

# Broncos DE Billy Winn out for season after suffering serious knee injury

By Nicki Jhabvala

Denver Post

August 12, 2017

Broncos defensive end Billy Winn is out for the season after tearing his anterior cruciate ligament and suffering damage to other ligaments in his right knee during Thursday's preseason opener at Chicago, an NFL source confirmed.

Winn appeared to plant his right leg awkwardly and got tangled under the pile on a Bears run late in the first quarter of the Broncos' preseason win at Chicago. He immediately grabbed his knee in pain and was carted off the field.

Winn hobbled out of Soldier Field on Thursday with the aid of crutches. An MRI on Friday confirmed the injury was worse than the Broncos initially expected.

A sixth-year defensive end, Winn joined the Broncos last August on a one-year deal and played all 16 games, recording 19 tackles and a fumble recovery. He re-signed with Denver in early May as part of the Broncos' remade defensive line that includes newcomers Domata Peko and Zach Kerr.

His loss is the latest among a growing list of injured players for the Broncos, and leaves them thin, especially at nose tackle.

Winn was listed on the team's first depth chart as its No. 2 nose tackle behind Peko. Kyle Peko, the team's No. 3 nose tackle, is on the physically unable to perform list with a broken foot. At the time of his injury in July, Kyle was expected to return early in camp.

Kyle is expected to still vie for a roster spot when he comes off PUP, and the Broncos also have college free agents Shakir Soto and Tyrique Jarrett to consider. But the team is expected to make a move to fill Winn's role.

Meanwhile, outside linebackers Shane Ray (wrist) and Shaquil Barrett (hip) are recovering from injuries and aren't expected back until early in the regular season.

Inside linebacker Todd Davis is dealing with a shoulder sprain that has already kept him out of multiple practices and will limit his appearances in preseason. And safety T.J. Ward injured his hamstring and did not play at Chicago.

On offense, running back Devontae Booker tore a ligament in his wrist early in camp and was slated to miss at least six weeks. Center Matt Paradis (hips) and running back Jamaal Charles (knees), neither of whom played Thursday, continue to inch their way back to full-time status. And rookies Chad Kelly (wrist, ACL) and Jake Butt (ACL) are both on the non-football injury list as they recover from injuries sustained prior to their arrival in Colorado.

# Shane Ray provides school supplies to children at Denver Rescue Mission; updates on his wrist

By Nicki Jhabvala  
Denver Post  
August 12, 2017

**@NickiJhabvala**

**.@StingRay56 brought children at the Denver Rescue Mission book bags filled with school supplies.**

**6:16 PM - Aug 11, 2017**

**Replies 11 Retweets 39 likes**

The screams echoed down the winding hallway before Shane Ray stepped inside.

“He’s coming! I see him! He’s coming!” shrieked the dozen or so grade-school children. “He’s COMING!”

Flashes from disposable cameras filled the room as the children rushed to the door, ready to bombard Ray with hugs and requests for autographs.

It was 6 p.m. on Friday and Ray, after a day’s work at the Broncos’ training facility in Englewood, had headed north to meet the group of young strangers at the Denver Rescue Mission. Traffic delayed his arrival but there was no way he was missing this trip to give the children backpacks filled with school supplies: notebooks, crayons, colored pencils, regular pencils, pencil sharpeners, pencil holders, erasers and — for the older kids — calculators.

Fifty backpacks in total were scattered across the converted motel that some 300 people call home.

This trip was a part of the Rays Awareness Foundation, which launched last year by Ray and his mother Sebrina Johnson to serve low-income families in their hometown of Kansas City as well as Denver.

“I think education is so crucial in our youth and having our kids grow up and understand that school is important. You can’t play football if you don’t go to school,” he said.

“To be able to give kids like this the opportunity to have backpacks, it’s awesome.”

The donation of backpacks and supplies was a first for the charity. Last December it donated 100 lightly used shoes to families at the Rescue Mission and, over the summer, Ray hosted his inaugural youth football camp in Kansas City.

“It was awesome. I had maybe 300 kids come out. It was a free camp, and that was big for me because I remember when I couldn’t go to football camp as a kid because it cost too much,” he said. “... There’s nothing better than kids enjoying themselves and actually having fun. That’s what it’s all about.”

For the last two weeks Ray has been recovering from surgery on his left wrist that ended his training camp after only three days. He recently got the stitches removed and is sporting a sleeve and brace on his hand.

“That’s the first step for me to be able to actually work out and sweat and do something else like getting my cardio,” he said. “I’m trying to find ways to get in the weight room so I can lift. It’s all coming together. It’s unfortunate, but when I do come back, I’ll be more than prepared.”

Ray was initially projected to return early in the regular season, perhaps by Week 3 when the Broncos head to Buffalo for their first regular-season road trip. The plan, he says, is still a go.

“I think so. Everything is healing fine,” he said. “The doctor says my hand is healing well. My stitches, when they came out the scars looked good, so I’m just excited. I look at it as they gave me four extra weeks to train.”

# Broncos' big-play rookies produce encouraging signs during preseason opener

By Nick Kosmider

Denver Post

August 12, 2017

Isaiah McKenzie scampered up the sideline at Soldier Field on Thursday night until he found the man who gifted him with an unusual nickname.

The Broncos were trailing the Bears in the fourth quarter at the time. The "Little Crawfish" was ready to make a play.

"I told Von (Miller), 'We're going to come back. We're going to win this game,'" McKenzie said. "That's what we did."

McKenzie backed up his proclamation with a 47-yard touchdown catch from third-string quarterback Kyle Sloter that showcased the rookie's speed and tied the game. Minutes later, with the prospect of preseason overtime hanging in the air, fellow rookie De'Angelo Henderson burst through a hole as if he was fired out of a slingshot, turning a safe, third-and-22 run play into a 41-yard, go-ahead touchdown in Denver's 24-17 victory.

The two plays were a microcosm of an encouraging first night for a number of rookies fighting to not only make the team, but make waves this season if they do.

"My rookie class played awesome tonight," left tackle Garrett Bolles, the 20th overall pick in April's draft, said after the game. "They came in and got us the win. Kyle (Sloter), (Isaiah) McKenzie, De'Angelo (Henderson), they lit it up tonight. I'm so proud of those boys. It starts with us. We're the new people coming in, so we've got to make a stand and let the vets know we're ready to roll so we can get ready for Week 1."

Most eyes were on Bolles when Thursday's game began. The team's first-round pick was the only rookie in the starting lineup and was tasked with protecting the blindsides of Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch, the two quarterbacks vying for the starting job. If the measure of a productive performance for an offensive lineman is not standing out, Bolles passed his first test. Working largely against pass rusher Willie Young, who compiled 24 sacks the past three seasons, Bolles held his own for two series, preventing pressure on Siemian and even drawing a personal foul penalty on Young.

