

Broncos release early depth chart; Trevor Siemian to start first preseason game

By Nicki Jhabvala
Denver Post
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The Broncos released their first depth chart Monday, and it listed their No. 1 quarterback as Trevor Siemian "OR" Paxton Lynch as the two continue to vie for the starting job.

Coach Vance Joseph said Siemian will start the Broncos' first preseason game at Chicago on Thursday and Lynch will start the following week against the San Francisco 49ers in Santa Clara, Calif., to ensure both receive equal playing time.

But the designations lack their usual meaning in the quarterback race, and so do other battles on the roster. The starter for the preseason opener, Joseph insisted, is not the leader of the competition and not an indicator of who will start the regular season.

"No, no, no. He's first out. He's been first out all training camp. He's been first out all spring," Joseph said of Siemian. "It's an open competition. The games matter. The games start Thursday. I want to start the games so I can get to the bottom of this."

Joseph said he's still unsure of the snap count for each quarterback in preseason, "but it's going to be more than most starting quarterbacks would play the first couple of weeks." And regardless of who starts, both are expected to see time with the first-team offense in each game.

"It's going to be a mix of both," Joseph said. "Obviously when the first guy leaves, we're going to keep some 'ones' in just to keep the offense intact so the guy can play his best."

While the quarterback competition remains open, first-round draft pick Garrett Bolles appears to have a leg up in the competition at left offensive tackle. The rookie was listed as the leader on the left side, with veteran Ty Sambrailo as his backup.

"It means nothing to me. It's just my name on a piece of paper," Bolles said. "I've got Ty Sambrailo and I got Donald Stephenson coming after me every single day, and I've got to be ready to take my spot away from them. But at the same time, they're pushing me. They're great teammates to have, they're great tackles and I'm just going to continue to get ready every day."

At left guard, Max Garcia is listed ahead of recently signed veteran Allen Barbre, and Ron Leary is, unsurprisingly, the starting right guard.

At right tackle Menelik Watson is listed first and Stephenson second. Stephenson restructured his contract during the offseason, requiring him to make the 53-man roster to earn the other half of his guaranteed pay (\$2 million) this year.

One of the Broncos' tightest positional races is at running back, and the depth chart offers some clarity. C.J. Anderson leads and Devontae Booker is No. 2. Booker, however, recently underwent surgery to

repair a fracture in his wrist and isn't expected back until the regular season. Jamaal Charles, who is still easing his way back from multiple knee surgeries, tops the group of backups, followed by veteran Stevan Ridley, rookie De'Angelo Henderson, Juwan Thompson and Bernard Pierce.

"We placed the guys that are injured in the spot they would be in if they weren't injured. So 'Book' finished the spring as No. 2," Joseph explained, adding that Booker had an outstanding spring. "Book was pushing to be the top guy. ... We have a plan for Jamaal. We won't reveal that yet. But he's going to play in the preseason."

The receiver group, which is still looking for its No. 3 wideout behind Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders, has Bennie Fowler and Cody Latimer as the respective backups.

And at tight end, Virgil Green is No. 1, as expected, but his No. 2 is somewhat of a surprise: Jeff Heurman, for whom the Broncos have high expectations after drafting him in third round in 2015. He sits ahead of veteran A.J. Derby, who was acquired in a trade with New England late last season, but Joseph, again, reiterated the blurred lines with starter designations on the depth chart.

"That's a position where it's a weird deal with the depth chart because when you're in two-tight end (sets), who's the starter? When you're in three-tight ends, who's the starter?" Joseph said. "When you're in sub with (cornerback Bradley) Roby, is he a starter or not? It's situational football and part of our package. Tight end-wise, they're all starters."

The defensive depth chart offers fewer surprises. Derek Wolfe, Domata Peko and Jared Crick make up the first-team defensive line. With multiple injuries to the Broncos' pass rushers (wrist for Shane Ray and hip for Shaquil Barrett), rookie DeMarcus Walker is Von Miller's backup on the edge.

The Broncos drafted Walker in the second round with the intent of using him on both the line and on the edge. In recent practices, he has worked with the outside linebackers to compensate for injuries.

"I don't want to say too much, but I think that he's doing well out there," Joseph said Saturday. "It fits him a little bit better, I think."

The Broncos have also put an emphasis on finding a fourth cornerback, behind Chris Harris, Aqib Talib and Roby. Rookie Brendan Langley is currently that guy, ahead of Lorenzo Doss at right cornerback. But that could change.

"I will say this about the depth chart: It's a starting point," Joseph said. "Those two guys are competing for that fourth corner spot, which is a big deal for our football team. They're one snap from being a starter on sub. What went into that — the spring drills, the training camp practices thus far — that's what's determined (Langley) is ahead of (Doss) right now. But Doss has played really well. He's made a lot of plays, and Langley has a long way to go as far as learning what to do as an NFL corner. So it's open."

While the preliminary depth chart sheds some light on the new coaching staff's view of its personnel, many positions are far from solidified.

“The final depth chart that will be out against the Chargers (for the regular-season opener), that’s the one that really matters,” Joseph said. “The rest, it’s a depth chart. Someone has to go first, second and third.”

Broncos’ first depth chart of 2017

Injured or recovering players unlikely to start in the preseason opener are in parentheses. Coach Vance Joseph said the depth chart placed injured players where they would be if healthy.

OFFENSE

Quarterback

Trevor Siemian OR Paxton Lynch

Kyle Sloter

(Chad Kelly) — non-football injury, wrist

Wide receiver

Demaryius Thomas

Bennie Fowler

Jordan Taylor

Carlos Henderson

Anthony Nash

Left tackle

Garett Bolles

Ty Sambrailo

Justin Murray

Left guard

Max Garcia

Allen Barbre

Michael Schofield

Center

(Matt Paradis) – hips

Connor McGovern

Dillon Day

Right guard

Ron Leary

Billy Turner

Elijah Wilkerson

Right tackle

Menelik Watson

Donald Stephenson

Cedrick Lang

Tight end

Virgil Green
Jeff Heurman
A.J. Derby
Austin Traylor
Steven Scheu
(Jake Butt) – NFI, knee

Wide receiver

Emmanuel Sanders
Cody Latimer
Isaiah McKenzie
Kalif Raymond
Marlon Brown
Hunter Sharp

Running back

C.J. Anderson
Devontae Booker (injured, wrist)
Jamaal Charles
Stevan Ridley
De'Angelo Henderson
Juwan Thompson

Fullback

Andy Janovich

DEFENSE**Left defensive end**

Derek Wolfe
Zach Kerr
Shelby Harris

Nose tackle

Domata Peko
Billy Winn
(Kyle Peko) – PUP, foot
Tyrique Jarrett

Right defensive end

Jared Crick
Adam Gotsis
Shakir Soto

Strongside linebacker

(Shane Ray) – wrist
(Shaquil Barrett) – NFI, hip

Kasim Edebali
Vontarrius Dora
Deon Hollins

Weakside outside linebacker

Von Miller
DeMarcus Walker
Danny Mason
Ken Ekanem

Inside linebacker

Todd Davis
Zaire Anderson
Kevin Snyder

Inside linebacker

Brandon Marshall
Corey Nelson
Quentin Gause
Jerrol Garcia-Williams

Left cornerback

Aqib Talib
Bradley Roby
Chris Lewis-Harris
Dontrell Nelson

Right cornerback

Chris Harris
Brendan Langley
Lorenzo Doss
Marcus Rios

Strong safety

T.J. Ward
Will Parks
Jamal Carter
Dante Barrett

Free safety

Darian Stewart
Justin Simmons
Orion Stewart
Dymonte Thomas

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker

Brandon McManus

Kickoffs

Brandon McManus

Punter

Riley Dixon

Holder

Riley Dixon

Long snapper

Casey Kreiter

Kick returner

Cody Latimer

Carlos Henderson

Punt returner

Isaiah McKenzie

Kalif Raymond

Broncos honor retired safety David Bruton after training camp practice

By Nicki Jhabvala

Denver Post

August 8, 2017

David Bruton was back on the sidelines at Dove Valley this week, decked out in orange and blue and a Broncos ball cap, just like old times. But, to the surprise of some of his former teammates, the once-safety and special-teams ace arrived with a new title, as a physical therapist in the making.

Bruton has been accruing observational hours with director of sports medicine Steve Antonopoulos and the Broncos' athletic training staff during camp and before letting him go Monday, they decided to surprise him.

Following the morning practice inside the Pat Bowlen fieldhouse, Broncos president and CEO Joe Ellis presented Bruton with a framed No. 30 jersey and said a few words to thank him for his work on the field and in the community during his seven years with the team.

"I just can't describe how much this organization means to me," said Bruton, the Broncos' 2015 Walter Payton Man of the Year. "It sucked when I left and still to this day it's like, 'Man, if I had just stayed in orange and blue.'"

Bruton signed with the Washington Redskins as a free agent in 2016, shortly after the Broncos' victory in Super Bowl 50. Although the Broncos offered to keep him, Bruton opted for what he believed would be a larger role — a starting role — on Washington's secondary. But he suffered a concussion in Week 4 and was placed on injured reserve. The team released him shortly after.

RELATED: [David Bruton retires from NFL — for his health and others'](#)

Bruton announced last month that he would retire from the game for his health and to pursue physical therapy. He suffered six concussions in his career and many more devastating hits, including one that ended his time as Bronco prematurely. Bruton suffered a broken leg early in a game at Pittsburgh, but played the remainder of the contest. He was later placed on injured reserve and had to sit out the postseason and Super Bowl 50.

When he announced his retirement, Bruton said he was burnt out from the game and eager for the next phase. Since January he's been taking prerequisite courses at the University of Colorado Denver to be able to apply for his doctorate of physical therapy.

By 2022, Bruton hopes to answer to "doctor." But until then, being the "former" player has been tougher than perhaps he imagined.

"It's definitely brought back those chills of wanting to go out there and compete and play. 'Oh, can I still backpeddle? Can I still run? I bet I'm still faster than 90 percent of these guys,'" he said. "But it's definitely a different perspective and that's refreshing. You get to see how much work the training staff has to put in to get these guys back on the field and the amount of work that goes into prepping a

recovery plan or a rehab plan for these guys to be able to compete at such a high level. I've learned a lot since I've been here.

"I've learned I do miss the game, even though I'm not that far removed. I do miss the game. I also learned that I'm definitely ready for this next step."

The honor Monday came as a surprise to Bruton. A pleasant one.

"It means the world to me," he said. "It means more than Super Bowl 50, and it's not because I didn't play. It's not because of anything, because I did a lot for us to get there. I played a lot, I helped a lot, I still coached a lot even when I got hurt. But just to see the organization's appreciation for me, that speaks volumes. It's great to have a Super Bowl ring and a trophy and be able to touch and kiss the trophy. But not many guys are presented with such gestures and appreciation as I was, and I'm extremely grateful that the Broncos see me fit to receive such a gift."

@d_brutjr30

Thank you very much @broncos for today!! I am deeply moved to be recognized by this world class organization in which I spent most of my career with and made it home. This is a family and I deeply missed playing here and being apart of the team. It is hard to not want to play for this team, but I am extremely grateful to still be considered part of the family. Thank you for assisting me in my pursuit to becoming a physical therapist as well. The time and energy put into this great team is 100 and to find time for to help me means the world to me. The support I have received and this amazing gesture done for me in front of the team, just wow. Thank you @broncos and #BroncosCountry for the love and support through the years and years to come.

1,990 likes 87 comments

DeMarcus Ware to test skills as NFL analyst during Cowboys preseason game

By Nicki Jhabvala
Denver Post
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DeMarcus Ware has crossed over to the dark side.

The former pass rusher will debut as an analyst for KTVT CBS 11 during its preseason telecast of the Cowboys-Rams game on Aug. 12.

Ware, a 12-year NFL veteran, will work in the booth alongside Bill Jones (play-by-play) and Babe Laufenberg (analyst). Lindsay Cash Draper will serve as the game's sideline reporter.

@CBS11BillJones

It's official: @DeMarcusWare makes his TV game analyst debut Saturday night on Cowboys/Rams game on CBS 11 & @dallascowboys TV network

4:31 PM - Aug 7, 2017

5 Replies 52 Retweets 120 likes

Ware retired from the NFL in March after nine seasons with the Cowboys and three with the Broncos. On April 24, he signed an honorary one-day contract to retire a Cowboy.

In May he was one of 23 current and former NFL players who participated in the league's annual Broadcast Boot Camp, a four-day immersion into broadcast media that included instruction from top networks to help players develop play-by-play analysis, radio broadcasting and field-reporting skills.

Ware also co-starred with Ronda Rousey in a reboot of "Battle of the Network Stars," a 10-episode series on ABC that began airing June 29.

The Broncos plan to recognize Ware during their Week 2 game against the Cowboys in Denver, on Sept. 17.

Is 2018 the year for Broncos owner Pat Bowlen to be elected to the Hall of Fame?

By Nicki Jhabvala

Denver Post

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Friday afternoon Terrell Davis sat in an old high school auditorium in Canton, Ohio, to celebrate his moment and week in the spotlight, as one of the Pro Football Hall of Fame's newest members. The former Broncos running back reflected on his journey to the Hall, on his father, on his Super Bowl victories, on a famous preseason hit that launched his NFL career, and on a devastating hit that left him physically scarred and prematurely retired.

"I didn't expect the owner to call me after I tore my ACL," Davis said. "You expect the trainers, maybe a teammate, maybe your position coach to call you. Pat (Bowlen) was the first one to call. That little gesture that he did, it meant the world to me. I'd run through a brick wall for that man."

"So I'm hoping he gets in."

Davis isn't alone.

The Pro Football Hall of Fame's nine-member contributors committee will convene Aug. 25 to select its 2018 finalist. Bowlen is believed to be near the top of the list, and the feeling — the hope — is that if his name is called, he will receive the required 80 percent minimum vote next February so he can join Davis in the Hall of Fame.

"He's going to get in," former Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said of Bowlen. "There's no question in my mind that he's going to get in. The question is, is it going to be next year or the year after that?"

Bowlen's legacy is wrapped in a rare combination of numbers and reverence, both spoken of often by his current and former players.

No other owner in league history recorded 300 total games in their first 30 seasons at the helm. And no other NFL team has a better winning percentage (.612) since 1984, when Bowlen purchased a majority stake in the Broncos for \$78 million. (According to Forbes' latest valuations, the Broncos are estimated to be worth \$2.4 billion.) And no other team has appeared on national television (337 games) more than Denver has.

In his 33 years of ownership, the Broncos have won 13 division titles, seven AFC championships and three Super Bowls. They have sold out every home game for a 387-game streak that stretches back to 1970. And the clincher? The Bowlen-owned Broncos have had more Super Bowl appearances (seven) than losing seasons (five).

“Look at not only the history of the Broncos and the success on the field — Pat Bowlen has run a first-class franchise since way before I got here,” Davis said. “It’s in the stats; just look at the numbers. It’s one of the most successful winning franchises in the NFL.”

But Bowlen’s impact is still felt at the highest level of the NFL too.

A member of nine NFL committees, Bowlen was a catalyst in international expansion, taking the Broncos to London, Mexico City, Tokyo and beyond to compete. As chair of the NFL broadcasting committee in 1998, he brokered the league’s \$18 billion TV contract — the most lucrative single-sport contract in history — and was the visionary behind “Sunday Night Football,” which generated 20.3 million viewers last year and has been the top prime-time program the last six years straight.

“The fact that Sunday night is now the biggest night — that goes back to Pat. That goes back to him working with Dick Ebersol, who ran NBC Sports at the time,” broadcaster Al Michaels told The Denver Post in 2015. “Sunday night has about a 50 percent larger audience than Monday night does, and you can attribute that to Pat’s vision and the fact that he figured, ‘Hey, you know what, if we can make our big game Sunday night with a flexible schedule and all of that, that would be the best way to maximize the value of the NFL on TV.’ ”

Locally, Bowlen operated quietly, funding a Broncos Boys & Girls Club and contributing more than \$30 million to Denver-area organizations through Denver Broncos Charities — and many more anonymously.

