failing to appear in court for a traffic infraction. That incident took place after Latimer called the police on his girlfriend to say she slapped him. She was arrested for assault and disturbing the peace, and Latimer bailed her out.

The Broncos chose Latimer in the second round of the 2014 NFL draft. In three NFL seasons he has 16 catches for 158 yards and one touchdown.

# Cody Latimer on strip club scuffle: I was trying to break up a disagreement

By Josh Alper  
Pro Football Talk  
July 17, 2017

A video showing Broncos wide receiver Cody Latimer slapping a strip club bouncer and getting pepper sprayed in the face was released by TMZ on Sunday, which has led to a response from both Latimer and the team.

Latimer noted that the incident took place in February and that the police were not called to intervene after the incident, which the wideout says started with words between his uncle and the bouncer.

“It was initially a disagreement between [Latimer’s uncle and the bouncer] and I was trying to break it up,” Latimer said, via Mike Klis of KUSA. “There’s not much to say about it. There weren’t any cops called. I didn’t want trouble so we got out. It happened 6 months ago.”

Latimer’s uncle wound up taking the biggest punch when things escalated and is shown down on the ground as the video comes to an end.

The Broncos issued a statement to Klis that said they were aware of the incident and that they have discussed it with Latimer, who is preparing for his fourth season with the team after being selected in the second round of the 2014 draft.