"Every preseason game, I'm just going to get better and better," said Bolles, who did nothing to harm his strong chances of winning the starting job at left tackle.

Big highlights from rookies in the preseason are certainly not uncommon, particularly early in the schedule. With the starters resting early, late-round draft picks and undrafted rookies have ample time to make an impression. Still, the play of McKenzie and Henderson, the running back drafted in the sixth round out of Coastal Carolina, was encouraging given the opportunities they could have to help the Broncos when the games begin to count Sept. 11.

McKenzie, already entrenched as Denver's starting punt returner, continues to prove he has the ability to provide more. By the time the Bears realized their miscommunication in the secondary on the fourth-quarter touchdown pass, the fifth-round draft pick out of Georgia had already cleared the back line of that secondary by nearly 20 yards.

On Henderson's touchdown run, the Broncos were just trying to make a potential game-winning field-goal attempt for Brandon McManus a little closer than 58 yards. But when Henderson took the inside handoff from Slotter out of a shotgun formation, he darted through a narrow hole before it could close, quickly finding himself in open space. From there, he put a decisive move on the deep safety and outran everybody to the end zone.

"The linebackers were deep, so I knew I had a chance to burst through the hole once I got the ball," Henderson said. "The O-line did a great job of blocking guys to their sides. After that, I just ran to daylight."

The draft picks weren't the only ones who seized the moment. With T.J. Ward sitting out Thursday due to a hamstring injury, undrafted rookie safety Jamal Carter was pressed into action by Denver's second defensive series. He made an immediate impact, bringing pressure on quarterback Mike Glennon on a third-and-7 play that helped force a punt. On the next series, after initially dropping into coverage, Carter saw a snap sail over the head of Glennon and quickly burst back toward the line of scrimmage, diving on the ball after several players had batted it around.

The Broncos are deep at safety, with Willie Parks and Justin Simmons playing behind Ward and Darian Stewart. But Carter, who finished with a game-high six tackles, put his best foot forward. It was the theme of the night for the Broncos' freshman class.

# Billy Winn out for season with extensive knee damage

By Mike Klis

9 News

August 12, 2017

An MRI exam Friday revealed Billy Winn's knee injury was worse than feared.

The Broncos' backup defensive lineman suffered damage to the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), medial collateral ligament and meniscus in his right knee during the preseason game Thursday at Chicago and is out for the season, a player source told 9News.

Overnight, 9News reported Broncos feared Winn had suffered an ACL injury but needed to wait until he took the MRI this morning to confirm. The damage was more extensive than hoped.

Late in the first quarter, Winn was getting knocked off the line of scrimmage on a running play by Bears center Cody Whitehair, although a penalty flag revealed why: Whitehair was flagged for holding. Winn had his foot planted as he got hit from behind by Bears guard Josh Sitton. Broncos 334-pound defensive tackle Zach Kerr also seemed to get knocked into Winn.

Winn has been a solid rotational player, a consummate professional and mentor to young players in the locker room.

With Winn down, second-year player Kyle Peko is expected to have a great chance to make the 53-man roster – providing Peko is cleared to return soon from his broken foot injury. There is hope, if not certainty, Peko could resume light football drills next week when the Broncos fly to San Francisco for a couple days of practices and a preseason game against the San Francisco 49ers.

Shakir Soto and Tyrique Jarrett – both undrafted defensive lineman from Pitt -- will also compete for a roster spot. Soto played well in the preseason opener against the Bears.

# Next day observation of Broncos' preseason game vs. Bears

By Mike Klis

9 News

August 12, 2017

Some observations after re-watching the Broncos-Bears preseason game on Channel 20.

\*Let's get right to it. I'm surprised there is still a competition for the starting quarterback job. Because the game still seems to be moving too fast for Paxton Lynch, the Broncos should start Trevor Siemian against the Los Angeles Chargers on Sept. 11.

I keep thinking the Broncos can get more from Siemian than what he's delivered last season and so far this year during the offseason, training camp and through the first 1 ½ quarters against the Bears.

You'd like to see more 12- to 15-yard passes from Siemian than 5- to 8-yard completions. But his short completions are putting him ahead of Lynch, who is in a quick-slant-to-his-first-progression-or-take-off-running habit.

Lynch does run well. He has very good zip on the ball. He is not a bust. He just needs more time to survey the field while 21 other guys are running around at the same time. Lynch has to process the play quicker. Easy for me and everyone else to say. But Siemian processes quicker.

\*The Bears should start the season with Mike Glennon, but pull him for rookie Mitch Trubisky sooner rather than later.

Glennon's third-down throw into triple coverage on the third play of the game was horrific. He couldn't step in to throw because of Broncos' outside linebacker Kasim Edebali's outside pass rush that smoked Bears left tackle Charles Leno Jr.

Chris Harris Jr. did a nice job coming off his man to catch the pop-up throw, then showed great speed on the touchdown return.

Edebali has already earned the right to start in place of the injured Shane Ray at right outside linebacker in the regular-season opener.

\*I like how Broncos special teams coordinator Brock Olivo had Brandon McManus work on those short, in-play kickoffs. McManus is getting good at the pop-up kicks, too. Olivo's coverage units, though, need work.

\*I've already seen enough of referee Walt Anderson for the year. He got more face time than Vance Joseph. Anderson's crew called 18 penalties for a combined 157 yards and he had a couple other calls waved off with long explanations. The Broncos were flagged for six offensive holding penalties, four that were accepted.

\*Jamal Carter is a beast. The undrafted rookie strong safety was given a robust \$20,000 (\$10,000 in signing bonus; \$10,000 in guarantee toward his salary) in 2017 guaranteed money – the highest the Broncos had paid an undrafted college free agent in years.

He had a team-high six tackles, a quarterback hit and a nice recovery on a bouncing, slippery fumble off a bad snap. It appears the Broncos will be keeping five safeties on their 53-man roster: Darian Stewart, T.J. Ward, Justin Simmons, Will Parks and Carter. And the Broncos will probably want to keep another undrafted rookie, Orion Stewart, on their practice squad.

I can't remember the Broncos ever being this deep at safety.

\*Defensive lineman Jared Crick had a nice game, coming up with a pass deflection and quarterback hit in his first two series.

\*Running back C.J. Anderson ran well behind right guard Ron Leary and right tackle Menelik Watson. Those two blockers are forces. There wasn't as much running room behind the left side.

\*Umm. We all missed the Broncos' first three offensive players: A Siemian sack when the Bears' Leonard Floyd beat Watson; a 6-yard Anderson run behind Leary and Watson; and an 11-yard completion from Siemian to Demaryius Thomas that converted a third-and-11. I suspect either Watson or Broncos PR for cutting off the feed.

\*Brian Griese is outstanding as a color commentator.

\*Didn't like the play-call sequence after Carter recovered the fumble at the Bears' 47. Run, run and short crossing route completion to Jordan Taylor. Punt. Momentum was lost there.