“There are so many things he did where he did them and said, ‘You never tell the press about this,’ ” said Jim Saccomano, former Broncos vice president of corporate communications. “The press never knows.’ ”

Nearly every former Bronco has a story about Bowlen, a moment when they sat in his office and talked about life, or a time they sat side by side on stationary bikes in the team’s weight room, or a time Bowlen promised a player he would arrange for his entire family to attend a game, no questions asked. Rarely do these stories include football.

“I think he just loved having that personal contact with players and former players,” said Jim Schafer, Bowlen’s former assistant and a close friend. “It really meant a lot to him. It was just incredible to see the love that the former players — I’m starting to tear up — had for him.”

Bowlen’s disinterest in the limelight has garnered respect and appreciation from his players and employees, who say their owner was hands-on but not a meddler.

The Broncos hope their owner won’t be able to avoid the limelight any longer.

“Hopefully this is the year,” said general manager John Elway. “As we talked about so many times how much he deserves it, what he’s done for the league, his participation on different committees in the league and the relationships with the commissioners. What Pat has contributed to the NFL has grown it to where it is today. There is no question he deserves to be in there.”

Broncos' top pick Garrett Bolles moves closer to starting position

By Nick Kosmider
Denver Post
August 8, 2017

Garrett Bolles has the deepest voice in the offensive line room at Broncos headquarters. He's the bass in a choir of grizzled baritones.

His rumbling vocals give him a presence. But it's his play during training camp that has given the team's top draft pick an opportunity to grab a starting position at left tackle.

Bolles, the No. 20 overall pick out of Utah, was listed at the top of the rotation at left tackle when the Broncos released their first depth chart Monday morning. It was not a major surprise given that Bolles has been the first left tackle to take repetitions with the first-team offense as part of rotation that also includes Donald Stephenson and Ty Sambrailo.

Still, it's an encouraging step for a player upon whom the Broncos placed sizable expectations as they began an overhaul of their offensive line for the second straight offseason.

"We've watched the spring and we've watched the first two weeks of training camp and he's played well. In my opinion, he's earned the right to start the game," Broncos coach Vance Joseph said of the team's preseason opener at Chicago on Thursday. "With that being said, we're still competing there with Donald and Ty. But he's played well enough to start Thursday night."

The game against the Bears doesn't only represent Bolles' first taste of NFL action. It will also be the first time he has attended an NFL game.

"I always get butterflies, but once the whistle blows, it's just a game," Bolles said. "I block everything out and I'm just ready to put people in the dirt."

Plan for Charles

Veteran running back Jamaal Charles will play for the Broncos at some point in the preseason. Joseph just isn't saying when the former Kansas City Chiefs star will take the field for the first time.

"We have a plan in place for Jamaal," Joseph said. "I won't reveal that yet, but he's going to play in the preseason."

Charles, listed as the third-team running back behind C.J. Anderson and the injured Devontae Booker on the team's initial depth chart, began fully participating in 11-on-11 drills at practice last week as he continues to work his way back from multiple knee surgeries over the past two seasons.

Davis, Ward out vs. Chicago

Inside linebacker Todd Davis (shoulder) and safety T.J. Ward (hamstring) will not play in Thursday's preseason game against the Bears, Joseph said Monday.

Offensive tackle Menelik Watson, who missed his second straight practice Monday with a hip issue, is expected to return to practice Tuesday and is likely to play Thursday, the coach said.

Top quotes and 3 Broncos who stood out at Day 10 of training camp

By Nick Kosmider
Denver Post
August 8, 2017

QUOTABLES

Best lines from Broncos players and coaches:

Ron Leary, OG, on the team's running backs: "We have a great, deep running back room. It has to be the deepest running back room in the NFL. As offensive linemen, we just try to focus on our blocks and make sure we stay on them, stay sticky on our blocks. Any one of the backs can make the cut and make the big run."

Bennie Fowler, WR, on when he first developed chemistry with QB Trevor Siemian: "Fourth quarter. Preseason game against Seattle. Three years ago. That's when it started. He threw me a deep bomb, like 60 yards, and we've been clicking ever since."

Isaiah McKenzie, PR/WR, on whether there's something he wants to prove during Thursday's preseason opener at Chicago: "Yeah, that I can go out and make big plays. Being small, I can make big plays in every area of the game."

NOTABLES

Players who stood out, for better or worse:

Quarterbacks: Trevor Siemian started strong, completing 5 of 6 passes during his initial series with the first-team offense, before fumbling a snap and then throwing an interception later in practice. Paxton Lynch overcame a slow start, avoided turnovers during full-team drills and threw a deep pass down the sideline for Emmanuel Sanders toward the end of practice.

Wide receivers: Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders were targeted often during practice Monday and both of the Broncos' top wide receivers made a handful of impressive grabs, including a one-handed catch along the sideline by Thomas after he tipped the ball to himself.

Lorenzo Doss: The third-year player out of Tulane, battling rookie Bernard Langley for the fourth cornerback spot, intercepted Siemian during a full-team period. Doss had tight coverage on Jordan Taylor and was able to snatch the pass as Taylor fell to the ground on his route.

Siemian to start Thursday at Chicago, Lynch gets nod in game 2

By Mike Klis

9 News

August 8, 2017

We're getting closer to knowing who the Broncos starting quarterback will be for their regular-season opener against the Los Angeles Chargers.

Unless we're not.

Vance Joseph said following the team's indoor practice Monday that Trevor Siemian would start Thursday in the Broncos first preseason against the John Fox-coached Chicago Bears at Soldier Field.

"He's been first out all spring and all training camp," Joseph said. "I think Trevor's earned that much."

Now hold on. Joseph also said Paxton Lynch would start in preseason game 2 against the San Francisco 49ers on Aug. 19 at Levi's Stadium, otherwise known as the House That Von Dominated.

"It's an open competition," Joseph said. "The games matter. The games start Thursday. I want to get to the games."

This was a similar situation last year. Mark Sanchez was the Broncos' starting quarterback in the first game at Chicago. Siemian started the second game against San Francisco. And then Siemian started from there.

The difference is Siemian was the better quarterback throughout training camp last year. And he's been mostly better than Lynch in camp so far this year. Siemian is leading the quarterback competition. Lynch will get two preseason games to overtake him.

Joseph with input from Broncos general manager John Elway is expected to name his starting quarterback before the final rehearsal preseason game Aug. 26 against Green Bay. In other words, the Great Quarterback Competition likely has 12 days remaining.

Broncos depth chart: Siemian, Lynch tied at QB with Trevor listed first

By Mike Klis

9 News

August 8, 2017

If a certain baseball rule were applied to the Denver Broncos' first depth chart of 2017, a tie would go to Trevor Siemian.

As expected, the Broncos listed their quarterback position with Siemian OR Paxton Lynch as their first-string quarterback. A tie for first.

But considering Siemian is the incumbent starter and has outplayed Lynch during training camp so far, it's perhaps significant he is listed first; Lynch second. Broncos general manager John Elway cautioned in an interview Saturday night with 9News that the starting quarterback would be picked based on how Siemian and Lynch perform in the preseason, which starts Thursday night at Chicago (6 p.m. kickoff, Channel 20).

Joseph reiterated his boss' position.

"I want to get to the games so we can get to the bottom of this," Joseph said.

Kyle Sloter, the undrafted rookie from Northern Colorado, is the third string quarterback along with Chad Kelly, who is listed in parenthesis because of injury.

Other noteworthy developments from the depth chart:

<https://www.scribd.com/document/355736696/Depth-Chart>

*First-round rookie Garrett Bolles is officially listed as the first-string left tackle with Ty Sambrailo on the second team.

"We've watched the spring. We watched the first two weeks of training camp and he's played well," said Broncos head coach Vance Joseph. "In my opinion, he's earned the right to start the game. With that being said, we're still competing there with Donald [Stephenson] and Ty. He's played well enough to start the game on Thursday."

*C.J. Anderson is the No. 1 running back with Devontae Booker in parenthesis at No. 2. Booker will miss the first game or three of the regular season because of a fractured right wrist.

"We placed the guys that are injured in the spot they would be in if they weren't injured," Joseph said. "'Book' finished the spring as number two; he had a hell of a spring. Book was pushing to be the top guy. He's still number two. He's going to return probably Week 1 or 2 during the regular season. Right now, he's two on the depth chart but obviously he's not playing so he can't be two. That's my point with the depth chart. It's just a starting point for our football team to know who's slotted where, but he won't play in the entire preseason. Is he two? Or is he not?"

Jamaal Charles leads the bunch of third-stringers which also include Stevan Ridley, rookie De'Angelo Henderson, Juwan Thompson and Bernard Pierce.

Don't read too much into this depth chart listing. Charles remains on pace to begin the season with the Broncos and get 10 to 15 touches a game. Joseph said Charles would get some playing time in the preseason, although probably not Thursday against the Bears.

"We have a plan for Jamaal," Joseph said. "I won't reveal that yet. But, he's going to play in the preseason."

*Bennie Fowler is the backup receiver to Demaryius Thomas and Cody Latimer is No. 2 to Emmanuel Sanders. There is no slot, or No. 3 receiver listed on the depth chart. Jordan Taylor and rookie Isaiah McKenzie head the group of third-stringers.

*Newly signed veteran Allen Barbre is the No. 2 left guard behind Max Garcia. Michael Schofield, who started the past two seasons at right tackle and right guard, respectively, is listed as the No. 3 left guard in what may be the most deceiving placement on the chart. Schofield's versatility – he has played left tackle, left guard, right guard and right tackle – makes him unique among offensive linemen.

*Jared Crick remains a first-string defensive end opposite Derek Wolfe, with Adam Gotsis listed as Crick's backup.

*At the strongside linebacker position opposite Von Miller, Shane Ray is No. 1 and Shaq Barrett is No. 2 with both players in parenthesis because of injuries. Moving further down the depth chart, Kasim Edebali, a free agent from the New Orleans Saints, and Vontarrius Dora are listed with the third string. In that order.

*At right cornerback, rookie Brendan Langley is the backup to Chris Harris Jr. Lorenzo Doss is third string.

"I would say this about the depth chart, it's a starting point," Joseph said. "Those two guys are competing for that fourth corner spot which is a big deal for our football team. They're one snap from being a starter on sub. What went into that were the spring drills and the training camp practices thus far. That's what's determined that he's (Langley) ahead of him (Doss) right now, but Doss has played well. He's (Doss) made a lot of plays and Langley has a long way to go as far as learning what to do as an NFL corner.

"It's open. The depth chart was a must. I had to put someone there. Whoever I would've had put there, it would have been questioned. It's just part of the process. The final depth chart will be out versus the Chargers. That's the one that really matters. The rest, it's a depth chart. Somebody has to go first, second and third."

*Cody Latimer is the top kickoff returner backed up by rookie Carlos Henderson, who is also a No. 3 receiver. McKenzie is the top punt returner with Kalif Raymond backing him up.

John Bowlen turns self in to Glendale Police

By Kevin Vaughan

9 News

August 8, 2017

John Bowlen – the son of Denver Broncos owner Pat Bowlen – turned himself in to authorities over the weekend on allegations that he violated his probation in a domestic violence case.

The arrest came less than a week after Bowlen was charged with two counts of drunken driving after he was stopped by California Highway Patrol officers in San Luis Obispo County.

Two days later, Judge Vahle signed an arrest warrant for Bowlen after concluding there was “probable cause to believe the conditions of probation have been violated.”

Glendale Police Chief W.J. Haskins said Bowlen turned himself in to Glendale police Saturday morning. According to court records, he posted \$1,287.50 in bail and was released.

Bowlen is due in Arapahoe County Court on Sept. 8.

His attorney, Harvey Steinberg, declined to comment Monday.

The arrest came a day after Judge Vahle refused to cancel an arrest warrant for Bowlen – something his attorney sought amid assertions that the 31-year-old had not been formally advised that his probation had started when the Colorado Supreme Court declined to hear his appeal in the domestic violence case on March 27.

In all, Vahle found evidence that Bowlen had violated his probation multiple ways – failing to abide by all laws; failing to contact his probation officer; failing to perform community service; failing to pay fines in the domestic violence case; failing to undergo domestic violence, drug and alcohol, and mental health evaluations and treatment; and failing to obtain permission to travel outside Colorado.

In the domestic violence case, John Bowlen was convicted of shoving his girlfriend against a bathroom wall as she was trying to dial 911. At his sentencing April 14, 2016, Judge Vahle placed Bowlen on probation for two years. The judge ordered that the probation not actually start until Bowlen exhausted his appeal – which, according to the petition to revoke his probation, occurred March 27 when the Colorado Supreme Court declined to hear the case.

Since Pat Bowlen announced in July 2014 he has Alzheimer’s disease, ownership of the Broncos has been placed in the Pat Bowlen Trust, with trustee and team chief executive officer Joe Ellis having full authority to run the franchise.

The trust states that Pat Bowlen’s desire is for one of his seven children to earn the right to become the Broncos’ controlling owner.

John Bowlen has legal troubles going back more than a decade – which could come into play when it’s time to decide who will ultimately control the Broncos.

Competition continues as Trevor Siemian starts preseason opener

By Jeff Legwold

ESPN

August 8, 2017

Every throw at every practice is scrutinized each day as part of the competition at quarterback between Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch. Here's a closer look at their Monday:

Trevor Siemian

Siemian opened with the starting offense, and after practice coach Vance Joseph said Siemian would start Thursday's preseason opener in Chicago. Joseph added that the competition between the two quarterbacks is still very much underway and that "I want to see the [preseason] games."

Wow moment: The Broncos went into their indoor practice facility because of the weather, and Siemian showed his arm strength with several throws from the hashmark to the far sideline -- on both sides of the field -- during the workout. But the best play of his day came with plenty of help from wide receiver Demaryius Thomas, as Siemian put the ball high to the outside shoulder, out of the reach of the defender, and Thomas tipped it one-handed, back to himself, and made the catch.

Whoa moment: Siemian threw the only interception in 11-on-11 work when wide receiver Jordan Taylor fell down just before the ball arrived. Cornerback Lorenzo Doss swooped in for the pick and likely would have returned it for a touchdown.

Paxton Lynch

Overall, it took Lynch some time to settle into the workout, as he struggled with his accuracy in the first few team periods. But things went a little better in the second half of practice. Joseph said Lynch would get the start in the second preseason game in San Francisco, which is what the Broncos already had planned.

Wow moment: Lynch squeezed a ball into a tight spot when he found tight end A.J. Derby for a catch in traffic along the right sideline. Lynch also had a high-quality toss to Emmanuel Sanders late in practice.

Whoa moment: Lynch held the ball too long and took what would have been sacks in a real game -- one on a third-and-3 play and another in the red zone. Later, he threw the ball away on a fourth-down red-zone play (according to the down marker) in a situation in which the offense needed a touchdown.

Trevor Siemian to start Broncos' first preseason game

By Jeff Legwold

ESPN

August 8, 2017

Denver Broncos coach Vance Joseph is not yet ready to declare a winner in the team's quarterback competition, but he did outline who will start the Broncos' first two preseason games.

Joseph said after Monday's practice that Trevor Siemian will start the preseason opener Thursday night in Chicago and Paxton Lynch would then get the start Aug. 19, against the 49ers in San Francisco.

Joseph said Siemian had "earned that much" when it came to getting the first start of the preseason. Joseph was asked if that meant Siemian had a lead in the competition to be the opening night starter, Sept. 11 against the San Diego Chargers, and he said:

"It's an open competition, the games matter, the games start Thursday. I want to get to the games so we can get to the bottom of this."

Joseph said both Siemian and Lynch would work with at least some of the other starters on offense in each of the two games. Previously Joseph has said he will take as long as it takes to make the decision at quarterback, but he has also described having a starter named for the regular season by the Aug. 26 game against the Green Bay Packers as "ideal."

The Broncos also have two days' worth of joint practices with the 49ers leading up to the Aug. 19 preseason game; Joseph has said those practices will factor into the decision about who the starter will be.

Over the course of the past eight days of training camp, Siemian has likely carved out a lead in the competition with far few turnovers in team drills than Lynch and more consistent work in terms of finding second- and third-options in team drills.

Both quarterbacks said after a scrimmage in Saturday's practice that they have tried to leave the talk of the competition for the starting job to others while they go about their football business.