\*Was it me? Or did Rod Mackey have a terrific night as a sideline/postgame interviewer? Puts the likes of Von Miller, Aqib Talib and Demaryius Thomas at ease, then quickly gets down to business.

\*Von Miller hasn't changed since Day 1. He has the exact same personality. Unique but likeable.

\*On the play Broncos' defensive lineman Billy Winn suffered a serious right knee injury – the team fears a torn ACL but he has not yet taken an MRI as of this writing -- he got knocked off the ball by Bears center Cody Whitehair, who was flagged for holding. Winn had his foot planted as he got hit from behind by Bears guard Josh Sitton. Broncos 334-pound defensive tackle Zach Kerr also seemed to get knocked into Winn.

It was the worst moment of the game. Winn is a solid rotational player and a consummate professional and mentor in the locker room.

## SECOND QUARTER

\*Denver's run defense still needs work. The Bears rushed for 173 yards on 36 carries. Granted, three Trubisky scrambles netted 38 yards. And all those yards were against the Broncos' second-line defenders. Still, the Broncos will be counting on those second-liners for a handful of plays on Sundays.

\*Cody Latimer had a nice game. He finished with seven catches for 54 yards and had one nice gain called back. He made a real tough catch on a slant pattern in traffic on a Siemian pass that was thrown slightly behind him.

\*McManus and punter Riley Dixon are on their game.

\*Backup center Dillon Day showed chippy aggression, as he twice was involved in offsetting penalties.

\*Former Broncos and current Bears' quarterback Mark Sanchez threw a nice crack-back block on rookie cornerback Bernard Langley during a change-of-direction run by Bennie Cunningham. And on the next play, Sanchez way overthrew a receiver who had a step on a deep route.

\*Broncos veteran Stevan Ridley ran hard. Ran well in picking up some tough yards.

\*The Bears no longer seem so silly for giving away so much to trade up for Trubisky even though they had already paid top dollar for Glennon. They may seem silly paying top dollar for Glennon, who didn't look good.

### THIRD QUARTER

\*Broncos third-round rookie receiver Carlos Henderson dropped two kickoffs. He seems tight.

\*Lynch had a nice play action pass to Jordan Taylor to start the second half.

\*The Broncos' no. 2 offensive line struggled.

\*What was most impressive about Trubisky's performance was how accurately he threw while rolling right.

\*It was curious how the Bears had veteran receivers Rueben Randle and Victor Cruz play with Trubisky in the second half against the Broncos' undrafted rookie secondary.

\*Who is Shakir Soto? The undrafted rookie from Pitt looked good in the middle for the Broncos.

### FOURTH QUARTER

\*Kerr, DeMarcus Walker, Lorenza Doss, Vontarrius Dora and Carter played a ton.

\*No one told Kalif Raymond he's not supposed to make the team after the Broncos drafted Carlos Henderson and Isaiah McKenzie. Raymond had a 34-yard punt return, a 41-yard kickoff return, and a 24-yard reception in the Broncos' final-minute, game-winning touchdown drive.

\*Kyle Sloter is actually the Broncos' fourth-string quarterback. Seventh-round rookie Chad Kelly is the third stringer but he's hurt. Still, Sloter has moxie and his ability to keep his eyes downfield is why he hit McKenzie on the game-tying 47-yard touchdown pass and Raymond on the 24-yard completion.

Sloter's best pass was a 15-yard fastball to Marlon Brown on a seam route.

\*Sloter's third pass should have been intercepted. Bears' safety Chris Prosinski flat dropped it.

\*Give Michael Schofield credit. He started the previous two years – at right tackle for the Broncos' Super Bowl title team in 2015 and right guard last year. It must have been difficult for him to play with the third string at left guard in the fourth quarter.

But Schofield pancaked a Bears defensive tackle to spring rookie De'Angelo Henderson on that game-winning, 41-yard touchdown run. Ron Zappolo came through with an exciting call on the play. Zapp and Griese already seem to have great chemistry.

\*Henderson had two nice runs called back by holding.

\*The end of the game was bizarre in its sequence. Joseph called a timeout with 2:01 left instead of waiting for the 2-minute warning. I understand the analytical, game-management thought there, even if it was unique. It would have looked smart had Sloter not got sacked between 2:01 and the 2-minute warning, a loss that knocked the Broncos out of field goal range.

On third-and-22, Broncos offensive coordinator Mike McCoy called a run against the Bears' prevent defense just to get a few yards back for a long McManus field goal.

The 5-foot-7 Henderson disappeared through the Schofield-induced crease, then cut right to make safety DeAndre Houston-Carson whiff on a second-level tackle.

Broncos win, although, they were fortunate Trubisky ran out of time at the Broncos' 22.

\*The last play drew a flag, then a long explanation by Walt Anderson before he told everyone the game was over.

# Billy Winn will miss season with torn ACL

By Jeff Legwold

ESPN

August 12, 2017

His teammates' reactions said as much Thursday night, as did Billy Winn's own expression when he was helped on to a cart in the first quarter of the Denver Broncos' preseason game against the Chicago Bears.

An MRI exam conducted Friday has confirmed Winn suffered a torn right ACL and will miss the remainder of the season. Winn suffered the injury with just 46 seconds left in the first quarter when he stepped awkwardly in a crowd during a 6-yard run by Bears running back Ka'Deem Carey.

Broncos coach Vance Joseph said following the game that Winn would have the MRI Friday to check the extent of the injury. But Winn's teammates wore somber expressions when he was helped to a cart by the Broncos trainers and Winn, who had expressed high hopes for the season this past week, looked resigned to the injury's severity.

Players were also waving for the training staff almost as soon as the play was over. Winn, who re-signed with the Broncos late in free agency, played 342 snaps on defense last season (29.9 percent).

He played in all 16 games in 2016, starting two. Winn, because the Broncos selected DeMarcus Walker in the second round of this past April's draft after they had signed both Domata Peko and Zach Kerr in free agency, was facing a tight battle for available roster spots in the defensive line.

This past week Broncos special teams coordinator Brock Olivo said Winn had volunteered during the offseason to be a backup long snapper on punts and field goal attempts if needed. Olivo also expressed his belief Winn could find some kind of role on special teams.

"I know he's done that in the past," Olivo said. "When we first got here, Billy came up and said, 'Hey, I'm your guy if you need a backup.' Billy is an amazing athlete. I don't know if you guys have seen. He can play in space too so we're excited about Billy."

# Broncos' hunt for starting QB could be in its final eight days

By Jeff Legwold

ESPN

August 12, 2017

The Denver Broncos' search for a starting quarterback is in its final eight days.

Unless it's not.

But after the Broncos' 24-17 victory over the Chicago Bears in the preseason opener Thursday night, coach Vance Joseph said that what he saw unfold in the game wasn't enough to change the plan. And the plan is to continue to let Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch compete through the coming week, which will include two days of full practices at the team's suburban Denver complex, two days of joint practices against the San Francisco 49ers and the Aug. 19 preseason game at the 49ers.