"I think it's just progressing and getting better day in and day out," Lynch said. "I think that it's important not to get caught up in the competition and trying to be better than this guy in this drill and better than this guy in that drill. I think it's just about progressing day-in and day-out and making yourself a better football player and making the guys around you better."

"I really don't think about it too much to be honest with you," Siemian said. "I try to do my job, be a good teammate when I'm in there, get the group running well, move the ball and whatever happens, happens."

In last season's preseason opener -- also in Chicago -- Siemian was the second quarterback into the game, behind Mark Sanchez, and Lynch was the third quarterback into the game. In last August's matchup with the Bears Siemian was 7-of-12 passing for 88 yards while Lynch was 6-of-7 passing for 74 yards with 3 sacks.

First Broncos depth chart a long way from the last word

By Jeff Legwold

ESPN

August 8, 2017

Vance Joseph released his first formal depth chart of training camp on Monday, but he also quickly tossed out a disclaimer that it would not be wise to dig too deep into all of that before the Denver Broncos have played any preseason games.

As expected, the Broncos listed Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch with an "or" between their names with the starters. Siemian will start the preseason opener Thursday night in Chicago, and Lynch will start the second preseason game Aug. 19 against San Francisco. Joseph said the competition is still ongoing and that he wants to see both Siemian and Lynch work in games.

The team has high hopes for its rookie class overall, but the first draft pick to work his way into the starting spot is first-round pick Garrett Bolles. Bolles was listed as the starter on the depth chart and is expected to be in the starting lineup Thursday night against the Bears.

"We've watched the spring, we watched the first two weeks of training camp and he's played well," Joseph said. "In my opinion, he's earned the right to start the game. With that being said, we're still competing there with Donald (Stephenson) and Ty (Sambrailo). He's played well enough to start the game on Thursday."

Bolles isn't taking anything for granted.

"I have four preseason games to earn my spot, so I'm just going to continue to work hard every single day," Bolles said. "I have Ty Sambrailo and Don (Stephenson) pushing me every single day. Until it's official on Week 1, then that doesn't faze me."

Most of the other positions didn't provide any surprises, but it did include some injured players. Devontae Booker, who is out after surgery to repair a fractured bone in his wrist, was listed as the No. 2 running back, and though Shane Ray (wrist) and Shaquil Barrett (hip) have not participated in camp, they were listed as the starter and backup, respectively, at one of the outside linebacker spots.

"Again, the games will make a determination of who moves up and who moves down," Joseph said.

Joseph did raise a few eyebrows by listing rookie Brendan Langley as the backup behind Chris Harris Jr. at right cornerback instead of Lorenzo Doss. Joseph said, however, the order behind Harris is long from decided, as it is at most of the other backup spots.

"I would say this about the depth chart, it's a starting point," Joseph said. "Those two guys are competing for that fourth corner spot, which is a big deal for our football team. ... What went into that were the spring drills and the training camp practices thus far. That's what's determined that (Langley) is ahead of (Doss) right now, but Doss has played well."

"It's just part of the process. The final depth chart will be out versus the Chargers. That's the one that really matters. The rest, it's a depth chart. Somebody has to go first, second and third."

Back home again, Bill Musgrave happy to do his part in QB decision

By Jeff Legwold

ESPN

August 8, 2017

His voice, albeit a mild-mannered one much of the time, will be important in the Denver Broncos' still-pending decision at quarterback.

His résumé features double-take items such as the fact that in a six-year NFL playing career he was a teammate to three Hall of Fame quarterbacks in Joe Montana, Steve Young and John Elway. He brought the Broncos' current offensive coordinator -- Mike McCoy -- into the coaching business.

He was coached by former Broncos' coach Gary Kubiak, who is now a senior personnel advisor for the team. And yes, Bill Musgrave is Colorado born and raised, having been inducted into the Colorado High School Activities Association Hall of Fame just over two decades ago.

"I'm excited to see what Mike and Billy and the rest of our guys can do," Elway said. "I think it will be good for our offense, good for our players."

Musgrave, who is the Broncos' quarterbacks coach, has called plays previously in several of his NFL stops, including last season for the Oakland Raiders when quarterback Derek Carr had his best season and the Raiders finished No. 6 in total offense and No. 7 in scoring. He is one of four assistant coaches on the Broncos' staff who have called offensive plays previously in the NFL -- McCoy, Musgrave, offensive line coach Jeff Davidson and tight ends coach Geep Chryst.

In short, Musgrave had choices as Vance Joseph was building his staff. There were plenty of reasons to come to Denver, but the Grand Junction, Colorado, native said a return to his home state was a nice bonus in the decision.

"In a lot of ways, it feels like nothing's really changed for me," Musgrave said. "We grew up following the Broncos, my folks moved here in 1964, I was born in 1967, so we've been on board from the start. So to come back, No. 1 was the team, the staff and the history here, but to be in place that means something in my family, it's just that much better."

Musgrave has what is likely the most youthful group of quarterbacks in the league with two rookies (Chad Kelly, Kyle Slotar), a second-year player in Paxton Lynch and third-year player in Trevor Siemian. Siemian and Lynch have split much of the work with the starters throughout the offseason program and training camp, all under Musgrave's watchful eye.

"Definitely it impacts how you do things, we as coaches strive to tailor and customize our lesson plans, our schemes, our game plans to the personnel we have, to our players," Musgrave said. "It's exciting, they're all very much engaged, they work with enthusiasm and I like being around them."

Both Siemian and Lynch have said they enjoy Musgrave's even-keeled approach to the job. Musgrave is the day-to-day assistant the quarterbacks spend the most time with, including in the offseason program. In terms of how the quarterbacks study, how they prepare, as well as how much information they can digest and then take to the field, Musgrave will have had the up-close-and-personal view.

Joseph, who will ultimately make the decision at quarterback, has said he "will listen to the staff and ultimately we'll pick the right guy at quarterback."

"We're going to find the best guy for our football team," Joseph has said. "When I feel like I've seen the separation ... then I'll call it ... but all of our offensive coaches will have input, starting with Bill and Mike."

"I look at what we can do and how we're going about it, I'm just glad to be back," Musgrave said. "I think it's exciting what we can do together."

Siemian gets 1st start but hasn't nailed down Broncos QB job

By Arnie Stapleton
Associated Press
August 8, 2017

Trevor Siemian hasn't officially won the Denver Broncos' quarterback job just yet but he has earned the starting nod over Paxton Lynch in Denver's preseason opener at Chicago.

Siemian will get first crack against the Bears on Thursday night while Lynch will start Denver's second game, at San Francisco on Aug. 19, coach Vance Joseph announced Monday following his team's indoor practice.

"I think Trevor's earned that much, you know, to be the first guy out," Joseph said.

That doesn't signal that the Broncos see Siemian as the clear leader in the biggest position battle in the NFL this summer .

"No, no, no. No, no, no, no, no, guys," Joseph said, adding seven more "no's" for emphasis.

"He's first out, he's been first all training camp. He's been first out all spring, OK?" Joseph said. "It's an open competition. The games matter. The games start Thursday. So, I want to get to the games, so we can get to the bottom of this, OK?"

It's obvious to observers at practice, however, that Siemian — solid and steady with glimpses of the spectacular like two deep, accurate throws Monday — has begun to pull away from Lynch, who has regressed since starting out training camp with a pair of solid practices.

Lynch had a rare turnover-free practice Monday but he started out erratic — 1-for-4 with a sack, a scramble and a wild overthrow on his first series — and blundered by throwing away the ball on fourth down from the 12 when Emmanuel Sanders was covered by Bradley Roby.

A similar play last year by Lynch drew the ire of then-coach Gary Kubiak, who implored Lynch to "give your guys a chance!"

Siemian was solid save for an interception by cornerback Lorenzo Doss when receiver Jordan Taylor slipped.

BOLLES GETS THE NOD: While Lynch, the Broncos' top draft pick last year, is showing he's still a work in progress, this year's first-rounder has quickly shown plug-and-play ability. Left tackle Garrett Bolles was listed as the starter on the depth chart Monday, ahead of veteran Ty Sambrailo.

"Well, we watched the spring, we've watched the first two weeks of training camp and he's played well and in my opinion he's earned a right to start the game," Joseph said. "That being said, we're still competing there with Donald (Stephenson) and Ty."

Bolles isn't getting caught up in seeing his name atop the depth chart, saying he has four preseason games to really state his case and "I've got Donald and Ty pushing me."

BACKING UP THE NO-FLY ZONE: Doss, a third-year cornerback, and third-round draft pick Brendan Langley both got the message Monday when Langley was listed ahead of Doss as Chris Harris Jr.'s primary backup at right cornerback.

Doss, who has three interceptions in camp, knows he'll have to be more consistent in coverage to leapfrog the rookie, and Langley, one of the most athletic big corners in the draft, knows he can get some playing time early on if he keeps progressing.

"I would say this about the depth chart, it's a starting point," Joseph said. "Those two guys are competing for that fourth corner spot, which is a big deal for our football team. They're one snap from being a starter on sub (packages).

"What went into that? The spring drills, the training camp practices thus far. That's what's determined that he's ahead of him right now, but Doss has played really well. He's made a lot of plays and Langley has a long way to go as far as learning what to do as an NFL corner. So, it's open."

Notes: Joseph said he hasn't finalized plans for his QBs but "it's going to be more than most starting quarterbacks would play the first couple of weeks." ... Ex-Broncos S David Bruton was honored by team President Joe Ellis with a framed jersey commemorating his seven seasons in Denver. ... Joseph said ILB Todd Davis (shoulder) and S T.J. Ward (hamstring) won't play against Chicago.

Broncos' Siemian will start preseason opener; Lynch gets nod in Game 2

By Troy Renck
KMGH
August 8, 2017

Trevor Siemian will start Thursday night against the Chicago Bears in the Broncos preseason opener. But he's not the starter. Paxton Lynch starts the following week at San Francisco, but is not No. 1 on the depth chart.

Confused? Don't be. Broncos coach Vance Joseph promised an open and fair competition. It is impossible to stage a derby without giving each quarterback a chance to hold the reins once in the preseason.

"Games matter. The games start Thursday," Joseph said after Monday's workout in the Pat Bowlen Fieldhouse. "I want to get to the games so we can get to the bottom of this.

It remains difficult to recall NFL teams who have played well and reached the postseason with uncertainty at the most important position. The Broncos are setting the stage to declare a winner following the Aug. 19 game at Levi's Stadium.

Siemian settled down over the past four practices, showing comfort as the playbook expanded. He has audibled and played with the type of confidence expected over the spring. The plan is to play Siemian with the No. 1s longer than normal against the Bears. Typically, starters go two possessions, which suggests Siemian could receive a quarter. Another wrinkle involved. When Lynch enters the game, familiar faces will stick around.

"Some 1's will stay in when Lynch comes in," Joseph said.

Lynch makes terrific plays down field, but must show he can protect the ball in the middle of the field.

Having an opportunity to face a new defense will help both quarterbacks. That is certain. The Broncos' No Fly Zone has operated as the No Fun Zone every day, making life difficult for the quarterbacks. Going against the Bears creates freedom and unpredictability not afforded at practice.

Depth and context

The Broncos released a depth chart Monday because, well, they had to. A few positions opened eyes, though Joseph cautioned little is permanent. To no one's surprise rookie first-rounder Garrett Bolles occupies the left tackle spot. He has effectively beaten out the competition -- Donald Stephenson is the current backup followed by Ty Sambrailo -- at this point. Virgil Green is listed tops at tight end, a reflection of his camp, but not a deep read into anything else. Joseph stressed the Broncos will play with two tight ends, "so who is the starter then?" Green ranked ahead of Jeff Heuerman, who is reaching a crossroads in his career, and A.J. Derby, viewed as a receiving threat on seam routes.

Defensively, Brendan Langley has created a strong impression over the last several months. The third-round pick is listed second behind Chris Harris, a notch above Lorenzo Doss. He's competing for the fourth cornerback spot, a position which can see playing time during the season in sub packages.

Kasim Edebali and Vontarius Dora share the top spot at outside linebacker opposite of Von Miller with Shane Ray and Shaquil Barrett injured. Dora started in Saturday's scrimmage. Joseph explained injured players were listed at where they stood before they got hurt. That's why Devontae Booker (wrist) sits No. 2 at running back (And he was pushing to start before the injury, Joseph admitted). Booker is expected back in either the first or second week of the regular season. Jamaal Charles, who will play in the preseason but not necessarily Thursday, Stevan Ridley, who is a sleeper candidate to make the team as a reserve because of his ability to play special teams, and rookie De'Angelo Henderson, whose bowling ball running style continues to draw praise, are competing for spots.

Footnotes

Right tackle Menelik Watson (hip) is expected to practice Tuesday and play in the exhibition opener. ... Right guard Ron Leary took significant reps Monday as he moves forward from his groin injury. ... Safety T.J. Ward (right hamstring) and inside linebacker Todd Davis (shoulder) will not play vs. Chicago. Will Parks and Corey Nelson are projected to start in their place. ... Von Miller provided a brief scare, heading off the field during a drill. A trainer re-taped his ankle and he returned. Miller appears poised to produce a career year, though he warned his playing time in the preseason will be minimal. ... Former Broncos special team captain David Bruton was presented a framed jersey after practice, and he addressed the team. He told me receiving the jersey "meant more than the Super Bowl" to him because it showed how much the Broncos' valued his contributions to the organization.

Woody Paige: Broncos have 70 players who belong in the NFL, but who will make the cut?

By Woody Paige

KMGH

August 8, 2017

The Broncos' depth is deep.

That sounds rather oxymoron-ish.

The Broncos depth chart is not as unfathomable as Jules Verne's Nautilus submarine at "20,000 Leagues Under The Sea," but the deepness is not shallow like a shoal.

The Broncos possess a plethora of players – 70 or so who definitely can play in the National Football League. The coaching staff, and John Elway, master of all he sees, must whittle the number from 90 to almost 70, which would include an active roster of 53, a practice squad of 10 and another seven that could, unfortunately, end up on the injured list to start the season (i.e., Jake Butt and Chad Kelly, for instance).

Nevertheless, the Broncos did release today (Monday) the team's first official "depth chart" heading into the opening exhibition at Chicago on Thursday night.

There were, to be expected, some surprise, but, mostly, units filled with uncertainty.

Nobody should be shocked that the two quarterback vying to start were listed as co-No. 1 quarterbacks, with a convenient "Trevor Siemian OR Paxton Lynch."

Even though Siemian clearly led in the competition after nine training camp practices, and was head-in-helmet and shoulders-in-pads above Lynch in the quasi-scrimmage on Saturday – to me and all witnesses except coach Vance Joseph, who said after both were "very solid" – the duel is not done.

Trevor will get the start against the Bears, and Paxton will play with the first offensive unit vs. the 49ers. And the coaches, and Elway, hope that one will separate himself from the other.

But it seems, based on camp so far, Trevor may win by default, as he did last year against Mistake Machine Mark Sanchez and raw rookie Paxton.

Paxton needs to show his athletic ability – to scramble and keep plays alive and run 30 yards, and throw 30 yards – in the exhibitions. If he doesn't, Trevor, more experienced and more reliable, will finish atop the depth chart.

On Saturday Joseph did end the drama at one spot – punt return specialist. Isaiah McKenzie was declared by the coach as the opening-day man. "You can print it," he said. So Kalif Raymond, who was the punt returner for four games, and other candidates have been pushed aside by the rookie from Georgia who returned six punts and kickoffs for touchdowns during his college career. McKenzie certainly is a keeper. However, even though Joseph was forthright, his pronouncement seemed

premature – if McKenzie drops a couple of punts, or fumbles as his predecessors have. Joseph, though, is assured enough that McKenzie "catches the ball."

First-round draft choice Garrett Bolles was listed as the first-team left tackle. That's not shocking, since everyone believes he will be the starter, but there is no hemming and hawing. Veteran tackles now know they are competing on the right side and for a place as a replacement.

Defensively, nine of last year's starters are on the first team. The only new people will be veteran free agent signee Domata Peko at nose tackle and Who Knows? at the outside linebacker opposite Von Miller. Shane Ray and Shaq Barrett are listed Nos. 1 and 2, but both are injured and in parenthesis on the chart. The next man up will be decided from among second-round draft choice DeMarcus Walker (who actually is a defensive lineman), veteran free agent Kasim Edeball and young returnee Vontarrius Dora. My guess is that all three will make the team and share time until Ray and Barrett are healthy.