Then the Broncos coaches will step back and take a long look as Joseph decides when and whether to name a starter then.

"That won't even kind of come into effect until next week," Joseph said following Thursday's game. "... After next week we can kind of sit down and talk about if there is separation between the two guys."

Joseph has called naming a starter before the Aug. 26 preseason game against the Green Bay Packers "ideal" given that is the Broncos' third preseason game and is expected to be the last preseason appearance for the starters. But he also said he wouldn't feel compelled to rush the decision if he has not seen a clear winner.

Last summer, Gary Kubiak named Siemian the starter before the Broncos' third preseason game.

The Broncos gathered some additional information Thursday against the Bears. But the first- and second-team offenses put together just one scoring drive, a march to a field goal directed by Siemian.

Siemian looked slightly more in control of the offense, but both quarterbacks were affected by penalties. The Broncos' offense was flagged nine times -- one of the penalties was declined -- and there were multiple penalties that were off-setting, so the Broncos' 74 penalty yards do not reflect the actual effect penalties had on the tempo of the offense or the quarterbacks' ability to find a rhythm.

Five offensive linemen, for example, were flagged for at least one holding penalty.

"I was satisfied," Joseph said of the quarterbacks. "Trevor was solid. He made some nice plays in the pass game. Paxton had some nice plays, but we had so many penalties during his time of play, it hurt his drives. That's why he played more than we thought. Overall, it was a solid performance, but the penalties kind of killed us offensively and [on] third downs. It's hard to say who played well because of the penalties."

"Nobody wants to play the game like that," Siemian said of the penalties.

Siemian played 22 snaps and Lynch played 21. Siemian, who started the game, was 6 of 7 passing for 51 yards while Lynch was 6 of 9 passing for 42 yards. Lynch will get the start against the 49ers.

The Broncos' offense didn't manufacture a touchdown until most of the third-teamers were in the game. Rookie quarterback Kyle Sloter threw a 47-yard touchdown pass to Isaiah McKenzie in the fourth quarter, while rookie running back De'Angelo Henderson had a 41-yard touchdown run in the game's final minutes.

"I thought I did some good things, I thought Paxton did some good things," Siemian said. "There's definitely things we're going to watch and clean up."

"I'm just trying to go out there and play good football day in, day out," Lynch said. "... Consistency is something I pride myself in, and I want to get to that point where I'm consistently playing well."

The Broncos will have their final practice that's open to the public Saturday morning and will have another full practice Monday before they leave for California on Tuesday.

"They're both playing good football," Joseph said of his quarterbacks. "Outside of the penalties, I was impressed with both guys."

# Penalties a red flag in first test for Denver's revamped offensive line

By Jeff Legwold

ESPN

August 12, 2017

A rush to judgment is as much a part of preseason football as not playing the starters all that much.

And the jury is certainly out on the Denver Broncos' retooling of the offensive line -- at least until some regular-season games have actually taken place. But until rookie running back De'Angelo Henderson ripped through the Chicago Bears defense for a 41-yard touchdown run with 1 minute, 49 seconds remaining in Thursday night's game, the Broncos' play up front had been spotty at best.

It had to be slightly disappointing for coach Vance Joseph, who only two days before had called the offensive line the most improved position group on the team. It is indeed just one preseason game, a sample size that is often misleading, but in a penalty-marred 24-17 victory -- 10 penalties were enforced of the 14 that were called against the Broncos -- the team's offensive line was the biggest offender.

Five different offensive linemen were flagged at least once, and Joseph repeatedly said following the game that those struggles impacted most everything the Broncos had hoped to get done.

"The penalties kind of killed us offensively," Joseph said. "It's hard to say who played well because of the penalties."

Aside from center Matt Paradis, who did not play because the Broncos are being cautious with him as he returns from offseason surgery on both hips, the Broncos opened with the line that has started for much of training camp.

But quarterback Trevor Siemian was sacked on Denver's first offensive snap, and until Henderson found some seams against the Chicago reserves in the fourth quarter, the Broncos struggled to run the ball. They did not have a rushing attempt by a running back longer than 6 yards in the first three quarters.

The Denver starters had three penalties on the opening possession -- two on offensive linemen (Menelik Watson and Max Garcia). It was all a bit of a flashback to last season when Denver's struggles up front were a season-long issue.

And those difficulties haven't been lost on the new arrivals.

"Everybody knows what has been said about them the last couple years," said guard Ron Leary in the days leading up to the Bears game. "[The offensive line] is not satisfied with it. I can see that every day. Everybody is just trying to come out and focus on one thing to get better at."

Leary and Watson were Denver's priorities in free agency -- both are expected to start -- and the Broncos used their first-round pick on Garrett Bolles, who is expected to be the left tackle this season. The Broncos also traded for veteran guard Allen Barbre as training camp opened, and he is competing for a guard spot that Garcia has held for much of camp.

If someone other than Garcia wins the guard job opposite Leary, Paradis will be the only holdover in the starting lineup from last season. The Broncos are poised for a big week in the decision-making process as they will practice Wednesday and Thursday against the San Francisco 49ers before playing the Niners in their second preseason game on Aug. 19 in Levi's Stadium.

The Aug. 26 game against the Green Bay Packers is expected to be the starters' most extensive work and their last preseason appearance. Few, if any, starters will play in the preseason finale Aug. 31 against the Arizona Cardinals.

The Broncos will want to make lineup decisions if they can this week so they can play the starters together, perhaps for a little more than a half, against the Packers. They'd also like to see some of the nastiness the offensive line has shown in practice, when blocking for the run game in particular.

Because the Broncos still believe their ability to lift themselves from the 9-7 finish in 2016 back into the playoff conversation will hinge on how they play up front.

"I think it's personnel-driven, along with coaching," is how Joseph has put it. "[Offensive line coach] Jeff Davidson is a hell of a coach. He played in the league, so he gets the attitude part of playing offensive line in this league. He's coaching that. It's not false, it's real. It's a tough, nasty group."

# AP Source: Broncos' Billy Winn out for 2017 with knee injury

By Arnie Stapleton

Associated Press

August 12, 2017

A person with knowledge of the diagnosis says Denver Broncos nose tackle Billy Winn will miss the entire 2017 season with a serious right knee injury.

The person, speaking on condition of anonymity Friday because the team hadn't announced results of Winn's medical tests, said Winn tore ligaments in his right knee, including the anterior cruciate ligament, on Thursday night.

Winn was caught under the pile on a Bears run in the first quarter of the Broncos' exhibition game in Chicago.

Winn, a sixth-year pro from Boise State, played in all 16 games last season in his first year in Denver. He was set to rotate with newcomers Domata Peko and Zach Kerr, among others, on the Broncos' rebuilt D-line.