On the offensive line with Bolles are Max Garcia at left guard, Connor McGovern at center, Ron Leary at right guard and Menelik Watson at right tackle. Starting center is being handled with care because of his off-season double-hip surgeries, but he won't be Parenthesis Paradis when the season starts. The other positions are fluid. Leary should be the left guard, but Garcia couldn't make the shift to right guard. Late acquisition Allen Barbre is listed behind Garcia, but will push last year's starter or serve as the backup on both sides. Ty Sambrailo is No. 2 behind Bolles, but he primarily played right tackle on Saturday. And Michael Schofield, who was the starting right guard in 2016, is listed as the third-string left guard, although his versatility as a guard/tackle will help him.

We know who the starting wide receivers are, but Bennie Fowler and Cody Latimer were listed as 2's. Fowler is the leader in the locker room for the slot receiver's position, and Latimer was considered vulnerable, but he made it because of special teams play (as a tackler) and kickoff returner, and the Broncos aren't ready to give up on him as a slot/outside receiver.

Virgil Green, the longest-standing player on the Broncos other than Demaryius Thomas, is No. 1 at tight end on the depth chart, but he's being pushed by Jeff Heurman and A.J. Derby (although none of the three has been spectacular so far) until Butt can practice and play. Green, Heurman and Derby will take turns.

Seven running backs are on the depth chart, but Devontae Booker is an injury parenthesis. C.J. Anderson is the starter, with elder veteran add-ons Jamaal Charles and Stevan Ridley next, but rookie De'Angelo has been most impressive in camp and will make the team. Veterans Juwan Thompson and Bernard Pierce are at the bottom of the depth, and only serve as injury insurance.

Looking for undrafted free agent wild cards? Tyrique "Meat Loaf" Jarrett at nose tackle, listed at No. 3, and safety Jamal Carter, third at strong safety. Third-round draft pick Brendon Langley is No. 2 at cornerback to Chris Harris Jr. and not only make the team, but become a contributing factor on special teams in dime defenses.

So, there is depth on the depth chart. But, as the BeeGees sang, how deep is your, or the Broncos, love for the depth?

John Bowlen turns himself in to Glendale Police for probation violation warrant

By Mark Belcher

KMGH

August 8, 2017

Police in Arapahoe County booked John Bowlen, the son of the owner of the Denver Broncos, into jail over the weekend. Officers say he turned himself in on a warrant for violation of his probation.

Glendale Police say Bowlen turned himself in on Saturday at about 8 p.m., just a week after he was arrested in California on two charges related to drinking and driving.

Police in Arapahoe County say Bowlen, who has been in trouble with the law in the past, was wanted for violating his probation, issued in a 2015 harassment case.

Bowlen's arrest in San Luis Obispo County, Calif. triggered the warrant, officers confirmed. Part of Bowlen's probation mandated he did not leave the State of Colorado for two years.

The court ordered probation out of Arapahoe County also mandated Bowlen complete 24 hours of community service and pay \$1,287.50 in court fees. Police say he hasn't paid or completed the community service.

Bowlen's attorney, Harvey Steinberg, has declined to comment on the ongoing case.

Broncos release first depth chart of the season

By Andrew Mason
 DenverBroncos.com
 August 8, 2017

As expected, Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch are listed as co-No. 1 quarterbacks on the first depth chart of the preseason, which was issued by the Broncos on Monday morning before they returned to practice after their Sunday off-day. Siemian and Lynch have split first-team repetitions, alternating periods with the No. 1 offense since the start of organized team activities in May. This arrangement is expected to continue until one of the quarterbacks has made enough separation to lead to a decision as to who will start in Week 1.

During Saturday's scrimmage, Siemian and Lynch took turns with the first and second units. Siemian led the No. 1 offense to a first down and went three-and-out with the second team. Lynch threw an interception with the No. 1 offense, then completed a pass for a first down with the second team, only to have the yardage wiped out on a post-play penalty by OT Donald Stephenson.

This marks the second consecutive year that the Broncos have had co-No. 1 quarterbacks heading into the preseason opener.

Quarterback is the only position at which co-starters were listed.

OFFENSE

WR	88	Demaryius Thomas	16	Bennie Fowler	87	Jordan Taylor	
					11	<u>Carlos Henderson</u>	
					3	<u>Anthony Nash</u>	
LT	72	<u>Garett Bolles</u>	74	Ty Sambrailo	64	Justin Murray	
LG	76	Max Garcia	73	Allen Barbre	79	Michael Schofield	
C	61	[Matt Paradis]	60	Connor McGovern	55	Dillon Day	
					78	<u>Cameron Hunt</u>	
RG	65	Ron Leary	77	Billy Turner	68	<u>Elijah Wilkinson</u>	
RT	75	Menelik Watson	71	Donald Stephenson	70	Cedrick Lang	
TE	85	Virgil Green	82	Jeff Heuerman	83	A.J. Derby	
					86	Austin Traylor	
					81	Steven Scheu	
					80	<u>[Jake Butt]</u>	
WR	10	Emmanuel Sanders	14	Cody Latimer	84	<u>Isaiah McKenzie</u>	
					19	Kalif Raymond	
					15	Marlon Brown	
					17	Hunter Sharp	
RB	22	C.J. Anderson	23	[Devontae Booker]	28	Jamaal Charles	
					4	Stevan Ridley	
					33	<u>De'Angelo Henderson</u>	
					40	Juwan Thompson	
					30	Bernard Pierce	
QB	13	Trevor Siemian	-OR-	12	Paxton Lynch	1	<u>Kyle Sloter</u>
					6	<u>[Chad Kelly]</u>	
FB	32	Andy Janovich					

Other notes on the depth chart:

First-round pick Garrett Bolles is the first-team left tackle, listed ahead of third-year veteran Ty Sambrailo. Bolles has split first-team repetitions with Sambrailo and Donald Stephenson since minicamp. Head Coach Vance Joseph said throughout the offseason that while Bolles was a first-round pick for a reason, he wanted him to earn the job; he appears to have done that.

Bolles is one of two rookies on the first team; he is joined by WR Isaiah McKenzie. Joseph announced Saturday that McKenzie had earned the punt returner job; he is listed ahead of second-year veteran Kalif Raymond. McKenzie is also listed as a third-team receiver.

SPECIAL TEAMS

PK	8	Brandon McManus	
KO	8	Brandon McManus	
P	9	Riley Dixon	
H	9	Riley Dixon	
LS	42	Casey Kreiter	
KR	14	Cody Latimer	<u>11</u> Carlos Henderson
PR	<u>84</u>	<u>Isaiah McKenzie</u>	19 Kalif Raymond

Rookies Underlined; [Denotes Injured / PUP / NFI]

DeMarcus Walker is listed as the second-team weak-side outside linebacker behind Von Miller. Walker was drafted as a defensive end, but was moved to outside linebacker in the wake of injuries to Shane Ray and Shaquil Barrett, who are still the first- and second-team strong-side linebackers but are indicated in brackets because of injuries that are expected to sideline them until the regular season.

Walker is one of two rookies on the second team; he is joined by CB Brendan Langley, who is listed ahead of third-year veteran Lorenzo Doss, and WR Carlos Henderson, who is the No. 2 kickoff returner behind fourth-year veteran Cody Latimer.

DEFENSE

DE	95	Derek Wolfe	92 Zach Kerr	96 Shelby Harris
NT	94	Domata Peko	97 Billy Winn	90 [Kyle Peko]
				<u>98</u> Tyrique Jarrett
DE	93	Jared Crick	99 Adam Gotsis	<u>67</u> Shakir Soto
SLB	56	[Shane Ray]	48 [Shaquil Barrett]	91 Kasim Edebali
				59 Vontarrius Dora
				<u>69</u> Deon Hollins
WLB	58	Von Miller	<u>57</u> DeMarcus Walker	47 Danny Mason
				<u>66</u> Ken Ekanem
ILB	51	Todd Davis	50 Zaire Anderson	45 Kevin Snyder
ILB	54	Brandon Marshall	52 Corey Nelson	49 Quentin Gause
				<u>41</u> Jerrol Garcia-Williams
LCB	21	Aqib Talib	29 Bradley Roby	39 Chris Lewis-Harris
				<u>46</u> Dontrell Nelson
RCB	25	Chris Harris Jr.	<u>27</u> Brendan Langley	37 Lorenzo Doss
				<u>38</u> Marcus Rios
SS	43	T.J. Ward	34 Will Parks	<u>20</u> Jamal Carter
				<u>2</u> Dante Barnett
FS	26	Darian Stewart	31 Justin Simmons	36 Orion Stewart
				<u>35</u> Dymonte Thomas

Seventh-year veteran Virgil Green is atop the depth chart at tight end, followed by Jeff Heuerman, A.J. Derby, Austin Traylor and Steven Scheu. Green is one of just two players who had prior experience

playing with the Broncos under current Offensive Coordinator Mike McCoy (Demaryius Thomas is the other).

Latimer and Bennie Fowler III are the second-team wide receivers behind Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders. McKenzie and Jordan Taylor are the third-teamers, followed by Henderson and Raymond. Anthony Nash and Marlon Brown are the fifth-team wide receivers, with Hunter Sharp rounding out the depth chart.

C.J. Anderson leads off the running-back corps. Injured Devontae Booker is the No. 2 running back, followed by Jamaal Charles, Stevan Ridley, De'Angelo Henderson, Juwan Thompson and Bernard Pierce.

Trevor Siemian will start against Bears; Paxton Lynch will start against 49ers

By Andrew Mason
DenverBroncos.com
August 8, 2017

The day-to-day rotation of quarterbacks Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch will continue in the first two preseason games.

Head Coach Vance Joseph announced after Monday's practice that Siemian would start the preseason opener at Chicago on Thursday, with Lynch starting the second preseason game against the San Francisco 49ers on August 19.

Siemian and Lynch were listed as co-No. 1 quarterbacks on the first depth chart of the season issued Monday morning.

Siemian led the No. 1 offense for the first team-period repetitions of OTAs and training camp, so in that regard, Joseph's decision was no surprise.

"He's been first out all spring and all training camp. I think Trevor's earned that much, to be the first guy out," Joseph said.

That does not mean that Siemian is in the lead in the ongoing competition, Joseph said.

"No, no, no, no," Joseph said. "He's first out. He's been first out all training camp. It's an open competition. The games matter. The games start Thursday."

"I want to get to the games so we can get to the bottom of this."

Joseph said he was uncertain how much each quarterback would play against the Bears, but "it's going to be more than most starting quarterbacks would play the first couple of weeks."

Some first-teamers will stay in the game after he inserts Lynch for Siemian on Thursday "just to keep the offense intact so the guy can play his best," Joseph added.

Broncos Training Camp Quick Hits: Day 10

By Andrew Mason

DenverBroncos.com

August 8, 2017

With threatening skies, a gloomy forecast and damp practice fields, Head Coach Vance Joseph took the Broncos inside the Pat Bowlen Fieldhouse for Monday morning's practice.

While the Broncos missed the chance to practice in front of a few thousand fans, their actual production was unaffected by the decision to take practice inside for the first time this summer.

"The players like it because it's faster," Joseph said. "It's obviously no wind. The footing's great. So for players, it's great. It's a change-up for those guys."

... CBs Bradley Roby and Lorenzo Doss and safety Dante Barnett all intercepted passes. Barnett was first, stepping in front of a Kyle Slotter pass in the right flat for what would have been a pick-six under game conditions. Roby was next, picking off a Lynch pass in the one-on-one period by tracking a deep ball for Cody Latimer and intercepting it near the left goal-line pylon.

Doss had the final theft of the day, stepping in front of a Siemian pass during a team period. Siemian was looking for Jordan Taylor on a short crossing route, but the wide receiver slipped, allowing Doss to make a play on the ball.

... That interception was part of a scattershot patch for the offense, which included Lynch missing on three of four attempts with the first team that period.

But both of them rebounded with a strong seven-on-seven period. Siemian completed all six of his passes during that period, including a pair of outside strikes to Emmanuel Sanders, one of which saw Sanders reach up to nab a 20-yard pass near the right sideline.

Lynch completed four of his six passes and would have been perfect if not for two drops.

... RBs De'Angelo Henderson, Stevan Ridley and Juwan Thompson continued to show the Broncos' strong depth in the backfield, as all of them ripped off solid gains to the outside during team-period work.

... If Lynch is going to win the job, it's not going to happen on arm strength alone; he needs completions based on timing and anticipation like the one he had during his "four-minute offense" period at the end of practice.

With the offense in third-and-5, given a situation where it needed a first down to seal a win, Lynch fired a pass for A.J. Derby before the tight end broke outside on his route. This prevented Justin Simmons, who was in tight coverage on Derby, from reacting, and the ball arrived just as Derby turned. He caught it, the offense moved the sticks, and it won the period. Timing like that is nearly impossible to defend.

That pass allowed Lynch to rebound from a previous move-the-ball period that saw him guide the first-team offense to the 5-yard line, but no closer. A fourth-down pass was off target and slammed into the wall, ending that series.

The No. 2 offense came up short in its "four-minute" period. With third-and-4, Siemian went for the knockout punch by looking deep for McKenzie up the right sideline, but the pass was overthrown.

PARTICIPATION REPORT:

... RT Menelik Watson is expected to return to practice Tuesday and play against the Bears after missing Monday's work because of a muscle strain. It marked the second consecutive practice missed by Watson.

... Center Matt Paradis continued to see a handful of repetitions at center as he works his way back from two hip surgeries. Connor McGovern continued to fill in for him on the first team.

... RG Ron Leary continued to work his way back from a groin injury, sharing first-team work with Billy Turner.

... RB Jamaal Charles was held out of practice Monday as the Broncos monitor his repetitions.

... ILB Todd Davis (shoulder), S T.J. Ward (hamstring) and RB Bernard Pierce (hamstring) remained sidelined. Corey Nelson worked on the first team in place of Davis, while Simmons and Will Parks saw action in place of Ward. Davis "probably won't play" against the Bears, Joseph said and Ward will not play.

Broncos Training Camp Day 10 Takeaways: Garrett Bolles knows he must keep working

By Andrew Mason
DenverBroncos.com
August 8, 2017

Garrett Bolles has earned the starting job at left tackle -- but he doesn't yet have a vice grip on the job for Week 1.

"Until it's official in Week 1, then that doesn't faze me," Bolles said.

Nevertheless, the No. 20 overall pick in the draft wouldn't have the spot without showing signs of why the Broncos made him the first offensive lineman taken in this year's draft class.

"We've watched the spring. We watched the first two weeks of training camp, and he's played well," Head Coach Vance Joseph said. "In my opinion, he's earned a right to start the game.

"That being said, we're still competing there with Donald [Stephenson] and Ty [Sambrailo], but he's played well enough to start the game there on Thursday."

If Bolles starts Week 1, he will become the Broncos' fourth different season-opening left tackle in as many seasons. The recently retired Ryan Clady started every season opener for seven consecutive seasons from 2008-14.

They hope Bolles stops the revolving door at the position.

1. SPECIAL TEAMS AND THE BATTLE FOR NO. 3 RECEIVER

For Bennie Fowler and Cody Latimer, their case to be the Broncos' No. 3 and No. 4 receivers could rest as much on what they do on special teams as their abilities on offense.

Fowler had a 23-yard catch-and-run during the Saturday scrimmage; it was the only first down the No. 1 offense mustered during that day's work. Latimer has made a handful of plays throughout training camp.

But the Broncos need leaders and contributors on special teams. Both of their 2016 captains, Dekoda Watson and Kayvon Webster, left in free agency. Latimer and Fowler are potential solutions.

"That's a huge deal to have two receivers, with Latimer and Fowler, as dominant special-teams players," Joseph said. "That's rare."

Latimer's career has been frustrating to this point. Although he has been a solid special teamer, he has just 16 career receptions -- far below the total that would have been expected for a second-round pick after three seasons. The development of Fowler and Jordan Taylor and the draft additions of rookies Isaiah McKenzie and Carlos Henderson only exacerbated the challenge Latimer faced going into this camp.

So far, Latimer has "responded positively," Joseph said.

"He's worked hard as a gunner first of all," Joseph said. "He can be an All-Pro gunner. He's so big and fast.

"As a third receiver, he's competing. Again, if we're in three receivers, who's the starter? If we're in four receiver sets, which we are going to be, who's the starter? We're going to have a five-receiver set, who's the starter? Those guys all have their role and who plays where, that'll happen in the future."

2. JOSEPH: 'NO' ONE'S AHEAD AT QB

The question will be asked and will continue to be asked in every possible manner until a decision has been made.

The question, of course, is about the Broncos' quarterback situation. As long as the competition between Paxton Lynch and Trevor Siemian continues, it will continue to be posed in various ways to Joseph.

Monday, he was asked if the decision to start Siemian on Thursday in Chicago meant that the third-year veteran had a slight lead on Lynch.

His answer couldn't have been more clear -- or offered with more emphasis through repetition.

"No," Joseph said, repeating the word 13 more times before he elaborated on where Siemian stands ([link to story on who's starting](#)).

3. PRACTICE ROUTINE CHANGES TUESDAY

With the preseason opener looming Thursday, Joseph will tweak Tuesday's practice. The No. 1 offense will go against a "scout team" simulating the Chicago defense, the No. 1 defense will face a unit simulating the Bears' offense, and so on.

"It changes the scripts," Joseph said.

A forecast for mostly sunny skies should bring the Broncos back outside in front of fans for the session after their work inside the Pat Bowlen Fieldhouse.

The Pick Six: Dan Patrick Show executive producer Todd "Fritzy" Fritz

By Ben Swanson
DenverBroncos.com
August 8, 2017

As executive producer of and one of the Danettes on The Dan Patrick Show, Todd "Fritzy" Fritz has one of the more entertaining jobs in sports media. He's also a huge Broncos fan. While at a training camp practice on his vacation, he was kind enough to answer six of our questions as part of our interview series, The Pick Six.

1. So I saw you've been on a bit of a road trip, first visiting the Pro Football Hall of Fame and then coming out here to Boulder and Denver. What have you been seeing?

"We started out — my wife has some family in Ohio — so we went there to the Columbus area to see them. ... We took a ride to Canton. With Terrell Davis being inducted, we wanted to go check it out and take pictures ... And then at the end after we saw all the busts, we saw Terrell Davis', where they have a glass frame there for Jason Taylor and [LaDainian] Tomlinson and Jerry Jones and everybody, with a hole where the busts would be put on. So I just thought that was really cool, so I took a picture of that, knowing that just in a matter of days he would be inducted and they would put his bust right in that exact spot. So that was really exciting.

"Then we came out here. We went to a Rockies game, where we saw a walk-off from [Nolan] Arenado. That was the game Tuesday against the Mets; they won 5-4. We went to Pearl Street yesterday and walked up and down the shops, from I guess, like, Eighth or Ninth Street to 20th Street. We went around the University of Colorado, got a tour and, today, this is finale before I go back to reality tomorrow back to Connecticut.

But to be here with the family and see the sea of orange and blue there and the big Broncos logo and see [Paxton] Lynch and [Trevor] Siemian and [Emmanuel] Sanders and Demaryius Thomas and Von Miller, I feel like I'm home and I need to move to Denver, Colorado, immediately. And from here, we're going to Mile High Stadium for a tour. We went a few days ago to check it out, but they had the Guns n' Roses concert, so we got a little mini tour but they said it was too dangerous with the pyrotechnics and whatever other stuff that they had to get ready. So we got a little peek of a couple things, but we're going to get a bigger tour this afternoon as soon as camp's over. They've got their footballs, they're ready to get some autographs at the end of camp and I'm just in heaven. This is just the greatest. I've been a Broncos fan since I was 7 or 8 years old."

2. How did you come to be a Broncos fan, growing up in New York?

"I grew up in Brooklyn, New York, but right about 1977, I'm watching '[The] NFL Today' with Irv Cross and Phyllis George and Brent Musburger and that gang, and Jimmy "The Greek" [Snyder]. So the Broncos were getting ready to play the Cowboys in Super Bowl XII, which was January 15, 1978, in the Superdome, if I'm not mistaken. When it comes to the Broncos, I have a scary memory. So they were doing a piece on the Broncos where they were interviewing little kids at an elementary school and they kept talking about the Orange Crush against the Doomsday Defense. And I just fell in love with the bright

orange uniforms and the D with the horse with the smoke coming out of the nose. I remember as a little kid tracing the logo, because I thought it was the greatest logo in sports. And everyone's rooting for the Jets and Giants around me, because I'm in Brooklyn, but I'm like, 'No, this is going to be my team.' Unfortunately, they ended up losing 27-10 to Dallas, [Roger] Staubach against Craig Morton."

3. What kind of Broncos fan are you? Emotive or stoic?

"I don't sit still. I have to be covered in orange and blue. I am very superstitious. If something went well the week before, I probably wear the same shirt. Broncos Zubaz, pajama pants. Once it's playoff time, which is hopefully as many years as possible, I'll take out a lot, if not all, of my Broncos stuff — jerseys, hats, banners, anything with a horse on it — I'll just set that up all over the room that I'm watching the game in. You'd think it was a souvenir shop — from Shannon Sharpe to [John] Elway, Terrell Davis, Von Miller — it's covered in orange and blue, everywhere. ...

"And the whole family's dressed in the orange and blue and we're just screaming and going crazy. My son gets really intense. We created a monster with him, because there will be like 11:30 left in the first quarter and he's screaming about a holding penalty. I'm like, 'We better pace ourselves a little bit. It's a long game. If you're going crazy over a 4-yard gain you wanted to be a 7-yard gain three minutes into the first quarter, it's not going to be good. So we've got to take a deep breath. So we settled for a field goal and we wanted a touchdown there, but there's still 10:44 left in the first quarter. Let's calm down a little bit.' So we go crazy when it comes to the Broncos, like nothing else matters."

4. Do you remember the first Bronco you booked for the show?

"I know Elway was one of the first ones, years back. But it may have been Terrell Davis. And he was very personable, and everyone we've dealt with with the Broncos has always been great. But for me, I always go back to — and this was before I was in the sports broadcasting business — I wish I could have met, like, Louis Wright and Randy Gradishar, and Bernard Jackson and Tom Jackson. Tom, I've met because he obviously became a broadcaster with ESPN, but I look back to those early days and then once I got older, I fell in love with guys like Rulon Jones and Karl Mecklenburg and Steve Atwater, putting that hit on Christian Okoye ... Dennis Smith, and you just think of all these guys."

5. Dan Patrick and the other Danettes of course know you're a huge fan. Do you get a lot of taunting over it?

"They tease me a little bit. They know after a big win I'll be unbearable to deal with the next day — not that I'm taunting or teasing anybody, but I'll be covered in Broncos stuff coming to work the next day and all I'll want to talk about is the Broncos. And obviously it's a national sports talk show. We've got to cover other things, but like for at least a day after a big win by Denver, I'm really just totally in the Broncos zone, and sometimes Dan's had to reel me in. We do have to cover other sports and other teams. I want to talk about the Broncos for three hours. We raise our hands so we don't talk on top of each other; it's almost like a classroom. He knows, especially on a Monday or a Tuesday after a big Monday-night game, he's worried that everything that comes out of my mouth is going to be something that somehow I'll tie it into the Broncos. But that's just the way it is."

6. Has there been a time when Dan has surprised you with something he's done?

"I'll tell you this: He's got an incredible personality, which doesn't always come out as much on TV when he's doing 'Football Night in America' and when he's doing the Olympics and other things he's done on TV ... because with TV, I guess it's a little tighter and you're sticking to a tight format and you're doing the highlights, or he's kind of got to be in control of what's going on with Tony Dungy and Rodney Harrison and Peter King and Mike Florio and all that.

"With radio — and I've been working with him for 15 years — he's a lot more loose, a lot more playful, because we can kind of go in different directions. We can talk about pop culture, music, all kinds of things going on in the world besides sports. Not that TV broadcasters are uptight, but I see — and if you spent one day with us in the ManCave — he's just very loose. He knows when to be serious if there's a certain interview and it's serious subject matter. That's a whole other story when it's time to interview a guest. But in general, he's very playful, he's very welcoming to the rest of the staff, expecting and demanding ideas from us. It's not a dictatorship at all; he wants the Danettes and the production staff [to have input]. He wants our ideas: 'Who do you think we should have on the show? What topics should we cover?' It's not like he says, 'Fritzy, get this guy on or that guy on. Stay out of the way and I'll take it from here.' It's very much a mix. 'What should we do for the poll question? What should we put on the website or the app? What do we want to get out of this guest? What do you think we should ask him?' All that stuff. And he's singing, he's silly, he's shooting hoops. We've got all that fun stuff in the ManCave: pinball machines and pool tables and the golf simulator. He's bouncing around. And when he's in good spirits, which is most of the time, it's just a pleasure to work with him. And that was a surprise.

"I didn't realize that side of his personality [was there], and radio brings that out in him where he can kind of just be a lot more light-hearted and silly, instead of counting you down and here's the camera, let's go to that highlight,' or, 'OK, now ask Rodney Harrison a question. Throw it out to Costas and Michaels and Cris Collinsworth.' That's a lot more rigid. So that would be the thing that was most surprising to me."

Previously on The Pick Six:

- Hall of Famer Terrell Davis revisits his 1998 'Sesame Street' appearance
- "Monday Night Football" broadcaster Beth Mowins on her favorite broadcasters
- Sports Illustrated senior writer and The MMQB editor Peter King on the weight of Hall-of-Fame voting

Von Miller a 99 overall as Madden 18 ratings are revealed

By Aric DiLalla
DenverBroncos.com
August 8, 2017

When EA Sports' Madden 18 comes out on Aug. 25, Broncos fans will have a plethora of talent available at their fingertips.

That starts with OLB Von Miller, who is one of just three players in the game to earn a 99-overall rating. The Super Bowl 50 MVP joins Patriots QB Tom Brady in that club, and the two will have the chance to face off in real life on Nov. 12.

Miller's tackling, stamina, power moves, finesse moves, block shedding, pursuit and play recognition are among his highest rated attributes.

The Broncos' star power continues with cornerbacks Chris Harris Jr. and Aqib Talib, who both earned 94 ratings, which make them the highest-rated corners in the game. The pair of corners from the "No-Fly Zone" ranks ahead of other NFL stars like Malcolm Butler, Patrick Peterson and Richard Sherman.

The complete list of Broncos rankings will be released Tuesday, Aug. 8.

Klee blog: Trevor Siemian still better than Paxton Lynch, named starting quarterback for Broncos preseason opener

By Paul Klee
Colorado Springs Gazette
August 8, 2017

It's not complicated, and Gary Kubiak wasn't wrong. Trevor Siemian has been a better quarterback than Paxton Lynch for over a year now.

Broncos coach Vance Joseph simply confirmed it on Monday.

Siemian will be the starting quarterback for the Broncos in the preseason opener against the Chicago Bears on Thursday, Joseph said. Lynch is scheduled to start the second preseason game, in Santa Clara against the 49ers.

The Gazette will be the only local outlet with columnists at both. Here's one I wrote early last season from Siemian's high school in Orlando.

Get those mea culpas ready. Siemian's winning the job fair and square, again. The last time media got something this wrong, it was last November.

Woody Paige: No answers come from uninspiring Broncos 'scrimmage'

By Woody Paige
Colorado Springs Gazette
August 8, 2017

If you're keeping score at home, Trevor Siemian is leading Paxton Lynch 5-2, with two ties, and Kyle Sloter is 1.

Late in the Broncos' official "scrimmage" Saturday morning before a record crowd of 7,035 loyalists at Dove Valley - which, with temperatures in the 70s and a Club Med all-inclusive atmosphere, wouldn't be confused with Death Valley - Sloter, in the No. 1 jersey, ran onto the field.

"What - they're putting a punter under center?" one of two dozen Broncos alumni, invited to the session, asked, and I explained that Sloter is an undrafted free agent from Northern Colorado who will be the practice squad-scout team QB. In Broncos history, only punters and kickers have worn the first natural number.

After a couple of complete passes, another former Broncos' player said: "This kid was the best one out there." Sloter was the only 1.

In actuality, Trevor prevailed for another day in the competition against Lynch, who threw an ugly pick-six (to cornerback Chris Harris Jr.) and looked rather grainy.

However, coach Vance Joseph characterized the performances of Siemian and Lynch as "very solid" in the scrimmage.

I use the term "scrimmage" very loosely. The game simulation had little stimulation and not much to write home about. The audience on the grassy knoll was subdued except when rookie Isaiah "Speeds" McKenzie returned a punt untouched for a touchdown. (He was untouched because of a no-tackle rule throughout.)

Joseph did make an important announcement about the competition ... at punt returner. McKenzie will be the guy, the coach emphasized emphatically, in the season opener. "That's what we drafted him for." At Georgia, the 5-foot-7, 173-pounder scored six touchdowns on punt and kickoff returns.

Last season's punt returner for four games, Kalif Raymond (who had no TDs), may not be ecstatic.

Team Trevor managed just a field goal, but would have scored on a Siemian-to-Bennie Fowler pass over the middle if play hadn't been halted. Fowler is ahead in the starting slot receiver race over third-round selection Carlos Henderson, who has been erratic.

Team Paxton looked uneven, especially when not in the shotgun, although he views his duel with Trevor as a "level playing field ... I'm confident I can make every throw."

Siemian said afterward that the "last couple of days I've started to get more confident and feeling the rhythm and understanding the big picture" of the offense.

Some camp hangers-on have declared The Clash of the Quarterbacks over, and Siemian the winner, but we heard similar conviction at this juncture during Dove Valley Days a year ago and before an election last fall, and look what happened to Mark Sanchez and Hillary Clinton.

Paxton isn't a proficient practice player, but claims he has running ability and athleticism "in my back pocket," which he'll have to take out during the upcoming exhibitions Thursday night in Chicago and in Santa Clara, Calif., on Aug. 19.

Trevor is more poised, precise and prepared than Paxton, but people love The Long Ball.

The run game sincerely seems advanced because of new offensive linemen, schemes and a strong assistant in Jeff Davidson. Joseph didn't specifically study first-round draft pick Garrett Bolles on Saturday, but I did. Bolles is on a mission, as he once was in Colorado Springs with the Mormon Church. He knocks defenders down, then picks them up and knocks them down again. Matt Paradis, Ron Leary and Bolles make that center and left side potentially potent for the array of running backs. Rookie De'Angelo "De'Gnat" Henderson has got game.

The "scrimmage" showed that rookie corner Brendan Langley is real raw, but real fast. Vontarrius Dora and Kasim Edebali are contenders at outside linebacker because of injuries to Shane Ray and Shaq Barrett. "We need," Joseph said, "to find someone to start opposite Von" (Miller, aka The Chinese Dragon).

We hoped for a 31-30 O.K. Corral shootout Saturday, but there's more action and contact in beach volleyball.

A Broncos star of yesteryear in gritty Greeley camps said: "You mean that's it? I guess they're headed to the pool. I hope they're great this season, but I couldn't tell from this."

Scrimmage or Cribbage?

Boomer Esiason says he and “all football players probably have” CTE

By Des Bieller
Washington Post
August 8, 2017

More than a few current and former NFL players have recently expressed concern that they might have chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a neurodegenerative disease that studies have linked to the sorts of concussive and sub-concussive impacts common in football. On Monday, Boomer Esiason went a step further, claiming that he “likely” has the condition, as do “all football players.”

Esiason, a 56-year-old former NFL MVP who ended a 14-year career in 1997 and became a CBS football analyst, was discussing the issue on “Boomer and Carton,” his New York sports-radio show. Noting the deadline Monday for former NFL players to register for the league’s \$1 billion settlement in a class-action lawsuit over its handling of brain injuries, Esiason was making the point that potential cases of CTE in living players — he thought such diagnoses might be possible in a few years’ time — were “carved out” of the settlement.

“If I died tomorrow and my brain basically was taken and researched and I was found to have CTE, which most likely I have,” he said, before co-host Craig Carton asked why he thought that was the case.