# It's still a 2-man race for the Denver Broncos' QB job By

Arnie Stapleton  
Associated Press  
August 12, 2017

Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch don't need to worry about anyone but each other.

Heading into the zenith of their QB competition next week, they can rest assured the Broncos brass has their backs even as fans fret over the duo's oft-times ho-hum jockeying for the job.

Neither quarterback was particularly inspiring in the Broncos' 24-17 win at Chicago in their preseason opener Thursday night — particularly in comparison to Bears rookie Mitch Trubisky, who threw for 166 yards and led three scoring drives.

Siemian did nothing to loosen his grip on the job, and Lynch did nothing to bridge the gap. Neither one had a turnover or a touchdown.

Before the game, however, general manager John Elway again refuted a report that he'd been scouring other rosters for a passer. And after the game, coach Vance Joseph put the kibosh on the notion that Kyle Sloter had moved into the mix with his magnificent mop-up performance.

After Siemian and Lynch managed just three points on seven combined drives, Sloter led two long TD drives in the fourth quarter. He threw a 47-yard scoring pass to rookie Isaiah McKenzie and then handed off to rookie De'Angelo Henderson for a game-winning 41-yard scamper with 1:58 remaining.

Sloter's passer rating was a perfect 158.3.

"It was awesome," said Sloter, an undrafted rookie from Northern Colorado who's been getting some snaps with the third-stringers only because seventh-round draft pick Chad Kelly is recovering from knee and wrist injuries.

"That's everything you dream of as a kid: dropping back and throwing a touchdown in the National Football League and leading another one," Sloter said. "It was just a blessing to have an opportunity to be in this position."

His performance begs the question: shouldn't he be included in the Broncos' quarterback race?

"As a starter for us?" Joseph responded. "No. We've got Trevor and we've got Paxton, who we're satisfied with. They're both playing good football. Outside of the penalties, I was impressed with both guys.

"So, no."

In the Broncos' pregame television broadcast, Elway reaffirmed his faith in Siemian and Lynch and once again refuted a report that he'd sought a trade for Bengals backup QB AJ McCarron this month.

When the radio report surfaced Wednesday, Elway responded with this tweet: "Rumor of us being interested in anyone other than the QBs we have is another example of irresponsible, fake news!!"

Asked why he felt compelled to reply so forcefully (even channeling Donald Trump and the president's trademark phrase) Elway said, "Because it was not true. It's flat-out not true. We have not talked to anybody in Cincinnati. That has not been on our radar screen at all."

Elway said he wanted to make sure his players knew there was nothing to the rumor, "so that's why we came out as hard as we did." He especially wanted Siemian and Lynch to know management hadn't lost faith in them, he added.

"I'm excited about Trevor and Paxton and the way they've been working," Elway said. "We feel good about them."

Siemian began to separate himself from Lynch last week and time is running out for Lynch to catch up. The Broncos practice with the 49ers two days next week in advance of their game in which Lynch will start.

**BIG IMPRESSIONS:** Jamaal Carter, an undrafted rookie safety out of Miami, led the team with six solo stops and also recovered a fumble. Wide receiver Cody Latimer, on the hot seat after the Broncos drafted two wide receivers caught all seven passes thrown his way.

**SPOKE TOO SOON?:** The Broncos didn't wait for the preseason to arrive before announcing McKenzie had won the punt return job. Then, Kalif Raymond went out and piled up 75 yards on two touches against the Bears backups, a 34-yard punt return and a 41-yard kickoff return.

**GONE IN 60 SECONDS:** The starting defense was slated to play longer, but Chris Harris Jr.'s 50-yard pick-6 on the third snap meant the end of the day for many of the starters after exactly one minute.

"We were good after that one," Harris said. "I'm glad I was able to cut it short for everybody."

# Broncos defense sets tone, steals thunder from quarterbacks

By Troy Renck  
KMGH  
August 12, 2017

At the north entrance of Solider Field, 90 minutes before kickoff, Trevor Siemian and Matt Paradis walked toward the locker room. They laughed at a description of an onlooker's shoes and disappeared into the tunnel.

Siemian arrived in Chicago Thursday with his career again at crossroads, and looked as calm as a lagoon. There remains part of his life that makes this NFL experience feel like house money lining his pockets. A year ago, he admitted he was this close to beginning a career in commercial real estate before the gravitational pull of football drew him back.

Siemian became the first Northwestern quarterback to make an NFL ripple since Otto Graham in 1955. He represented the nose is wet, underdog story. Now, he exists as a polarizing figure among a fan base that wants the first-round pick to play -- Paxton Lynch -- or for Siemian to play significantly better.

Siemian failed to answer all questions, but he maintained his lead in the quarterback derby with an efficient performance in the preseason opener against the Chicago Bears. Lynch rallied in his final drive with the second stringers, yet could not produce points. Therein lies the rub, the Broncos' top two quarterbacks combined for 37 plays and three points.

The only quarterback with a touchdown? Former Northern Colorado star Kyle Slotter on a 47-yard connection to a wide open Isaiah McKenzie in the fourth quarter.

The reminders of 2016 were slightly uncomfortable in Vance Joseph's coaching debut, but the ending proved satisfying.

Rookie De'Angelo Henderson's 41-yard run shoved the Broncos' to a 24-17 victory.

On a night when hope existed of separation, the best quarterback on the field was Chicago's first-round pick Mitchell Trubisky, who riddled the Broncos' second and third-stringers. This bore a striking resemblance to many Sundays last season -- offense lacking, defense shining with All-Pro cornerback Chris Harris Jr. providing the Broncos' only first-half touchdown with a 50-yard pick and score on Chicago's Mike Glennon.

As for Siemian, he provided an even outing. In three series, totaling 19 plays, he completed six of seven passes for 51 yards. Siemian converted two third downs, including a third-and-11 strike to Demaryius Thomas to extend the first drive as the Pro Bowler boxed out defenders. Siemian suffered a sack on his first play from scrimmage as new right tackle Menelik Watson missed his block. He completed a pair of passes on the 10-play drive, resulting in a 38-yard Brandon McManus field goal.

Sieman threw the ball accurately and on time outside the numbers. But there were no bold strikes sought by a fan base which watched the Broncos offense dissolve down the stretch a year ago.

Lynch, a former star at Memphis, failed to make a move in the competition, leaving him needing a huge week of practices against the San Francisco 49ers and solid work in his start to have any hope of unseating Siemian. Working behind the second-string offensive line, Lynch appeared indecisive, and prone to run. He nearly threw an interception on his first possession, airmailing a throw over tight end A.J. Derby.

On first read quick slants, Lynch found his comfort zone on passes to Jordan Taylor and Cody Latimer. But his overall numbers told a story that mirrored his recent practice sessions. Highlights, but consistency lacking. On 18 plays, Lynch went 6-for-9 for 42 yards, while rushing four times for 11 yards.