“Because I think all football players probably have it,” Esiason replied.

Esiason clarified that he thought many people who have suffered brain injuries in a variety of sports could be subject to CTE, or at least symptoms thereof. Noting that Carton had “played soccer,” the former Bengals, Jets and Cardinals quarterback told his co-host, “You’ve had a head injury, you’ve had a number of concussions yourself, you might have had a car wreck, where you hit your head or something like that — I wouldn’t be surprised if you had it, as well.”

His comments on CTE were couched in a more matter-of-fact way, but Esiason echoed some of the thoughts recently offered by Terrell Davis. Speaking on Friday, shortly before he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, the former Broncos running back said, “I can’t lie, we’re all scared.”

“We’re concerned because we don’t know what the future holds,” the 44-year-old Davis said of himself and other ex-NFL players. “When I’m at home and I do something, if I forget something I have to stop to think, ‘Is this because I’m getting older or I’m just not using my brain, or is this an effect of playing football?’ I don’t know that.”

A study published in July bolstered the proposed link between football and CTE, as it found that 110 of 111 brains of deceased NFL players showed signs of the disease. “The time for denying facts and looking the other way is over,” Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, D-Ill., said in a release pegged to the study. “We must now actively seek out ways to protect the health and (well-being) of players from Pop Warner to the NFL and every league in between.”

Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger referred to those results last month while musing about the possibility that this could be his final NFL season. “I know this new study that came out that 90 percent

(of NFL) players' brains who were studied had CTE. There's a lot of scary things, and I think my wife would be okay if I hung it up, too," he said.

On Monday, Esiason pointed out one positive in the news about CTE, saying, "The more we learn about our brains, the better it is for the guys who are playing today." He added that "the good news for the guys who are playing today, especially the guys who have been playing for a long time," was that "they get paid a hell of a lot more money than we ever did."

Trevor Siemian to get Broncos' first preseason start, Paxton Lynch to follow in Week 2

By Lindsay H. Jones

USA Today

August 8, 2017

New Broncos head coach Vance Joseph listed Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch as co-No. 1 quarterbacks on the team's first official depth chart released Monday, and announced that both quarterbacks will get a chance to start a preseason game.

Siemian will start Thursday's preseason opener against the Chicago Bears, while Lynch will start the second preseason game Aug. 19 against the San Francisco 49ers.

"The games matter, and the games start Thursday. I want to get the games so we can get to the bottom of this," Joseph said Monday.

Joseph has repeatedly said he won't put a timetable on making his quarterback decision, and that he would call it off once he sees one quarterback separate himself from the other. Siemian appears to have established a slight lead after about 10 days of training camp because he has been more consistent and made fewer mistakes. But Lynch can make up ground if he's able to show off his athleticism, big arm and down-field throwing ability in live action.

Joseph said both quarterbacks will get to play with the first-team offensive line and skill position players in their preseason starts, to help make a fair assessment of their performances, and both will play more snaps than a starting quarterback typically takes in the first or second preseason game.

Former quarterback Boomer Esiason says he probably has CTE

By Kevin Spain
USA Today
August 8, 2017

Former NFL quarterback Boomer Esiason seems resigned to the fact that he could have a brain injury from his years of playing football.

"If I died tomorrow and my brain was taken and researched and it was found that I had CTE, which, most likely I have," he said Monday on his radio show "Boomer and Carton."

"All football players probably have it, the way I read it and the way I see it."

Esiason was discussing the recent study by the Boston University School of Medicine and the VA Boston Healthcare System that showed 110 out of 111 former NFL football players who donated their brains to science showed signs of chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE).

While the NFL said more research is needed, the league is currently paying out a \$1 billion lawsuit to former players and wives of deceased former players. The suit, filed in 2011, said the league didn't warn former players about the dangers of concussions.

Esiason indicated that the studies, lawsuits and awareness will make football better moving forward.

"The more we learn about our brains, the better it is for the guys who are playing today," Esiason said. "The good news for the guys who are playing today, especially those who are playing for a long period of time, is they get paid a hell of a lot more money than we did. They have much better benefits and retirement benefits than we do."

NFL Training Camp Quarterback Battles: Siemian or Lynch? Savage or Watson?

By Chris Beake

MMQB

August 8, 2017

Generally speaking, holding a quarterback competition in August is a bad place for an NFL team to be. There are some exceptions to the rule, like if said team is gauging a rookie's progress or—very rare—two excellent QBs are fighting for one spot.

The majority of the league's starting quarterbacks appear to be settled, with the preseason set to begin in full next week, but a few jobs remain open.

A primer on 10 potential battles for training camp, and beyond:

DENVER: TREVOR SIEMIAN VS. PAXTON LYNCH

The Broncos' first padded practice last week led to this QB review from new coach Vance Joseph: "Did I like what I saw? Not really. Both guys had issues today."

A hiccup here or there in late July (up against the Broncos' vaunted defense, no less) hardly is reason to push the panic button. However, with both Siemian and Lynch enduring their ups and downs, this battle is set up to drag deep into August.

Siemian was a 14-game starter for the Broncos last season, following a Super Bowl 50 win and Peyton Manning's retirement. He threw for 3,801 yards, 18 touchdowns and 10 interceptions, while the Denver offense struggled to shift out of neutral. In his two starts, Lynch completed 59.3% of his passes, for 327 yards, one TD and one INT.

CLEVELAND: CODY KESSLER VS. DESHONE KIZER VS. BROCK OSWEILER

Assuming Osweiler has not made significant improvements to his game since OTAs last month, him claiming the starting gig would mean both Kessler and Kizer scuffled through a disappointing August. The Browns have maintained that Osweiler is part of the competition (and he's starting the first preseason game), but it seems clear that the preference is either for Kessler to hold onto his No. 1 job or for the rookie Kizer to go steal it.

"[Kessler's] still the guy who demonstrates knowing the offense the best," Cleveland coach Hue Jackson in late July, per Cleveland.com. "He's the guy that has played the most football for us in that group, and I think he deserves a chance to walk out there first."

Kizer did work his way into first-team reps during OTAs, and he has done so again early in camp. It's a safe bet, for the moment, that Kessler gets the starting nod when Cleveland begins its preseason schedule on Aug. 10, but the rotation on Aug. 21 (Giants) and Aug. 26 (Bucs) will clear up the picture further.

HOUSTON: TOM SAVAGE VS. DESHAUN WATSON

“Deshaun is ahead of any rookie quarterback I’ve been around,” Houston coach Bill O’Brien said Tuesday.

Skeptics might note that the rookie QBs O’Brien has worked with in the past do not exactly qualify as Hall of Fame-caliber: Ryan Mallett, Brian Hoyer, Tom Savage and a handful of others with even fewer career accomplishments.

Still, O’Brien’s praise for Watson is noteworthy, and it should come as no real surprise to anyone if the Clemson rookie leapfrogs Savage before long. Aside from his three years spent under O’Brien’s watch, and the two starts he made last season, there are not a whole lot of areas in which Savage stands superior to Watson.

The experience Savage has in O’Brien’s system will keep him atop the depth chart for now. But this is a team with playoff aspirations. If Watson’s momentum carries through August, Savage may have the shortest leash of any starter in the league.

JACKSONVILLE: BLAKE BORTLES VS. ... HIMSELF?

The Jaguars remain pot committed on Bortles, at least for one more season. His backup heading into camp, 32-year-old Chad Henne, has not thrown a regular-season pass since 2014. Behind him sits 2016 sixth-rounder Brandon Allen, who, unless he is the league’s best-kept secret, is little more than minor competition for Henne this year.

So, it’s Bortles, for better or worse. Jacksonville did pick up the fifth-year option on Bortles’s contract, which would pay the QB \$19 million next season, but that is guaranteed for injury only. Whether or not Bortles is still the Jaguars’ quarterback in 2018 depends on how he fares this year.

He spent the off-season working on his mechanics, an effort that new Jacksonville executive VP Tom Coughlin declared a success. He also, according to ESPN’s Michael DiRocco, just tossed five interceptions during “one of the worst practices of his career” last weekend, so the pendulum swings on.

CHICAGO: MIKE GLENNON VS. MITCHELL TRUBISKY

Officially, there is no battle here—yet.

“Glennon’s our starter and we’re confident with that,” Bears GM Ryan Pace said during a press conference at the start of training camp. “This thing is going to have to play out. But Mike Glennon is our starting quarterback, and I don’t think now is the time to deal in hypotheticals going forward.”

If Pace does not want to touch those “hypotheticals,” he can leave it to the rest of us. What if Trubisky lights it up during the preseason? What if Glennon flops, and the Bears have the look of a team that will struggle to compete? The media will surely remind the front office that Glennon’s three-year, \$45 million contract can be shed with minimal cap penalties after the 2017 season.

The Bears' preference, obviously, is that he earns the \$18.5 million he'll be making in 2017. Glennon has starting experience in the league, which is why Chicago brought him over in the first place. Trubisky ... well ...

BradBiggs

Issues with center exchange for #Bears QB Mitch Trubisky in spring carry into camp. 3 of his 6 snaps in first team drills fell on ground.

10:25 AM - Jul 29, 2017

37 Replies 32 Retweets 54 likes

KANSAS CITY: ALEX SMITH VS. PATRICK MAHOMES

This is not meant to be a competition, at least not in 2017. Mahomes arrives with immeasurable upside, but the Chiefs have no plans to rush him into action. Smith thrice has helped Kansas City into the postseason.

In fact, the actual battle is likely to take place behind Smith, with Mahomes and Tyler Bray duking it out for the backup role.

NEW YORK JETS: JOSH MCCOWN VS. WHATEVER THE JETS' PLAN IS

The MMQB's Tim Rohan stopped by Jets camp this week to examine the all-important question: Are the Jets tanking? The company line, as one would expect, is that they are not and that people are underestimating them and that every time a bell rings an angel gets its wings but ... come on. They're tanking.

As such, overly committing to the 37-year-old Josh McCown does little to help anyone. (Counterpoint: McCown is 2-20 as a starter since 2014, so maybe he's perfect for Operation No. 1 Draft Pick.) Instead, a trial by fire for 2016 draft pick Christian Hackenberg or '15 draft pick Bryce Petty would give the Jets a better idea where they stand at QB headed into next off-season.

Is either Hackenberg or Petty capable of doing enough this preseason to win the job? If not, it will be McCown by default.

SAN FRANCISCO: BRIAN HOYER VS. MATT BARKLEY VS. C.J. BEATHARD

The 49ers signed Hoyer first, then Barkley, then drafted Beathard. Despite working from limited QB options, new coach Kyle Shanahan could have swung open the door to a true competition under center, if he'd wanted to.

To date, he does not. Hoyer has been the No. 1 all summer, and he remains there as August rolls in.

The only caveats: First, this is a new regime, from top to bottom, so Shanahan and GM John Lynch are leaning hard into the "competition at every position" trope; second, Hoyer's contract is for two years and just \$12 million (\$9.85 million guaranteed, via OvertheCap.com), relative bare bones for a starting QB deal. The front office has no reasons, financial or sentimental, to stick with Hoyer if he is in over his head.

LOS ANGELES RAMS: JARED GOFF VS. SEAN MANNION

Rookie Rams coach Sean McVay added intrigue here earlier in the off-season, when he refused to make an unequivocal declaration that Goff was his starter. Goff clearly is the No. 1 option, though, as the preseason approaches. Nothing has happened thus far to alter that outlook.

McVay, and offensive coordinator Matt LaFleur, were not part of the organization when Goff was taken at No. 1 overall, but they will face pressure to maximize Goff's abilities after a disastrous rookie season. At the least, the Rams need their quarterback play to be inoffensive, which it was not last year.

The only other quarterback on the roster is journeyman Dan Orlovsky. If he wins the starting job, cancel the franchise.

MINNESOTA: SAM BRADFORD VS. TEDDY BRIDGEWATER

Put a pin in this discussion. For as impressive as Bridgewater's recovery from last August's horrific knee injury has been, he is not ready to push for any sort of playing time.

The Vikings still do have to address their quarterbacking future in the coming months. Bradford's contract is set to expire after the 2017 season, and Bridgewater's could—the Vikings declined Bridgewater's fifth-year option, but his presence on the PUP list stands to extend his deal an extra year. (Explanation provided [here](#), by Mike Florio.)

"For Sam to do what he did last year, that was impressive," Bridgewater said during a press conference last month. "I'm glad to be in the same room with him. I get to pick his brain, and he gets to pick my brain, and we get to challenge each other."

Ex-Rams starter Case Keenum and Taylor Heinecke also occupy the Vikings' QB room, so there are fail safes in place to backup Bradford.

Trevor Siemian to start Broncos' preseason opener, Paxton Lynch up next

By Sean Wagner-McGough
CBS Sports
August 8, 2017

The Denver Broncos are a football team without a starting quarterback. But that'll change in just a few weeks. On Monday, the Broncos revealed how they'll select their starter between either Trevor Siemian, the incumbent, and Paxton Lynch, last year's first-round pick.

First thing's first: there is no starting quarterback. Both are listed as co-starters.

@NickiJhabvala

Broncos to release a depth chart later today. 1st QBs listed as Siemian "OR" Lynch. Rookie Garrett Bolles is 1st at left tackle.

8:33 AM - Aug 7, 2017

3 Replies 57 Retweets 218 likes

But it appears that Siemian is holding a slight advantage over Lynch. On Monday, Broncos coach Vance Joseph revealed that it'll be Siemian who starts the Broncos' preseason opener against the Bears on Thursday.

@RapSheet

#Broncos coach Vance Joseph tells reporters that Trevor Siemian will start in their preseason opener over Paxton Lynch. He's taken a lead

11:42 AM - Aug 7, 2017

35 Replies 161 Retweets 355 likes

But that doesn't mean Siemian can wrap up the gig with a dominant outing. No matter how well he plays, he won't be starting the Broncos' second preseason game against the 49ers on Aug. 19. Starting duties for that game will be handed over to Lynch. So, both quarterbacks will get the chance to audition for the job.

@JamesPalmerTV

Paxton Lynch will start the second preseason game vs SF. Doesn't look like a decision will be made before then. Each getting a shot.

11:48 AM - Aug 7, 2017

11 Replies 127 Retweets 334 likes

And then a decision will likely be made, which makes sense given most teams treat their third preseason game as a dress rehearsal for the regular season. At that point, the Broncos would likely want their starter getting the majority of reps with the first team.

@lionelbienvenu

Trevor starts 1st preseason game in Chicago. Paxton starts 2nd one vs SF. After that #Broncos will have their starting QB. @DenverChannel

11:54 AM - Aug 7, 2017

Replies 5 Retweets 7 likes

So, who has the better chance of winning the job? All signs point to Siemian, based on his performance during training camp. According to Yahoo Sports' Charles Robinson, "he is ahead in this race basically by default." That kind of assessment doesn't bode well for Lynch. Robinson reported that "Lynch has lost every single practice session to Siemian."

Here's a sample from his report:

Given the talent that Elway believes he has, the grand design is to get Lynch into the starting job at some stage this season. Preferably, things would click for him and he'd win the job outright. But the opposite has happened. If you believe the practice tape that others have watched, Lynch has lost every single practice session to Siemian. His sparse collection of good days has been at best on par with Siemian's good days. Lynch's bad days have been exponentially worse. Most notably, a practice in which he threw three straight interceptions and left Elway clenched-jawed.

And that doesn't bode well for the Broncos. A year ago, they tried letting Siemian quarterback their team and the results weren't great. In 14 games, Siemian completed 59.5 percent of his passes for 3,401 yards, 18 touchdowns, 10 picks, and an 84.6 passer rating. Despite boasting the league's best defense, the Broncos went 9-7 and missed out on the postseason.

Boomer Esiason says he 'most likely' has CTE: 'All football players probably have it'

By Kevin Sklver

CBS Sports

August 8, 2017

On Monday's "Boomer & Carton," Boomer Esiason and Craig Carton found themselves diving into the much-talked about subject of concussions in football. During the conversation, they began to talk about CTE and how it has forced some younger players to retire earlier than what's considered the norm. While they were on the topic, Esiason conceded that he may have some form of CTE, and he said that it's not an isolated case.