The Broncos' first string defense looked stout. Harris provided an exclamation point before many of the fans had even arrived. He read an errant pass, caught it cleanly and motored into the end zone. It marked the fourth time in his career with a pick six. The Broncos' first stringers played a series. And they did it without their best player Von Miller, who was a healthy scratch since exposing him to injury in the preseason is a dicey proposition.

"I couldn't," Miller told Denver7 when asked if he tried to talk himself into the lineup.

Denver's rush defense with its 1s appeared stronger in the snapshot. But any optimism was spoiled with the loss of a popular veteran. Defensive end Billy Winn suffered a leg injury and was carted off the field.

Positives surfaced among a parade of penalty flags. The offensive line showed attitude and a physical presence, but the mistakes must be cleaned up by Watson and left guard Max Garcia. Defensively, the Broncos stopped the run early, showing progress in an area that undermined the unit last season.

In the end, this game was about the quarterbacks. No one lost the derby -- at least not yet -- but it's fair to wonder if the starter has been found until points define production.

## **Footnotes**

Kasim Edebali was active on pass rushing downs as he bids to start opposite of Miller. ... Anderson rushed for 21 yards on five carries with the starters. ... Sloter has made huge jumps since OTAs. He is showing he has NFL potential, even if that means starting on the practice squad. ... Lorenzo Doss was being evaluated for a concussion during the game. ... Dillon Day, trying to stick as a backup Olineman, was flagged for two penalties, including taunting. ... Henderson has been a terrific story in camp, a bowling ball with legs. ... The Broncos captains: Derek Wolfe, Aqib Talb, Demaryius Thomas, Emmanuel Sanders and Brandon McManus.

# Woody Paige: Third-string quarterbacks were most impressive in Broncos vs. Bears preseason game

By Woody Paige

KMGH

August 12, 2017

The Broncos' best quarterback was the Bears' quarterback.

Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch deserve participation ribbons.

Mark Sanchez proved he still can't beat out either Siemian or Lynch, or anybody else.

Mike Glennon was dreadful.

And the two most proficient, impressive quarterbacks in the Broncos-Bears exhibition Thursday night were Mitch Trubisky, the Bears first-round draft pick of 2017, and Kyle Slotter, the Broncos' undrafted free agent pickup of 2017, in their NFL debuts.

The two rookies displayed deep-dish pizzazz in Chicago; the four veterans were as soggy and limp as leftover cold pizza.

Some days you beat the Bears, and some days the Bears beat you. And on this evening, the Broncos barely beat the Bears, and the Bears were beaten by a Bear.

In regard to the Broncos, several of their first-game, first-year players became horse highlights.

Mile High Kyle wears jersey "1", and the Broncos No. 3 QB actually was No. 1.

But, get this: Slotter was the Bears quarterback last year. The University of Northern Colorado Bears.

The ex-UNC Bear completed 5 of 6 passes for 94 yards against the Chicago Bear-bared scrub defense. Slotter had a PERFECT 158.3 quarterback passer rating with one touchdown and without an interception.

He hooked up with electric rookie returner-receiver-runner Isaiah McKenzie on a 47-yard scoring play with 6:01 remaining in the final quarter for the Broncos' first offensive touchdown. Slotter was steadfast in the pocket, waited for McKenzie to break free beyond Bears defenders and floated the football to him accurately.

That's the kind of exciting, dramatic passing play the Broncos generally have been lacking since the retirement of Peyton Manning.

Then, with 1:49 to go, still another rookie, running back De'Angelo Henderson, took a handoff from Slotter, slipped through the Bears' front and blazed 41 yards for the winning touchdown.

That's the kind of exciting, dramatic running play the Broncos generally have been lacking since C.J. Anderson used to do it in the Super Bowl championship season – before he was injured last season.

Welcome back – finally – Broncos' offense – at least for one quarter.

This year's first-round draft choice – left tackle Garrett Bolles – started and played with passion and skill early before leaving with the first-team offense.

That's the kind of power left tackle the Broncos have been lacking since the injury, then departure, of former first-round draft choice Ryan Clady (who recently announced his retirement).

The Broncos also got decent performances from these rookies: Carlos Henderson, who had a reception, a tackle on special teams and three kickoff returns; Jamal Carter Sr., an undrafted free agent and imposing camp presence at safety (he will make this team), who finished with a team-high six solo tackles, a quarterback hit and the recovery of a bounce-about Chicago fumble; nose tackle Tyrique "Meat Loaf" Jarrett; secondary candidates Orio Stewart (not to be confused with Darian Stewart) and Chris Lewis-Harris (not to be confused with Chris Harris Jr., who had a combined nine tackles and one pass defended), and Brendan Langley (third round selection), who be a cornerback contributor on the roster in the dime defense.

Second-round pick DeMarcus Walker seemed rather ineffective. The Broncos' other two draft picks – Jake Butt and Chad Kelly – are on the PUP (physically unable to play) list – but some social media balloons already are claiming Kelly could be the Broncos' most promising quarterback for this season. He likely will be red-shirted all season.

However, as he did after last week's scrimmage, coach Vance Joseph described the play of Siemian and Paxton as "solid".

As I wrote after last week's scrimmage, the two are not playing "solid". They are more liquid and fluid. Yes, Siemian was 6 of 7 in passing, for 7.3 yards per attempt, for 51 yards and a 97.0 passing evaluation, and Lynch was 6 of 9 for 42 yards and a 77.1 rating. But neither sparkled like a bright star.

Especially Lynch, who continues to look as if he could have been a castaway character on "Lost".

Siemian is vanilla – which is tasty as an ice cream flavor, but not as a quarterback.

For the second year, Siemian is destined to win the starting position by default, and that's not his fault.

After mucking it on the field, without a touchdown between them or a Slotter-like effort, the two quarterbacks were seen yukking it up on the sideline, as if they had something strong to be thrilled about. They should have been sulking.

Asked if Slotter would now be in the starting quarterback mix, Joseph said rather succinctly: "No."

Siemian and Lynch in the mix, but Lynch is the trail mix, and Siemian hasn't shown much of anything.

We know Sanchez (1 of 4 for 4 yards, but he didn't fumble or throw an interception) couldn't be in the mix. Glennon, the expensive backup the Bears acquired in the off-season before trading four picks and exchanging the third overall choice in the draft to the 49ers for the No. 2 pick to take Trubisky, was unspectacular – 2 of 8 for 20 yards and a pick-six to Chris Harris on his second throw.

Trubisky, whose acquisition was decried (and cried over) in Chicago, changed those blasters to bandwagon-jumpers by hitting on all cylinders and 18 of 25 passes for 166 yards, a touchdown and a 103.1 passer rating.

The quarterback situations for the Broncos and the Bears were turned upside down, and all around, Thursday night.

Sloter and Trubisky could grin, and the other four quarterbacks and the rest of us had to bear it.

# Next-Day Notebook: Menelik Watson learns tough lesson

By Andrew Mason  
DenverBroncos.com  
August 12, 2017

Menelik Watson's first play as a Bronco could scarcely have gone worse.

In the snap of a finger, Bears outside linebacker Leonard Floyd, their first-round pick a year ago, was around Watson and had missile lock on Trevor Siemian. With that sack, Watson suddenly had a chance to live out the lesson he had been trying to share with rookie Garrett Bolles, who made his NFL debut as the Broncos' starter at left tackle and didn't allow a sack or a quarterback hit in 15 snaps of work.

"It's something that I've been preaching to Bolles," Watson said. "I've told him, 'In this game, you have some bad plays, and for the life of you, you want it back. You wish you could go back again and do something different. So it's tough.'"

But it was also easy for two reasons. First, Siemian bounced back quickly from the sack. None the worse for the wear, he completed an 11-yard pass to Demaryius Thomas two plays later to move the chains and ensure that the sack didn't knock the offense off course.

Second, Watson knew exactly why the sack happened -- because he tried to get a jump start on pass protection rather than going all-in on the play-action fake.

"Traditionally on a play-action, you obviously want to sell the run. It's tough for a tackle when you're on the open side and you have a pass-rushing-type guy out there. That first step is usually a feel," Watson said. "And between the snap I was thinking, 'Should I short-set it? Should I run block it?' and then I thought, 'You know what? Let me just try it,' and it was something I've never really done before, and I tried it, and it didn't work."

Better to learn that now than later.

"It really just [ticked] me off, honestly," Watson said. "I'm pretty upset about it. I feel like I let Trev down. I let down the coaches. I let down Coach [Mike] McCoy, because he has the utmost confidence in me to call that play on my side.

"I've just got to watch the film and shore it up, just rearrange techniques, and if I could have the play back, it's a different decision I would make."

# Shane Ray making progress in recovery, impressed by OLB depth in opener

By Ben Swanson  
DenverBroncos.com  
August 12, 2017

Two weeks after suffering a torn ligament in his left wrist on the first day of training camp, Shane Ray has gotten his stitches removed and is recovering according to plan, he said Friday.

After spending the afternoon exercising his healthy hand by autographing school supplies provided by his Rays Awareness foundation for children at the Denver Rescue Mission, Ray said he's still on course to return early in the regular season.

"Everything's healing fine," Ray said. "The doctor says my hand's healing well. My stitches, when they came out, my scars looked good. So I'm just excited, man. This process — I look at it as they gave me four extra weeks to train, so I'm just going to keep looking at it like that, keep working and get ready for the season."

With the removal of his stitches, Ray can return to the gym without worrying about disturbing the healing process after surgery.

"That's a great step for me to be able to actually work out and sweat and do something else," Ray said. "So I'm getting on my cardio, trying to find ways to get in the weight room so I can lift. So it's all coming together. Like I said, it's unfortunate, but when I do come back, I'll be more than prepared."

While his teammates traveled to Chicago for Thursday's preseason opener, Ray hosted a few other teammates who stayed behind and they watched the game together.

"I had all the other guys who couldn't travel or were hurt come over and we watched the game, critiqued all of our teammates and celebrated the win," Ray said. "That's what matters at the end of the day."

While Ray and Shaquil Barrett spent Thursday evening watching the game from home, Von Miller watched from the sideline in Chicago. With two outside linebackers recovering from injury and one being withheld from playing to ensure he wouldn't join them, the Broncos got a good look at their depth at the position, and so did Ray.

"I liked it," Ray said. "One of the things we've been trying to push to those guys is increasing our level of physicality, bringing pressure to the quarterback. And Kasim [Edebali] did an excellent job, first off, of creating pressure most of the game for us, showing that he can rush, showing that he can do different things. [Vontarius] Dora had a great game, an excellent game of using his hands. And the thing with the preseason, what we enjoy seeing most with these guys is them using the techniques that we talk about, using the things that [Outside Linebackers] Coach [Fred Pagac] has taught us, using our abilities how we're supposed to use them."

"And to see these guys come together and understand that me and Shaq are down, that we need guys who can step up and do what we do, they're doing a good job. They're growing. There are a lot of young players but they're looking good and we're excited for those guys."

# David Ramsey: Neither Denver Broncos quarterback delivers a decisive moment

By David Ramsey  
Colorado Springs Gazette  
August 12, 2017

A moment.

That's what we were expecting. That's what we were awaiting.

We wanted a moment when one of the Bronco quarterbacks showed he's a worthy, dangerous NFL starter. We wanted a football adventure. We wanted a pass that stretched the imagination.

Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch never delivered that moment, or anything close to it. They remain in a close race, too close to call, for the starting job. But remember this: They are both running slowly.

Yes, the duo suffered from poor protection and an ultra-conservative offensive game plan, but elite quarterbacks slice through excuses, and defenses.

The Bronco quarterback situation was cloudy at kickoff Thursday night at Soldier Field. It remained cloudy when the game ended.

"It's an ongoing battle," coach Vance Joseph said after the Broncos struggled to a 24-17 victory over the Bears.

But he knows the battle will end soon.

Offensive coordinator Mike McCoy is a borderline genius. That's a truth that can't be altered by a sluggish effort on a cloudy night on the south end of downtown Chicago.

But McCoy displayed little of his genius on Thursday. McCoy and Joseph kept Siemian and Lynch on a short leash. The coaches didn't ask their quarterbacks to do much, and the quarterbacks responded by not doing much. They completed 12 passes for a measly 93 yards.

"We didn't take as many shots as would have liked tonight," Lynch said.

A few minutes after the victory, Joseph responded to several specific questions about Lynch and Siemian by talking about penalties. In Joseph's view, penalties were all that prevented Lynch and Siemian from offering a worthy imitation of Peyton Manning in his prime.

"They're both playing good football," Joseph said. "Outside of the penalties, I was impressed."

Joseph talked blandly instead of frankly because he doesn't want to risk adding to the pressure that already burdens his young quarterbacks.

If you're looking for the most frustrating play of the game, here it is: Early in the third quarter, Lynch retreated into the pocket and lofted a soaring pass to Jordan Taylor.

This was Lynch's chance to make a statement. This was the rare time when the Broncos actually challenged the Bears' defense. This was the moment all those Siemian doubters had been thirsting for the entire offseason.

Lynch missed Taylor, who had gained a step and was open. It was a tough throw into double coverage, but not an impossible throw. It was the throw Lynch must make if he wants to unseat Siemian.

"It really felt good to go against a defense that wasn't our own," Lynch said in a rare moment of candor.

I understand what he means. His own defense has been frequently intercepting his passes at Dove Valley.