"If I died tomorrow and my brain basically was taken and researched and I was found to have CTE, which most likely I have, because I think all football players probably have it," Boomer said.

CTE has been a serious topic of conversation over the course of the past few weeks. The NFL announced it is dissolving its partnership with the National Institutes of Health mere days after a study found CTE in 110 of 111 players examined. Players such as Chris Borland, who retired after his rookie season, have been bucking the trend by pursuing passions outside of football. Despite steps by the NFL to try to curb head injuries (e.g. the near-elimination of kickoffs and more stringent head-to-head penalties), the worry around concussions has nearly come to a peak in recent years.

To hear this statement may not be surprising, but to hear it come from a former player is eye-opening. Having an athlete that lived it talking about his apparent head trauma is no small matter, even if it's a comment made in passing. Obviously Boomer was making a point, but he may have inadvertently made much larger one.

The NFL Is a Booming Business Despite Growing Concerns Over Brain Trauma

By Andrew Brandt
Sports Illustrated
August 8, 2017

The recent news about the degenerative brain disease CTE having been found in deceased former NFL players has triggered new warnings from people predicting the decline of the football and the inevitable weakening of the league's popularity and prosperity. While the latest study regarding the relationship between chronic traumatic encephalopathy and football is concerning, we have been here before with dramatic assessments about the future of the game—and we will find ourselves in this position again and again. All the while, the NFL's popularity and prosperity has not withered; it has grown.

THE STUDY

Beyond the presence of CTE being found in 110 of 111 brains that belonged to former NFL players, an equally if not more troubling finding was the prevalence of the disease among those without NFL experience—those who had participated in lower levels of football. Of the 202 such brains tested, 87% were found to have CTE.

Dr. Ann McKee, the study's lead researcher, noted that there was an inherent bias in the sample of donated brains. Many of the players who were posthumously examined suffered from mood disorders and dementia later in life, and their families were searching for answers. There are not many, if any, brains being examined of former players who went on to lead active and healthy lives. Thus, as any research scientist will tell you, it was a skewed sample.

Having said that, there is still compelling data. What I found most interesting was that linemen—offensive and defensive—represent a sizable majority of players found to have CTE in this latest study. We so often focus on the violent collisions suffered by wide receivers, running backs and quarterbacks in the open field. However, the study indicates more long-term damage in those playing in short-range areas, with repetitive impacts on every play. This finding, if backed up by a more longitudinal study, points to a recommendation to limit contact football as much as possible—specifically at early ages. And that extrapolated finding will not play well at 345 Park Avenue.

NOT GOOD NEWS FOR THE NFL

The NFL responded to the study with usual language about continuing to make football safer; it is not the first time—nor will it be the last—the league has had to confront the reality of CTE. Indeed, at a 2015 roundtable in Washington, Jeffrey Miller, the NFL's point person on health and safety, responded “yes” when pressed on a potential link between playing football and CTE. Miller was sitting next to Dr. McKee, who at that point had discovered CTE in an overwhelming majority of brains examined. What else was he going to say?

The NFL has long espoused the benefits of youth football and “heads-up” tackling methods that its youth football leaders teach to young players. Roger Goodell regularly stays on task about the positive impacts of playing football at a young age, noting, sometimes clumsily, that there are risks to everything,

even “sitting on the couch.” Despite a drumbeat of people, including former and current players, saying they would not let their sons play football, the commissioner certainly would (he has daughters); he preaches the values and lessons learned from youth football. Goodell and NFL owners do not want parents to be reluctant about allowing their kids to play contact football at a young age. Further, some recent early retirements of players opting out in their mid-twenties are not good looks for the league.

The NFL presides over a sport that has, as its primary feature, massive men banging their heads against each other. The league should accept and admit, as it has sometimes done, there are known risks to playing football, as with other contact sports and dangerous professions.

To its credit, the NFL has tried to make football safer. The ultimate question, however, will always be this: how does the NFL make an inherently violent game safe? When it comes to CTE, that may not be possible.

OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD

The dividing line between adults and children playing football will be a topic that will gain increasing traction. I spoke about this concept with Washington Post columnist Sally Jenkins on my podcast:

Jenkins said: “Players take calculated health risks playing football. I don’t think we should stigmatize guys for playing through concussions at the NFL level. They’re adult men, they know the risks of this game. What is not OK is sending the message that it’s appropriate for everybody else. It’s just not.”

I also spoke with two of the lead researchers for the study discussed above: Chris Nowinski, head of the Concussion Legacy Foundation, and Dr. Jesse Mez of Boston University School of Medicine:

They echoed the contrast between adults and youth:

Nowinski: “When steelworkers work on the ledge on the 48th floor, they don’t have Bring Your Kid to Work Day. It’s just too dangerous for a child to be doing that. Children do not have this capacity to take this risk with their life, especially with all these other options to get exercise.”

Mez: “It’s certainly reasonable for an adult who is being compensated to play this sport. We know that there is this relationship between football and CTE but what we don’t know the size of the relationship.

Both also spoke of the sample of brains examined in broad terms:

Nowinski: “The CTE prevalence is an unacceptably high number considering how rare this is in the whole population base and all other brain banks.”

Mez: “You go back to all of the brain banks that exist in the world, they look similarly at the brain for evidence of neurodegenerative disease. And in those brain banks CTE is rare, very rare. Then in our brain bank it is incredibly common.”

These were sobering comments, not so much about football in general, but about exposing the game to our youth.

OUR CONTRADICTION

Periodic hysteria will come and go with findings like this study, stoking the fire for those forecasting that football will devolve like boxing, which is viewed by many as a savage sport in decline. That may be a reaction that gets some attention but, well, good luck with that.

As interest in boxing has declined, similar yet more violent sports such as UFC have surged—sports that allow for more contact (lighter gloves with less padding) and more bodily damage than boxing. Violence is inextricably linked to many sports beyond football, in part giving rise to their popularity. Violence sells (just ask Hollywood), and that is why we are drawn to UFC takedowns, NHL fights, NASCAR wrecks, and MLB bean balls.

As to a potential diminution of the talent pool in football, I find it hard to believe there will be a discernible difference going forward. As a former agent and team executive, I have seen the thousands of players begging for NFL tryouts every year; there is no shortage of those trying to enter the league.

Ultimately, we are at this place in our society regarding the NFL and football in general: we bemoan the violence, but we are drawn to it. Like many, I have criticized the NFL about the era depicted in *League of Denial and Concussion*. And I have seen firsthand the ravages that football has bestowed upon some former player. Yet despite the distaste from those films and the empathy toward what football has sown for these players, I consume the sport regularly. And there are millions like me. There is no zero-sum game here; any reasonable person has to be aware of the contradiction.

BUSINESS STILL BOOMING

After the Donald Trump-driven dip in NFL television ratings last year, the numbers climbed back to 2015 levels, a record year. Now Twitter (last year) and Amazon (this year) have joined the parade of NFL programmers, poised to add further bidding options for the league after the present network deals expire.

A team-friendly CBA is barely past its halfway point; franchise values are skyrocketing; Los Angeles and Las Vegas relocation fees are padding owners' pockets with deeper amounts than ever. The latest Packers financial report—the only team showing its books—showed an eye-popping league-wide distribution of \$244 million per team. That is \$77 million more than the team salary cap (\$167 million) before one dime of local revenue! There has never been a more prosperous time to be an NFL owner.

So where are we in the wake of this latest CTE study? We (myself included) are troubled by the findings and discuss a scientific rationale for our youth to avoid contact football. We scold the NFL for pulling NIH funding on this issue, another bad look for a league with its stated high priority on player safety. We complain and criticize, but we watch. We always watch.

Having spent time in Europe, I always note that it has seemed that soccer fans have their allegiance burned into their minds at a young age. Time will tell if American football will eventually wear off on tens of millions of people, but, as I say again: good luck with that.

BRANDT'S RANT

Colin Kaepernick is a much bigger story unsigned than signed. Once signed, there will certainly be focus on the signing for a couple of days but then the majority of the coverage will move on to whatever is next. Now, every time a quarterback is hurt, whether in Baltimore, Miami or the next team, there is a predictable drumbeat of fans and media debating/projecting/analyzing Kaepernick as a potential signing. This will continue to happen.

In perhaps the most telling comment about the entire Kaepernick saga, Ravens owner Steve Biscotti, when discussing their debate whether to sign him, said to *"Pray for us." Pray for us? Really?*

I get the concern about public reaction to a Kaepernick signing, but time tempers even the most vocal outrage. I was consulting for the Eagles, in 2009, when we signed Michael Vick, who had just been released from prison after serving time for his role in the dogfighting ring. The decision to sign him sparked a strong and passionate reaction . . . for a week. The day we signed him there were 50 protestors outside team headquarters, the next day there were twenty, the next day, five, and by the fifth day there were none. In this Twitter age of 20-minute news cycles, there is always something else. Emotions, as strong as they appear at first, fade. There is no need to pray for the Ravens or whatever team signs Kaepernick.

2 former Huskers to start for Denver Broncos in 2017

By Staff

KETV

August 8, 2017

Two former Nebraska Cornhuskers will start for the Denver Broncos, according to the team's initial depth chart, which was released Monday.

Andy Janovich, a former walk-on from Gretna, will start at fullback.

Jared Crick, who starred at Nebraska from 2008 to 2011, will start as defensive end.

Former Husker Zaire Anderson is listed as a second-string inside linebacker.

Winners and losers: Underdog QBs rise; injuries dog Chargers

By Gregg Rosenthal

NFL.com

August 8, 2017

Jay Cutler doesn't have much time to prepare for the season after joining the Dolphins midway through training camp. Then again, Cutler threw as many passes in practice last week as Andrew Luck and Cam Newton did.

Luck, who had surgery on his throwing shoulder in January, was placed on the physically unable to perform (PUP) list by the Colts two weeks ago, with no signs that his return is imminent. While general manager Chris Ballard said previously Luck won't stay on PUP into the regular season, reporters have yet to see Luck even throw on the side of practice. Luck observed his team from the sideline over the weekend, an act that Indianapolis coach Chuck Pagano said was "good for the soul." Watching Scott Tolzien consistently scuffle in practice, on the other hand, shares none of chicken soup's restorative properties.

Newton returned from his March shoulder surgery far more quickly than Luck -- perhaps too quickly. Newton threw with a trainer Sunday, but it's been a full week since he practiced fully with the Panthers. The quarterback started camp with few restrictions, lasting four full days before backing off to a full stop. This setback is being treated as no big deal in Carolina, but the fitful start to camp is a reminder that recovery from such a major surgery is rarely straightforward. The Panthers are attempting a dramatic identity change without their starting quarterback on the field. Meanwhile, the team's No. 1 receiver, Kelvin Benjamin, was held out of team drills in Friday's Fan Fest, with coach Ron Rivera saying Benjamin had "wobbly" legs. Carolina's speedy second-round pick Curtis Samuel has practiced once in camp because of a hamstring injury.

"We are installing our offense," Rivera said Sunday. "We are not going to wait on anybody. We'll just have to pick it up when [Samuel] gets out here."

The Panthers will wait for Newton, just like the Colts are waiting for Luck. But all this missed practice time could result in a regular season where both offenses are constantly playing catch-up.

The Panthers and Colts had tough weeks. Here are some of the other winners and losers as training camps continue:

Winners

Tyrann Mathieu, Cardinals safety: The Honey Badger entered this pivotal training camp promising to promise less and deliver more. It's a great sign that he's already throwing that plan out the window.

Days after coach Bruce Arians said Mathieu -- who struggled in 2016, landing on injured reserve in December with a shoulder injury, after suffering the second ACL tear of his NFL career in 2015 -- looked completely healthy for the first time, Mathieu called himself the best player in the world and got into a

Twitter beef with Giants safety Landon Collins. In other words, the Cardinals' defensive X-factor believes he's all the way back, too.

QB competition underdogs: Two weeks of training camp provided little clarity in three of the NFL's open quarterback competitions, making the first two weeks of the preseason matter even more.

Jets quarterback Josh McCown has failed to stand apart from Christian Hackenberg, with the Jets' offense producing five three-and-outs and a pick-six in its first nine possessions during the team's scrimmage Saturday night. Hackenberg still can't be ruled out as a potential Week 1 starter.

Brock Osweiler was announced as the Browns' starter for the team's first preseason game ... despite receiving virtually no first-team reps for all of OTAs and the start of training camp.

"You want somebody to be head and shoulders above everybody else, but let's be honest, when you have four guys that you are giving a bunch of reps to, it is hard to do," coach Hue Jackson said over the weekend.

This is an indictment of Cody Kessler, who has reportedly struggled after opening camp as the starter. Rookie DeShone Kizer should still have time to make up ground, because no one in Cleveland, from fans to Jackson, appears eager to believe Osweiler is the Browns' best option.

In Denver, conventional wisdom holds that Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch are both struggling to gain traction in their competition. This is a worst-case scenario, with Siemian reportedly nosing ahead of last year's first-round pick only by default.

(UPDATE: NFL Network's James Palmer reported Monday that Siemian will start in Denver's preseason opener against the Bears on Thursday, while Lynch will start the second preseason game vs. San Francisco on Aug. 19.)

Packers cornerback depth: As Pete Dougherty pointed out for the Green Bay Press Gazette, we can consider it a great sign for the Green Bay defense that the team's No. 1 cornerback in the playoffs last season, LaDarius Gunter, is now closer to No. 5 on the depth chart and battling to make the team. This secondary should be vastly improved.

Eric Decker, Titans receiver: Decker's dueling hip and shoulder surgeries are a distant memory, with the veteran lighting up Titans camp. Even before first-round pick Corey Davis pulled a hamstring, Decker looked like one of the free-agent bargains of the season with a salary under \$4 million.

Nelson Agholor, Eagles receiver: The consistent drumbeat about Agholor's excellent practices are getting too hard to ignore. Our buddy Daniel Jeremiah said on his "Move the Sticks Podcast" last week that Agholor has enjoyed a "total rebirth" and is destined to be Philadelphia's slot receiver. With Alshon Jeffery and Torrey Smith as options on the outside and little-known wideout Marcus Johnson making noise, it's unclear where veteran slot receiver Jordan Matthews fits in.

Matthews' salty reaction to the story, lashing out at Jeremiah's mock drafts, is the clearest sign that DJ is onto something. (Matthews is barking up the wrong tree here, because Jeremiah's mock drafts have consistently been tested as accurate over the last four years.)

Don't be surprised if Matthews comes up in potential trade talks this month, with the Texans being a potential fit.

Stuck in the middle

Tom Savage, Houston Texans: Despite a strong start to training camp by rookie Deshaun Watson, John McClain of the Houston Chronicle writes that Tom Savage is "clearly No. 1" because of his sharp play. After learning Bill O'Brien's system the last three seasons, this could be Savage's only chance to enter a season as an NFL starting quarterback. He's just not set up for success.

The loss of No. 2 receiver Will Fuller, who is out until at least October with a broken collarbone, exposes the Texans wideout group as one of the thinnest in football. The Texans hope that youngsters Jalen Strong or Braxton Miller can step up, but the team may have to look outside the organization for help. Left tackle Duane Brown's holdout also shines a light on an offensive line that was shaky a year ago and doesn't necessarily look better. It's not all on the quarterback in Houston.

Losers

The Chargers' draft class: GM Tom Telesco's incredibly bad injury luck has traveled with him up north. One week after announcing first-round pick Mike Williams is not expected to practice this camp with a back injury that calls into question his ability to play this year, the team lost second-round guard Forrest Lamp for the season to a torn ACL. Third-round center Dan Feeney remains healthy, although he's still practicing with the second-team offensive line. The group protecting QB Philip Rivers is a makeshift unit hoping for a lot of variables to break its way. This all sounds too familiar to Chargers fans.

Baltimore's backup quarterback options: There was great outcry last week when the Ravens signed another camp arm, Josh Woodrum, instead of Colin Kaepernick. That move had little to do with Kaepernick's chances for future employment in Baltimore. The team's pickup of tackle Austin Howard could be a much bigger factor. The team signed the former Raiders tackle for more than \$5 million, essentially vaporizing the rest of its cap space for 2017. While the team could still make room for Kaepernick if it wanted, it just became more difficult.