There's a reason for the obsession about the identity of the Bronco starting quarterback for 2017. No position in sport is more difficult than quarterback in the NFL. And no position is more vital to a franchise's success.

With John Elway and Peyton Manning at quarterback, the Broncos grabbed seven AFC titles and won three Super Bowls. During the 1999 to 2011 era when the Broncos lacked a franchise quarterback, the franchise never won the AFC.

It was a time of wandering in the NFL wilderness. Get ready: It looks as if the wandering will return in 2017.

# Three Stars from the Denver Broncos' preseason opener

By Dennis Best

BSN Denver

August 12, 2017

America's most popular sport is back in full effect as the Denver Broncos traveled to The Windy city to take on Chicago Bears Thursday night in both team's first outing of the 2017 preseason.

Both quarterbacks pining for the starting job, Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch, looked solid, but not great, going 12-18 for 93 yards combined. Neither QB found the end zone and neither threw an interception. Head coach Vance Joseph was asked about the performance from his stable of quarterbacks after the game.

"I was satisfied. Trevor [Siemian] was solid," Joseph stated. "He made some nice plays in the pass game. Paxton [Lynch] had some nice plays."

With both Siemian and Lynch failing to reach the end zone, it would have to come down to the young guns to help Denver sneak away with the 24-17 victory—that is exactly what they did.

Here are our picks for Denver's three stars from Thursday night.

## **Kyle Sloter**

Kyle Sloter, and undrafted free-agent from the University of Northern Colorado entered Thursday's game in which Denver was trailing 17-10. The only thing the former wideout did was rally the team to victory by completing the teams only touchdown pass to Isaiah McKenzie on a 47-yard bomb to tie the game at 17.

"That's everything you dream of as a kid. Dropping back and throwing a touchdown in the National Football League and leading another one," Sloter said after the win. "It was just a blessing to have an opportunity and be in this position. My teammates did a great job putting me in that position."

The rookie went 5-6 for 94 yards and one touchdown good enough for a perfect passer rating of 158.3.

## **Cody Latimer**

Cody Latimer has seen his fair share of ups and down here in the Mile High City, lingering somewhere between the third and fifth wide-out roster spot. Well, if Thursday is any indication of how bad he wants to see the field come September, Denver might just have a place for him yet. Latimer was literally all over Solider Field in the Broncos' victory, pulling in all seven of his targets for 54 yards thrown from both Lynch and Sloter.

With the third receiver battle coming down to the wire, Latimer is making his case.

## **De'Angelo Henderson**

When running back De'Angelo Henderson was taken in the sixth round of last year's NFL draft, people called him a steal and compared "Hop" to Atlanta Falcons runner Devonta Freeman. After last night's performance, it is easy to see why.

Late in the fourth quarter of a tie game, Slotter was able to march Denver up the field and let Henderson do the rest. No. 33 took off with 1:58 left in the fourth for a 41-yard go-ahead touch that would seal the victory for the Orange & Blue. His seven rushes for 57 yards led all running backs from both teams.

# Report: Broncos DE Billy Winn Out For Season

By Staff

CBS Local

August 12, 2017

Broncos defensive end Billy Winn is out for the season.

That's according to a report by NFL Network's Ian Rapoport.

**@RapSheet**

**#Broncos DE Billy Winn has suffered a torn ACL last night, source said. What they expected. Out for the season.**

**12:43 PM - Aug 11, 2017**

**28 Replies 255 Retweets 368 likes**

Rapoport tweeted the news Friday afternoon, saying Winn suffered a torn ACL in the team's first preseason game against the Chicago Bears Thursday night.

Winn was carted off the field and ruled out for the remainder of the game shortly there after.

# Key and Peele Paid Von Miller's Fine for Imitating 'Three-Pump'

By Scott Rafferty  
Rolling Stone  
August 12, 2017

They say imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Hingle McCringleberry would agree.

When Denver Broncos Von Miller was fined \$11,567 by the NFL for celebrating suggestively after he sacked Detroit Lions quarterback Matthew Stafford back in 2015, comedians Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele decided to get involved. Because Miller imitated the three-pump celebration from their wildly popular "McCringleberry's Excessive Celebration" video, Key told Dan Patrick this week that they felt obliged to pay the fine for him.

"[Kenny Stills and Lance Moore] for real, for real did it," Key said. "Lance Moore was the first one to really do it. He scored a touchdown, Kenny Stills runs next to him, takes his diaper, right? And he stands there. His form was perfect, and Kenny Stills even threw the flag. I'll pay their fine. Jordan and I paid Von Miller's fine because he had perfect form on the three-pump."

"We just both gave like, I don't know, \$7,000 to his foundation in Denver, for the kids that get the glasses," Key continued. "He's a good guy, Von Miller. Great form."

Peele actually tweeted about their donation to Miller's charity, Von's Vision Foundation, when news first broke about his fine in 2015. "Keegan and I gave Von Miller's awesome charity #Vonsvision the amount of his recent fine," Peele tweeted. "You should too. Get kids glasses! #threepumprule"

Miller responded by saying their donation would buy over 450 pairs of glasses for kids.

# Vance Joseph “satisfied” with quarterback play

By Josh Alper  
Pro Football Talk  
August 12, 2017

The big quarterback story in Chicago on Thursday night was the play of Bears rookie Mitchell Trubisky, who came out blazing in his first NFL game action and forced coach John Fox to answer questions about a change in plans at the position before the night was out.

No one was asking Broncos coach Vance Joseph if he planned to change his own plan to continue the team’s quarterback competition for at least another week. Trevor Siemian started the game and went 6-of-7 for 51 yards while also getting sacked and seeing drives bog down because of penalties. Paxton Lynch was 6-of-9 for 42 yards and didn’t lead the team to any points. The only offensive touchdowns came when Kyle Sloter was in the game in the fourth quarter.

It was uninspired stuff for the most part and that extends beyond the quarterbacks, but Joseph didn’t rake anyone over the coals come the end of the game.

“I was satisfied,” Joseph said, via the Denver Post. “Trevor was solid. He made some nice plays in the pass game. Paxton had some nice plays but we had so many penalties. ... It hurt his drives. That’s why he played more. But overall it was a solid performance.”

The most recent round of reports from Denver have Lynch trying to make up ground on Siemian and Thursday’s game probably won’t change that assessment. Lynch will be starting next week, though, and the Broncos haven’t made a decision yet.

# **Broncos defensive end Billy Winn suffers torn ACL**

By Darin Gantt  
Pro Football Talk  
August 12, 2017

One game into the season, and the Broncos have lost a key piece of defensive depth

According to Ian Rapoport of the NFL Network, Broncos defensive lineman Billy Winn suffered a torn ACL in last night's preseason opener, and will miss the season.

Winn played in all 16 games for the Broncos last year, starting two. They re-signed him this offseason to bolster their front.

The 28-year-old spent his first three years in the league with the Browns, with a year with the Colts prior to going to Denver.