Seattle could prove to be a better fit for Kaepernick. Seahawks leadership hasn't expressed the public ambivalence that we saw in Baltimore, and the need for a backup quarterback is growing. Second-year pro Trevone Boykin has reportedly struggled early in Seahawks camp, with even the perennially sunny Pete Carroll failing to stick up for him.

Ryan Tannehill: Conor Orr did a great job examining Tannehill's future in Sunday's edition of "What We Learned," recognizing that the Dolphins could choose to move on from Tannehill -- who could require knee surgery -- in 2018 with few financial repercussions. The entire situation promises to get messy, and much of it is out of Tannehill's hands. Cutler could play well enough for the team to put Tannehill on the trade block, and it's possible the Dolphins could ask Tannehill to renegotiate his salary. He'll be 30 years old next season, and he still hasn't proven he's a true franchise quarterback.

Kevin White's confidence: Consider it a bad sign that White had to dispute a public account from his receivers coach in Chicago that the duo watched White's college film lately to remember how dominant he could be.

"No, [I don't need that reminder], I see it every day on film," White told reporters, via ESPN.

Bears coaches have spoken about White needing to tune out the media, but their public comments betray a lack of faith in the team's No. 7 overall pick from 2015.

"We have to figure out, 'Hey, this is what Kev does well,' " offensive coordinator Dowell Loggains said over the weekend. "And maybe it's everything. Maybe it's seven or eight routes. Maybe it's three or four."

It's Year 3 of his NFL career, and White is competing for practice time with journeymen, his coaches still unsure about what he does well.

Bay Area Smiths: Linebacker Malcolm Smith, recipient of one of the most generous free-agent contracts of the offseason, was the only 49ers defender who played in coordinator Robert Saleh's defense before. Now Smith is out for the season with a torn pectoral muscle, which should open up a starting job for rookie Reuben Foster. (Ray-Ray Armstrong is also in the mix.)

Across the Bay, Raiders coaches sent a message to cornerback Sean Smith by demoting him to No. 4 cornerback behind T.J. Carrie and undrafted rookie Breon Borders. Keep in mind this demotion happened even with first-round pick Gareon Conley sidelined. If not for the \$9.25 million guaranteed Smith is set to earn this season, he would be a strong candidate for release.

Trevor Siemian will start Broncos' preseason opener

By Conor Orr

NFL.com

August 8, 2017

The Broncos have laid out their quarterback plan for the first two preseason games.

Trevor Siemian will start under center against the Bears this Thursday (8 p.m. ET on NFL Network) while 2016 first-round pick Paxton Lynch will start the following week against the 49ers in Santa Clara, Denver coach Vance Joseph told reporters Monday.

The news is slightly surprising given how well Siemian has performed in camp this preseason so far, but it also has to be considered the best possible scenario for Lynch. With the regular season still more than a month away, Lynch could use the second preseason game as a chance to make his case for the all-important third preseason game.

Earlier this week, Palmer noted that there was a distinct separation at practice between Siemian, who started 14 games for the Broncos last year, and Lynch.

"You saw after Lynch had a couple of struggling reps, Trevor Siemian comes in, runs the play action, throws a dime into the quarter of the end zone for a touchdown," Palmer said. "The next play, play action, would have been a touchdown, but [was] dropped by tight end Jeff Heurman in the end zone. Siemian looking just more poised in the spot."

Denver has been waiting for the moment when Lynch's untapped potential surpasses Siemian's sound play and knowledge of the offense. At this point, it hasn't happened yet. Just as Lynch has the opportunity to climb back into the race next week, Siemian could deliver a pretty decisive blow against a touch-and-go Bears secondary this week in Chicago.

Denver Broncos wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders and CenturyLink connect fans to their home team and the power of the digital world

By Staff

Prnewswire.com

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CenturyLink, Inc. (NYSE: CTL) and Denver Broncos wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders are teaming up to connect fans to their home team and the power of the digital world. With CenturyLink technology at the stadium, in-home and on the road, fans can connect to their home team, and long-held game day traditions.

Sanders will help CenturyLink connect to Broncos fans by appearing in local television and radio commercials as well as in online, print and social media promotions. CenturyLink understands that passionate football fans love to feed their deep affinity for the game. For products and services powering those passions no matter what they are or where they happen, CenturyLink scores.

"I couldn't be more excited to rejoin forces with CenturyLink to create excitement and connect with our fans for the upcoming Denver Broncos season," said Sanders.

Sanders is a two-time Pro Bowler entering his eighth season in the NFL. For three consecutive years, he has achieved 1,000 yards in completions. He has been with the team since 2014 and won Super Bowl 50 with the Broncos in 2016. Off the field, Sanders runs The Emmanuel Sanders Foundation, whose mission is to provide children from financially disadvantaged families with resources and support to reach their full potential and attain a better life.

"Emmanuel Sanders is a fan favorite and we're happy to have him on board to help promote CenturyLink as well as build momentum for the upcoming Denver Broncos season," said Matt Rotter, CenturyLink Mountain West region president. "Sports provide a unique opportunity to connect our customers to something they love. We're excited about the season ahead and about our special promotions that will play a part in the overall fan experience."

Beginning in September and continuing throughout the season, CenturyLink will host a bi-weekly social media promotion where fans can enter to win customized boxes filled with one-of-a-kind, exclusive items related to the team and tailored to the fan.

About CenturyLink

CenturyLink (NYSE: CTL) is a global communications and IT services company focused on connecting its customers to the power of the digital world. CenturyLink offers network and data systems management, big data analytics, managed security services, hosting, cloud, and IT consulting services. The company provides broadband, voice, video, advanced data and managed network services over a robust 265,000-route-mile U.S. fiber network and a 360,000-route-mile international transport network. Visit CenturyLink for more information.

LA Tech's Carlos Henderson impressed at Broncos training camp

By Tatum Everett

KTBS

August 8, 2017

Another guy trying to prove himself at camp is former Louisiana Tech receiver Carlos Henderson. The rookie is making some noise in Denver though, scoring three touchdowns at Broncos practice Thursday and continuing to impress ever since the pads came on.

Henderson knows what he needs to do to make the Broncos roster and is looking at veteran Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders for guidance.

"How hard they work, they work non-stop. They work effortlessly and non-stop and I learn from those guys. I'm picking up habits from those guys to get me better and put me in a better situation to help out. The key is being reliable, being at the right spot at the right time, running routes doing everything that the coach ask you to do. Being consistent, just being consistent with your play on the field," said Henderson.

Henderson will make his preseason debut on Thursday when the Broncos travel to Chicago to play the Bears.

Athlete of the Week: Shayne Hagin

By Staff

KKCO

August 8, 2017

Shayne Hagin was diagnosed with autism at the age of three, but that did not stop him from wanting to be a member of the Denver Broncos. This past week Hagin joined the team at training camp in dove valley.

He is this week's athlete of the week.

This past week Shayne Hagin dreams of being a Bronco came true out on the field.

More than a month ago Shayne's fathers Tim put a post on social media asking for help to get Shayne to Broncos training camp. Just a few weeks later that dream was answered when the organization reached out to the Hagin's and invited Shayne to training camp.

For Shayne the time he spent at dove valley and the people he met along the way is something he will never forget.

One of the players Shayne has loved since he first was drafted by the Broncos was Von Miller. He even had the chance to share some of his dance moves with number 58 on the field.

The smile on Shayne's face the moment he saw Von made his family feel truly blessed according to his father Tim Hagin.

"It makes me feel proud. You know I'm a man of my word and I told my son that I would do what I could. And I said you know what I'm going to try this. I am going to give it a shot and I did. And this is where it has ended up", said Hagin.

Vance Joseph sheds light on Broncos' initial depth chart

By Ryan Koenigsberg

BSN Denver

August 8, 2017

Just as the Denver Broncos took the field for Monday's practice, the team released their first depth chart. As expected, the quarterbacks were listed as co-starters, but there were true starters listed at every other position.

After practice, Vance Joseph fielded a plethora of questions regarding the depth chart, and while he did want to stress that the only depth chart that matters will come out before the Chargers game, he also shed some light on the decisions that were made.

Left Tackle

As expected, Garrett Bolles was listed first on the depth chart after clearly looking like the best tackle on the team for most, if not all of training camp. The rookie started his career with the Broncos competing against both Donald Stephenson and Ty Sambrailo for the first-team spot but has created more and more separation each day.

"Well we've watched the Spring, we watched the first two weeks of training camp, and he's played well," Joseph said Monday. "In my opinion, he's earned the right to start the game. With that being said, he's still competing there with Donald and Ty. He's played well enough to start the game on Thursday."

Joseph later added that they will continue their usual rep-split in practice.

Tight End

One surprise on the depth chart was at tight end, where Virgil Green was listed first, Jeff Heurman was listed second, and A.J. Derby was listed third. From our view at practice, Derby has been the TE to stand out in the passing game, making his listing behind Heurman and interesting one.

Joseph, though, was adamant that you shouldn't read too much into that particular slot.

"Virgil has been solid, but that's a position where it's a weird deal with a depth chart," He explained.

"When you are in two tight ends, who is the starter? When you're in three tight ends, who is the starter? When you're in sub with [CB] [Bradley] Roby, is he a starter or not? It's just situational football; it's part of our package. Tight-end wise, they're all starters. Roby is a starter. That's where the depth chart can get a little sticky."

Sent forget about Jake Butt, either, who will start the season on the PUP (Physically Unable to Perform) list, but could cause a shakeup in the tight end room when he gets healthy.

Running Back

In the RB portion of the chart, C.J. Anderson led the group, and Devontae Booker held on to his spot right behind. Beyond that, though, a crowd of backs listed at third. Jamaal Charles, De'Angelo

Henderson, Stevan Ridley, Juwan Thompson and Bernard Pierce are all fighting for slots on the team and, as of now, are listed in the same slot.

“We placed the guys that are injured in the spot they would be in if they weren’t injured. Book finished the Spring as No. 2; he had a helluva Spring. Book was pushing to be the top guy, so he is still No. 2. He is going to return probably Week 1 or 2 during the regular season, but right now he is No. 2 on the depth chart. Obviously, he’s not playing so he can’t be No. 2. That’s my point with the depth chart, it’s just a starting point for our football team to know who is slotted where, but he won’t play the entire preseason.”

Conversely, Jamaal Charles will play during the preseason.

“Yes he will, yes he will,” the coach explained. “We have a plan for Jamaal, I won’t reveal that yet, but he’s going to play in the preseason.”

Wide receiver

One of the most intriguing competitions going on in camp, due to the sheer talent on the roster, is for the third wide receiver spot. On the depth chart, though, there is no spot for a third wide receiver, so we have to look at the backups listed at each position.

Behind Demaryius Thomas on one side is Bennie Fowler, behind Emmanuel Sanders on the other side is Cody Latimer.

Joseph was asked about how Latimer has responded this training camp and ended up talking about both.

“He’s responded positively; he’s worked hard as a gunner, first of all,” he said. “I mean, he can be an All-Pro gunner, he’s so big and fast. That’s a huge deal to have two receivers—Latimer and Fowler—as dominant special teams players, that’s rare. That’s a third receiver; he’s competing. If we are in three-receiver sets, who is the starter? If we are in a four-receiver set—which we are going to be—who is the starter? We’re going to have a five-receiver set, who is the starter?”

The Broncos have plenty of decisions to make on all those fronts on have plenty of guys behind those two, including Isaiah McKenzie, Carlos Henderson, and Jordan Taylor, to choose from.

Right Cornerback

Maybe the biggest surprise on the initial depth chart was at the fourth cornerback position. Despite a widespread perception that Lorenzo Doss has had a great camp, rookie corner Brendan Langley is listed ahead of Doss on the chart.

When asked about it, Joseph confirmed.

“Yeah, right now,” he said. “In the games, we’ll make a determination on who moves up or who moves down but watching practice from the spring until now; he’s right now—I would say—the second right corner.”

As a follow-up, Joseph was asked what Langley has done to earn that nod.

“I would say this about the depth chart, guys,” the coach said. “It’s a starting point; those two guys are competing for that fourth corner spot, which is a big deal for our football team, they are one snap from being a starter on sub. What went into that, spring drills, the trianing camp practices thus far, that’s what determined that he’s ahead right now. Doss has played really well, he’s made a lot of plays and Langley has a long way to go as far as learning what to do as an NFL corner, so it’s open. The depth chart was a must; I had to put someone there, whoever I would have put there, there would have been questions, it’s just part of the process. The final depth chart will be out versus the Chargers, that’s the one that really matters, the rest, guys, it’s a depth chart, someone has to go first, second and third.”

Other Notes

- Allen Barbre is listed as the second left guard, behind Max Garcia and ahead of Michael Schofield.
- Jared Crick is still holding on to his DE spot ahead of Adam Gotsis.
- Domata Peko is listed ahead of Billy Winn at nose tackle, while Zach Kerr is listed behind Derek Wolfe at DE.
- Cody Latimer is listed at No. 1 kick returner, Carlos Henderson is listed second.
- DeMarcus Walker is listed behind Von Miller at WLB.

Broncos Current Roster Breakdown

As the team goes from 90 to 53, these numbers will change drastically, but here’s where they stand now.

QB: 4

RB: 7

WR: 11

TE: 7

FB: 1

OL: 16 (C: 2.5, G: 6.5, T: 7) (McGovern being the guard/center)

DE: 8

NT: 3

ILB: 7

OLB: 8

CB: 8

S: 8

K: 1

P: 1

LS: 1

Broncos list Siemian and Lynch as co-starters at quarterback

By Darin Gantt
Pro Football Talk
August 8, 2017

The Broncos, are, yet again, having a quarterback competition.

So, yet again, they're not declaring a preference.

The first official (unofficial) depth chart released by the team (actually their PR staff) shows Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch as co-starters.

The two have rotated with the first and second offenses through camp, and coach Vance Joseph has said he's going to do most of his evaluation during practices (when they're going against one of the better defenses in the league).

One of them will have to start this week when they open the preseason against the Bears, which will be our first indication of a lean.

Ostensibly, Siemian provides the higher floor, while 2016 first-rounder Lynch offers a higher ceiling, but there has been no suggestion so far that Lynch is ready to overtake the incumbent.

Trevor Siemian starts this week, Paxton Lynch starts second week

By Josh Alper
Pro Football Talk
August 8, 2017

The Broncos released a depth chart on Monday that listed Trevor Siemian or Paxton Lynch as their starting quarterback.

For Thursday night's game against the Bears, it will be Siemian. Coach Vance Joseph made the announcement on Monday and it leaves the pecking order the same as it was when the 2016 season came to an end.

Joseph added that Lynch will get the start against the 49ers in the second week of the preseason.

The two quarterbacks have rotated with the first team throughout training camp and Joseph has not set any deadline to make a decision for the regular season, but a recent report indicated that Siemian is ahead of Lynch in the competition. In a dispatch from Broncos camp, Charles Robinson of Yahoo Sports reported that Lynch's "good days has been — at best — on par with Siemian's good days" while his bad days have been "exponentially worse" than Siemian's poor outings.

That report also pegs Siemian as steady but unspectacular, so there would seem to be room for Lynch to change things with strong outings in the preseason. Siemian gets the first crack at making his case, however.

Garett Bolles starting at left tackle for Broncos Thursday

By Josh Alper
Pro Football Talk
August 8, 2017

The quarterback competition has drawn a significant amount of attention in Denver this summer, but it isn't the only spot on the starting offense that's been up for grabs.

The team has also been looking for a starter at left tackle and this year's first-round pick has moved into the lead in that battle. Garett Bolles is listed with the first team on the first Broncos depth chart of the summer and will be getting the start against the Bears on Thursday night ahead of Donald Stephenson and Ty Sambrailo.

"We've watched the spring and we've watched the first two weeks of training camp and he's played well. In my opinion, he's earned the right to start the game," Broncos coach Vance Joseph said, via the Denver Post. "With that being said, we're still competing there with Donald and Ty. But he's played well enough to start Thursday night."

The Broncos are in line for new starting tackles on both sides of the line with free agent acquisition Menelik Watson running as the top right tackle and the team hopes those changes will help bring about a better performance from the line than they got in 2016.